



St. James Lutheran Church

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION ANNUAL GOVERNANCE MEETING 10:45 a.m. June 1, 2014

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 26, 2014

Annual Reports

 Report of the President

 Reports of the Committees

Elections

Resolutions

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Congregation Financial Meeting January 26, 2014

Pastor Holmer opened the meeting by reading from the hymn, *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*, reminding us that God's grace and love should unite us in action. He then offered prayer.

Peter Clemens, Church Council President, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

The tellers reported the presence of a quorum.

The agenda and the minutes of the June 2, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Jon Paul, Congregation Treasurer, began a review of 2013 by noting the topics to be covered: summary comments, net assets, financial position and special areas of activity. More detailed and specific information can be found in the Annual Financial Report. He noted that while there has been a great deal of activity over the past year, general fund giving continues to be as important as it ever was.

Jon Paul explained that there have been changes in the accounting standards for non-profits. He gave an overview of the categories of restrictions.

He reported that the mortgage pay down and the donations made for property improvement were the major contributors to increases in net assets. The major uses of net assets were repairs to the property and building, and mortgage reduction. Our fixed assets, mostly the building, equipment and land, continue to make up the majority of the total assets.

Peter Clemens began the presentation of special areas of activity by describing the over \$250,000 worth of building and property projects that were done in 2013. These were funded through donations and the use of restricted funds that was approved at last year's financial meeting. The major items were the clean up and landscaping additions to the property, improvements and replacement of the indoor and outdoor lighting, remodel of the common room (formerly youth room), and the demolition of the little house.

Peter Clemens also reported information on the mortgage. The mortgage had been refinanced in January of 2013, resulting in a lower interest rate. During discussions this fall it was noted that the current mortgage is no longer from the original building of the addition, but is made up mostly of the money borrowed in 2009 for the new parking lot and new heating and air conditioning units. In December of 2013, money from the Nancy Moore Fund, with permission from the Moore family, was used to make a significant reduction in the mortgage amount. The resulting lower payments were key to balancing the 2014 budget. He said that one goal of the Capital Fund Appeal is to completely retire this debt.

Shelly Holmstrom commented that these positive changes in the grounds and building were noticed and appreciated. Richard Kaeske asked what was being done to keep the buckthorn from returning. Peter Clemens replied that the stumps had been treated to keep the cut buckthorns from growing again. Some areas would be planted with grass and the mowing would keep the buckthorn from growing back in these areas. Some of the church's neighbors are also interested in helping to maintain the property.

Linda Berner noted that benevolence was alive and well outside of the general fund budget. Members of St. James participate in many activities that involve contributions of time and gifts and frequently involve personal contact with the people being served.

Jon Paul reviewed the current position of our endowments and investments. He noted that invested funds meet the guidelines set forth in our constitution. He described the purposes for each of our endowment and permanent funds.

Jon Paul presented the proposed 2014 general fund budget, giving a brief overview of changes in income and expenses. He said that it was possible to balance the budget because of the reduced mortgage payment and by keeping other areas tight.

Randy Daniel, Congregation Vice-President, thanked everyone for increasing their pledges. There was an average 5% increase by those who pledged. The revenue listed in the 2014 budget is based on actual pledges and historical data. Jon Paul and the finance committee spent a great deal of time on the budget and have presented realistic information.

Jon Paul presented an overview of general fund expenses. The area of personnel is our biggest expense. There were increases in insurance costs and most staff received a 2% increase. Reducing the mortgage enabled

the budget to be balanced.

Carol Bennett proposed that ELCA benevolence be reduced to 10% of the budget, \$55,000 (from \$60,000). She also proposed that the line items for Pastor Holmer's books and subscriptions, professional expenses and continuing education be restored to their 2013 levels. These line items are at \$0 in the 2014 budget. Carol Bennett noted that these were part of the letter of call and could not contractually be eliminated. Peter Clemens suggested that the two parts of Carol Bennett's proposal be considered separately.

The first motion is to reduce the ELCA benevolence line item to \$55,000, which is 10% of the budget. The motion was seconded. Discussion:

- Pastor Holmer noted that this amount had already been reduced from the 2013 amount. The ELCA relies on money from its churches in the same way churches rely on money from their members. He would not like to see the amount reduced from the current \$60,000.
- Sue Bergsrud suggested that when this vote is taken it be done in such a way that the yeas and nays can actually be counted for an accurate report.
- Carole Tanner asked Carol Bennett if she would go over her reasons because she had not heard all of her statement.
- Carol Bennett said that she felt a tithe was a reasonable contribution to the ELCA.
- Richard Kaeske said that he supports the proposal because we have always preached tithing. He would recommend using the \$5000 to sponsor an ELCA missionary. He felt this would be a boost to our evangelism.
- Susan Holmer asked if someone from the Evangelism committee could comment on benevolence funding.
- Shelly Holmstrom said the Evangelism Committee felt that they couldn't reduce money to local needs, so recommended to the Finance Committee that ELCA be cut if needed.
- Ann Anderson said she agreed with Shelly that they wanted to be sure that funds to local initiatives not be reduced.
- Sue Bergsrud asked if a congregation could go to the ELCA for help. If we are struggling, how much more do poorer congregations need help.
- Randy Daniel noted that the Finance Committee had done the best they could in putting this budget together and determining what cuts to make in order to have it balanced.
- Carole Tanner said that they had received messages from the ELCA, as others probably had also, about responding to emergency needs following disasters such as hurricanes. These were responded to by individuals and would likely add up to more than the \$5000 being proposed to cut.
- Chic Martin said that very little money was designated for the upkeep of the church. The budget is very tight and stewardship is needed right here at St. James.
- Jon Paul said the \$10,000 maintenance reserve is not in the budget. In response to the Pastor's education fund, it was cut for this year because it is currently over-funded.
- Michael Beacham said that while he agrees that 10% is a good goal for our benevolence to ELCA, a total reduction of \$8000 from 2013 is too much without a heads up to the ELCA. He suggested that we tell them that this will happen in the future. He does not support making a further cut this year, but would consider it in the future.

