

# St. James Lutheran Church

*God calls us to follow Christ, make disciples, and live the Gospel*

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION**

(REVISED 5/29/13)

### **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE MEETING 10:45 a.m. June 2, 2013**

#### **Schedule**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. Annual Meeting  
*(nursery attendant will be on duty)*

#### **Agenda**

Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Report of the Tellers (Quorum is 46 voting members)

Adoption of the Agenda

Reading of the Minutes, January 27, 2013

Annual Reports

    Report of the President

    Reports of the Committees

Elections

Resolutions

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

## **Minutes of the Annual Congregation Financial Meeting January 27, 2013**

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Pastor Holmer gave the opening prayer.

Detlef Koska, Church Council President, called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m.

The tellers reported the presence of a quorum.

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

The minutes of the June 3, 2012 Governance meeting were approved as presented.

Peter Clemens, Church Council Vice President, noted that 2012 had ended on a positive note with the budget coming in within 1% of the predicted. Neither contingency nor reserve funds were used. He also reported that the mortgage had been refinanced with Lake Forest Bank and Trust, lowering the interest rate from 6% to 4.5%, incurring no loan origination fee, and maintaining the line of credit that we have never needed to use.

Mike Bennett, Congregation Treasurer, presented the proposed 2013 budget. He noted that the details of the budget were in the report. He made note of the following:

- Member contributions were down about \$7000.
- A transfer of \$5000 will be made from the contingency fund to the general fund to pay for a new part time staff position, Volunteer Coordinator, beginning August 1, 2013.
- There is an \$11,000 increase in personnel expenses.
  - \* The 2% reduction in Social Security tax was not renewed this year.
  - \* All staff members were given a 2% raise.
  - \* The new Volunteer Coordinator position funded for the last 5 months of 2013.
- The actual property expenditures in 2012 were \$73,180, which included a number of major repairs. The 2013 property budget returns to the level of prior years minus the \$10,000 set aside for the major maintenance account. As the report notes, if the \$10,000 is available at the end of the year, it will be moved to that account.

Comments/questions:

- Carol Bennett noted the following concerns
  - \* Prepaid contributions appear to be down \$40,000 from last year
  - \* She feels that the yearly reserve of \$10,000 for major maintenance is an important practice to continue.
  - \* She proposes evaluating the offering St. James makes to the ELCA and regarding it as a tithe rather than an amount that should be increased every year.
- Daniel Heiman noted that, relative to the prepayment of contributions, some members might have chosen to make this payment in January rather than December because of tax changes. Mike Bennett noted that some of the prepaid contributions had come in since the report had been published.
- Mark Taylor asked what the long-term plan was for funding the new position of Volunteer Coordinator. Pete Clemens noted that the hope was to be able to cover it within the personnel budget starting in 2014.
- Jon Paul noted that this was a very tight budget.

Detlef Koska asked for a motion to approve the 2013 budget. It was approved with 2 dissensions.

Pete Clemens reminded the congregation of the objectives that the Council had introduced a year ago. He explained that this year's Council had been working on ways to reach these goals, with particular emphasis on the objective to increase attendance and membership. One obstacle to attracting new members is the fact that the church is not easily visible from the road. He reviewed the actions being

taken to increase the visibility of the church; exterior lighting, new web site, buckthorn removal and demolition of the little house; as well as the funds that had been identified to pay for these actions. He showed a plat of the church property and explained where the buckthorn would be removed.

Comments/questions:

- Mike Bennett clarified that the large rectangle on the plat identified the church property while the area shaded in red identified the area where buckthorn would be cleared.
- Cobi Stein asked about the condition of the little house. Pete Clemens explained that the house was in very poor condition and was not able to be used any longer.
- Carole Tanner asked how the land would be maintained so that the buckthorn would not return. Pete Clemens explained that when the current plants were removed, the stumps would be treated so they would not grow back. Every year or two volunteers would be needed to cut down any new seedlings.
- Tom Ebert asked if there was a plan to provide further parking. Pete Clemens noted that while the City of Lake Forest would not let us put gravel on the lot where the house will be torn down, the area would be seeded with grass and would accommodate some over-flow parking.
- Jon Paul asked if there was any plan to do previously identified projects such as the improvements needed in the Sunday School area. Detlef Koska replied that these activities would likely be funded in the future through fund raising.
- Detlef Koska thanked Pete Clemens for all of the work he has done, particularly in working with the city of Lake Forest on the little house demolition and buckthorn removal projects.

Randy Daniel spoke about the position of the Volunteer Coordinator. This position was part of the objective to increase the congregation's participation in outreach opportunities, specifically to ask each member to be engaged in at least one activity each year. The person serving in this position would help people understand what the opportunities are and track the involvement in the various activities. Interested candidates will be interviewed and the job will begin August 1, 2013. Randy Daniel reviewed the job description.

Comments/questions:

- Carol Bennett noted that the church already owns the software *Servant Keeper*, which should be useful for tracking involvement in the outreach opportunities.

Detlef Koska noted that there were four volunteers for Synod Assembly Voting Members: himself, Pete Clemens, Linda Berner and Randy Daniel as an alternate. There were no volunteers from the floor and the four named were elected unanimously.

Detlef Koska thanked all of those who had been working on the budget process and the various other activities. He especially noted the office staff and members of the finance committee.

