



2017
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION

“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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“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.

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Bi-Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Agenda

November 12, 2017

Call to Order: Barb Blanke

Opening Prayer: Pastor Paul Baumgartner

Reading of the Mission Statement:

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

Approval of Agenda

Review and Approval of Minutes from April 2017 Bi-Annual Meeting

Consecration of God’s Grace in Action with Service Forms

Election of New Congregation Council Members

To be elected: 4 adults and 1 youth

Update on Entryway Renovation Project

Mortgage Payoff Report

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Paul Baumgartner

President’s Report: Barb Blanke

Informational Items

Election Results

Adjournment

Closing Prayer/Blessing for Thanksgiving Luncheon: Pastor Paul Baumgartner

Paul W. Baumgartner, Pastor

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. [Romans 3:21-25a]

Happy Reformation 500! After a year of commemoration, we finally reached the big day: October 31, 2017. Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, and the Lutheran Reformation began. For the last year Martin and Katie Luther have been popping up around our buildings to remind us how significant the Reformation was and continues to be.

Kudos to Mary Tucker and the Reformation 500 Task Force for providing so many opportunities to immerse ourselves in Reformation history and theology. Congregational programming in Bible Study Groups and Sunday School; highlighting of Southeastern Synod, ELCA and community events; as well as an opportunity for purchasing Reformation books and commemorative items marked the year.

In the spirit of The Reformation, I committed myself to teaching and preaching the Reformation as much as possible. I've particularly enjoyed a mid-week Lenten series on Luther's Small Catechism, numerous studies of Reformation books and the Bible (via Martin Luther) in my Thursday Bible Study Group, leading Church Chat Sunday School regarding all things Lutheran as well as an adult study of the Small Catechism, and being an instructor in our Confirmation program. Looking for those connections between Sunday texts and the Reformation for sermons was also a gratifying endeavor. As I am writing this report, nine of our youth are preparing for the Rite of Confirmation on Reformation Sunday at the end of October. What could be more in the spirit of the Reformation than their making public confessions of their own faith? Maybe the Reformation drama that our Youth will present on the day of our Fall Bi-Annual Meeting! Thanks to John Mau and his troupe of actors.

During the past year, other major projects have been underway as well. We made the move to a new fiscal year (July 1-June 30) and Bi-Annual Congregational Meetings. The Council appointed a Communications Task Force that has just released a new website. Thanks to Will Jayroe and all of our task force members. The Council appointed a Mortgage Payoff Task Force in anticipation of our mortgage being paid off in the spring of 2018. The Task Force has solicited input from all of our committees for ways that newly available offering dollars might enhance the ministries of our congregation. Thanks to the Mortgage Payoff Task Force. The Council also authorized Kris McKeeth and Lisa Morton to lead a remodeling project for the entryway of our buildings. We are so appreciative of their work and look forward to the unveiling of plans at the Bi-Annual Meeting.

In July, we welcomed Catalina Ontiveros as our first fulltime Youth Ministry Coordinator. On her very first day as a staff member, she left on the High School Mission Trip. She is obviously a woman of commitment...and courage. I have enjoyed working with Cat planning the Confirmation program and other youth activities. At the end of her first 90 days she received a very positive review by the Personnel Committee. Personally, it's been a huge relief to me to have the position filled, and filled so capably. Thanks to the Personnel Committee for making that happen and to the Faith Formation and other adult volunteers who kept our youth ministries strong and healthy during our time of transition.

I've had great opportunities to participate in the greater church this year. Besides the annual Southeastern Synod Assembly and Leadership Convocation, I was able to participate in the first ever all ELCA Rostered Leader's Gathering. We shared a rich week of worship, Bible study and presentations. It was great to be with so many sisters and brothers in ministry.

As always, I am indebted to our Council, Committee Chairs, other Leaders and our Staff for the things they do to make our congregation healthy and vibrant, and to make me successful in my ministry with you. And special thanks to Debbie who has borne 36 years of everything I bring home as a pastor. It was a highlight of my life to celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary this year!