Carole Tanner asked if Carol Bennett had made two separate proposals.

The question was called on the first motion to reduce the amount budgeted to ELCA by \$5000. The vote was taken by a show of hands and the tellers reported: Yes 19 No 36

The motion did not pass. The 2014 budgeted amount of \$60,000 to the ELCA will stand.

Carol Bennett spoke to her second proposal. These are letter-of-call issues and she knows that Pastor Holmer agreed to it, but she does not think it should be done. The line items are books and subscriptions, professional expenses and continuing education under Pastor Holmer's compensation. She feels that this is not a good precedent to set. These are part of our commitment to our ordained pastor. The motion is that the line items for

Pastor Holmer's books and subscriptions, professional expenses and continuing education be restored to their 2013 levels. The motion was seconded.

Discussion:

- Pastor Holmer said that he appreciated the care and support, but it was on his initiative that the amounts were cut for this year.
- Brenda Shinn said that she understands that these items will be restored next year. She also said that she agreed with Michael Beacham that the contribution to ELCA should be moved toward 10% for next year.
- Michael Beacham said that money already in the continuing education fund may be used for the October Israel trip.

Tim Anderson said that since the beneficiary had said the amounts weren't necessary for this year, the budget should be left as it is.

The question was called on this motion to restore the line items of books and subscriptions, professional expenses and continuing education to 2013 levels of funding. A voice vote was done and the motion did not pass. These items will remain at \$0 for this year.

Peter Clemens asked if there were any other proposals or discussion.

- Cobi Stein asked what was meant by money being used for the trip.
- Pastor Holmer replied that the continuing education fund would cover his costs if the Israel trip became a reality.

Ann Linn made a motion to approve the 2014 budget as presented. The motion was seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Peter Clemens asked if there were any questions that had not been asked. There were none. Randy Daniel noted that others were welcome to participate in the budget process and give input prior to the annual financial meeting.

Randy Daniel began the presentation on the Congregation Objectives. He reminded the congregation that goals had been set to increase church membership and member attendance at worship services, as well as to increase participation in outreach activities. Attendance and involvement remain critical issues.

Peter Clemens spoke about the Fund Appeal, St. James Renewing, which was introduced during this morning's worship service. Chic Martin and the Property Committee have posted a list in the Narthex of the projects to be undertaken. There is a detailed timeline of what is to be done. The number one project is updating the Sunday School area. The two main parts of the Appeal are the improvements to the church and the retiring of debt.

Peter Clemens said that the Chicago Synod Assembly would take place on May 30-31. St. James is allowed to have three voting members and Jon Paul has volunteered to go. He opened the floor for other nominations. Cobi Stein asked where it is held and if members would car pool. Peter Clemens replied that it is in Tinley Park, which is about 70 miles away. The representatives do usually car pool. Dean Holm and Carol Bennett volunteered. Jon Paul said that Kathy Lowell had expressed interest in going, so would be a possible alternate. This slate was unanimously elected. Chic Martin has volunteered to attend in 2015.

Randy Daniel thanked everyone for their participation in this meeting.

Madeleine Jorgensen reminded us that there were benevolence issues that should be dealt with during the 2015 budget preparation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Pastor Holmer thanked Jon Paul for the many hours of work he had put in both as treasurer and particularly working on the 2014 budget. He also thanked the executive team, Peter Clemens, Randy Daniel and Linda Berner for the time they had given to extra meetings and discussions. He thanked Chic Martin and noted how much his expertise and sweat equity had saved the church. He also pointed out the number of people who had been at the front of the church as leaders in the Fund Appeal and thanked them for their service. He then led the congregation in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Berner

Report of the President

We should all be proud of the strong sense of congregational fellowship and church community that we share at St. James. This past year we've accomplished a lot that should make us all feel good as members. We are making great progress to "Renewing Our Mission", "Renewing Our Faith", "Renewing Our Property" and "Renewing Our Future". We have strengthened our financial position through a very successful capital appeal that exceeded our goal. At the same time we were able to significantly reduce our mortgage by paying down part of the principal, restructuring the loan at no cost and reducing the interest rate from 6% to 4.5%. Now beginning this month, and continuing for the next three years, we can look forward to making extensive improvements to building operations and their physical appearance along with financial stability. We have two dozen renovation projects planned as part of the "Renewing Appeal", with half scheduled to be completed this first year.

