

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 28, 2018 – 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary
Agenda 2018

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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

January 29, 2017

Agendas were distributed.

Agendas were distributed.

Call to Order: President Sherry Bagby called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm

Opening Devotions and Prayer were given by Pastor Cathy Daharsh and Pastor Paul Cannon

Approval of Minutes and Committee Minutes

- Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes, Bill Odean moved to accept the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting, Shirley Anderson seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- Approval of the October 23, 2016 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes, Charlie Hall moved to accept the Minutes of the Special Congregation Meeting Minutes, Dave Olsen seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- Pastoral Acts and Parish Statistics, Laverne Lund moved to accept the Pastoral Statistics Reports, Mike Bagby seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- Standing Committee Annual Reports, Ron Henning moved to accept the reports, Christine Ticknor seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- Other Committees, Boards, and Ministries Reports, Jason Coates moved to accept the reports, Bill Broman seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- Preschool Annual Report, Tammy Nobbe moved to accept the report, Marianne Anderson seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- WELCA Annual Report, Judy Hollister moved to accept the report, Rich Nielsen seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- Officer Reports, Dave Sweet moved to accept the Officer reports, motion seconded by Jerry Shaffer, the motion passed.
- Staff Reports, Carolyn Wahl moved to accept the reports, motion seconded by Laverne Lund, the motion passed.
- Pastor Reports, Remarks: Pastor Paul – 2016 was a whirlwind for ministries at Bethany, incredible things were done, there was lots of energy ‘Laying the Foundation’ to build something new and exciting at Bethany. The transitions have been a blessing. Thank you for all the hard work and prayers. He is proud to be a part of the Bethany Community. Pastor Cathy –Look at all the gifts we have to build a foundation. We are going to be called more this year. Asked us to pray and be open to being called in ways we have never been before. Take “**the Welcome**” to a personal level by inviting to church service or event at a specific time and date. Pastor Cathy is thankful for a faithful and solid Staff, Council, and Church Council President – Sherry Bagby. Ron Henning moved to accept the reports, Dick Anderson seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Report of the Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee consists of voting members of Bethany Lutheran Church. The Committee's purpose is to encourage and select members of the congregation to volunteer their time and talents to serve on the Bethany Lutheran Church Council and other positions. The 2016 Nominating Committee Members were Mel Meyer, Mark Shuman, Dick Anderson, and Pastor Cathy Daharsh.

Mark Shuman moved to accept the Church Council nominations of Charlie Hall and Phil Smith (to 3-year terms), Sheri Gomez, Jason Coates, and Dick Anderson (1-year term). Cathy Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pat Henning moved to accept the nominations of Cathy Anderson, Roger Wolfe, and Christine Ticknor (Outgoing Council/voting members) and (2) TBA Voting members at formation of the Nominating Committee in 2017. Don Barkley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jerry Shaffer moved to accept the nomination of Mel Meyer to the Endowment Board of Trustees (5-year term). Ron Henning seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mike Bagby moved to accept the nomination of John Engebretson, Cheryl Reimer, and Mel Meyer (terms expire in 2018) to the Audit Committee. Shirley Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Synod Assembly Members (June 2017):

Nominations from the floor were accepted for Synod Assembly. Sharon Larsen and Charlie Hall are the two voting members. Andrew Bradshaw is the Youth member. Mike Bagby made a motion to accept the Synod Assembly members. Ron Henning seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Positions Approved by Council:

Treasurer, Fred McCullough (term expires January 2018), **Assistant Treasurer**, Mike Bagby (term expires January 2018), **Council Recording Secretary**, Karen Meador (no term requirements)

Continuing Positions,

Council Members: Cathy Anderson (2018), Roger Wolfe (2018), Christine Ticknor (2018), Don Barkley (2019), Judy Engebretson (2019), Laverne Lund (2019), Tammy Nobbe (2019), and Todd Pierzina (2019)

