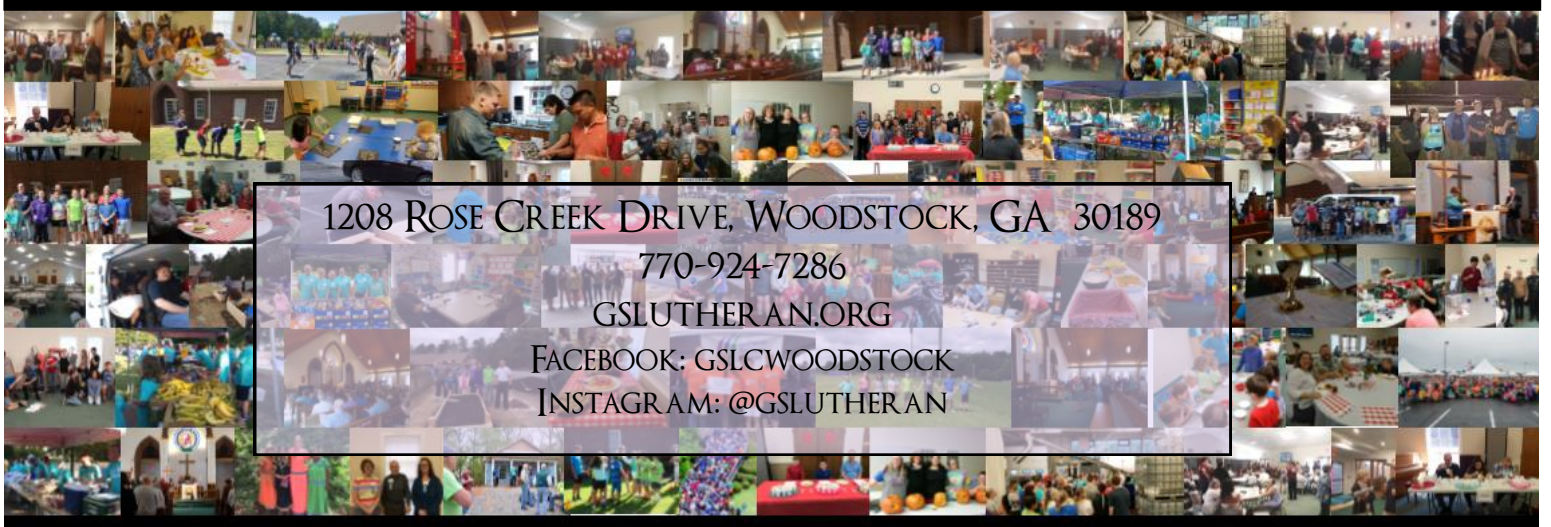
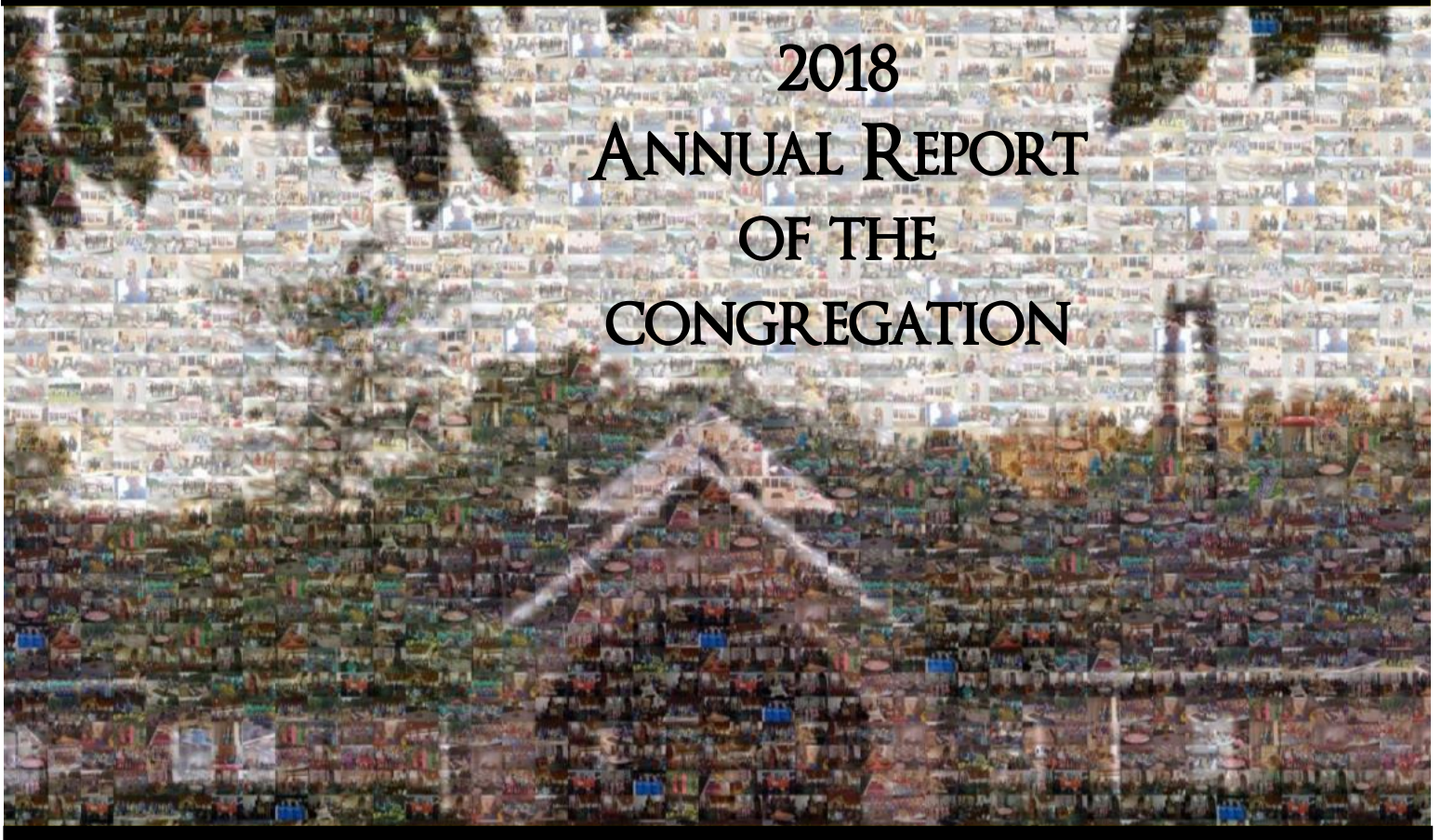




2018  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CONGREGATION



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“WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, THEREFORE, AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU.”

ROMANS 15:7

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES PEOPLE OF ANY AGE, RACE, NATIONALITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, LIFE CIRCUMSTANCE, AND PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CAPABILITY.