Joe Voelcker said that more volunteers were needed to count the offering after church services on Sundays. Anyone interested may contact him to volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Pastor Holmer offered thanks to all of those working to take action in needed areas and closed the meeting by leading the congregation in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Berner

## *Report of the President*

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The celebration of our 50th anniversary continued during the second half of 2012. On August 1, representatives of our Youth Group and a few adults headed by John Webster's gleaming red Ford Falcon pickup truck participated in the Lake Forest Day Parade handing out an invite to St. James Family Fun Fair, water and other goodies to by-standers. Later that month, Nathan Laube enthralled the audience with his brilliant organ play. One day before Rally Day, we invited community members to a Fabulous-Family-Fun-Fair with ice cream and games under a tent on the front lawn blessed by bright and warm sunshine. Also in September, we presented a gigantic check for \$100,000+ to Denver Bitner, CEO of LSSI, in a special service ceremony. Finally on Thanksgiving Day, we celebrated together with The Church of the Holy Spirit and First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest in a very festive Thanksgiving service.

Earlier the Church Council formulated key objectives namely:

1. Increase membership involvement in outside services and mission work
2. Increase church attendance by 20%
3. Initiate a capital campaign within the next five years.

To fulfill at least some of these objectives the Church Council spent two days in October in a retreat and developed the following strategic actions:

1. Improve the Church's visibility
2. Upgrade the WEB site
3. Establish the position of a Volunteer Coordinator.

This resulted in specific projects which were:

1. The website was redesigned with the help of an outside consultant. Eric Holmer was selected and a significantly improved website is up and running.
2. New computers were installed replacing outdated equipment. Special thanks to Michael Beacham for facilitating the purchase and installation of the new computers and assisting in the development and maintenance of the new web site.
3. Buckthorn and little house were removed. Pete Clemens coordinated this effort together with the Property Committee and today the little house is finally removed and so is most of the buckthorn on the south side. With some generous financial support from neighbors, the buckthorn on the remaining property will be removed on the south and west side. What a spectacular improvement!
4. In May, an outside lighting test was conducted, which was very positive. Bright flood lights will be installed on the east and south side of the church which will greatly enhance its visibility at night.
5. From several candidates, Debbie MacAyeal was chosen as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Combined with her Christian Education responsibilities, her new title will be Director of Discipleship. Debbie will commence her duties in August. St. James functioning and success depends to a very large part on its volunteers. The number of volunteers who are enthusiastically serving is relatively small and we need more of them.

The Lily Foundation had awarded a grant to fund Pastor Holmer's well deserved sabbatical, which he started in mid-April with a journey to Israel. He is expected to return to us on August 4. In the meantime, Terry Dufur is providing pastoral coverage. All Church Council members are sharing numerous duties normally performed by Pastor Holmer such as opening and closing the Church on Sundays and making announcements. As of this writing things are working smoothly and harmoniously. Especially Pastor Dufur's lively sermons which are well received by the congregation, and we are thankful.

In October a team of "handy people" went to Biloxi and helped build houses organized by Habitat for Humanity. It's such a valuable program and was a wonderful experience for all who went. We have been supporting Habitat in Waukegan for quite some time, and there are numerous opportunities in upcoming weeks for volunteering. There are many jobs requiring various skills. Instructors are always helpful and patient. It's fun and rewarding to volunteer.

I traveled with my wife from August to November. During this time Pete Clemens took over my duties as Council President, and I am very thankful for this. During our journey, which took us through the Rocky Mountains, Canada, the Alaska Highway all the way to Fairbanks and later down the Pacific Coast, we admired God's creations in its many forms. We also attended different churches with quite small and some very large congregations. Several churches used large projection screens for readings and other texts we typically print in our bulletins. Some administrators pointed out very significant cost reductions by eliminating the paper copying. Just food for thought.

My term as Council President is ending, and I thank Pastor Holmer, Pastor Dufur, our staff, my fellow council members, the numerous committees and their chair persons and the congregation for their commitments, their help and actions to create the success St. James enjoys in the spirit of our mission. I am very grateful to be part of this group.

***Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!***

Respectfully submitted,

Detlef Koska  
Council President

## Milestones

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These persons were welcomed into the Body of Christ through Holy Baptism:

**Luca Wallace DeRose  
Stella Alison Barnes  
Aiden Christian Schlather  
Molly Caroline O'Brien**

On September 23, 2012, Bibles were presented to:

**Mark Basgall  
Collin Engelhardt  
Kate Gerber  
Kevin Hill  
Blake VanderJeugd  
Mackenzie Voelcker**

On September 30 2012, these persons were confirmed in Christ:

**Lucas Christopher Goebel  
Kelsey Joy Hill  
John Wesley Ingold  
Bailey Marie Meseck  
Paige Mackenzie Opsahl  
Ryan Dale Thornberry**

On February 3, 2013, these persons were welcomed to the Lord's table to share in Holy Communion:

**Matthew Basgall  
Christian Engelhardt  
Thea Grauer  
Addison Haller  
Kai MacAyeal  
Mason McGuire  
Benjamin Rosa  
Margo Thornberry  
Mia Walwood  
Mark Winick**

The following couple was joined in marriage:

**Katie Anderson and William Gitterman on May 26, 2013**

On March 17, 2013, these persons were welcomed as members of St. James:

**Mark Austin  
Joan Hoexter  
Josh and Stacy Hornaday, Justin and Morgan  
Tom Matkov and Laura Whisler, Gus and Ernie  
Fay Olson**

Funeral services were held for these members:

**Elaine Herb, September 22, 2012  
Bill Guyton, January 5, 2013  
Dan Abby, January 12, 2013**

May they rest in God's grace and peace.