Financial Secretary/ Assistant Financial Secretaries: Ted Groat, Sharon Larson, Jill Reiling, Terry Micklevitz (terms expire January 2018)

Assistant Financial Secretaries - Simply Giving: Carolyn Wahl, Julie Leffel (terms expire 2018)

Endowment Fund Board of Trustees: Cynara Pierzina (term expires 2018), Jill Peterson (term expires 2019), Jerry Shafer (term expires 2020), and Shirley Anderson (term expires 2021)

Finance Report Statement of Income & Expense - Bruce Lundine

Bruce thanked the congregation for the support of the ministries of Bethany. He provided a report on Actual vs. Budget for Income and Expenses for 2016.

The 2017 Budget – Fred McCullough

We received Stewardship pledges (General Fund, Mortgage fund, and Property Replacement Fund) in the amount of \$600,000, up 8.8% from 2016. For the 2017 budget, the finance team used 139% of the amount pledged for the General fund to come up with the 2017 Budget dollars. The goal is a balanced budget.

Fred provided some information concerning certain budget items:

- Benevolence to the Northern Illinois Synod – Request from the Synod is a 7% increase over last year.
- Christian Education – Substantial increase in the budget to cover the cost of Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Education.
- Evangelism – Increase to covers items donated in previous years that we need to start paying for now.
- Property – Up \$9,500 over last year, large part due to the need to resurface the parking lot.
- IT – Large need to improve our IT systems
- Worship & Arts – Increase expense to improve our music library.
- Ordained Staff – Increase in budget to bring our ordained staff salaries up to the Salary Guidelines published by the Northern Illinois Synod. We are behind in these guidelines because there were no salary increases given in 2016.

Fred also informed the congregation that we made an extra payment of \$15,000 in 2016 and our final mortgage payment is now January 1, 2022. He reminded Thrivent members that they have until March 1 to contribute their Choice Dollars to Bethany. We had a surplus this year (first time in a long time) with dedicated funds fully funded. Finance is looking for input for its use.

Ron Henning made a motion to accept both the 2016 Report of Income & Expense and 2017 Budget, John Engebretson seconded the motion, the motion Passed.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Motion for Adjournment: Bill Odean moved to adjourn the meeting, Dick Anderson seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Karen Meador

PASTORAL ACTS 2017

Member Funeral Services (4)

Fred Becker
Betty Klehfoth
Gerda Kristensen
Carol Wildey

Non-Member Funeral Services (3)

Colleen Barker
Gloria Nelson
Tyler Hollister

Marriages (1)

Adam Cross and Courtney Mega.

Confirmed (17)

2 received into membership by confirmation for a total of 17

Connor Martin Bartesch
Anthony Robert Becker
Kelly Susan Bradshaw
Renee Crawley
Michelle Grace Franzen
Samantha Haley Gablenz
Rylie Alexander Halpert
Trevor Harrison Heavey
Brock Henry Jewson
Peyton Robert Madison
Patrick John Norstrom
Elizabeth Marie Pierzina
Anthony Michael Quindel
Grace Ann Rubin
Emily Rose Sahl
Sten Brian Johnson Shuman
Taylor Elizabeth Sweet

Baptisms (11)

Jacob Marx
Penny Engelstad
Autumn Halpert
Tinley Jo Nuzzo
Grey Michael Dwyer
Max Miller
Rhett Charles Lange
Grayson William Holzrichter
Ricco James Pettigrew
Easton Brugioni
Calianne Pittluck

New Members (32)

30 baptized 2 babies (not included in parish statistics until baptized)

Audree Catalano
Jim Chapman
Kevin, Laurie, Will & Paige Cichon
Rob, Becky, Ben & Sydney Huffman
Linda Langhorst
Mike, Kate, Hailey & Claire Miller
Mike, Elissa & Anthony Viruso.
Frank and Pamela Christensen
Brian, Sarah, Addeline and Luke Harper
Troy and Stef Kindl and family
Lane, Jameson, and Scarlett Nenn
Debbie Servantes
Sarah, and Vinnie Servantes