During the past year we've also rediscovered through our efforts, 10 beautiful acres of church property that has rarely been seen since the time St. James was founded. We have been called upon to be good stewards of the land. Through the use of designated church maintenance funds, plus generous donations from several neighbors, we will be able to continue to improve and enjoy our natural surroundings. Our work to be good stewards has created the opportunity for native wildlife to return to share our property. Church member Boy Scouts and their troop have built and installed five wood duck boxes and are replacing bat boxes put up by Boy Scouts years ago. Another troop asked if they could replace the old blue bird houses. In addition, the Illinois Chapter of the Audubon Society has requested that they be allowed to put up nesting boxes for threatened barn owls.

St. James has a proud history and a bright future based on faith, fellowship and volunteer

mission. As we entered our 50th Anniversary in 2012, the church council developed a "Five Year Plan" to address our greatest needs, to look for opportunities and areas of growth and to strengthen our congregational mission. That plan called for three main areas of focus:

1. Increase membership involvement in outside community service and mission work
2. Increase church attendance by 20%
3. Initiate a capital appeal for needed infrastructure improvements and to retire the debt.

For me it has been a wonderful 20 years at St. James. Looking back over that time the congregation has celebrated many accomplishments. Certainly, this past year is one with many significant milestones on the road to congregational renewal. As we look forward, our annual governance meeting gives us the opportunity to recommit ourselves to achieve our remaining congregational goals and to elect new church leaders to continue the fine work at St. James.

Finally, I'd like to thank Pastor Holmer, church staff, fellow Council members, numerous committees and all members that have worked hard to fulfill our mission. Also, a congregational thank you to Chic Martin for his tireless efforts this past year to improve our church's physical operations, for identifying areas that need improvements and for being the general manager overseeing that renewal projects are done right, on time and on budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pete Clemens ,

Council President

Report of Pastor Holmer

St. James Renewing is a theme that can guide and inspire us for years to come. This theme was selected for our capital appeal, and certainly the financial commitments our members have made will empower us to renew our church home in a number of significant ways. In addition to renewing our physical surrounding, it is apparent that we are also experiencing spiritual renewal. There is an increased level of energy and enthusiasm; a renewed faith expressed in the significant commitments made; a refreshed spirit in our worship; vibrant involvement in serving. It is the Holy Spirit who renews us personally and as a congregation, and when we are open to the prompting and guiding of the Spirit, the Spirit moves through us to bless others – and they, too, are renewed. God isn't finished with any of us, and much remains to be done, yet it is encouraging to see signs of renewal in and around our congregation.

At this time last year I was on sabbatical. This was definitely a renewing experience for me. After 34 years in parish ministry it was good to take a break, shift gears, do some new things and take time to reflect. Our trip to the Holy Land was all I anticipated and much more. The experience of visiting places that I have read and preached about my whole life was very moving. The people we met and got to know are unforgettable. It will be exciting to return to Israel and Palestine this fall.

Sabbaticals are intended to revitalize those who take them. It worked. I have a renewed sense of purpose and refreshed enjoyment in ministry. I am very grateful to St. James for allowing me to have time away, grateful to Pastor Terry Dufur for filling in while I was away, and thankful to the Lilly Foundation for making it all possible.

Shortly after I returned last August, we began preparations for our capital appeal. I was involved with four capital campaigns in my last congregation, and this is the second one here at St. James. It is likely the last campaign I will help

organize – and in many ways it has been the most satisfying. So many members willingly stepped up to serve in so many ways. The generous response is truly inspiring. When we see all the projects come to fruition, it will be inspiring all over again.

St. James is blessed with wonderful leaders. The Core Team for our Renewing Appeal was outstanding. Our church council has been very dedicated throughout the year. At our retreat last fall there was a positive and hopeful mood that has continued. Our Executive Committee of Pete Clemens, Randy Daniel, Linda Berner and Jon Paul have spent long hours planning and overseeing the progress of these last months. Chic Martin has served above and beyond the call of duty, sharing his wisdom and experience and expertise to help us thoroughly renovate our building and grounds. My fellow staff members, Chris Meyer, Donna Jarvi, Debbie MacAyeal and Doug Dusthimer are a pleasure to work with and their work speaks for itself. Our music staff, Tim Haskett, Wendy Unrath, Wendy Wieggers, Gretchen Haskett, Donna Jarvi and Daniel Heiman continue to bless us with great music and solid leadership in worship. Space does not allow me to name all our faithful volunteers, but I am privileged to observe them in action.

This congregation has always been a great source of comfort and support in time of grief. This year we laid to rest one of the great saints in our history: Fred Fortney. The memorial service for Fred was a celebration of his faith, his vision, his dedication, his goodness. We were all saddened by the death of Brad Paul on Christmas Eve. Members reached out with loving arms to support the Pauls in their time of sorrow. Even in the face of tragedy and death, God renews us with the promise of resurrection.

Our Speaking of Faith series continue to provide insight and inspiration. Sharing faith stories renews both those who speak and those who listen. I will soon be enlisting speakers for

September through May. Consider sharing a bit of your story.