We continue to be well served by the members of our paid staff:

**Chris Meyer — Business Manager  
Donna Jarvi—Church Secretary and  
Damascus Road Coordinator  
Tim Haskett—Music Director  
Debbie MacAyeal—Director of Discipleship  
Doug Dusthimer—Youth Director  
Wendy Unrath—Organist  
Wendy Wiegers—Children's Choir Director  
Gretchen Haskett—Hand Bell Choir Director  
Daniel Heiman—Brass Ensemble Director  
Caitlin McGarrigle—Nursery Supervisor**

## Report of the Fellowship Committee

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Each Sunday this summer, we joined in fellowship after the service with a delicious spread of goodies provided by each of the St. James committees. This is always a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of the slower pace of summer and enjoy each other for a time after worship.

A beautiful summer day at the beach was had by all when we met at the Lake Forest Beach for our annual beach party, in July. Members brought sail boats and took others out for rides. Families swam in the water and enjoyed the beach. It was a long, hot summer and the cool water of Lake Michigan brought relief to many! The grills were fired up and each member brought their own meat to grill and a side dish to share. This is always an enjoyable family event and a great way to get access to our beautiful water front.

In September, we kicked off the start of fall with our Rally Day Celebration. Ann and Kevin Dwyer once again made the event festive with the arrival of their antique fire truck food wagon! We enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs grilled on the truck by Kevin and sons, John and Patrick. The church provided salads and dessert from the Picnic Basket in Libertyville and Debbie MacAyeal planned festive events to keep the children entertained while the parents enjoyed the sunny day.

In November, we reinstated the fall Progressive Dinner! We had 68 members divided into

separate host homes for a delicious dinner of Roasted Pork with Dried Fruit and Port Wine Sauce, later we all joined together at the home of Rich and Lisa Foss for desserts and coffee. The fall Progressive dinner was brought back by popular demand. Many of our members who travel in the winter and early spring could not make our spring dinner, so we decided to add an additional dinner in the fall! The result was a delicious and fun evening for all!

December 2nd, marked the beginning of Advent and St James celebrated with our annual pot luck dinner. Once again, Debbie MacAyeal provided family fun with a craft project of making an Advent wreath.

Spring finally arrived on April 13th when we came together in fellowship for the Spring Progressive Dinner! Kevin and Ann Dwyer graciously opened their home to 53 members for appetizers. Following appetizers, we broke into smaller groups and dined at different host homes with a festive menu of Raspberry Salsa Chicken, Avocado Salad, Jalapeno Corn Bread and Sopapilla Cheesecake for dessert! What a fantastic way to welcome in spring!

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Shinn

## **Report of the Nominating Committee**

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The following individuals have expressed their willingness and commitment to serve. Other members of the Congregation who wish to be considered for election to any of the positions below may have their names placed in nomination at the Annual Governance Meeting.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL** - Nominations for Terms Expiring June 2016 (Three Year Term):

#### **Linda Berner**

Linda has lived in Lake Bluff and been a member of St James since 1983. She taught Sunday school for more than twenty years and is a member of the Christian Education Committee. She has sung in the choir for seven years and recently joined the Bell Choir. In June 2012, Linda retired after working in various aspects of special education for over 40 years. Participating in St. James service to the A.J. Katzenmaier School helped her transition into retirement, fulfilling the need to be in a school and working with children. She enjoys spending time with her adult daughters , Kendra and Megan, son-in-law, J and her granddaughter, Zoe.

#### **Brooke Davis**

Brooke lives in Lake Bluff with her husband Rob and their children Will, Luke and Annie. They joined St. James in the Fall of 2000. Her past involvement at St. James includes Nursery Coordinator and teaching Sunday School. Brooke teaches preschool at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest.

#### **Tom Ebert**

Tom and his wife Susan joined St. James in 1987 and reside in Green Oaks. They have three children, Nik, Max and Gretta. His previous church related activities include membership on the Finance, Nominating, and Personnel Committees and Church Council. He is currently a member of the Evangelism Committee and serves regularly as an usher, greeter, communion assistant and assisting minister. Tom is the Food Pantry Coordinator at Catholic Charities in Waukegan.

#### **Brenda Shinn**

Brenda has been a member of St. James since 2007. She lives in Green Oaks along with her husband, Bill, and three sons, Connor, Collin and Nathan. This will be Brenda's second three year term on Council, she is serving them back to back. She is the chair of the Fellowship committee and has also been active in our Sunday school. Her full time job is a homemaker, but she also teaches group exercises classes in Libertyville and Lincolnshire.