PARISH STATISTICS – YEAR END 2017

	Baptized	Confirmed
MEMBERSHIP YEAR END 2016	1218	962
* Statistical Adjustment		
Adjusted Membership Year End 2016	1218	962
Members Received 2017		
▪ By Baptism Children (15 years & younger)	11	
▪ Adult Baptism	0	
▪ By Affirmation of Faith	30	
▪ Adult Confirmation	2	2
▪ Other		
▪ By Transfer		
Total New Members Received 2017	43	32
Total Existing (Baptized) Members Confirmed in 2017		15
Total Baptized and Confirmed Gains	58	49
Members Removed 2017		
▪ By Death	4	4
▪ By Transfer	6	4
▪ By Request	3	3
▪ By Roll Adjustments		
Request Associate	14	10
Roll Updating (moved – no transfer, etc.)	15	12
Total Members Removed 2017	42	33
Net Change in Baptized/Confirmed Membership in 2017	+1	-16
MEMBERSHIP YEAR END 2017	1219	946

Average Weekly Worship Attendance – Sunday (excluding Easter&Christmas)	271
Largest Sunday Attendance (not Easter) 12/17 Christmas Program	467
Smallest Sunday Attendance (New Years' Day)	100
Christmas Eve	708
Lent 2017	
▪ Ash Wednesday	204
▪ Lenten Mid-Week Average	138
▪ Palm Sunday	366
▪ Maundy Thursday	201
▪ Good Friday	140
▪ Easter Vigil	42
▪ Easter	641
▪ Thanksgiving Eve	81
Advent 2017	
Average Midweek (12/6, 12/13)	103
Longest Night Worship Service (12/20)	35

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: The Christian Education Team – Sashire Ayares, Sunday School Director; Tammy Nobbe, Council Representative; Joanna Bradshaw, Chairperson and Secretary; Betsy Baldwin; Joanne Lentz, Shirley Coss, and Pr. Paul Cannon

The goal of the Christian Education Committee is to minister to the people of Bethany by providing opportunities for those of all ages to better understand the Bible, grow spiritually, and become more familiar with the ways our faith can and does impact our lives of discipleship. The committee works in several areas to fulfill this mission:

Sunday School – See Sunday school Annual Report.

First Holy Communion Classes- Pastor Cathy and Pastor Paul teach this small group during Lent using the Fed and Forgiven materials from Augsburg.

Confirmation Ministry – Confirmation in 2017 has largely continued the programming and curriculum that we began last year with some minor changes. We are using the same Collaborate curriculum as 2016, but are moving into two main areas of focus: Old Testament and Lutheran Theology. We have largely kept the requirements the same, but expanded the Mentor/Mentee program to Advent as well as Lent this year because of the success we experienced with it in 2016. Our confirmation enrollment is at 32 students this year, and we have four small group leaders (called Guides). Pastor Cathy and Pastor Paul have rotated teaching every other week this year.

Vacation Bible School – Our theme for VBS was Hero Central, a super hero themed, fun and energetic way to learn the Hero Code. This curriculum came from Cokesbury publishing. We had 77 children registered, 20 youth helpers, and 21 adult volunteers. This was a higher enrollment than last year and we stayed under budget.

Adult Education and Small Groups:

- Sips ‘n Scriptures Bible Study – Meets on 1st & 3rd Saturdays
- Theology on Tap – Meets once a month on the first Thursday at a local restaurant called Dukes.
- Advent/ Lent – Were offered after the mid-week advent/lent service mentor/mentee groups
- Men’s Group – Meets once a month on Saturday morning
- Senior Breakfast – Meets once a month
- Sunday Morning Study- Faith Based book study
- Follow Me ELCA Social Statements- Meets 8 times in the fall/ 8 times in the spring

BETHANY SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: The Christian Education Team – Sashire Ayares, Director of Sunday School; Tammy Nobbe, Council Representative; Joanna Bradshaw, Chairman and Secretary; Betsy Baldwin, Joanne Lentz and Shirley Coss.