Barb 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 2017, the congregational 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 Youth Ministry Coordinator
- Enhance the Social Media/Web content for GSLC
- Refresh plans for remodel and beautification/welcoming project
- Layout recommendations for GSLC after mortgage payoff in 2018

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 Youth Ministry Coordinator. We thought the hard part was in securing the financial commitments but learned again that our patience in waiting for the right candidate would be tested for many months. After getting direction from the SE Synod we increased the salary range and scope of our posting and our prayers were answered with several candidate applications. In July, 2017, Cat Ontiveros joined the staff of Good Shepherd as our Youth Ministry Coordinator and on her first week she joined the senior high mission trip to Chicago. We are blessed to have Cat as a part of our Good Shepherd staff and look forward to her continued involvement in our congregation. I am also thankful for all the congregational members who have worked to successfully integrate Cat into our programs and activities and for the continued financial support from the whole congregation – we are truly blessed!

Social Media is an ever evolving world of communication that sometimes baffles this middle-aged person, but to unscramble this world we assembled a Communication Committee for Good Shepherd. The goal of the committee is to ensure clear and concise communication and to effectively use the many vehicles available. Work on a new website for Good Shepherd had begun in 2016. We are blessed with a very talented congregational member, Will Jayroe, who is designing the website and we would not have progressed without Will's devotion and talent on this project. A soft launch of the website is planned for October 2017 and the committee will continue to work on updates and fine tuning of data for the website. As we stabilize the content on the gslutheran.org website, the committee will start to focus on direction for our Facebook site.

The remodel/beautification plan to focus on making the Good Shepherd facility more welcoming and open was refreshed using the \$50,000 of dedicated funds approved in November 2013 by the congregation. During the last year contractors were contacted to bid on this scope of work. In addition a designer was hired to layout materials, colors and specifications for the space for the final proposals from the contractors. The plan is to have recommendations on the space layout to the congregation for the November bi-annual meeting and to vote to go forward with these plans using the approved dedicated funds. I am anticipating that the work on this remodel plan will commence in early 2018.

In 2018 our mortgage will be paid in full, thanks to all the congregational members ongoing stewardship! With direction from a mortgage taskforce, the council would like to recommend that these expenses be redistributed in other needed areas. First the current facility is in need of major repairs so we would recommend that \$60,000 be dedicated annually for these repairs. Second we would increase our SE Synod pledge and we would re-institute a pledge to Lutheran Services of Georgia that was eliminated years earlier. And lastly we would invest additional funds for requests from our Outreach, Faith Formations and Worship & Music committees. These funds would enable us to continue to grow our support for activities outside our congregation and in support of our children and worship activities.

As we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation we are reminded that this is "our" church! 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!

Thomas Eisnor, Organist/Choir Director

- Good Shepherd continues to enjoy a multi-generational program of musicians including the Chancel Choir, Shepherd's Choir, and Jubilate Ringers.

- Several fine musicians from our congregation have stepped up to lend their talents to 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.

- 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, and Denise Kelly. We also wish to welcome Heidi Myers in her new role as Shepherd's choir co-director.

- I am blessed to be part of a community that is committed to worship that is inspired, dignified, and uplifting.

With Gratitude,
Thomas Eisnor

Pam Weinelt, Praise Team 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.
- 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.

2017 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 57 new songs or pieces of liturgy were added in 2017.

Goals for 2018

- 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.
- Explore ways to solicit more input from participating musicians in Praise Service worship planning.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Weinelt

Sunday School Report 2017

by Janice Swinford, Sunday School Superintendent

Sunday School changes every year, I feel. Sometimes it is subtle changes, like starting at 9:45 instead of 9:30 this year, or four adult classes instead of five, since one of our longest teaching teachers, Jim Cady, decided to take a well-deserved break. And sometimes I think Sunday School's biggest changes can't be seen for years. It's all those lessons about God's love, all those conversations about the radical concept of God's forgiveness and grace being for all people, no matter what their sins and stubborn hearts try to resist, that make their way through all the years into the very essence of what these students, from ages four to ninety-four believe and rely on throughout their lives.

For those that are in 5th grade and younger, I get the fun job of starting the Sunday School time with them and their teachers and assistants with the Lord's Prayer, a quick introduction to the lesson or a song, or sometimes a few Martin Luther facts in this Reformation anniversary year, and we end with a blessing that I raise my arms and give the group, and they raise their arms and give right back to me. I love that part. Those in 5th and younger then head off for a lesson that we do four Sundays in a row to make sure that we can unravel lots of different truths about the lesson, not just hit the highlights. The story of David, that we are entering into in October, gives us time to not just fight that big old giant Goliath, but find out more about David, the complicated faith hero.