The season of Lent and Holy Week was particularly renewing for me this year. One member told me after Easter that I seemed to be thoroughly enjoying all the special services of Holy Week. And so I was! I also appreciated the book we selected for Lent: God For Us. All agreed it was very worthwhile.

Outreach ministries continue to be a priority for St. James. I continue to be impressed by the number of ways we are engaged in service to others. I encourage every member to find a ministry in which they can serve.

Good things are in store for us. Our summer worship schedule with a bountiful coffee hour provides the time to renew relationships with fellow members. Several fellowship opportunities, like Ravinia, Foodstock and the Beach Party are just around the corner. In the next several months we will witness some major improvements as a dozen projects are completed. I am excited about

our trip to the Holy Land in October – there will be good stories to share.

I have been involved in this work of parish ministry for 35 years. It still feels fresh and challenging. I very much enjoy the opportunity to preach the good news. It is a blessing to work along with talented and motivated members. I am grateful to be where I am. Being away from St. James for a few months has helped me to appreciate even more what we share here together. Let's celebrate what we have, and let's strive to become even more than we are today as we find new ways to answer God's call to follow Christ, make disciples, and live the gospel.

Peace,

Richard Holmer

Milestones

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

Andrew John Meyer
Penelope Ann Rudd
Ava Michele Schneider
Graham William Marsch

On September 22, 2013, Bibles were presented to:

Olivia Davoux
Sheppard Graf
Abigail Haverkamp
Gus Matkov
Nathan Shinn
Kevin Taylor

On September 29, 2013, these persons were confirmed in Christ:

Teresa Lynn Abby
Marianna Christine Fazekas
Kenneth Armen Kazarian
Race Christian Natta
William Butler Winick

On March 2, 2014, these persons were welcomed to the Lord's table to share in Holy Communion:

Luke Davis
Holly Doyle
Ethan Haller
Collin Shinn

On October 27, 2013, these persons were welcomed as members of St. James:

Jeffrey and Anne Browne
Walter and Jeanette Whisler

On May 4, 2014, these persons were welcomed as members of St. James:

Deb Fiddelke
Mark and Alane Wanda, Kyle, Thomas and Ned

Funeral services were held for these members:

Fred Fortney, September 7, 2013
Brad Paul, December 29, 2013

May they rest in God's grace and peace.

Report of the Nominating Committee

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 2017 (Three Year Term):

Carol Bennett

Carol and Mike Bennett joined St. James in 1993, but Carol was confirmed here in 1969 and they were married here in 1981. Carol has served on council and the Saint James Renewing campaign and also on the finance, property and music and worship committees, as well as working on projects for the stewardship committee and the Women of St. James. She is currently serving on the Endowment Committee and as Coordinator of the Altar Guild. She also served on the staff of the church as the Business Manager from 2000 to 2008. Their son, Will, and daughter, Anna, were confirmed at St. James, and Mike's son, Tony, and his family are active in the congregation as well.

Donna Fortney

Donna has been a member of St. James since 1965. She has lived in Waukegan in the same house for 49 years where she and her late husband Fred raised their two daughters, Maren and Elise. Her church related activities include teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, directing the choir for 15 years, founding and directing the bell choir for 16 years and now playing in it, serving on the organ search committee, the organist search committee and the music committee. She taught German at Waukegan HS and in MN and WI previously. She has taught piano over 50 years, remains active in the North Shore Music Teachers Association and continues to teach piano.

Josh Hornaday

Josh was born and raised in Alaska. He moved to the Midwest for college and has never left. He recently joined the church and has taught Sunday school for the past two years. He lives in the Libertyville area with his wife, Stacy, and their two children, Justin and Morgan. Josh is an attorney and published author. When he is not working, writing, or spending time with his family, Josh spends his days trying really hard to be a funny bald guy.

Craig Linn

Craig Linn and his wife Anne joined St. James in 2003. He has served on the Stewardship Committee, and is looking forward to joining the Church Council. The Linns live in Waukegan, where Craig practices law. He and Anne have four grown children, Nate, Alex, Mollie and Jack; Nate and his wife Katrina have twin 3-year-old girls, Esther and Violet, and Craig is relishing his role as Grandpa.

Current Congregation Council:

Term Expiring June 2014

Peter Clemens (President)
Kathy Lowell
Hugh Triplett
Dave Van Singel

Term Expiring June 2015

Glenn Basgall
Suzanne Gerber
Sarah Lewis
Randy Daniel

Term Expiring June 2016

Linda Berner
Brooke Davis
Tom Ebert
Brenda Shinn

ST. JAMES MEMORIAL GARDEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Randy Daniel (term expires June 2015)
Mark Taylor (term expires June 2016)
Detlef Koska (term expires June 2017)

Nominee for a 4 year term expiring June 2017: David Clough

ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Jim Davoux (term expires June 2015)
Faye Holm (term expires June 2015)
John Tanner (term expires June 2016)

Nominee for a 3 year term expiring June 2017: Pete Clemens

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Current members: David Clough (term expires June 2015)
Steve Thornberry (term expires June 2016)

Nominee for a 3-year term, expiring June 2017: Ron Kok-Alblas

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominees: Pete Clemens Dave Van Singel
 Kathy Lowell Detlef Koska
 Hugh Triplett Glenn Basgall

Thank you for your faithful service to those members whose terms are expiring this year: Al Albrecht (Memorial Garden Board); Carol Bennett and Deb Moore (Endowment Fund Board).