The mission of the Sunday School program of Bethany Lutheran Church is to support children and families as they deepen their relationship with Christ. Also, assist parents and the church family in fulfilling the covenant made at the time of each child's baptism.

Enrollment: 65 children are currently enrolled. Three years of age through fifth grade are involved in the 2017/2018 Sunday School year. Average attendance is 36 students per week.

Curriculum: This year we have chosen to use the Rotational model from SPARK curriculum. The lessons are taught for two to three weeks in a row. Teachers have options of curricula within each lesson. Those activities include; Bible games, science, cooking, and bible drama. On Blast Sundays, we encourage families to sit together in church for the entire worship service. We offer busy hands activities for families to grab on the way in to service. During the Children's Message, a follow along with the service hand out is given to better engage the students and continue educating them in the understanding of how the service works.

Staff: We have seven classroom teachers this year for all the classes. We have seven substitutes that have helped in the classroom and with larger group activities. Those activities include; Bible games, Science, Cooking, Bible drama, and Stories.

Milestone Curriculum: This year during the month of January and February we offered Milestone Curriculum. Each class learns about a different part of Luther's Small Catechism. The month of learning was joyously celebrated in March with all the classes leading parts of the worship service. First Communion was celebrated for students taking communion for the first time. It was a great way to expose students to Luther's Small Catechism.

Advent Fair: On November 26th, we held our fourth annual Advent Fair. Thirty-two children, started off in Luther Hall learning about Advent through stories. Then went on to make seasonal crafts independently with guidance from their teachers. Parents and Church family joined them and continued the fun joyous event together. Ten different crafts were available for all to make. Approximately 70 people participated.

Sunday School Christmas Program: The Sunday School Christmas Program was developed and started in October. Practices and fellowship were held on Sunday's after school. The program took place during the 10:45 am worship service on Sunday, December 17, 2017. Forty-two children participated in re-enacting the story of our Savior's birth as found in the Bible and told from the animal's perspectives. Many hands, across generations took part in making this happen.

Missions: Sunday School offerings are collected each week and are donated to charities chosen by the Christian Education Committee. During the 2016-2017 school year. The Christian Education committee decided that we will not be collecting during the 2017/2018 year, as we consider new ways to engage the students and make the process more concrete for them.

Closing:

Bethany is blessed to have a vibrant and active Sunday School. We thank God that we, as humble servants, have the opportunity to learn, be part, of and grow in God's love. We thank God for divine guidance in helping us bring the Good News to the children and youth of Bethany Lutheran Church.

BETHANY LIBRARY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Christine Ticknor, Chairperson

After a brief hiatus, the Library Committee resumed meeting and continued to process a backlog of donated materials. Two oak/glass display cabinets were donated in October, and will be used for various collections and artifacts. The library continues to be a popular gathering area for small group discussions. A brief survey was developed regarding usage and will be shared with the congregation in January. Team members Sandi Hall and Christine Ticknor put out a call for new members and received several responses. Megan Anderson and Carol Heisler were able to attend their first meetings in the fall, with others expressing interest in attending in the new year.

EVANGELISM/ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by Bethany Gola

The E-Team: Norae Beasley, Helen Bengston, Bethany Gola, Lolly Kloepfer, Joel Thoreson, Sandi Teiken, Liz Tollefsen and Joyce Zange, Susan Thome, Jen Martinez

The Evangelism Committee /Hospitality Team mission in is to foster a welcoming and inviting environment for our congregation members, our congregation's guests, and our congregation's community.