*“We are called, gathered and blessed to be a community and instrument of grace for all sheep of the Good Shepherd.”*

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# Bi-Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Agenda

November 11, 2018

- Call Meeting to Order
- Approval of Agenda
- Opening Prayer & Consecration of Stewardship Commitments
- Approval of April 2018 Congregational Meeting Minutes
- Election of Congregation Council Members & Results
- Revisions of the GSLC Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions
- Report from the Safety Task Force
- Update on Renovation of Narthex, Bathrooms, Hallways
- Presentation on Fellowship Hall/Kitchen Renovation
- Cash Balance Account Recommendations
- Prayer – Blessing for the Celebration Banquet
- Close Meeting

## Report from Paul W. Baumgartner, Pastor

***See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. [1 Thessalonians 4:15-19]***

In a year of national and global natural disasters, in a year of deep political divides and uncivilized rhetoric, in a year of random acts of violence and intentional acts of hatred, we still have much to celebrate and give thanks for in Good Shepherd congregation. It is undoubtedly for times such as this that God called the church into being.

- In February, Donna Garges joined our staff as Media Coordinator. Donna has brought great gifts and creativity to us and to our communications. She can even get me out of my frequent technological quagmires. THANKS BE TO GOD!
- In April, we paid off the mortgage on our property, allowing us to direct more of our offerings into ministries and programs. I have never been a part of any other congregation that accomplished that. THANKS BE TO GOD!
- In June, we undertook our long awaited renovation project of the entryway, library, restrooms, and administrative hallway. Kris McKeeth and Lisa Morton led us ably through the project, and the results are gorgeous. A generous endowment from the estate of Christa Heckel allowed us to begin and complete the project much sooner than anticipated. My office got a beautiful update as well. Conversations are already underway about our next renovation project. THANKS BE TO GOD!
- In August, our Confirmation program kicked off with a large group of our youth (22) participating. It has been a blessing to me to meet frequently with these bright and curious students. Our future will be in good hands with these developing church leaders. THANKS BE TO GOD!
- In September, our friend Crispin Ilombe Wilondja, now a rostered minister of the ELCA, was installed as the Pastor of Good Samaritan Ministries. His long journey from being a Roman Catholic priest in Congo, to being a Lutheran pastor and citizen of the US, has been one of faith and perseverance and hope. He has inspired many of us. THANKS BE TO GOD!
- Also in September, as congregational committees reviewed their committee descriptions in the Good Shepherd Constitution, a complete review of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions was undertaken. Mary Tucker was an awesome asset to that project. Not many have the spiritual gift of reading and editing constitutions. Mary reminds me of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Are you aware that God gifted you for the common good? THANKS BE TO GOD!

Even in less pleasant things, God's blessings abounded.

- Acts of violence in our country, even in churches, led our Council to form a Safety Task Force to develop and implement safety procedures for our congregation. Though it is a sad thing that we must even think of such horrors, God again provided us with gifted people to lead the project. THANKS BE TO GOD!
- While my office was undergoing a renovation, I had a renovation as well—a surgical renovation of my hip implant. Good Shepherd congregation blessed me and Debbie during this time, as well as a time of unexpected surgery for Debbie, in multiple ways, every day. THANKS BE TO GOD!

My heart overflows with thanksgiving. Our president, Barb Blanke, led us marvelously through an intensely busy and demanding year. Our Congregation Council and committee chairs continued delivering the strong ministries and programs that have always marked our congregation. Our amazing staff attended to our needs and expectations with their usual dedication and excellence. Our members, each of you, are blessings to us all. Thank you all for allowing me the honor and privilege of dwelling in God's word with you, and sharing the sacraments with you, and worshipping with you, and providing pastoral care for you. THANKS BE TO GOD!

# Report from Barbara Blanke, President of the Congregation

***We are called, gathered, and blessed to be a community and instrument of grace for all sheep of the Good Shepherd.***

As we began 2018, the Congregation Council conducted a planning session to determine our priorities and focus items for the coming year. In addition to the normal business of running Good Shepherd Lutheran Church the following areas were given special focus.

- Hire a Media Coordinator
- Complete the remodel and beautification/welcoming project
- Create a Safety Taskforce and implement recommendations
- Create a Kitchen/Fellowship Hall renovation taskforce and communicate future direction

I'm very happy to say with many, many congregational members' hard work and determination these focus items are all progressing. Here is a quick recap on their current status.

At the start of the year we began the process of posting for the position of Media Coordinator. We were blessed with numerous qualified candidates for the position and in February, 2018 Donna Garges joined the staff as our Media Coordinator. Donna brings outstanding skills to this role and immediately began implementing new and creative communication ideas using a variety of media formats. Welcome Donna!

The remodel plan began in May in our Narthex, library, bathrooms and administrative hallway. And just like any remodel at home it was noisy, messy, with surprises and pitfalls along the way. But thanks to a lot of hard work from our very talented contractor, Steve-N-Sons, we pushed the remodel through mostly during the summer months. The staff also persevered through wall removal, jack hammers, carpet/glue removal and a lot of dust. We also had help from A LOT of very talented and dedicated congregational volunteers helping in the design work, moving old things from the site, hanging new items in the space, picking out fabric, chairs, tables and much more! It is always so rewarding to see all the help and support that abounds within the congregational members.

Earlier in 2018 we created a Safety Taskforce to discuss a topic that is not as fun but essential. We asked this group to review our current physical environment with safety as an emphasis and to make recommendations on changes we should make to ensure our church property is as safe as possible. The group met with local law enforcement officials and attended briefings, then made a number of recommendations to the church council for implementation. We have begun to see some changes on Sundays, like only one door unlocked during worship/Sunday School times, while other changes may be less noticeable in our classroom space. You will also notice changes in our week day environment with staff asking you to call ahead for access to the facility/door openings. And we will start a communication campaign on safety awareness in our printed and electronic communications. While there might be changes to our environment the changes are here to benefit and protect the congregation and staff.

Lastly we started a taskforce to define requirements for a Kitchen/Fellowship Hall renovation. The team met several times and established a "must have" list of items that are required to operate in this space and a "want to have" list for a more extensive vision for the space. A review of their vision will be covered in the November bi-annual meeting. The council agreed that we should establish a dedicated account fund for donations to this renovation project. As the fund grows in size we would begin the process of pricing out items and getting quotes for work to determine what we can afford in the new space.

I want to thank **all** the congregational members of Good Shepherd for their continued support, prayers, financial dedication, enthusiasm, and shared talents that make our mission successful. Yours in Christ!