The middle and high school classes talk about a variety of different topics, both straight out of the Bible and often straight out of the headlines, to let these almost teens and teens really start to apply the concepts that they have learned in worship and Confirmation and the younger years of Sunday School to what they see as the applications to the world in which they interact and the world they will help shape throughout their lives. The adult classes cover a range of topics as well, but I love that the same trusty Bible that served well for our younger classes, still is the source for the answers for the adults. Not many other best sellers out there are used for all ages!

To keep everyone on their toes, and make sure that we stay safe, Sunday School is also where we practice our fire and tornado drills. And to keep everyone entertained, we bring in the petting zoo animals at the end of the year for our last day party and to celebrate the funds that we raised through offering to purchase animals through ELCA Good Gifts. Feel free to contribute even if you are not in a class.

Sunday School is not just for children. All ages can form new friendships and be in an interactive setting to take the words that we see on the pages of the Bible and really go deeper into the topics and find the application for our lives. I am blessed to partner with so many dedicated teachers and assistants each year that really give their heart each Sunday. I couldn't do it without them. If you are interested in finding a class for you or anyone in your family, let me know. We would love to have you join us!

Inreach Coordinator

by Janice Swinford

Time, that constantly ticking, race against the clock enemy we know as time. Deadlines, constant interruptions from all our handy electronic devices, and the stress of even scheduling down time with family and friends. It's enough to make you want to wish you had never heard of time some days! As Inreach Coordinator, I spend time on the Stewardship Committee, where one of the tasks we ask the congregation to do each year is determine how they would like to use their time and talents, starting with a form we currently call God's Grace in Action through Service.

Throughout each year, I reach out to members and see how they have been enjoying their time at Good Shepherd. If we have not seen them for some time, I inquire if all is well, and if there is anything Good Shepherd can do for you. If you have been here, spending your time at Good Shepherd, I also ask you if that is going well. Hopefully these types of questions, or something similar, are familiar to you from when we have talked. But the common thread that it keeps coming back to is time. Often, I hear reasons that have been preventing you from spending more time at Good Shepherd, or committing yourself to a group, or a committee or an activity. I get it. Life is busy. I wish I could gift us all more of this precious commodity of time. And also take away the guilt that many of you, and I, feel when we don't think we have spent our time wisely.

But what does God tell us about how we spend our time? Or the worry that we have in relation to that time? In Matthew 6:34 we hear "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." Well, that still leaves us with worry, so what does God tell us about our worries, our stresses, our daily concerns? If we just back up in the chapter, beginning in verse 25, God reassures us "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying you add a single hour to your span of life?" I sure wish we all could have heard Jesus firsthand when he delivered this amazing message. My favorite day of the week is Sunday for a very important reason. Sunday is the day, every week, where I can hear God's love for me proclaimed, when I can be in a congregation listening to God's saving message of grace for each one of us, when I can share time fellowshiping with others who are striving to find the peace that passes all understanding and where I feel that at times, despite how busy our time is, time can truly stand still and we can all soak in the grace and forgiveness that God so lavishly and abundantly provides for each of us in every single busy day, hour and second of our lives. I hope that you are able to spend time with us at Good Shepherd often. I hope that you are able to join others in some of the amazing activities that we have and need help supporting through your time, but more than all of this, I pray that you find that the time that you spend listening to God's word, doing God's work with your hands, and seeing God's grace in action, both at Good Shepherd and throughout the world, is what draws you even closer in relationship with our loving, worry relieving God.

Outreach Coordinator

by Kristin Brenneman

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
-Joshua 1:9*

Wow! Once again we had a fantastic year at Good Shepherd. Although some things may have changed around us and we've been blessed with new faces, for Outreach, this year was business as usual. 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 2017 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 had the pleasure of fellowship together as we learned about the Reformation, continued to expand our neighborhood relations through our bi-monthly collection effort, Caretakers of Our Community, and brought back an old favorite, packing our own backpacks for Give A Kid A Chance.