Due to our team dynamic of travelers and those who are on other teams already – we did not formally meet on Tuesday nights as a way to reorganize and consider our mission and how best to use our volunteer time. In 2018 we will periodically meet possibly quarterly as a large group but will continue to work and meet in smaller groups.

“Congregation’s Guests” welcoming our guests takes on a variety of forms:

- **Visitor Notes:** Notes of “welcome” are written and mailed to all visitors monthly as well as after Christmas and Easter.
- **Mug Delivery:** Our mugs ran out and we felt it was time to try something new. We gave prayer patches along with invitations to our new member classes. We recently designed and purchased insulated coffee tumblers that we will begin to give out to our visitors.
- **New Member Classes:** We hosted 2 new member opportunities and received 39 people as full members. These families and households were welcomed with a new member lunch and are quickly being involved in our ministry together.

“Congregation Members” outreach is built on a multi-fold approach: e-mail, snail mail, Facebook and newspapers.

- **E-Mail:** A weekly e-newsletter called “Wednesday Words” reaches 585 email addresses. Most all of whom are members or prospective members. The Wednesday Words highlights everything from Pastor devotion, outreach opportunities, to Bible studies happening that week. This year we provided an opportunity for people to immediately sign up online.
- **Snail Mail:** For anyone without an e-mail address, a “snail mail” copy of the Wednesday Words is mailed out to their home address every Wednesday.
- **Facebook:** Bethany Lutheran Church has an active and growing Facebook page. On Facebook not only read a little about what’s been happening, but also see lots of pictures of Bethany “in action.” Pictures include youth activities, baptisms, confirmation and lots more. This year we included in our budget an amount to “boost” activities – this serves as an effective tool to communicate with more people on Facebook. We have approximately 370 fans. Avg. people messages reach 170 but with boost this number increases to about 550.

- **Newspapers:** Bethany Church continues to run ads for Christmas and Easter services in the *Northwest Herald*. We submit events for posting on the Plan It calendar in the *NW Herald*. While we have been unsuccessful getting press releases out we are going to try again for next year.
- **Rally Day** As a kick off to the “back to church” season we hosted a rally day themed God’s Work Our Hands in conjunction with the ELCA day of service. Part of the season was a color, four page publication featuring education, service opportunities, and more to help members “connect” to the church. Rally Day/Kick Off Sunday was another great success with 120 Lutheran World Relief school care kits and 50 LWR baby care kits assembled. We also assembled health care kits for detained immigrants, welcome packets for our neighbors, tied quilts, and wrote cards to our members entering their first year of college.
- **Birthday, Sympathy, and Celebration cards:** The “Birthday Bunch”, a rotation of 12 volunteers, writes greeting cards to our members for their birthdays. We feel this is an important ministry that supports Bethany’s unique “home town” feel.

“Congregation’s Community”:

The E-Team continues to provide a presence at all Bethany functions by being a welcoming force to all visitors and members. We continue to investigate how we can work with our ministry teams to welcome all.

Postcards: We continue to use postcards as a way to invite our neighbors and congregation’s friends. We used postcards for VBS and Theater Camp, Kick Off Sunday, Johnny Appleseed Fest, Trunk or Treat, and Reformation Sunday.

Outdoor banners: We continue to purchase and reuse banners to give us local advertisement options. We are exploring more permanent methods to hang/post banners at both the corner of Caroline St. and the corner of Elmhurst. We are working with property to request permanent lighting for the the Caroline St. corner.

Participation in the Downtown Crystal Lake Business Organization: Advertising and Promotion team meeting monthly to discuss downtown Crystal Lake business awareness opportunities.

Trunk or Treat: We hosted our second a trunk or treat event for our community Oct. 29th at which we doubled our attendance from last year! There were games, themed car decorations, church information and lots of fun for all! We will continue this event again next year.

Johnny Appleseed Festival: A first ever for us that was so much fun! We received 250 guests for pancakes topped with our “special sauce”. This was in conjunction with the Downtown Crystal Lake Jonny Appleseed Festival. Our venue was the first of the day. Profits from the day were for the Youth Mission Trip.