Report of the Endowment Fund Committee

Members: Jim Davoux, Faye Holm, Carol Tanner, Deb Moore, Pastor Richard Holmer (ex officio)

At this time last year, the value of the endowment fund totaled \$307,644. The value of the endowment fund at this point is \$217,377.

In December of 2013, the Endowment Committee met at the request of the St. James Church Council. The Council requested that the committee consider the use of the Nancy Moore Fund to pay down a portion of the mortgage. It was verified that the Nancy Moore Fund was originally given to the church as an unrestricted gift rather than a restricted endowment. This fund has been co-invested with other endowment funds for a number of years. The committee cross-checked with the constitution that the Nancy Moore fund could be used for this purpose. The committee also received assurance that the Moore family agreed that the funds could be used

for any purpose. A motion was passed to use the remaining Nancy Moore Fund of approximately \$96,000 to pay down a portion of the mortgage in late December 2013.

The endowment fund continues to use the services of 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 goal of sustaining the endowment fund for the long term.

The congregation is always welcome and encouraged to submit ideas to the committee for potential disbursements from the endowment fund. Contact any member of the committee to discuss your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Davoux

Report of the Memorial Garden

Burials

We interred the ashes of three persons within the last 12 months.

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

Two double sites were sold during the year. A number of sites are still available especially on the "outside" (north side) of the Garden. The "outside" is very attractive because one has a clear view of the church as a background.

Financials

The check book balance is \$3,697. Our loan amount remains at \$17,500.

Current Rate Structure

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
Interment Service	\$ 750

Board Members

Al Albrecht transferred the chairmanship back to Detlef Koska at the beginning of this period. Al will resign from the Board of Trustees on June 1st. The Board Members thank Al for his diligent service especially during Detlef's long absence in 2012.

The current composition of the Board is as follows:

- Detlef Koska, Chairman
- Randy Daniel
- Mark Taylor
- Richard Holmer – ex-officio member
- Tom Meyer—Legal Counsel

Respectively submitted,

Detlef Koska,
Chairman

Report of the Sewing Group

Reporting on behalf of our Sewing Group, I would like to say that twelve ladies worked at the church from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month preparing 13 quilts, 60 x 90 inches, 19 teddy bears, and 12 pillows during the months of September through May, 2013-14. We delivered the quilts to the Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Illinois to be assimilated with other quilts and sent to Lutheran World Relief. The teddy bears and pillows were taken to Lutheran Social Services in Des Plaines. Since 2006 we have given 113 quilts, 98 pillows, 161 teddy bears, and 361 newborn baby caps to the two Lutheran organizations.

We welcome donations of cotton material large

enough to be cut into 21 inch squares. We make our quilts with sewing machines. We need volunteers to stuff the teddy bears, tie the quilts, iron the material, and cut pieces. We can always use folks who like to sew by hand or on the machine. We can always find work for someone who is interested. We bring our sandwiches for lunch and share a dessert.

Members include Bobbie Hildenbrand, Shirley Norberg, Joan Webster, Judy Grodt, Madeleine Jorgensen, Cathy Long, Mary Gram, Carol Bennett, Carole Tanner, Pat Quade, Faye Holm, and Betty Benton.

Respectively submitted ,

Betty Benton

Report of the Stewardship Committee

Committee Members: John Crotty, Randy Daniel, Faye Holm, Sarah Lewis (council liaison), Michael Montalbano, Jon Paul, Joe Voelker, and Pastor Holmer

This year the Stewardship committee expanded our annual stewardship campaign to ask our SJLC members to consider and pray about how we, as a congregation, could increase our focus in three areas:

- Mission/service work/benevolence
- Worship service attendance
- Weekly offering increase of \$5.00

This was accomplished by asking each SJLC member to make a personal commitment to these three areas as a part of the 2014 stewardship campaign. The following are the results on worship attendance:

# Of Sundays Pledged	# of Pledges	% Pledged
1	2	2%
2	17	19%
2.5	1	1%
3	21	23%
3.5	2	2%
4	31	34%
Blank	14	16%

A total of 90 households responded on their pledge cards. Thank you to all our members for their commitment to this year's campaign.

Even in these difficult economic times, we were pleased that our members' contributions increased by 5.3% over 2013.

After our successful stewardship campaign and the generous giving by our members, we worked closely with the Saint James Renewing Capital Campaign team to support the campaign. The renewing campaign raised \$764,590.

The strength of stewardship in the St. James Lutheran family was evident in the generous giving to renew our church property over the next three years and eliminate our mortgage liability.

Many thanks to all our members for their commitment to our mission to Follow Christ, Make Disciples, and Live the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Daniel

Report of the Youth Ministry Team

Members: Sue Ebert, Doug Gerber, Lori Grauer, Debbie MacAyeal
 Youth Director: Doug Dusthimer

The youth group has had an active agenda for our middle school age children over the past year and has had good attendance. Offered events included apple picking, the Crop Walk, a corn maze, paintball, Jump America, Bethel baskets, tubing at Wilmot, laser tag, bowling and a sleep under.