I am constantly amazed by the giving spirit that is so alive in our congregation. If I haven't had the chance to personally thank you for all you do to make Outreach successful, please allow me to do so now. I sincerely thank you for all you have done to make Good Shepherd the wonderful, thriving church that it is. I look forward to serving with you in 2018 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. No matter what challenges may be thrown our way, may we always remember Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever, and it is in his name we do these works. Let us continue to “love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” - 1 John 3:18

God's Peace be with you,

Kristin Brenneman
Outreach Coordinator

Congregational Care Committee

The purpose of the Congregational Care Committee is to see that members receive the care and support they may need. To that end we will provide support and act as a resource to the small groups at Good Shepherd. We mostly work independently and meet when we have issues to address.

Small groups include the various Bible studies, choirs, Empty Nesters, God's Little Achers, Needlework friends, Yarn Angels, and Men in Mission.

Feed The Flock, is co-chaired by Sharon Bost and Denise Kelly. Sharon helps to organize meals to be taken to members when someone is hospitalized, ill, or facing some other difficulty. Denise organizes and plans meals at church following a funeral.

New Member Shepherds, are sought out by a committee member to provide assistance to those joining Good Shepherd. They are available to provide a familiar face, answer questions, and introduce them to other members.

We are also seeking members to staff the nursery.

Committee Members are Kris Hebeisen, Reba Sumner, Cynthia Christensen, Sharon Bost, Denise Kelly, Linda Kronau, Sue Pence, Sandy Cerstvik and Pam Strong. Kristin Freeman is our council liaison.

If anyone is interested in any of these activities or would like more information please see any member of the committee.

Submitted by Pam Strong

Facilities and Maintenance Committee

The Facilities and Maintenance Committee chairs are Steve Ebert and Steve Frink. Council Liaison is Robert Luebke. Thanks to the generous donations of skill, time and materials by committee members and others in the congregation, we have worked hard to operate within our minor facilities repair budget 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)
- ✧ Replace fabric covering of organ alcoves
- ✧ Natural gas detectors installed in fellowship hall, sanctuary, admin wing, upper and lower education wing hallways
- ✧ Installed wireless monitors received from Church Mutual Ins. Monitor for heat in fellowship hall, monitor for pipe temperature in copier mechanical room and water detection monitor in lower-level education wing mechanical room
- ✧ Cleaned out fellowship hall closets, installed shelving, and organized contents
- ✧ Normal maintenance issues taken care of including: fire-exit sign replacement, updated security lighting, bathroom fixture replacements and lighting repairs
- ✧ Reserve study completed and in place to guide maintenance expenditures

Projects planned for 2018

- ✧ Remodeling of the narthex, library, front office, administration wing hallway, women and men's bathrooms.
- ✧ Painting of the exterior eaves, overhangs, trim, windows and doors
- ✧ Secure quotes on parking lots for repair, seal coating and restriping
- ✧ Install 2 new garage doors to the garage
- ✧ Re-engineer Sanctuary underground HVAC ducting

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 Robert Luebke, Steve Ebert, Steve Frink or the church office.

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 Hailey Hovda, members Kristin Freeman, Tracey Homer, Scarlett Hovda, Janice Swinford, Shelley Trampnau, Eric Hutchison, Mike McCoy, Tony Endozo, 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 3rd 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).

For most of 2016-2017, we again relied upon numerous volunteers to step up and lead much of the programming that had previously been led by the Associate Pastor (Saints & Sinners, Confirmation, youth mission trips), while we actively searched for a Youth Ministry Coordinator. Pastor Paul continues in the spiritual leadership role and met with upcoming confirmands to assist them in crafting their faith statements. With the hiring in July of Cat Ontiveros, our Youth Ministry Coordinator, leadership of the Confirmation, Saints & Sinners, and mission trip programs now come under her purview, with assistance and guidance from the committee.

With the change in worship times, Sunday School also went through some changes – for 2017, we have revised the start time to 9:45am to allow for an easier transition for our teachers, assistants, and participants who attend the 8:30am service. Currently, as we have no youth in the 3-year-old age group, we have suspended this class, however, we have teachers and assistants at the ready should we have a need arise in the future. We also had some revisions within the adult Sunday school classes - Jim Cady stepped down after many years of leadership. Pastor Paul is leading a limited run class, with this year's focus on the Reformation 500th anniversary, which will end in November.