FAITHFUL STEWARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Karen Meador

Carolyn Lundine and Karen Meador served as Coordinators of the Faithful Stewards Ministry.

The Faithful Stewards Ministry, founded in 1991, is responsible for coordinating the coffee hour on Sunday mornings. Faithful Stewards involves all members in serving 1 Sunday every 11 months. Bethany’s growing congregation has enabled us to schedule 5-7 families to host coffee hour on most Sunday mornings. We would love to see even more members participate on their assigned Sunday.

We continue to use a coffee set-up team. On Fridays they prepare the kitchen for the Sunday morning coffee hour. We also use volunteers to take care of the kitchen linens. We always welcome volunteers as this has been working out great. We would like to thank Susan Gavle for coordinating the weekly baristas. Faithful Stewards are also responsible for coordinating the food, set-up and clean-up for Senior Luncheons and Funeral Luncheons.

We appreciate the willingness of so many people to help serve, clean up and provide food for different events. The continued commitment of so many Bethany members makes our ministry very successful.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Bruce Lundine

The role of the Stewardship and Finance Committee is to develop both short and long-term strategies to assure spiritual growth of the church financially, as you might expect from the name of the committee, but also in terms of time and talent resources within the congregation. Committee membership consists of the Stewardship-focused members, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for both the Operating Fund and the Mortgage Fund, Financial Secretaries, Bank Account Reconciling Officer, Council Representative and the Chairperson.

The Finance committee oversees the work of the Treasurers and Financial Secretaries, who are responsible for the caretaking of the financial resources of the church. Together with the other committees, it also coordinates the development of an annual spending budget to support the ministries of the church. The Finance Committee also receives periodic reports from the Memorial Committee.

While both Stewardship and Finance have been combined in a single committee in the past, during 2017 Stewardship met separately to address issues specific to Bethany's stewardship needs. The stewardship campaign was successfully conducted in October and November, and is further discussed in the Stewardship report.

We hope to finish 2017 with typically strong contributions in December, and we anticipate realizing a surplus in the Operating Fund. We will look to build upon these potentially strong results along with this year's stewardship campaign to hopefully maintain this surplus in 2018 and beyond. We will be looking for the Bethany congregation to support this.

Additional information on the Finance Committee's activities can be found in the Financial Secretaries' report, the Treasurer's report, the Mortgage Fund Treasurer's report and the statement of income and expenses and proposed 2018 budget.

STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Pastor Cathy Daharsh

The Fall Stewardship campaign was based on the second year of the synod's three year congregational program: First, We Give of Ourselves Giving in Gratitude. During our campaign, Pastor Kurt Norby preached and shared a Ministry Moment connecting our giving to the larger church. Charlie Hall shared a Ministry Moment on our call to give and direction on how to get started in giving. Bethany Gola shared a Ministry Moment about thinking of our gifts from God and finding places where we can give through volunteering. In addition, in the month of October to encourage gratitude thinking, we challenged congregation members to daily share things they are grateful for on Facebook, Instagram, and at church.

We have added three new members to the stewardship team this year: Charles Hall, Karen Meador, and Joy McGuire. The team will now meet monthly with a goal to encourage giving in gratitude throughout the whole year. The team also has a goal to increase the percentage of people making pledges during the year. The hope is to have 80% of our general budget pledged by members to help us with our future planning and ministries.

We are excited for a new of thinking about stewardship in more engaging ways.

PROPERTY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: John Engebretson

With the help of many volunteers, dedicated individuals, the Personnel and Finance Committees, the Church Council, dollars from the Bethany Church Replacement Fund and continued support of the 2017 Bethany Church Budget, your Bethany Property Committee was able to complete needed projects in 2017 and started working on several additional projects for 2018.

In 2017 the following projects were completed or are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2017.