Seven senior high schoolers were accompanied by Doug Dusthimer and Kari Lee on a mission trip to Hastings, Michigan, last July where they spent a

week doing home repairs through group workcamps. This July they will be heading to Maine. June 1st will be the youth-led Sunday service. We have continued to do a monthly bingo at a home for seniors.

Debbie MacAyeal is working on starting a new week long program during the summer that will have high school mentors and offer a curriculum that builds faith, confidence and enthusiasm for volunteerism.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ebert

Report of the Worship and Music Committee

What is liturgy? Wikipedia says (in part): *“The term "liturgy" literally in Greek means "work of the people," but the correct translation is "public service" or "public work" The Christian church adopted the word to describe its principal act of worship, the Sunday service of Holy Eucharist, Holy Communion, Mass or Divine Liturgy. This service/liturgy or ministry (from the Latin 'ministerium,' 'service' and 'minister,' servant) is a bounden duty and obligation of the worshippers as a priestly people by their baptism into Christ and participation in his High Priesthood. “*

It takes the whole congregation to do “the work of the people.” Thanks to the efforts of Debbie MacAyeal, Director of Discipleship, more members are participating in worship as communion assistants, assisting ministers, acolytes, ushers, greeters, and altar guild members. Training is offered for each and every one of these positions. Contact Debbie to join the list!

Altar Guild thanks Barb Basgall for faithfully baking most of our communion bread during the year. Two more members would help altar guild scheduling over the year.

Our musical ensembles always welcome additional workers. To participate in music at St. James is as simple as contacting Tim Haskett to let him know of your interest. Regular rehearsal times are listed in the weekly announcements, monthly calendar and website calendar. The current worship participation schedule is:

- 1st Sunday 8:30 Adult Choir, 10:45 Damascus Road**
- 2nd Sunday 8:30 Damascus Road, 10:45 Children’s Choir**
- 3rd Sunday 8:30 Handbell Choir, 10:45 Brass Ensemble and Adult Choir**
- 4th Sunday 8:30 Special Music, 10:45 Adult Choir**
- 5th Sunday 8:30 and 10:45 Special Music**

Worship Services:

- ♦ During Pastor Holmer’s sabbatical last summer, Pastor Terry Dufur presided at worship.

- ♦ The fall schedule included Bible Presentation and Confirmation Sundays.
- ♦ The community Thanksgiving worship was held at 1st Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest.
- ♦ Lessons and Carols on Advent IV was one service only at 10:45.
- ♦ The Christmas Eve service schedule was adjusted in hopes of increasing attendance at the later service, which was moved from 10:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The 4:30 services was very well attended, the but later service attendance has fallen off significantly over the last few years.
- ♦ Advent and Lenten Wednesday Vespers services attendance ranges from 15-40.
- ♦ Ash Wednesday is very well attended
- ♦ Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil paved the way for Easter Sunday. The readings in these Holy Week services take worshipers on a faith journey that prepares us for the celebration of Easter.
- ♦ The Lake Forest High School choirs provided extra music for the single worship service on the same Sunday as Commitment Sunday for the Saint James Renewing campaign.
- ♦ The Children’s Choir presented a special short play on May 11 (Mother’s Day).

Our faith is strengthened each week through our worship together in a way that we cannot do on our own. God is good all the time, and it is always good to gather in praise and thanksgiving for our rich blessings.

Our committee members are Tim Haskett, Kristin Haverkamp, Daniel Heiman, Jineen Heiman, Suzanne Gerber, Donna Jarvi, Wendy Wieggers, Carol Bennett and Pastor Holmer. We welcome participation from additional congregation members.

Carol Bennett, Chair person

Report of the Women of St. James

The mission of the Women of St. James (WSJ) is “to build relationships through faith enrichment, fellowship, service and social awareness” and all adult females of the congregation are automatically members. During the summer of 2013, WSJ surveyed the membership to gather information necessary to re-prioritize and strengthen our organization. We learned the greatest interests among the WSJ are for (1) women’s fellowship, (2) personal spiritual growth, a faith journey and a Bible study and (3) to have an outlet for service to church and community. Overall, the programming is compatible with these goals and the women who attend enjoy making new friends. Here is a description of our activities this year:

Faith Enrichment

Our faith focus for the 2013-14 program year was on the Parables of Jesus. These meetings were developed and led by St. James members and began in October with **The Good Samaritan**, as we considered how to love our “neighbors” as ourselves. At the December gathering we watched a skit about **The Wise Steward**, reminding us to be watchful and ready during the Advent Season. In February, we studied the less-known parable, **The Persistent Friend**, where Jesus taught the disciples to pray the Lord’s Prayer and learned that we are to be persistent in asking God to work in our lives and answer our prayers according to His perfect will and timing. **The Prodigal Son**, a story about God’s unconditional love and forgiveness, was the focus at the one-day retreat in April.

The Women’s Faith Forum meets every Tuesday morning during the program year at St. James. Meetings will resume in the fall and dates will be published in St. James monthly newsletters.