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held June 26-30, with Kristin Freeman once again serving as the Director. The theme was "Hero Central – Discover Your Strength in God". As in the past, 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.

The Children and Youth Protection Policy underwent its annual review in Spring 2017. Updated forms are available on the website. As part of the website refresh, the committee is also reviewing all information currently posted and updating all descriptions, forms, policies, and photos to reflect the opportunities available.

The Confirmation program continues a three-year cycle for youth in grades 6-8, with some adjustments in leadership and structure. For 2017, we have gone to 2 groups, with 4 consistent leaders, as well as Pastor Paul leading large group time once each month. The FX3 group is for 4th & 5th 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 rafting trip on the Ocoee River and meets weekly with focus on fellowship, devotions, activities, and service projects.

This past summer, High School youth served in Chicago, IL and Middle School youth travelled to Savannah, GA. For the summer of 2018, plans are being made to once again utilize the services of "Serve Boldly" to facilitate mission trips. High School youth are scheduled to travel to Milwaukee, WI and Middle School youth will travel to Nashville, TN. Various fundraising opportunities are currently being planned 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

Committee Chairs:

Monica Smith, Linda and Paul Kronau
Council Liaison: Marc Duclos

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 added not 1 but 2(3) new Co-Chairs to the committee. Special Thanks to Monica Smith and Linda and Paul Kronau for stepping in to help !

Each Sunday: With the change of the service times to 8:30 and 10:45, we have instituted two Fellowship sessions after each service.

With Sunday School between services we have seen an increase in Fellowship for the 8:30 and some early guests to the 10:45am.

We will be adding some additional programs in 2017 and 2018 for community fellowship.

We are grateful to the congregation for its financial support to purchase coffee, lemonade, donuts, and supplies. We appreciate all of our volunteers, both Fellowship Committee members and nonmembers, for setting up and cleaning up following each service.

Advent/Lent: Wednesday night soup and salad dinners were hosted by different committees. The Fellowship Committee provided paper goods, drinks, and rolls.

Easter Sunday: We set up and clean up for the Easter Sunday Brunch.

Thanksgiving Gathering: The Fellowship Committee provides the turkey, gravy, rolls, and beverages following the Annual Meeting in November. The committee sets up and cleans up as well.

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: **Paul Evans, Rob Homer, Mary Tucker, Bettina Miller, Ray Smith** (Council Representative). Ex-officio members include **Pastor Paul** (Senior Pastor), **Barb Blanke** (Council President), and **Jaime Escamilla** (Treasurer) – all with voice and vote.

In 2017, our main focus has been to work towards a strategy of conducting one fundraiser and continue on the fundraiser started in 2016 to provide information of the Mission Endowment fund. To that end, we are currently conducting an activity to sell ribbons; where by, acknowledgements will be in the All Saints Day bulletin of those who have passed away. We have continued on the 2015 plan to conduct Temple Talks in December as a means to keep the congregation aware of our current mission.

At present the fund totals \$16,866.61, which is maintained in a separate account established with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. 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, Mary Tucker, Paul Evans, Bettina Miller, Ray Smith, Jaime Escamilla, Barb Blanke and Pastor Paul.

Mutual Ministry Committee

Committee Members: Eric Ficken (Committee Chair), Donna Garges, Geoff Morton, John Bost, Judy Roberts, and Susan Bonds

The Mutual Ministry Committee typically meets with Pastor Paul four times per year although additional meetings can be scheduled as the need arises. Our mission is to provide a sounding board and support for our pastor in a comfortable, relaxing environment where he can share his thoughts and information candidly with the group. In addition to these meetings the committee provides food and refreshments for Pastor Paul during the busy Christmas Eve services.

Committee members typically serve for three years.

We are truly blessed to have such excellent Christian leadership at Good Shepherd and it has been our honor to be available for Pastor Paul in any way needed.

Outreach Committee

Purpose: Working with the Senior 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 fourth quarter 2016 we reintroduced 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 such as restaurants, retailers and gas stations. Through the sale of gift cards during the holiday season we were able to raise \$406 to be used during 2017 to fund various Outreach endeavors.