- Engaged and welcomed the services of Jerry Larsen as Bethany's Property/Building Manager.
- Entered into an agreement for maintaining the churches roof, including emergency repairs and preventive maintenance.
- Replaced the lighting fixtures in the lower level Sunday School rooms with new energy saving LED fixtures.
- Checked emergency lighting system and replaced batteries where needed.
- Purchased and had installed a replacement gas kitchen range.
- Had both parking lots crack filled, seal coated and restriped including adding one additional handicapped parking space.
- Contracted for one of the parking lot catch basins to be rebuilt, completion by the end of November 2017.
- Started the process of installing 14 remote controlled thermostats, project to be completed by the end of 2017.
- Started the process of replacing light bollards at the front entrance, project to be completed by the end of 2017.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Tony Jung

The purpose of the Social Action Committee is to demonstrate and extend Christian compassion as well as support all those in need of aid in body and soul. It shall strive to enlist in these efforts as many as possible of the individual members and organizations of our congregation. The Social Action Committee shall further have the responsibility to study social conditions, focusing on our local communities, in order to bring the cleansing and healing light of Christian truth to bear upon critical problems through thoughtful Christian discussion of facts and issues. The committee shall continually identify areas of social concern within the community, the nation, and the world. It shall then develop programs to challenge the congregation to respond to these needs. It shall also make the congregation aware of the ongoing needs of the world community and efforts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to address these needs. The Social Action Committee shall administer the 10% of benevolence funds allocated to this committee for local community concerns and report annually to the congregation of its use.

Plan for 2018

Our 2018 mission is to use the 10% of benevolence funds to support local agencies and groups that help those in need; such as hungry, homeless, the mentally ill, those in prison, individuals struggling with medical bills, the economically challenged who cannot afford utilities or school supplies for children, expand our outreach and to live out the ELCA motto; "God's Work....Our Hands"

The Committee's continued focus in 2018 within our community are:

- Yearly Blood Drives
- PADS set up, shift workers, shelter, food and laundry
- Easter Basket assembly and deliver
- Christmas in July
- Community Harvest donations for the Food Pantry
- Food Pantry workers
- Family Christmas Project with donations, shopping, and wrapping
- Caring Vine Ministry providing meals to Bethany members in need
- Continued Church/School Partnership with Husmann Elementary School
- Piecers who make over 100 quilts yearly for Lutheran World Relief
- Habitat for Humanity work days in the spring and fall

As well as expanding our outreach for other local opportunities. Our hands are a gift from God to give selflessly. Please consider having them do God's work right here in our community. We welcome all members who want to have a loving impact and make a difference in the lives of those truly in need.

GLOBAL MISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Ron Henning

This Advent season Bethany continues to prepare the way for the coming of Christ's love to what NIS Bishop Clements called "our modern wilderness." Like all of the ministries at Bethany, we on the Global Mission Team try to act for justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God by walking humbly with our neighbors in distant lands.

Our Global Mission Sunday worship again included a sung Litany of Prayer for the Healing of the Nations, and the Gospel message was brought by Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, theologian (and one of Pr. Daharsh's favorite professors) from Wartburg Seminary.

We continue our partnerships with the Lutheran churches in Tanzania and in India. We celebrated fourteen years of partnership with the Kiutu Parish in the North Central Diocese of Tanzania. Although we were unable to make the planned visit last January, we are looking forward to a possible trip in the summer of 2019. Northern Illinois Synod companionship with the Arcot Lutheran Church in Tamil Nadu, India is providing the opportunity for Pastor Daharsh and Cheryl Reimer to visit and possibly establish a new parish partnership in February 2018.

From our budget Bethany gave \$500 support to the ELCA Good Gifts program for use where Global Mission personnel deem it is most needed. Through Advent, again with Christine Ticknor's leadership, we displayed an alternative gifts table, and several people made their own gifts of cows, pigs, chicks, etc. We have shared our gifts as we continue to accompany people around the world, discovering and sharing the love and light of Christ together.