## Report from Thomas Eisnor, Organist/Choir Director

- Good Shepherd continues to enjoy a multi-generational program of musicians including the Chancel Choir, Shepherd's Choir, Jubilate Ringers, and Celebration Ringers.
- The Celebration Ringers is a new group for beginners of all ages. It serves predominantly youths grade three and up, and offers them an opportunity to learn the basics of musicianship, fellowship with their friends, and experience a richer participation in worship.
- The Chancel choir added several new members to the group this year. New members to our congregation continue to be a great way to recruit for choir. This year we began our new choral scholars program. The choral scholars program encourages local college students majoring in music to participate in the choir. We are delighted to welcome our first choral scholar, Jared Weatherford.
- We were also pleased to welcome a number of professional musicians throughout the year. These musicians lend variety and enrich our program. I hope, through the generosity of the congregation, to be able to continue this tradition.
- Our success would not be possible without the dedication of such talented members as Pam Weinelt, Debi Radcliff, Cathy Mattocks, and Heidi Myers.
- I am blessed to be part of a community that is committed to worship that is inspired, dignified, and uplifting.

With Gratitude,  
*Thomas Eisnor*

# Report from Pam Weinelt, Praise Service Coordinator

## ***Vision and Mission***

- To provide an inviting worship service that retains the theological and liturgical elements of the traditional Lutheran Church, delivered in a contemporary musical style and instrumentation.
- To make our worship service understandable and comfortable for people of un-churched and non-Lutheran backgrounds.
- To lead assembly singing and Worship
- To provide an opportunity for singers and musicians of various levels of proficiency to use their talents to participate in the ministry of leading worship.

## ***2018 Accomplishments***

- We are doing more with less! Our roster of active singers and musicians and number of weekly participants has declined, but we have continued to develop talent and maintain an appropriate repertoire.
- Continued to expand the assembly song and liturgy repertoire. Approximately 30 new songs or pieces of liturgy were added in 2018.
- Began to work with musicians to help with selection of music and liturgy for services as time allows.

## ***2018 Goals***

- Recruit and add new praise team singers and musicians.
- Continue to explore all options to accommodate and enhance the worship experience.
- Work to expand instrumentation styles and deliveries.
- Continue to expand the assembly song and liturgy repertoire.
- Offer opportunities to solicit more input from participating musicians in Praise Service worship planning.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pam Weinelt

## Report from Janice Swinford, Sunday School Superintendent

“No spoiler alerts!” This is what my youngest daughter just said to me at the dinner table a few nights ago when I was going to tell her about who Jacob was wrestling with all night. She had told me that she was assigned Jacob for her Confirmation project and I was excited about telling her some of my favorite parts of his stories in the Bible. She said she would rather wait to see if they learned about him in Confirmation this year, and if so, and she would hear it then. She didn’t want to already know the whole story.

Are we like that? Do we know enough of the story and think there is nothing left important to hear, or do we want to savor it, like not reading the last chapter of a book we are enjoying and don’t want to end? I hope you have that yearning. I am glad my middle school child still does. One of my favorite parts of Sunday School is observing the wonder of the children in classes for stories that they are truly hearing for the first time. In our classes from 4s through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we hear a different story from the Spark curriculum every four weeks. Currently we are with Daniel and the lions. But typically by week three in the Sunday School opening, some of our regular attenders are happily shouting out the answers that they have learned, reveling in their newfound knowledge.

Our Middle School class has a new teaching team this year. They are writing in their own notebooks and exploring some great faith questions. And Mike McCoy, who long taught in Middle School has finally moved up to High School, where he is bringing his enthusiasm for some meatier subjects for our older youth. We continue to have 3 adult classes, all of which have a steady attendance. Sunday School is chugging along.

But back to that nagging question of yearning. How do we keep that same level of excitement even after the stories in the Bible are not as new to us? We keep returning back to them. Hearing them in different groups or at different times in our lives brings out new points that may not have spoken to us earlier. I hope you and your family take advantage of all the amazing topics to explore through one of our classes. The wonder of a child at new-to-them Bible stories is great to see, but the dedication of a person who is not seeing the stories for the first time but strives to dwell in them, study them with others, and look for new truths is a sight worth seeing too! I hope to see you in Sunday School!



## Report from Janice Swinford, Inreach Coordinator

As Inreach Coordinator, part of my work is to be at church most Sundays, welcoming members and visitors, interacting with the congregation and yes, answering those questions that start with “you might not be the person to ask, but..”. I love that part of my role. The other part is reaching out to people throughout the year to see how things are going. Sometimes it is people I have seen but haven’t had a chance to talk to for a while, but at other times, it is members we have not seen in quite some time, and I am asking what has been keeping them away – illness, a move, a change of where they want their church home to be. Those can be challenging, but necessary conversations.

During this time of year, as we near Consecration Sunday at the time of our Bi-Annual meeting, another facet of my role comes to light, encouraging members to commit their time through the God’s Grace in Action with Service form. This can be a challenge for many. Like me, you are not just a participant at Good Shepherd, but also have other roles that you fill, from paid full or part time jobs, to volunteer positions for school or community projects and the roles that you fill in your families. As you open up the Stewardship packet and reflect on the theme for the year that Stewardship is Love, I hope that you see that the love you express is not just in the boxes you check on the form, indicating if you will be an usher, serve on the Finance committee, or be a VBS leader, but your love for God is also expressed by your commitment to worship, attending Bible study, and all the roles you fill in the week. Our faith is lived out each day, not just on the ones we are here!

In her book Inspired, Rachel Held Evans states “Every page of Scripture serves as an invitation – to wonder, to wrestle, to surrender to the adventure.” When we come to Good Shepherd each week, we are in the best book club ever, a book whose writing is inspired and still inspiring, whose stories are lived and still living, written but the continuing story is still being written. How amazing that by checking off those little boxes on the God’s Grace in Action form, welcoming others, and reaching out through the many projects that Good Shepherd does, we are part of God’s story! Thank you for your stewardship.

## Report from Kristen Brenneman, Outreach Coordinator

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” - Luke 6:38*

Wow! Another amazing year has passed, and even though things are constantly changing, three things consistently stay the same: your amazing generosity, my joy at being able to work in such a wonderful environment, and God’s presence in all we do. Once again, we had a fantastic year at Good Shepherd. I remained blessed to work alongside some wonderful individuals within the Outreach committee as we continued to explore new opportunities in service while we still implemented and managed the favorites of old. Over the course of 2018 not only did we continue to nurture our relationship with MUST Ministries, Lutheran Services of Georgia, and Habitat for Humanity, to name a few, but we also raised an impressive donation for the ELCA World Hunger campaign from mere pocket change and laid the foundation for years of fruitful harvesting from our Garden of Grace.

And yet again, I am constantly amazed by the giving spirit that is so alive in our congregation. Whether it’s much needed renovations, school backpacks, or manpower to produce 2,500 lunches in a week or assemble three garden beds in a morning, you continually rise to the call. I sincerely thank you for all you have done to make Good Shepherd the wonderful, thriving church that it is. When I look back over the course of last year and the wonderful help I had along the way of making what were once mere ponderings a reality, I now more fully understand the words of Galatians 6:9, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Thank you for not giving up and continuing to rise to the challenge set before you. I look forward to serving with you in 2019 and have full confidence that we will continue to rise to the call and be a church that stands by our commitment to service and providing for all of God’s people.