### **Current Congregation Council:**

#### **Term Expiring June 2013**

Linda Berner  
Detlef Koska (President)  
Brenda Shinn  
Kari Lee

#### **Term Expiring June 2014**

Peter Clemens  
Kathy Lowell  
Hugh Triplett  
Dave Van Singel

#### **Term Expiring June 2015**

Glenn Basgall  
Suzanne Gerber  
Sarah Lewis  
Randy Daniel



**TREASURER**

Nominee for a 3 year term expiring June 2016: Jon Paul

**ST. JAMES MEMORIAL GARDEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Current members: Al Albrecht (term expires June 2014)  
Randy Daniel (term expires June 2015)  
Mark Taylor (term expires June 2016)

Nominee for a 4 year term expiring June 2017: Detlef Koska

**ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Current members: Carol Bennett (term expires June 2014)  
Deb Moore (term expires June 2014)  
Jim Davoux (term expires June 2015)  
Faye Holm (term expires June 2015)

Nominee for a 3 year term expiring June 2016: John Tanner

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Current members: Chris Engelhardt (term expires June 2014)  
David Clough (term expires June 2015)

Nominee for a 3-year term, expiring June 2016: Steve Thornberry

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Nominees to be determined.

Thanks for your faithful service to those members whose terms are expiring this year: Mike Bennett (Treasurer); Donna Fortney (Memorial Garden Board); Richard Falusy (Endowment Fund Board); Karen Just (Audit Committee); and Susan Beacham, Rob Davis, Carmen Montalbano and Brenda Shinn (Nominating Committee).

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Beacham, Rob Davis, Carmen Montalbano and Brenda Shinn  
2013 Nominating Committee

## Report of the Memorial Garden

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### Burials

The last twelve months have been relatively quiet. One interment was made and two are in the scheduling mode.

### Memorial Plaque

Current plans are to add one new name to the plaque. If others are interested in having a name added, please contact any of the committee members.

### Sale of Burial Sites

Only one double site was sold during the year. Unfortunately, one full site was returned to inventory at the request of the burial site owner. A number of sites are still available especially on the "outside" of the Garden. The "outside" is very attractive because one has a clear view of the church as a background.

### Board Members

- Al Albrecht – chairman
- Randy Daniel—thru 2015
- Mark Taylor—thru 2015
- Richard Holmer – ex-officio member
- Tom Meyer—Legal Counsel

### Financials

Refunding the cost of a full site reduced the check book balance to \$1,539. Our loan amount remains at \$17,500. During the year, the Church Council agreed to forgive future interest payments on the construction loan that the church has outstanding with the Memorial Garden Board. The Board very much appreciated this action.

The current rates remain unchanged as follows:

Full site for 6 urn interments	\$2,200
Quad site for 4 urn interments	\$1,500
Half site for 3 urn interments	\$1,100
Double site for 2 urn interments	\$ 750
Memorial Wall Engraving per name	\$ 650

Respectfully submitted,

Arlyn E. Albrecht  
Chairman

## ***Report of the Stewardship Committee***

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Committee Members: John Crotty, Randy Daniel, Faye Holm, Michael Montalbano, Joe Voelcker and Pastor Holmer

The theme for the 2013 Stewardship Campaign was "Gratitude". The message conveyed by this theme centered on our ability as individuals and as a congregation to reflect on the many reasons we have to be grateful. We shared with the members of the congregation that we are truly blessed to have such talented and devoted leaders, vibrant worship each week and wonderful music and learning opportunities for all of us. We reminded everyone of how we touch people in need, through our support of various external ministries. God is good!

To support and communicate our "Gratitude" theme, we held nine cottage meetings in the months of October and November. In total, we had about 100 St. James' members attend. These cottage meetings provided a forum for small group gatherings at St. James' member's homes. We discussed the many blessings that God provides to all of us and had conversation focused on our mission of outreach and its importance to

our congregation. In preparation for these meetings, we had several "Gratitude" themed mailings and two wonderful Temple Talks by Shelly Holmstrom and Debbie MacAyeal.

As a part of the campaign we asked members to consider increasing their 2013 weekly offering by \$10. The intent was to allow us to continue to strengthen our ministry and provide blessings to those in need. The members of the Church Council, Finance Committee and Stewardship committee supported and committed to support the giving initiative. In the end, we were once again blessed with just over \$500,000 in pledges. Our total number of pledged families grew by one versus the previous year.

We sincerely thank all the members of St. James for their continued support of our congregation and our ministries. We are truly GRATEFUL!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Montalbano

## ***Report of the Youth Ministry Team***

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Members: Sue Ebert, Doug Dusthimer, Doug Gerber, Lori Grauer, Debbie MacAyeal  
Council Liaison: Kari Lee  
Youth Director: Doug Dusthimer

We have had a busy youth schedule of events this past year with a median number of 15 attending. We started with our annual breakfast on the beach to welcome the new freshman to the James Group. A monthly event for the high school has been assisting with bingo at a senior living complex. As of this writing we are planning the youth service which hopefully all members were able to attend just prior to this meeting. Our Junior high events started with apple picking/ making caramel apples followed by trips to a corn maze, extreme trampoline, a cancelled snow

tubing event, laser tag, an energetic Nerf war, cosmic bowling and a sleep-under. All events include a short devotion and of course some kind of food.

The Pre-Gno-Me children and their families have a bi-annual event including games and a cookout.