Fellowship

In December, we hosted the annual “Holiday Sharing and Cookie Exchange.” The bake sale the following day raised more than \$600 that was targeted for educational aids to supplement the after school program at A.J. Katzenmaier. In February, we held our annual potluck dinner. The Valentine’s Day bake sale raised \$800, also used in conjunction with AJK outreach. The Women of St.

James hosted a reception following summer worship.

Service/Outreach

Each of our WSJ events had an element of outreach or service. At the October event, the women helped with a variety of projects inside the church building. Funds from the February bake sale were used to purchase the bags containing school supplies, a treat and card that was distributed during Teacher Appreciation Week at AJ Katzenmaier School in May. WSJ enjoyed assembling goodie bags during the April 5 Retreat as a thank you to the teachers and staff. The Family Care Closet, which opened last fall at the North Chicago High School has ongoing needs. Cleaning items and paper products were collected at the WSJ Retreat and packed up for distribution to North Chicago families. In addition, a check for \$300 was presented from funds raised by the WSJ at the February bake sale and will be used to replenish essential food and other items.

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. WSJ participated in an “in-reach” by writing notes of encouragement and appreciation at all of the events this year. “Quilts of Love” quilts were presented to St. James members as a demonstration of love and support.

Thank you to all of the women who helped in leadership and support roles throughout the year. Special thanks to Betty Albrecht, Madeleine Jorgensen, Pat Quade and Anne Linn.

We encourage all women to attend these programs throughout the year and guests are welcome. Meetings provide opportunities for sharing laughter, building friendships and are open to all. Rides will gladly be arranged and childcare is available upon request. We learn from each other and enjoy the blessings of abundant life that God has promised us when we gather in His name.

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 Christian Education Committee

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 22, 2013.
- 5 Ninth graders were confirmed on September 29, 2013.
- 4 Fifth graders received First Communion on March 2, 2014 following five classes with perfect attendance.

This year’s Youth Programs included the following:

- On Rally Day, The Puppet Place entertained our children and parents with “The Magic Onion”. The Dwyer Family donated food prepared on their Charity Fire truck BBQ.
- Wendy Wieggers led our “Charlie Brown” children’s Christmas Pageant.
- On Mother’s Day, Wendy Wieggers led the Sunday school student’s performance of “The Parable of the Prodigal Son.”
- Vacation Bible School 2013 took place from August 5 - 9 and the theme was Paul in Athens.
- Vacation Bible School 2014’s theme will be “Bethlehem Village—Where a Savior is Born.” VBS is scheduled in the mornings from August 4 - 8 this year.

St. James U

Our St. James U program takes place in the Common Room between services from fall through spring. This year our adult education has viewed/studied the following:

- In the fall, congregation members viewed “Luther” and “Faith Out Loud” DVDs.
- Members of our congregation contributed to our own Advent devotional.
- During the winter, congregation members viewed the “A Place at the Table - One Nation, Underfed” DVD and studied “Baptized, We Live” by Daniel Erlander.
- Continuing in winter and throughout spring, we studied, “What It Means to be a Lutheran.”
- During Lent, the congregation was encouraged to read “God For Us- Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter.” Pastor Holmer led book discussions after weekly Vespers.
- After Easter, congregation members viewed the “Peter and Paul” DVD series.

Sunday School

This year the rotation curriculum was “The Parables of Jesus,” with lessons adapted by Debbie MacAyeal:

- 70 Students are enrolled in the Sunday School program.
- 16 teachers, including 5 high school students, gave their time to educate our children of St. James.

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- Our students created a Renewing Campaign quilt, which was displayed in the narthex. They also collected electronics to help raise money for the Renewing Campaign.
- Students encouraged our congregation members to use their talents to support the church and the Renewing Campaign by performing a skit on March 9 during both services titled, "Parable of the Talents."
- St. James is creating a new summer program for our junior high youth called GIVE5/4NEED. The program will take place on mornings from August 11—15 in order to teach our tweens about service to others and volunteerism.
- Preschoolers and our 7th and 8th 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 Fellowship Committee

St James had a very active year of fun and festive fellowship for all members.

In July, we had a beautiful day for our Lake Forest Beach Party. Families came with a dish to share and food to put on the grill! The sun was hot, but the water was refreshing.

Everyone rallied for Rally Day in September! After worship, the congregation enjoyed another beautiful day on the lawn with food catered by the Dwyer family's fire truck and the Picnic Basket.

The weather didn't cooperate as much for our family campout in October, we had to reschedule twice but fun was had by all on October 5th! We had a fire pit, roasted marshmallows, grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and had plenty of side dishes and desserts to share. Twenty families came for dinner, and two hard core families spent the night on property, in spite of the 45 mph winds.

The adults enjoyed an evening out in November for the fall progressive dinner. We had 68 people attend dinner, which was hosted by seven

different households. We ended the evening at the home of Brooke and Rob Davis for a variety of desserts.

In December, we celebrated the beginning of Advent with our annual Advent Pot Luck dinner. Wide varieties of dishes were sampled along with many delicious desserts. The evening was completed with a family art project to celebrate the season.