God’s Peace be with you,

Kristin Brenneman  
Outreach Coordinator

## Report from Catalina Ontiveros, Youth Ministry Coordinator

It is hard to believe that 2018 is almost over! The youth groups at Good Shepherd had a great year with many fun and educational activities. None of these activities would have been possible if not for the wonderful volunteers that were always willing to help. It has been my pleasure to work with the youth of Good Shepherd and to watch them grow in their faith.

Saints and Sinners, our High School youth group meets Wednesday nights. Activities this year included devotions on where we see God around us and in our lives; to times of trial and forgiveness; service projects including homeless blessing bags, caring for creation bird feeders, and fun events such as putt putt, and game nights. We had the opportunity in January for a lock in, followed by a day of service with other Lutheran congregations from around the area. We packaged rice, sorted clothes, wrote letter to refugees. It was a fun day working alongside other youth and adults. One continuing activities is the sharing of our Highs and Lows each week. This time provides us a chance to check in with each other to celebrate or provide extra support when needed. This year the youth also created palm crosses at one of our meetings to be given out on Palm Sunday. This activity was enjoyed by everyone. All of our events would not have been possible if not for volunteers coming and helping out. In May, we took one of our meetings to create snacks and bags for all of our adult volunteers letting them know how much they are appreciated. Our Fall season has been going well with more devotions, game nights, our annual Iron Chef challenge, as well as sending packages to our college students. We have also partnered with The Oaks assisted living facility and have done several activities with them.

This summer 19 senior high youth and 5 adults traveled to Milwaukee, WI for our annual mission trip. While we were there, we worked with a local Lutheran congregation in leading a VBS, painting and repurposing a classroom, cleaning out and prepping shower facilities for incoming visiting groups as well as cleaning up blocks around the church. We also were able to visit another congregation where a local harvester was working on the bee population. We cleaned out a community garden, sorted food at a food bank, and helped people in need find the appropriate services to help them get back on their feet. Our trip did include some fun activities from visiting a local brewery that specialized in flavored soda's to a giant inflatable fun zone.

The middle school mission trip was to Nashville, TN with eight youth and 4 adults attending. Ministries we served alongside were Soles4Souls, a company providing shoes to third world countries; the Nashville Food Bank, sorting food, harvesting and cleaning out fields for distribution at food banks; a local early childhood education center playing with the children and helping the staff and director get settled into their new facilities; and painting murals in a local middle school. Evenings included fun things from visiting a local park and lake, to walking downtown Nashville exploring the lights, to a fun evening of games. We couldn't make these trips happen without the support of the congregation both financially and prayerfully. These trips are always a highlight of the youth's summer and we thank the congregation for all of their support.

This past summer I was also fortunate enough to be able to attend Affirm and the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Affirm is an event put on by the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA. It is a camp where youth from Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Georgia come for a week of faith formation, worship and fellowship. I have been blessed to attend this camp since I was a youth in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The environment and people have made me who I am today and a big part of my working in ministry. This event is held every June. It is my hope and goal to take some of our Good Shepherd youth next summer. I was also privileged enough to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in

Continued on Next Page

Houston, Texas. The youth gathering is an event held every three years where youth come from all across the country to walk alongside each other in faith and service. This year over 30,000 youth attended. Each evening we had the pleasure of hearing nationally recognized and ordinary (like you and me) speakers talk about their faith and how God has helped them, and how his love, grace, hope changes everything. I was asked to serve as a leader of our synod working at our sponsored booth helping youth find their spiritual gifts and personalities and how they fit into God's world. The next youth gathering is in 2021 in Minneapolis, MN. It is already blocked off on our church calendar.

Confirmation is a solid program at Good Shepherd. We meet every other Sunday for an afternoon of biblical/theological learning and games. We currently have 22 youth in the program. We confirmed four youth on Reformation Sunday. Big thanks to our prefects and adults that help Pastor Paul and I continue this program. Last year our focus was on the Small Catechism. This year's focus is on the Old Testament.

In the last year, we have also started up a middle school ministry. This is for youth in middle school and it gives them an opportunity to hang out and have fun with each other. Our outings included: movie afternoons, picnics, pool parties. We meet monthly on a non-confirmation Sunday.

I also had the pleasure of hosting a Christmas party for our young adults in college. An invite was included in their care packages. This evening gave me the pleasure of meeting some of these adults for the first. We enjoyed dinner, games and a great white elephant exchange.

It has been my pleasure to work with the youth of Good Shepherd. I have enjoyed attending their various activities including ball games, band concerts, dance recitals, swim meets and equestrian events. Again this ministry wouldn't work without the support of our volunteers. Also thanks to Pastor Paul who is always there to help and give encouragement and guidance.



## Communications Committee

**Purpose:** The Communications Committee, established in 2017, works to ensure clear communications on GSLC activities/events is being shared in electronic and print formats.

**Members:** Members: Barb Blanke, Marc Duclos, Philip Ebert, Kristin Freeman, Donna Garges, Will Jayroe, Reba Summer

**Activities:**

- Committee met to review website and social media campaigns planned for GSLC.
- Committee discussed bulletin boards, signage for new space in Narthex, Administrative hallway giving input to requirements for bulletin boards
- Committee updated Fellowship Hall, Sign Up Central and Nametag area after renovation.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Blanke

## Congregational Care Committee

The Congregational Care Committee's purpose is to provide support and care to congregational members. We do this mostly by providing support as needed for the various small groups at Good Shepherd. Most of our work is done by an individual leader organizing a task and getting help from other members. The small groups include the various choirs, Men in Mission, Empty Nesters, God's Little Achers, and Yarn Angels.

Cards are sent to members who are ill or have a significant event in their life. This past year that has been handled by Sue Pence.

A sub-committee is Feed The Flock. This committee provides meals for memorial services and also for those who may need meals for a short time following an illness or hospital visit. Other help can be arranged when there is a need.

Committee members also help to welcome new members. A congregational member is asked to shepherd new members when they join. The shepherd provides a familiar face on Sunday mornings, is available to answer questions and help new members to meet others.

Committee members are Kris Hebeisen, Reba Summer, Sue Pence, Sandy Certvsik, Cynthia Christensen, Sharon Bost, Denise Kelly, Linda Kronau and Pam Strong.

Submitted by Pam Strong, Chair

## Facilities and Maintenance Committee

The Facilities and Maintenance Committee chairs are Steve Ebert and Steve Frink. Council Liaison is Marc Duclos. Thanks to the generous donations of skill, time and materials by members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and F&M committee members we have worked hard to operate within our minor facilities repair budget line where possible for the last five years. Thank you all for your continued support.