The mission trip for the high school will be to Michigan the week of July 21. We have 10 confirmed going. As always, prayers are welcomed for a safe and productive mission trip as well as continued prayers that our youth continue in the path of the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ebert

## Report of the Worship and Music Committee

Members: Carol Bennett, Tim Haskett, Daniel Heiman, Jineen Heiman, Suzanne Gerber (Council Liaison), Donna Jarvi, Wendy Wieggers, Pastor Richard Holmer.

At worship each week, we confess our sins, receive forgiveness, hear the Word proclaimed, share communion and a blessing, and depart the church building with renewed strength to carry the light of Christ into the world. During the seasons of Advent and Lent, we have additional opportunities to be deliberate in our faith practices at mid-week Vespers services.

The church year begins with Advent – that beautiful season of anticipation. Christmas

(all 12 days) is followed by Epiphany. Ash Wednesday ushers in Lent, a period of contemplation culminating with the three-day services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil. Easter is the highlight of the church year, and its season lasts until Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday celebrates the beginning of the church and the period after Pentecost is a long “green” season. As Lutherans, we celebrate Reformation Sunday in October. The church year ends with Christ the King Sunday, at the end of November.

It takes a team to organize and provide each and every worship service. A minimum of 12 servants (including the pastor) staffs each service, before counting musicians! Our music leaders are staff members, but the musicians themselves are your fellow congregation members, as are the assisting ministers, communion assistants, lectors, greeters, ushers, acolytes and altar guild. All of the senses are engaged – the visual symbols and furnishings, the spoken and musical messages, the touch of the greeting of peace, the taste and smell of the bread and wine.

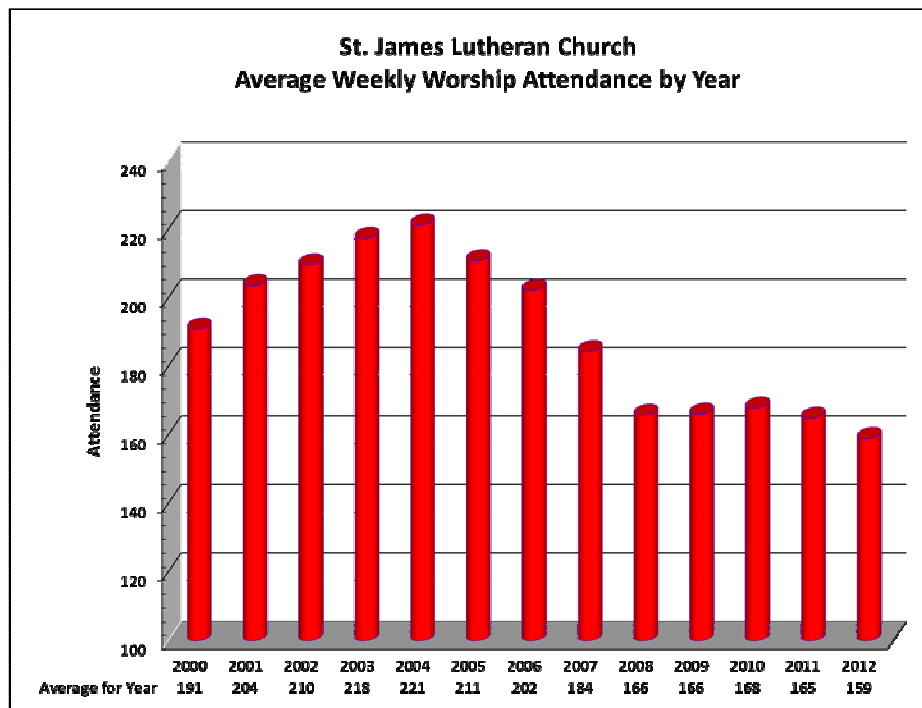
The services are prepared with liturgy and music appropriate for the church season, our denomination, and the lessons from the Revised Common Lectionary, used by churches around the world. On any given Sunday, our worship is part of a worldwide activity where the basic structure of the service is similar and each congregation incorporates meaningful selections for its own family.

The committee is grateful for those who serve in the roles of worship servants and musicians. New faces are always welcome and training is always available.

The worship attendance graph tells a story of declining weekly worship attendance. This trend is not limited to our congregation or denomination. (When we have 8:30 and 10:45 services on a Sunday, about one third of attenders are at the earlier time and two-thirds worship later.) Weekly worship is a faith practice by which we help each other to remain strong. Our community is diminished by each absence and strengthened by each one present. Weekly attendance can be habit-forming!

See you in church,

Carol Bennett for the Worship and Music Committee



## *Report of the Women of St. James*

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The Women of St. James is a community of women building relationships through faith enrichment, fellowship, social awareness and service. Here is a description of our activities this year:

### **Faith Enrichment**

Our faith focus for the 2012-13 program year centered on the theme of Hope, developed and led by St. James members and began in October with "Conversations about Hope." We defined God's Hope and wrote messages of hope to members of the congregation. In April, thirty-five women participated in our 7<sup>th</sup> annual retreat in a one-day retreat at St. James that included two hours of service at Feed My Starving Children. Pastor Sheila (Anderson) Rawn presided over an Affirmation of Baptism. After a brief study of Paul, the Apostle of Hope, the women read one of four biographies on Martin Luther King, Jr., Corrie ten Boom, Martin Luther and Mother Teresa to understand how God's hope helped them maintain faith despite the struggles in their lives. In October, a group of St. James women attended the Women of Faith Conference in Milwaukee.