The spring Progressive Dinner on April 26th wrapped up our year. Once again 53 people gathered at the home of Brenda and Bill Shinn to share fellowship and appetizers. The group then separated into smaller groups to dine at six households. An Asian inspired menu, topped with a lovely cheese cake dessert was enjoyed by all.

Respectively submitted,

Brenda Shinn

Report of the Evangelism Committee

Committee members currently include Barb Basgall, Barb Davoux and Tom Ebert. 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!

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:

- 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)".
- 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 homes. New members are still welcome! Contact Jon Paul.

Works in progress:

- Our continued focus for the upcoming year will be to support the Council goal of increasing worship attendance by 20%. We are working on a visitors follow-up package and have developed a list of potential ways to meet this goal.
- 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.

God's Peace,

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Ebert, Acting Chair

Report of the Property Committee

Committee members: Chic Martin (chairperson) Mark Austin, Carol Bennett, Pete Clemens, Josh Hornaday, Bill Shinn, John Tanner, Hugh Triplett, Dave Van Singel, Chris Meyer and Pastor Holmer (ex officio)

Work Completed:

Exterior

Wooded Area:

- Completed the removal of Buckthorn.
- Removed additional diseased elm trees.
- Remove additional brush.
- Started the restoration work on the far south property line.
- Lined creek bed with Wis. Field stone.
- Started a pond treatment program.
- Completed more cleaning and pruning around the exterior.
- Removed existing diseased evergreens and planted new evergreen trees in front.
- Planted new scrubs in Memorial garden.
- Raised existing blue stone walking path to be level with grass turf.
- Installed new up lighting on the south and east elevations.
- Installed underground drainage system on south elevation (in front of office windows) and raising the grade and mulched.
- Completed backing filling against asphalt driveway.
- Spread new mulch on the ground.
- Additional buckthorn was removed on the north elevation and planted with grass.
- Contracted with Manfredini Landscaping to complete a landscape design for the property around the church.

- Approved three new benches for the areas around the church.
- Started the island landscape renovation.

Interior:

- Completed retro fitting pendant lighting in the Sanctuary.
- Completed "The Common" room.
- Completed more replacement of the ATC tiles.
- Installed new push/pull hardware on restroom doors at Narthex.
- Contracted with Project Green to convert existing lighting lamps to LED lamps at no cost to the church.
- Completed organizing, cleaning out and moping down mechanical rooms.
- Replaced lighting in rear entry hallway.
- Completed cleaning, painting and installing new shelving in existing closets to organize storage.
- Repaired miscellaneous items around the church.

Completed the summary of project costs for the Capital Campaign project.

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

Report of the Social Ministry Committee

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 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. We continue to encourage members to get 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 (2013-14).

Volunteer and Financial Support :

- **Christian Outreach of Lutherans (COOL)**
- **Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter (PADS)**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Lake County United**
- **A. J. Katzenmaier School**
- **Bethel New Life**
- **CROP Walk**
- **Help Within the Family**

Financial Support Only:

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

We have encouraged families to get involved in volunteering together. Several families have walked for CROP, worked at the Bethel Christmas Store and served dinner at the new location for the family PADS site. A.J. Katzenmaier offers a variety of volunteer options and times for different ages. This summer we are hoping to have different groups sign up for Habitat for Humanity. Ideas include a women's build, a council build, a parent-teen (over 16) build or a musicians build.

We made A.J. Katzenmaier our featured outreach organization this year. We have supplied uniforms, items for the Family Care Closet and staff luncheons. Also we have staffed a science fair as well as supplied tutors. We hope to continue and expand this outreach.

We have a history of sponsoring refugees. The need has grown so we have begun to research getting involved with the Refugee One program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Anderson, Committee Chair

Resolutions

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, 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 2013-2014.

We express our gratitude to all who serve on the Church Council, especially Pete Clemens (President), Kathy Lowell, Hugh Triplett and Dave Van Singel who have completed their terms of office. We acknowledge with great appreciation our 2013-2014 officers: Pete Clemens, President; Randy Daniel, Vice President; Linda Berner, Secretary, Jon Paul, Treasurer and Joe Voelcker, Financial Secretary.

We welcome into our church family the 7 adults and 3 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 Fred Fortney and Brad Paul who died in the Faith during this year, their families and others who mourn the loss of loved ones through death; 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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Church Council**

- President
Peter Clemens
- Vice President
Randy Daniel
- Secretary
Linda Berner
- Treasurer
Jon Paul
- Financial Secretary
Joe Voelcker

- Council Members**
- Glenn Basgall
- Linda Berner
- Peter Clemens
- Randy Daniel
- Brooke Davis
- Tom Ebert
- Suzanne Gerber
- 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
Jon Paul
- Social Ministry
Ann Anderson
- Stewardship
Michael Montalbano
- Worship & Music
Carol Bennett
- Endowment Board of Trustees
Chair
Jim Davoux
- Memorial Garden Board of
Trustees Chair
Detlef Koska
- Sewing Circle
Betty Benton
- Youth Ministry Team
Sue Ebert
- Women of St. James
Shelly Holmstrom &
Cathy Long
- 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 Wieggers
- Bell Choir Director
Gretchen Haskett
- Brass Ensemble Director
Daniel Heiman