### ***The following projects have been completed this year:***

- Annual grounds clean-up and pinestraw mulch application (budgeted, labor donated).
- Renovation phases 1 and 2 have been completed. The renovations came in under budget through the hard work, responsible spending and review by the team.
- Pastoral office has been painted and has new carpet squares installed.
- Ceiling tiles of the administration wing have been replaced with décor style tiles.
- 2 garage doors have been replaced with new doors and a new opener installed.
- Normal maintenance issues taken care of including: fire exit sign replacement, security lighting updated, bathroom fixture replacement and lighting repairs.
- Reserve study has been reviewed and bids for certain repair items are being received.
- A new Technology Committee was formed under Facilities Maintenance with the following members: Karen Ferg, Steve Frink, Donna Garges and Will Jayroe. The committee is responsible for evaluating current and future technology needs for the staff and building, and submitting recommendations to the Council Liaison. The electronic bulletin boards via the television screens in the Entryway and Fellowship Hall are examples of their work.

### ***Projects planned for 2019***

- Repair, resurface some areas and seal coat upper and lower parking lots.
- Painting of the exterior eaves, overhangs, trim, windows and doors.
- Install a complete video surveillance system that can be monitored and recorded.
- Renovation phase 3 (Kitchen and Fellowship Hall)
- Will evaluate existing worship experience support technologies for improvement opportunities

The facilities and maintenance committee welcomes willing hands to complete our ongoing list of projects. If you have a special skill or talent, know how to swing a paintbrush, or just have a desire to help with the continuing maintenance of our facilities, please contact Marc Duclos, Steve Ebert, Steve Frink or the church office.

The committee presently has the following members which help with repair needs on a regular basis:

- John Bost
- Damon Garges
- Robert Luebke
- Geoff Morton
- Robert Nelson
- Al Reynolds
- Mike Yerkes

Grace and peace,  
The Facilities and Maintenance Committee

## Faith Formation Committee

The mission and vision of the Faith Formation Committee continues to be support and implementation of programming for the total faith formation ministry of the congregation, providing for their spiritual growth and education, and promoting discipleship. Current committee members include Council Liaisons Karen Epstein and Carlie Epstein, members Marc Duclos, Kristin Freeman, Linda Kronau, Hailey Hovda, Scarlett Hovda, Janice Swinford, Shelley Trampnau, Cat Ontiveros, and Pastor Paul Baumgartner.

Programming includes Sunday School for all ages, First Communion class, Created by God, Faith Stepping Stones (New Driver, Kindergarten, Bibles for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students, and High School Graduation), Bible Studies, youth summer mission trips, fundraising for youth programs, Children & Youth Protection Policy, Confirmation, FX3, Vacation Bible School, and Saints & Sinners (the high school youth group), and the Middle School Youth Group.

With the addition of Cat Ontiveros serving in the Youth Ministry Coordinator role, leadership of the Confirmation, Saints & Sinners, and summer mission trip programs has come under her purview, with Pastor Paul also leading Confirmation classes and meeting with the confirmands to assist with their faith statements. The committee continues to provide guidance and assistance with all of the youth programming offered.

The Sunday School / Education Hour, which is offered from 9:45 – 10:30am each Sunday, continues to be successful, with classes offered for youth in grades Pre-K through High School as well as several adult offerings. As part of the Safety Task Force recommendations, the Sunday School program has instituted the use of walkie-talkies in various classrooms throughout the building, in the event that there was an emergency situation this allows communication between the Sunday School Superintendent, Ushers, and classes both on the upper and lower levels. In addition, Teachers and Assistants were trained on evacuation / shelter in place procedures should there be a need as well as establishing a meeting place in the lower parking lot.

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held at the end of June, with Kristin Freeman once again serving as the Director. As in past years, the program was free to all attendees and we welcomed close to 100 children for the week, the bulk of which were from the community. We thank the congregation members who assisted in leading this ministry, without whom it would not be successful. Kristin has advised that she will need to step down as director beginning in 2019, so the committee is actively looking for a person or persons who can fill this void. We thank Kristin for all of her wonderful dedication and leadership – it has grown into a great outreach ministry for Good Shepherd under her direction. She will be missed in this leadership role.

The Children and Youth Protection Policy underwent its annual review in Spring 2018 and now also includes policy on armed intruders within the building. Updated forms are available on the website.

The Confirmation program continues a three-year cycle for youth in grades 6-8. For 2018-2019, we continue with 2 small groups, with 2 consistent leaders, as well as Pastor Paul leading large group time once each month. The FX3 group is for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade youth and is again led by Karen Epstein with a rotation of adult volunteers to serve as the second adult. Our Saints & Sinners program kicked off this year with a pool party and meets weekly with focus on fellowship, devotions, activities, and service projects. In Spring of 2018 we re-launched a Middle School youth group, with several outings such as movies and picnics. This year also kicked off with a pool party and plans to meet once each month for various activities.

This past summer, High School youth served in Milwaukee, WI and Middle School youth travelled to Nashville, TN. For the summer of 2019, we will once again utilize the services of “Serve Boldly” to facilitate mission trips, as well as offer information on AFFIRM and Lutheridge programming. High School youth are scheduled to travel to Philadelphia, PA and Middle School youth will again travel to Nashville, TN for their summer mission trips. Fundraising opportunities are ongoing to assist with offsetting some of the costs of these trips.

The committee is grateful for all the volunteers who have continually stepped up to assist in all the programs, classes and trips offered. We would be unable to provide as wide and varied a program without them.

## Fellowship Committee

Submitted by: Cathy Mattocks – Council Liaison  
Committee Chairs: Monica Smith,  
Paul and Linda Kronau

Mission Statement: We are called, gathered, and blessed to be a community and instrument of grace for all sheep of the Good Shepherd.

### Activities:

- We began the year by hosting the Southeastern Synod Council for dinner, breakfast, lunch and snacks on Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- We have continued to have Fellowship with donuts, coffee, and lemonade after each service.
- Thank you to the congregation for helping support the Fellowship every week by their financial support of the coffee, donuts, lemonade and supplies as well as assisting with set up and clean up.
- A Phase III Renovation team was created by council in 2018. The Renovation team began meeting in March 2018 with plans for the next renovation which will be in the Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen. The team members include: Kirstin Brenneman, Michael Epstein, Denise Kelly, Linda Kronau, Marc Duclos, Carlie Epstein, and Ray Smith.
- Kristin Brenneman presented council with the Renovation Team's vision for the Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen in August 2018.
- The Fellowship Committee sponsored the Easter breakfast on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. An added highlight this year was a Pancake Bar.
- The Fellowship Committee also sponsored a Celebration Lunch after the Congregational Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The celebration was for paying off the mortgage!!
- The Fellowship Committee continues the tradition of a Thanksgiving Lunch after the November Congregational Meeting.
- The Fellowship Committee is planning on hosting a Birthday Bash some time in February 2019.
- The Fellowship Committee added white, round tablecloths to their supplies. They were purchased for special meals as well as receptions and funerals at the church.
- The Fellowship Committee would like to create more events that create opportunities for members, visitors and guests to get better acquainted. We hope to have an event every other month. We have talked about additional fellowship opportunities in the summer and joining other committees or groups with events and possibly a Pancake breakfast/or supper for Palm Sunday or Shrove Tuesday.
- Other ideas that are being considered for 2019 are: A Family Game Night, an event joining with the Youth, and Coffee and Dessert before Advent services.
- Finally, the Fellowship Committee welcomes with open arms additional members to the committee and ideas from others. Our goal is to serve the congregation involving members and creating opportunities for fellowship.