### **Fellowship**

In July, a program was held following worship regarding the valuable oils found in the Bible. In August, members gathered at Independence Grove for a potluck supper and enjoyed an outdoor concert together. In December, we hosted the sixth annual "Holiday Sharing and Cookie Exchange." The bake sale the following day raised \$431 that was donated to ELCA Disaster Relief. In February, we held our sixth annual potluck dinner and examined how friends encourage hope in one another. The Women of St. James hosted receptions following summer worship and on Lessons and Carols Sunday.

### **Service/Outreach**

The longest running service project for the Women of St. James is the sewing group. The group continues to make pillows, teddy bears and quilts for Lutheran World Relief and LSSI. "Notes from the Narthex" sessions were held inviting members of the congregation to participate in an "in-reach" by writing notes of encouragement and appreciation. On March 17th, the women held a St. Patrick's Day bake sale and the proceeds enabled us to make a substantial contribution of \$1,300 to support the purchase of necessary food when 26 women served together at the permanent FMSC site in Libertyville as part of the April 27th retreat.

The "Quilts of Love" gals continued to make their handmade quilts, which were presented to St. James members as a demonstration of love and support.

We invite all women to participate in these programs throughout the year. We learn from each other and enjoy the blessings of abundant life that God has promised us when we gather in His name. Meetings provide opportunities for sharing laughter and building friendships. Guests are welcome. Childcare is provided as needed. Rides will gladly be arranged for anyone requesting assistance.

Thank you to all of the women who helped in leadership and support roles throughout the year.

Submitted by Shelly Holmstrom and Cathy Long

On behalf of the Women of St. James

## ***Report of the Property Committee***

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Committee members: Chic Martin (chair person)  
Carol Bennett, Pete Clemens, Melinda Hill, Bill Shinn, John Tanner, Hugh Triplett, Dave VanSingel, Chris Meyer and Pastor Holmer (ex officio)

### **Sunday School HVAC**

The existing heating unit was replaced with a new furnace and with air conditioning in April.

### **Library Lighting:**

New pendant lighting was installed in May.

### **Exterior Enhancements by Members:**

One Saturday in March, members participated in the trimming of trees and scrubs. Starting in May, the first Saturday of each month ending in the month of October, the Property Committee invites members to continue the exterior clean up around the church and continued removal of the dead wood in our wooded areas.

### **Buckthorn Removal:**

- Most of the original contract has been completed and other work is pending.
- Duck boxes were installed to invite our duck families back.
- Ongoing cleaning in the woods will continue through the next months.
- Possible daffodil planting party in October to add color for Spring.
- Extension to remove the remainder of buckthorn on entire property is in consideration from donations.

### **Small House Removal:**

The small house was removed in April. Grading and new grass installation were completed in May.

### **Exterior Lighting:**

The Property Committee at their May meeting experienced how the new exterior lighting package will enhance our church and its property. Installation will start in June.

### **General Maintenance—Changes:**

The Property Committee has made the following changes for:

- Cleaning services for the interior.
- Fertilization of the lawn areas.
- Professional window cleaning three times a year.
- HVAC maintenance contract.

### **Property Improvement Considered still for 2013:**

#### **Youth Room:**

Remove tile floor finish and replace with new commercial grade vinyl planking with volunteers.

#### **Courtyard**

Redesign the entire landscape finish adding more color and perennials.

#### **Altar Platform**

Refinish floor panels.

#### **Thermo Pane Replacements**

Four units in the narthex.

#### **Memorial Wood Cross (in rear yard):**

Replace horizontal wood beam and add new copper flashing.

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Property Committee continued from page 14)*

**Acoustical Ceiling Tiles:**

Replacement of all water damaged tiles throughout the building.

**Interior Masonry Cleaning:** Clean three areas of brick hosting efflorescent staining.

**Master Landscape Design:** Bids are being taken for a complete landscape redesign of the church properties. The plan incorporating three phases to complete the total work including east, south and west areas.

**Five Year Capital Improvement Program:** The Property Committee is working on and assembling costs for various property and building improvements.

Many thanks to all the members helping to keep and maintain our Home of Worship. This is accomplished through volunteer labor, extra financial assistance and attending meetings. The Property Committee welcomes any and all suggestions for continuing our stewardship of our Home of Worship, social gatherings and special events.

Respectfully submitted,

Chic Martin

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## ***Report of the Endowment Fund Committee***

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Members: Jim Davoux, Carol Bennett, Richard Falusy, Deb Moore, and Pastor Holmer (ex-officio).

At this time last year the value of the endowment fund was at \$304,094 at the end of the first quarter. The good news is that the endowment fund value was up to \$307,644 (this is after the withdrawals in paragraph below) at the end of the first quarter this year. In 2008, prior to the recession and significant drop in the markets, the value was \$269,727. It is promising to see the value of the endowment fund return to and exceed historical levels. The endowment fund continues to use the services of the Blue Prairie Investment group. This group provides

investment services for a number of not-for-profit groups and continues to manage our investments with a long-term view and the goal of sustaining the endowment fund for the long term.