One Sunday in October 2016, we also recognized World Food Day by challenging the congregation to bring in non-perishable food donations for our local food banks. We also raised \$1400.00 in one day of offering to donate to the ELCA Hunger initiative.

Two-Can Sundays continued in 2017 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.

In 2017, we continued our bimonthly fundraising/awareness effort, Caretakers of Our Community. As Caretakers of Our Community, Good Shepherd hosts bi-monthly collections of requested goods for several charitable organizations in our area. The congregation has been very generous in these efforts and throughout 2017 we have been able to help provide socks and underwear to MUST Ministries, lightbulbs and lamps to Lutheran Services of Georgia, items needed for our own VBS program, and household goods and cleaners to Next Step Ministries. We will close out our 2017 collection efforts with collecting requested holiday gift items for Cherokee County Senior Services.

In March 2017, several volunteer walkers from Good Shepherd raised over \$1200 for the Atlanta Community Food Bank by participating in the Atlanta Hunger Walk. This effort was spearheaded by Gail Tverberg-Setzer

Also in March 2017, Outreach hosted the Diet of Worms, an afternoon of fellowship, games and education on the Reformation. More than 50 attendees enjoyed a spaghetti luncheon, a riveting game of Reformation Bingo, and a showing of the critically-acclaimed movie, “Luther”. Free-will donations from the event helped us raise \$524 to benefit our MUST Summer Lunch program.

In May 2017, the Outreach Committee sold Mother’s Day corsages with the proceeds benefitting the Foster Program at Lutheran Services of Georgia. Thanks to the support of Good Shepherd parishioners and Outreach volunteers we were able to send a check to LSG in the amount of \$400. This event was coordinated by Kristin Brenneman.

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 Acworth. This particular project had a very close tie to Good Shepherd as the home was built for Angela Scheitlin, granddaughter of Good Shepherd members Bob and Barbara Scheitlin. This endeavor was led by Max Epling.

Also from April to June 2017, Good Shepherd raised \$2650 to provide 150 backpacks to the Give a Kid a Chance annual Back to School Blast. This year we returned to filling the backpacks ourselves and enjoyed each other’s company as 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 July 2017, approximately 65 volunteers prepared 2500 lunches over the course of five days for the MUST

Continued on Next Page

Outreach Committee, Continued

Summer Lunch program. GSLC received monetary and food donations from the congregation, as well as used money raised through the “Pay it Forward” Gift Card Program and Diet of Worms Dinner to fund this outreach endeavor. Coordinators for this event were Holly Jones and Kristin Brenneman.

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 Cynthia Christensen, Kathy Mattocks and Sharon Bost.

In September, GSLC again participated in “God’s Work Our Hands” Sunday, on Sept. 10. This year we helped put God Grace in Action by tending garden at Forever Fed, sorting rice and detergent for Elizabeth Inn Shelter residents, and preparing sandwiches for Loaves & Fishes Kitchen. The coordinator for this event was Kristin Brenneman.

Outreach will wrap up 2017 by collecting food items for MUST Ministries Thanksgiving initiative, and supporting our annual shoebox campaign to deliver holiday blessings to the children of refugees in LSG’s refugee program, coordinated by Susan Epling. We will also bring back the “Pay It Forward” Gift Card Program during the holiday season to help fund our Outreach efforts in 2018.

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: Trina Hutchison – Chairperson, Tony Endozo, Mike McCoy, Scot Bauer, Kelly Burleson, Pastor Paul and Mike Angalet – Council Liaison

2017 Recap

Performance Duties:

- Conducted annual review process with staff.
- Developed the Youth Ministry Coordinator Job Description and presented to the Council for approval.
- Posted and subsequently hired Catalina Ontiveros for the Youth Ministry Coordinator position.
- Job descriptions were reviewed and amended as necessary.

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

Stewardship Committee

Co-Chairs: Geoff Morton
Carrie Escamilla

Council Liaison: Jaime Escamilla

“A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.” - Martin Luther

For the 2017 Campaign the Stewardship Committee recognized the 500th anniversary of the evangelical Lutheran Reformation. Martin Luther said “A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.” The theme for 2017 is “God’s Grace in Action.”

The Stewardship committee divided stewardship into two separate pillars again this year: Service and Offering - God’s Grace in Action with Service, and God’s Grace in Action with Offering.