## Mission Endowment Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Mission Endowment Committee was established in March of 2010 in accordance with Article IX of the GSLC Constitution. Lifelong Christian stewardship involves management of all assets God has entrusted to his people, including talents, time, income, appreciated assets, and possessions. Members of this congregation have the privilege and duty to support the work of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the Southeastern Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of time, abilities, and financial support as stewards of God's gifts. Members of this congregation can fulfill their privilege and duty by giving to the work of the church through the Mission Endowment Fund. The Committee is formed of five (5) appointed members: **Jaime Escamilla, Paul Evans, Rob Homer, Bettina Miller, and Gina Crittenden** (Council Representative). Ex-officio members include **Pastor Paul** (Pastor), **Barb Blanke** (Council President), and **Mary McCoy** (Treasurer) – all with voice and vote.

Our main focus continues to be a strategy of conducting one fundraiser and to provide information of the Mission Endowment fund. To that end, each October we provide Ribbons of Remembrance for acknowledgements in the All Saints' Day bulletin of those who have passed away. We plan to conduct Temple Talks in December as a means to keep the congregation aware of our current mission.

At present the fund totals \$30,811.11, which is maintained in a separate account established with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. We gratefully acknowledge the generous bequest from the Christa Heckel Estate received in 2018. If you wish, you can honor a loved one by naming them with the gift, such as memorials and celebrations (birthdays, graduations, marriages, anniversaries). What can be given? Gifts can include any of the following:

- Bequests (a designation in one's will or living trust)
- Life insurance proceeds (through beneficiary designation or a gift of the policy itself)
- Assignment of CDs
- Gifts of cash
- Transfers of property such as stocks, bonds, and real estate
- Charitable gift annuities
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Beneficiary designation in an IRA or other retirement plan

More information and educational opportunities are on the way. If you have a question in the meantime, please contact any one of the committee members.

Respectfully submitted – Rob Homer, Gina Crittenden, Paul Evans, Bettina Miller, Jaime Escamilla, Barb Blanke, Pastor Paul and Mary McCoy.

## Mutual Ministry Committee

Submitted by: John Bost (Committee Chair)

Committee Members- Judy Roberts, Susan Bonds, Paul Kronau, Tim Henitz, and Beth Ebert and Pastor Paul

The Mutual Ministry Committee's purpose is to be a support group for Pastor Paul. We are to serve as a sounding board and support our Pastor in an inviting, cordial and confidential atmosphere. Working to support a superb Christian leader such as Pastor Paul is always a pleasure and the committee had done a wonderful job. The committee meets four times per year and is always on call for any time the pastor needs us.

The Mutual Ministry Committee organized support for Pastor Paul and Debbie while the pastor recovered from hip surgery this summer and with amazing help from the GSLC staff, organized meals, member visits and was able to purchase Pastor Paul an iPad to help him pass the time during recovery. It is humbling to see the congregational support come pouring out when a call goes out to support Pastor Paul.

The Mutual Ministry Committee is blessed to have such dedicated Christian members amongst its ranks.

## Outreach Committee

**Purpose:** Working with the Pastor and Outreach Coordinator, oversee all welcome, awareness, promotion, advocacy, and outreach services of this congregation, sharing the Good News with those outside of our congregation and with those in need.

**Council Liaison:** Ron Mixon

### Activities:

In December 2017 we brought back the “Pay it Forward” fundraising program to help accrue additional funds for the Outreach budget through the purchase of gift cards for local business establishments. Through the sale of gift cards during the holiday season we were able to raise approximately \$300 to be used during 2018 to fund various Outreach endeavors.

In December of 2017, as part of our Pay it Forward collection efforts, we gifted our senior neighbors in our community. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we delivered two large truckloads of blankets, towels, gift cards, stamps, socks, candy and other gift items to housebound seniors serviced by the Meals on Wheels program and those confined to nursing home facilities. Based on the amount of merchandise we received combined with a Thrivent Action Team donation of \$250, the monetary value of this effort was in the thousands.

The Bible tells us numerous times that as Gods chosen people we have the responsibility to take care of our neighbor. Because of this charge, the first quarter of 2018 Outreach at Good Shepherd focused on all the different ways we can feed God’s people. We accomplished this goal in many ways:

- In February, we partnered with Forever Fed and assisted them with their Mobile Food Pantry at InTown Suites, Woodstock. We helped set up the pantry, greet guests, and assist them with their grocery needs.
- Also in February, spearheaded by committee member, Gail Tserberg, we had several volunteer walkers from Good Shepherd raise over \$1000 for the Atlanta Community Food Bank by participating in the Atlanta Hunger Walk.
- During the Lenten season, members of GSLC were challenged to collect spare change to be donated to the ELCA World Hunger Campaign. We raised \$1,100 for the ELCA to help with their fight against world hunger. Our gift was matched through an endowment to ELCA World Hunger so our final donation was \$2,200. Quite a feat for pocket change.
- In March and April members of GSLC gathered to help construct three garden beds, plant our first summer harvest, and dedicate our new Garden of Grace, a small community garden that will help provide fresh produce for our neighbors at Forever Fed Mobile Food Pantry.

In May 2017, the Outreach Committee sold Mother’s Day corsages. The proceeds, in excess of \$400, allowed us to purchase 25 new ELW Prayer books for the Armed Services (for Pastor Paul) and 29 new storybooks and novels to the children of Houston affected by Hurricane Harvey.

From April through June we also provided several opportunities to volunteer with the Lutheran Coalition for Habitat for Humanity, at a new build site in Marietta.

To commemorate Earth Day, Outreach, in partnership with the GSLC Green Team, provided new, reusable grocery totes to our members. The bags help advertise our church and motto, “All are Welcome” and have been spotted around town on several occasions.

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*Outreach Committee Report continued from previous page.....*

Also from April to June 2018, Good Shepherd raised \$2130 to provide 150 backpacks to the Give a Kid a Chance annual Back to School Blast. In June, we spent a morning between services making sure 150 backpacks were filled with school supplies and ready to go. A small group of volunteers from Good Shepherd also continued to support GAKAC by providing volunteer services on the GAKAC event day in July. In addition to the backpacks we also provided 170 pair of underwear/briefs, and 371 pair of socks to GAKAC as part of our Caretakers of Our Community collection.