During the first quarter of 2013, \$8,100 was withdrawn from "Other Restricted Funds" for partial payment of the 2013 Buckthorn Removal Project. An additional \$13,816 was withdrawn from "Other Memorials" to fund the 2013 Exterior Lighting Project and 2013 Technology/Web site Project. All of these withdrawals were approved by Church Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Davoux

## Report of the Evangelism Committee

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From our governing documents C13.07.12, There shall be an Evangelism Committee, which shall lead and stimulate the members of the congregation in continuous and, from time to time, concerted endeavors to reawaken the member's spirituality, and to reach others, who are as yet unknown, with the Gospel and introduce them to Christ's Church.

Projects and activities of Evangelism this past year included:

- Ongoing narthex video presentations after services to enhance our congregation's awareness of St. James activities and the outreach supported by our congregation.
- The establishment and continuous improvement of garden plots in the vacant land west of the playground. All green thumbs are invited to join us as there is plenty of room for more plots. If interested, contact Tom Ebert at 847.295.2048.
- Ongoing weekly updates of James Group and Gno-me related information and scheduled outings on our St. James Facebook page. This media connection presents an exciting forum to enhance the visibility of St. James by sharing information with our fellow members and new friends too. Anyone is welcome to view our page by searching in Facebook for "St. James Lutheran Church (Lake Forest, IL)". Contact Barb Davoux with questions at 847.680.6312, [barbdavoux@gmail.com](mailto:barbdavoux@gmail.com) or Barb Bicok Davoux on Facebook.
- This year again during Lent the "Lenten Book Club" facilitated by Pastor Holmer met after weekly Vesper services to enhance our congregation's knowledge of faith.
- The faith based "St. James Book Club" continued to meet throughout the year to enhance fellowship and spirituality of our congregation. The club rotated their meetings at different member houses. New members are still welcome! Contact Barb Davoux.

Works in progress:

- Our major focus for the upcoming year will be to support the Council goal of increasing worship attendance by 20% over the next 5 years. We have been brainstorming a list of potential ways to meet this goal and will prioritize and establish action plans.
- We are always working to extend the visibility of St. James within the community by publicizing open events at St. James, including newspaper releases and flyers posted in the community. If you have a St. James event open to the community, please consider a press release.

All of us at St. James are part of Evangelism. We welcome your participation on the committee, or as a facilitator of your interest area. Please feel free to call or pass on your comments and concerns to any committee members. Together we join hands to serve as God's people.

Committee members currently include Barb Basgall, Barb Davoux and Tom Ebert. Sarah Lewis participated as Council Liaison and Pastor Holmer participates as ex-officio member. This is a very dedicated and caring team. Thanks for your continued giving of your time and talents!

God's Peace,

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Ebert, Acting Chair



## ***Report of the Christian Education Committee***

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Committee Members: Barb Basgall (chair), Mike Bennett, Linda Berner, Richard Holmer, Kathy Lowell, Debbie MacAyeal

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of age.” Matthew 28:19-20

We welcome all congregational members to join our committee! Our committee selects and implements the St. James’ Christian educational curriculum for our adults and children.

### **Youth Education**

This year’s milestones included the following achievements:

- 6 Third graders were presented with Bibles on September 23, 2012.
- 6 Ninth graders were confirmed on September 30, 2012.
- 8 Fifth graders received First Communion on February 3, 2013. Our other 2 Fifth graders received First Communion at later dates.

This year’s Youth Programs included the following:

- On Rally Day, an All God’s Creatures Animal Show entertained our children and numerous parents. The Dwyer Family donated the use of their Charity Fire truck BBQ.
- Wendy Wiegers led our Children’s Christmas Pageant, “Amahl and the Night Visitors”.
- On Mother’s Day, Wendy Wiegers led the Sunday school student’s singing performance of “The Last Supper”.
- Vacation Bible School 2012 took place July 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> and the theme was Babylon.
- Vacation Bible School 2013’s format will be family based and will be held immediately following our summer service on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The theme is Paul in Athens.

### **Adult Education**

Adult Education included the following:

- In the fall, congregation members viewed “The Ten Commandments” DVD series.
- During the winter, congregation members viewed “The Apostles’ Creed” DVD series.
- During Lent, the congregation was encouraged to read “Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter”. Pastor Holmer led book discussion after weekly Vespers.
- After Easter, congregation members viewed the “Peter and Paul” DVD series.

### **Sunday School**

This year the rotation curriculum was New Testament based, with lessons written or adapted by Debbie MacAyeal:

- 72 Students are enrolled in the Sunday School program.
- 17 teachers, including 6 high school students, gave their time to educate our children of St. James.
- Our students created a Last Supper mural, which is displayed in the Sunday School hallway.
- Students experienced multiple approaches to learning. They decorated pots and planted seeds to learn how seeds of faith are planted, nourished and grown. They also played games to teach them how to spread the Christian faith, as did the apostles.
- Preschoolers and our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students continued to use the witness curriculum and study the main stories of the Bible using a two-year plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Basgall

## Report of the Social Ministry Committee

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Committee Members: Ann Anderson, Betty Albrecht, Michael Grauer, Shelly Holmstrom, Elizabeth Takacs Mallory, Tom Meyer, Charlotte Mojden, Dave Van Singel, Jim and Barb Davoux, Rob Davis, Debbie Daniel and Pastor Holmer

The purpose of the committee is to promote and support activities of various agencies and programs serving the needs of the community and beyond. This year the emphasis of St. James was to get members involved in volunteer activities. Thank you to those who volunteered for the many activities.