The 2018 Campaign will continue recognizing the 500th anniversary of the evangelical Lutheran Reformation and God’s Grace in Action.

God’s Grace in Action with Service - will be on November 12 – annual meeting day!

- Look for updated service forms.
- Look for a guide of committee functions and detailed descriptions of tasks and commitments.

God’s Grace in Action with Offering – will be on February 4, 2018.

- Those wishing to make their 2018 pledge before the end of the year are encouraged to do so! Look for updated pledge forms in December.

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!

The Stewardship Committee as a whole would like to express 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!

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

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

- The Bridge Sunday evening service will no longer take place
- Sunday servant guidelines were revised and new/returning servants were trained during January and February
- Lent special services were at 12 and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays using the Small Catechism as the format
- The Mortgage Task Force Committee requested ministry ideas from Worship & Music, we submitted 3 requests
- We have been celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with many wonderful quotes from Martin Luther along with weekly bulletin inserts and many resources
- Pastor Justin Lind-Ayers is the guest preacher on October 22, 2017
- A Youth drama play will be presented on November 12, with one service at 9:30 a.m. followed by a bi-annual congregation meeting with a luncheon following
- Advent services will be at 7:30pm with no supper beforehand
- Advent 4 Sunday, falls on Christmas Eve. One spoken service with no music will be held in the morning, with the Christmas Eve services at 2, 5, 7 and 9 p.m.
- A few hand chimes have been replaced along with the case lock
- New crystal goblets were purchased for Intinction communion

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Ebert

Appendix A

Annual Congregational Meeting

Minutes of Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order by Congregation Council President, Barb Blanke at 11.59am

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. At this point the President announced that a quorum had been met.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Paul Baumgartner led the congregation in prayer.

Approval of 2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year Budget - Prior to discussion of proposed budget, all staff members and their families were excused.

President Barb Blanke verbally discussed specific items on the proposed budget (a slide presentation was prepared [see Secretary's Council Notebook] however, the technology was not functioning properly so the slides were not seen by the congregation, however, a copy of the budget was distributed to each congregation member present). Barb explained the columns included on the document – 2016 Actual was actual expenses for the year, Difference represents favorable or unfavorable expenditures and finally the percentage of difference. She pointed out that the second to last column (highlighted in gray) would be what the congregation would be voting on – July 2017 – June 2018 Budget. The final column represents the difference between the actual expenditure in 2016 vs. the proposed numbers for this fiscal year budget.

In looking at the line items on this budget, Barb noted that the total income proposed is \$656,177. To date, we have received pledges totaling \$584,000. In addition to that, we have approximately \$10,000 in income from Simply Giving and approximately \$34,000 in envelope giving where no formal pledge was received, plus \$32,000 in rental income. So with those figures, we have pledges to support more than the actual proposed budget. In addition, for the first quarter of 2017 we are on track with budgeted figures and in some cases ahead of budget. Barb mentioned that any additional income can be used for other projects. She then thanked the members of the congregation for their pledges and giving and continued support of Good Shepherd, its programs and ministries.

She opened the floor for any questions on those line items and hearing none, continued with her review of the proposed budget.

The next section dealt with expenses. In looking at these line items, she pointed out that there are no big changes in staff planned, and some line items stayed flat, while others did have some swings. She addressed these items individually:

Personnel: this item is down year over year, largely in part to the vacant Associate Pastor position. Staff increase were recommended by Personnel and included in this budget – for the Senior Pastor an increase of 9% is included. This increase brings Pastor Paul's salary to the minimum level recommended by the Synod. All other staff members have a 3% increase included. In reviewing budgets from several years past, increases have either been non-existent, or minimal at best. The only other change to this line item is the addition of the Youth Leader position. After the appeal to the congregation, a salary of \$30,000 was offered, however, we have received no interest in the job at that level, so Personnel recommended increasing the salary to \$40,000 which allows us the flexibility to offer benefits to attract candidates to apply.

Again, Barb opened the floor to questions and hearing none, continued with the review.