In July 2017, approximately 60 volunteers prepared 2500 lunches over the course of five days for the MUST Summer Lunch program. Coordinators for this event were Holly Jones and Kristin Brenneman.

In September, GSLC again participated in “God’s Work Our Hands” Sunday. On Sept. 8, a group of Good Shepherd members joined volunteers from 10 other Lutheran churches at Hurt Park in Atlanta to spread blessings on the homeless population. We handed out over 300 backpacks, toiletry kits, Marta cards, clothing and a warm meal while we prayed and talked with our neighbors. On Sunday, September 9, members gathered after church and assembled fifty Birthday Boxes for children in foster care as well as prepared a week’s worth of breakfast sandwiches for the residents at the Elizabeth Inn shelter in Cobb County.

In 2018, we tweaked our fundraising/awareness effort, Caretakers of Our Community. Traditionally, Good Shepherd hosts bi-monthly collections of requested goods for several charitable organizations in our area. Due to the impending renovation, in 2018 we coordinated this effort around our Outreach activities occurring at the time instead of collecting for a different group bimonthly. The congregation has been very generous in these efforts and throughout 2018 we collected planting and harvesting items needed to help launch our Garden of Grace, new socks and underwear for Give a Kid a Chance, items needed for our own VBS and MUST Summer Lunch program, and Christmas donations for the teenage refugees serviced through Lutheran Services of Georgia.

Throughout the year, Good Shepherd hosted multiple Red Cross Blood Drives that resulted in a very successful year of collection, frequently exceeding our collection goals. Coordinators for these events were Kathy Mattocks and Sharon Bost.

Two-Can Sundays continued in 2018 with approximately 150 pounds of food donated each month. Papa’s Pantry, Heritage Presbyterian, and Timothy Lutheran food pantries alternately are the recipients of our donations. This service is coordinated by Nancy Dias and Sue Pence. We also continued our ongoing collection of food, clothing, and household goods for MUST Ministries– Cherokee County.

Outreach will wrap up 2018 by collecting food items for MUST Ministries Thanksgiving initiative, caroling for the residents at The Oaks Assisted Living Center, and collecting Hope Tree items for a local Cherokee County organization. We will also bring back the “Pay It Forward” Gift Card Program.



## Personnel Committee

**Purpose:** To make recommendations to the Congregation Council that will facilitate strategic decisions to carry out the obligations of the congregation as an employer.

**Members:** Tony Endozo – Chairperson, Trina Hutchison, Scot Bauer, Lisa Morton, Eric Ficken, Jenny Champion, Pastor Paul and Gina Crittenden – Council Liaison

### 2018 Recap

#### **Performance Duties:**

- Discussed and presented 2018 fiscal budget recommendations to council, included compensation recommendations.
- Refined Media Coordinator Job Description and presented to the Council for approval.
- Posted and subsequently hired Donna Garges for the Media Coordinator position.
- Job descriptions were reviewed and amended as necessary.
- Thanked outgoing committee members Mike McCoy and Kelly Burleson for their long tenure and dedication to servant leadership and welcomed new committee members Lisa Morton, Jenny Champion and Eric Ficken.

The Personnel Committee looks forward to serving Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and remains dedicated to our purpose of maintaining a quality work environment for our staff employees.

# Stewardship Committee

Co-Chairs: Jason Champion, Lori Peters

Council Liaison: Geoff Morton

Members: Nancy Coupland, Jeff Hovda, Robert Luebke, Nancy Oleson, Richard Oleson, Sharron Ryan, Janice Swinford, Valerie Whiteman

## **Stewardship is Love!**

*1 John 4:12 "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."*

The Stewardship Committee completed its "God's Grace in Action – with Offerings" campaign in the Spring of 2018. We received 149 commitments in the amount of \$503,070.

Stewardship is a way-of-life, and we continue to nurture this year-round spiritual practice. This year our committee created a new theme and logo—Stewardship is Love—based on the Bible text above.

The Stewardship is Love Campaign began Sunday, October 14, 2018, and will culminate on Consecration Sunday, November 11, 2018. With the change in the church Fiscal Year, it was decided to return to a Stewardship Packet—where pledges of time, talent, and financial resources would be committed at one time on Consecration Sunday, rather than two separate campaigns. In our attempt as a committee to keep expenses at a minimum, packets were handed out two Sunday mornings in October. Forms also can be accessed through the website [gslutheran.org/committees](http://gslutheran.org/committees).

The Stewardship Committee Co-chairs would like to thank all the members of the Stewardship Committee for their support and dedication throughout the year! We have a great committee with a lot of energy, spirit and good ideas! Please consider sharing your time and talents with us and joining The Stewardship Committee. Our entire committee expresses our thanks to all those who have responded to this year's campaigns. God is great and continues to bless this congregation and each of us in ways too many to number.

## **Stewardship is Love!**

## Worship and Music Committee

**Purpose:** The Worship and Music Committee, in partnership with the worship staff, oversees all worship services of this congregation, and all activities directly related to these services.

**Members:** Chair: Beth Ebert

Members: Pastor Paul Baumgartner, Thomas Eisnor – Organist/Choir Director, Pam Weinelt – Praise Service Coordinator, Debi Radcliff – Adult Hand bell Choir Director, Pam Hough – Altar Guild Chair, Paulette Alderfer, Myra Rissmiller, Ben Setzer, Peter Schultz, and Paul Christensen-Council Liaison

### Activities:

We met five times this year in response to seasonal needs.

Thank you to Thomas Eisnor, Pam Weinelt, Debi Radcliff, Pam Hough, and all volunteers for helping to keep our musical worship strong through the Chancel Choir, Shepherds Choir, Adult Hand bell Choir, Jubilate Ringers, Celebration Ringers, Praise Team, Altar Guild, as well as special music participants.

In addition to the ongoing duties, the committee participated in the following activities:

- There were no Advent soup suppers this year due to lack of attendance the previous year
- Held a Longest Night/Blue Christmas service on December 21 for those whom the season is difficult. Very well received
- Lent special services were at 12 and 7:30 on Wednesdays with the focus on the Gospel of Mark
- A new chalice was donated by Myra Rissmiller. A glass cruet is now being used for communion
- A new stand for the processional cross and candle lighter was constructed by Damon Garges
- Worn hymnals were replaced with new ones and book markers were made and replaced by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School children and FX 3 groups
- Pastor Dave Osborne was the guest preacher while Pastor Paul was recovering from hip surgery
- Usher guidelines will have to be updated per the Safety Task Force Committee
- Committee description was updated
- Thomas Eisnor Organist/Choir Director hired a choral student from Kennesaw State to sing with the choir
- Sanctuary in-depth clean-up is scheduled for November 17 at 11am

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Ebert

# Appendix A

## Minutes from Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting



### Minutes of Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 29, 2018

**Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order by Congregation Council President, Barb Blanke at 11:43 am

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded. The congregation voted and the President declared the motion approved.