This report summarizes St. James's contributions to such causes during the past governance year (2012-13).

### **Volunteer and Financial Support :**

- **Christian Outreach of Lutherans (COOL)**
- **Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Lake County United**
- **A. J. Katzenmaier School**
- **Bethel New Life**
- **CROP Walk**
- **Career Resource Center**

### **Financial Support Only:**

- **ELCA Benevolence**
- **Sagrado Corazon**
- **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)**
- **Winchester House Chaplaincy**

### **Volunteer Support :**

- **A. J. Katzenmaier School**
- **Waukegan to College**

The Committee again held a volunteer fair Sunday morning, September 23, 2012. The fair featured the following volunteer opportunities : PADS, CROP walk, Bethel, Feed My Starving Children, A.J. Katzenmaier and Help Within the Family. Members were able to talk to a representative, get handouts, and sign up for volunteer opportunities.

Along with Council, we determined to make A.J. Katzenmaier our featured outreach organization this year. A representative from North Chicago Community Partnership came and gave a temple talk on March 3 and literature was distributed. Members were encouraged to donate their time, talent, and financial contributions to AJK.

In December St. James had a good showing of members helping at the Bethel Store. We look forward to working with Debbie MacAyeal in her new position as Director of Discipleship.

**Committee Gratitude:** Thank you to all members who so willingly help to keep our outreach efforts alive.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Anderson, Committee Chair

## **Resolutions**

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WE, THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, DO HEREBY RESOLVE THAT:

**We thank God for the Gift of the Holy Spirit**, alive and active in this congregation, and we pray that the power of the Spirit will bring about increased spiritual growth and commitment among our members, that Christ's work may truly be our own.

**We express our thanks** to our Pastor Holmer and to Pastor Terry Dufur, all our salaried staff and our many volunteers -- committee chairpersons and members, organizational leaders, church school staff, choir members and musicians, ushers, worship assistants, nursery attendants, altar guild, sewing circle, quilts of love and all the dedicated individuals who have given service in 2012-2013.

**We express our gratitude** to all who serve on the Church Council, especially Detlef Koska (President) and Kari Lee who have completed their terms of office. Special thanks to Linda Berner and Brenda Shinn who have agreed to another term of office. We acknowledge with great appreciation our 2012-2013 officers: Detlef Koska, President; Pete Clemens, Vice President; Linda Berner, Secretary and Joe Voelcker, Financial Secretary. Special thanks to Mike Bennett who has completed his term as Treasurer.

**We welcome** into our church family the 7 adults and 4 children who were received into membership during the past year and pray that they here experience growth in faith and service.

**We remember in our thoughts and prayers** Those who have been hospitalized or seriously ill at home due to the loss of good health; those who have known the fear and frustration of job loss; those who in any way have experienced the pain of great sacrifice. We pray that all may find comfort and help in the promises of our loving and merciful Lord, Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior.

**We give thanks** for all the blessings bestowed upon us individually and upon our congregation. We are particularly mindful of the material blessings that are ours to share with others and we are grateful for the ever increasing evidence of faithful stewardship of our resources.

WE GIVE THANKS ALWAYS TO GOD THE CREATOR STILL CREATING, TO HIS OWN SON WHO LIVES TO SAVE, AND TO HIS SPIRIT EVER GUIDING AND PROTECTING.

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President  
Detlef Koska

Vice President  
Peter Clemens

Secretary  
Linda Berner

Treasurer  
Mike Bennett

Financial Secretary  
Joe Voelcker

## Council Members

Glenn Basgall

Linda Berner

Peter Clemens

Randy Daniel

Suzanne Gerber

Detlef Koska

Kari Lee

Sarah Lewis

Kathy Lowell

Brenda Shinn

Hugh Triplett

Dave Van Singel

## Pastor

Richard E. Holmer

## Church Staff

Business Manager  
Chris Meyer

Church Secretary  
Donna Jarvi

Director of Discipleship  
Debbie MacAyeal

Nursery Supervisor  
Caitlin McGarrigle

Youth Ministry Director  
Doug Dusthimer



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## Standing Committee Chairs and Other Leaders

Christian Education  
Barb Basgall

Church Property  
Chic Martin

Evangelism  
Tom Ebert

Fellowship  
Brenda Shinn

Finance  
Joe Voelcker

Social Ministry  
Ann Anderson

Stewardship  
Michael Montalbano

Worship & Music  
Carol Bennett

Endowment Board of Trustees  
Chair  
Jim Davoux

Memorial Garden Board of  
Trustees Chair  
Al Albrecht

Sewing Circle  
Betty Benton

Youth Ministry Team  
Sue Ebert

Women of St. James  
Shelly Holmstrom &  
Cathy Long

Men of St. James  
Rob Davis

Altar Guild  
Carol Bennett

**Church Staff**

Director of Music  
Tim Haskett

Organist  
Wendy Unrath

Damascus Road  
Director  
Donna Jarvi

Director of  
Children's Music  
Wendy Wiegers

Bell Choir Director  
Gretchen Haskett

Brass Ensemble Director  
Daniel Heiman