Facilities: This item is up \$3,300. Included in this budget is \$10,000 to begin to build the Reserve Fund. Barb then reminded the congregation that last year, council had contracted a reserve study which identified recommended budget expenses and a timeline of items that would ultimately need repair / replacement. To date, we have not had the capitol to build this fund, which was recommended to be \$60,000 each year. This \$10,000 is in part a result of the fact that as of May 2018 we will have paid off the mortgage, so this budget carries no payment for the months of May and June 2018.

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 budget, and

hearing none, she called for a vote. A motion was made to approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year July 2017 – June 2018. The motion was seconded and approved.

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

Informational Items:

Communications Committee: Members include Susan Bonds, Marc Duclos, Phillip Ebert, Kristin Freeman, Hailey Hovda and Reba Sumner, with technical support from Will Jayroe and Meredith Hale. The mission statement of the committee was read (see Council Secretary's Notebook), as well as an overview of what this committee is hoping to accomplish as it pertains to the way Good Shepherd communicates with the community at large, as well as the internal community of congregation members.

Chairperson(s) Needed: Originally noted that chairs were needed for both Fellowship and Congregational Care, prior to the beginning of the meeting, Pam Strong stepped up to offer to chair Congregational Care, so the appeal was specifically targeted to securing a Fellowship Chair. Barb explained the responsibilities of the Chairperson and assured members that it is not to run every function that Fellowship handles – there are volunteers in place who do those events, the Chairperson is there to monitor. An appeal was made for members of the congregation to consider serving and if there were any questions or any volunteers they should seek out Marc Duclos, Barb Blanke, or Janice Swinford.

Update on Youth Leader: Presently, we have had interest from one applicant. The Personnel committee did look at the job description and make some minor changes. In addition, as the budget has been approved at this meeting, the added salary will be included and an updated job description will be posted on Monday following the meeting. Posted locations include The Southeastern, North Carolina and South Carolina Synods, Lenoir-Rhyne and Newberry College. In addition, we are looking at other avenues to secure candidates. A question was raised from the floor regarding our willingness to pay moving expenses should we have a candidate from out of the area. The response was that no, that was outside of our budget abilities and was not part of the offer at this time.

Remodel Plan Update: Barb reviewed the life of this project – in November, 2013, the congregation approved moving \$50,000 into a fund for a remodel project. A task force was created to review our space with an eye to making it more welcoming, functional, and improving the traffic flow. However, shortly thereafter, economic issues arose and this project was put on hold. We are now in a position to begin to once again look at putting this project into motion. We have a small task force working on securing bids and recommendations for updates and depending upon what the bids look like that will drive what refurbishments are completed. We are hoping to have some concrete information to provide – plans, drawings, quotes, etc. Prior to expending the funds set aside, we need to secure congregation approval so we would need to set up a special meeting and have a vote to approve the expense. A question was raised as to whether we currently have a general roadmap for the remodel and Barb explained that we currently are looking at refurbishing the entry way and potentially the front restrooms. To date, the basic quote we have received is in excess of \$50,000 so we feel we will go forward in the entry way, however, we need to get more quotes prior to being able to offer more specifics. We will share information with the congregation once we have secured it – including any overages prior to going forward. An additional question was raised regarding where the design came from. Barb explained that we actually don't currently have a design, just a general idea of changes that may be necessary. We still need to speak with contractors and conduct a walk through and use their expertise. A suggestion was made to potentially contact the original architect. With no further questions or comments, Barb continued on with the next agenda item.

Mortgage Task Force: As noted earlier, our final mortgage payment is scheduled for April 2018. A short-term task force has been formed to offer recommendations for use of these funds to report back to council. Barb has asked them for these ideas by early summer. The mortgage represents approximately \$8,000 per month. Ideally, some of these funds would be used to add to the Reserve Fund and put back into our facilities, with the balance used for our goals and missions, i.e. where we see GSLC in the future. A question was asked as to whether the Task Force members should be contacted with specific suggestions from the congregation. Barb advised that any suggestions, questions, or comments regarding the mortgage pay-off should be directed to council members at this time. The task force is truly a very short-term think-tank who have been tasked with presenting some general ideas to council for their further action. The Congregation Council owns the plan as we look forward to what we would like and what needs to be done.

Once again, the floor was opened for any questions on items discussed. Hearing none, the Congregation members were thanked for their continued support.

Adjournment: President Barb Blanke called for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:29pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Karen Epstein,
2017 Congregation Council Secretary*