**Opening Prayer:** Barb Blanke, "Eternal God, thank you for giving us this beautiful day and bringing us together. We also want to thank you for the blessing you have bestowed on this congregation for so many years – you have richly blessed us and have greatly cared for us. Please be with us during this meeting and remind us to always keep your mission and direction first in our thoughts so that we may take You into our lives, into our community and into the world. In Jesus name we pray – Amen"

**Approval of 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year Budget -** Prior to discussion of proposed budget, all staff members and their families were excused.

President Barb Blanke stated that the Council is asking for approval on a budget of \$622,515 of income and \$621,850 of expense which she pointed out is highlighted in the blue-shaded column that was given out to the congregation. She first talked about the income. This budget is lowering the income by \$33,662 from the fiscal year 2017-2018. This is because there has been a trend of lower giving over the last six months. There is less money coming in envelope giving and loose cash on a monthly basis, so because of that trend the Finance Committee and the Council put in a more conservative income budget for the coming fiscal year. She also stated that the Council will be watching the number and alert the congregation to any concerns. She stated that we are behind in giving by \$14,000 to budgeted income. She encouraged anyone that is behind in their giving pledge to catch up on that pledge. She stated that if something has changed and anyone cannot make their pledge to please let Kathy Gunn know and she will adjust your planned pledging. Barb then asked if there were any questions regarding the income. There were none.

The next section dealt with expenses. In looking at these line items, she pointed out changes.

Benevolence – Synod pledge increasing by \$5,350; LSG re-instated for \$3500 and Lutheran Coalition for Habitat would be given \$1,000.

Facilities – she said because there is no mortgage anymore that an additional \$25,000 will be added to the reserve.

Personnel – 3.5% increase for Pastor Paul and 3% increase for other staff. She also stated that there will be 2 additional hours added to the Outreach Coordinator position, if needed.

Programs – All committees requested a higher budget totaling \$18,526. Youth, Education and Worship & Music are adding additional scholarship money. Fellowship has exciting new plans, too.

Once again, Barb opened the floor for questions and hearing none, concluded her presentation of the budget changes. Once again she asked if there were any questions on any facet of the proposed

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*Minutes continued from previous page.....*

budget, and hearing none, she called for a vote. A motion was made to approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year July 2018 – June 2019. The motion was seconded and approved.

Staff members and their families now returned to participate in the balance of the meeting.

**Informational Items:**

**Update on the Remodel** – Barb stated that construction on the narthex, library, administrative hallway and for both the women and men’s front bathrooms will begin on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Those spaces will have all items currently stored, boxed-up and relocated. She said it is VERY IMPORTANT if you have personal items in those rooms, please remove them prior to that beginning date of construction or they will be boxed with all other items. This includes coats, umbrellas, or any other personal items. The construction will continue for six weeks. The space will be usable on Sundays, so church will continue. Nothing is closed. Tables and bins, like 2 Can Sunday, will be moved into the Fellowship Hall and will not be in the narthex during renovation.

**Update on Remodel Task Force** - Members of this Task Force are: John Bost, Paul Christiansen, Holly Jones, Karen Epstein, Tim Heintz, Lisa Morton, Kris McKeeth, and myself, Barb Blanke. These members are working hard to determine the new layout in the library and narthex, what furniture we need, and how do we more appropriately store items, so the space does not become cluttered again. They are also looking at what media is needed. The current plan is to purchase new chairs and tables for the library but leave any additional purchases until after the space is finished enabling them to see how the space works/flows and to see where the budget is at the end of the renovation.

**Safety-Armed Intruder Task Force** – Barb stated that the Council assembled this task force because they felt it was important that GLSC be prepared. The members of this Task Force are: Max Epling, Jeff Finney, Bettina Miller, Janice Swinford, Paul Christensen, and Pastor Paul. The task force is made up of first responders, teachers that are familiar with school policies, Sunday School representatives, an insurance representative, and a Council member. They have met with the Cherokee County Marshall’s office and the Sherriff’s office getting advice and direction on a plan for GSLC in case of an emergency. They are looking at a training and information session for the congregation later this year conducted by Cherokee County law enforcement. Like our renovation, we will see change in our space that we will have to adapt to...this task force will have recommendations to change how we function in our space to ensure we are safe in all areas.

**Kitchen/Fellowship Hall Renovation Task Force** – Many congregational members have been asking when will the church be doing a Kitchen/Fellowship Hall renovation, so the Council formed this task force. They are: Carlie Epstein, Michael Epstein, Marc Duclos, Denise Kelly, Kristin Brenneman, and Linda Kronau. This team is made up of a representation of Youth, Fellowship, Outreach, and Facilities members. They have only begun to look at requirements for this type of renovation as they have met one time, but they hope to have some thoughts/ plans to present to the congregation later this year or early next year.

At this point Barb thanked all members of these Task Forces for their time, energy and ideas.

She then asked Pastor Paul to say a prayer before the Celebration Banquet.

**Adjournment:** President Barb Blanke called for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm.



## Appendix B 2018 Church Leadership

### **Rostered Staff**

Pastor ..... Paul W. Baumgartner

### **Staff**

Choir Director/Organist ..... Thomas Eisnor  
Church Custodian ..... Aaron Frink  
Inreach Coordinator ..... Janice Swinford  
Media Coordinator ..... Donna Garges  
Office Coordinator ..... Kathy Gunn  
Outreach Coordinator ..... Kristin Brenneman  
Praise Team Coordinator ..... Pam Weinelt  
Sunday School Superintendent ..... Janice Swinford  
Youth Ministry Coordinator ..... Catalina Ontiveros

### **Council Members**

President ..... Barb Blanke  
Vice-President ..... Paul Christensen  
Treasurer ..... Mary McCoy  
Financial Secretary ..... Geoff Morton  
Secretary ..... Cathy Mattocks  
Council Member ..... Gina Crittenden  
Council Member ..... Marc Duclos  
Council Member ..... Karen Epstein  
Council Member ..... Kristin Freeman  
Council Member ..... Ron Mixon  
Youth Council Member ..... Carlie Epstein

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Communications ..... Barb Blanke  
Congregational Care ..... Pam Strong  
Facilities and Maintenance ..... Steve Ebert and Steve Frink  
Faith Formation ..... Karen & Carlie Epstein (Council Representatives)  
Fellowship ..... Linda Kronau and Monica Smith  
Finance ..... Wayne Wise  
Mission Endowment ..... Rob Homer  
Mutual Ministry ..... John Bost  
Personnel ..... Tony Endozo  
Outreach ..... Holly Jones  
Stewardship ..... Jason Champion and Lori Peters  
Worship and Music ..... Beth Ebert