Besides sharing these gifts, Bethany continued to make and maintain our personal connections with our global neighbors. We continue travel to Panama with Dr. Chris and Patty Burseth to provide dental care to indigenous people through Mission Save a Smile.

Where we are unable to make sustained personal relationships, Bethany depends on and supports ELCA Global Mission personnel to act in our behalf. We continue to sponsor Randy and Carol Stubbs and their children Megan, Marissa and Nathan as they serve at Makumira University to provide the only B.A. in Music program in Tanzania and further develop the Cultural Arts Center. Of course, you know that Carol has spent most of this year in Milwaukee where chemotherapy and stem cell transplants and your prayers have finally resulted in 0% cancer – "Total Remission." Continued prayers are welcome as she continues to rebuild her strength.

In January 2018, we will begin sponsoring Meghan Brown Saavedra who replaces Lindsay Mack by coordinating the YAGM volunteers in Mexico City. Missionary sponsorship contributions of \$25 a week for an annual \$1200 is committed through an ELCA covenant for each missionary team. Bethany members may sponsor missionary sign-ups on the bulletin board. A sign-up sheet is also available for anyone who wishes to contribute to Young Adults in Global Mission, but this is not a commitment for which we signed a covenant, as are the two missionaries previously mentioned. This year, YAGM gifts are being used to support Ayona Riley in Mexico with our missionary Meghan. (Many of you will remember that we first heard of Young Adults in Global Mission when Daryl and Susan Gavle's daughter Katie was working where Ayona Riley is today.)

In 2018 the Global Mission Team will again work to "make it personal." We plan to be more intentional about supporting our global neighbors with prayer, communication and visits. As we continue financial support, we will share names and information about specific ministries to be remembered in prayer. We intend to use letters, phone calls, e-mail and the internet to communicate more regularly. We are currently developing a list of "pen pals" who will correspond with our global partners. We will look for ways to continue to visit our global partners and for ways to help them visit with us. Come with us as we seek and share the love and light of Christ globally.

WORSHIP AND ARTS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted for Larry Kohn, Chairperson, by Ruth Ann Poppen, Lori Romano and Christine Ticknor

Members of the committee are: Ruth Ann Poppen, Judy Hollister, Linnea Kountz, Vicki Summers, Larry Kohn, Pastor Cathy Daharsh, Lori Romano, Marge Olsen, Carolyn Wahl and Council representative, Christine Ticknor.

The goal of the Worship and Arts Committee under the direct guidance of the Pastor(s) is to assist the Council in seeing that the services of God's house are conducted regularly and in accordance with the liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The committee shall continually plan and develop worship opportunities and/or experiences to meet the needs of the congregation.

This committee supports and works with the Ushers, Altar Care Team, Assisting Ministers, Readers, Visual Liturgy Ministry, Home Communion Ministers, Middle School Musicians B.K.J.A.M.M., Instrumentalists, Bell Canto Ringers, Bethany Choir, Liturgical Dance, the Director of Worship & Music and the Bethany Art Series.

Highlights for the year 2017:

- Communion is offered every Sunday at every service by common cup or intinction. A gluten-free option has been added.
- Worship times year-round on Sundays are 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. with communion at each service. Sunday school and Adult Education are at the 9:00 a.m. hour. Extended-time opportunities between services are offered occasionally.
- Home communion for the homebound members is continuing each month. Communion kits are blessed on the first Sunday of each month. It is a positive, welcomed ministry at Bethany. If you desire this service, please contact Pastor Cathy or Pastor Paul.
- Large print liturgy and hymns are available for all services each week. Ask the ushers for a copy.
- Advent and Lenten mid-week services used the Holden Evening Prayer service.
- Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter services were held with special music by choirs and Vision Dancers.
- A Blessing of the Animals mid-week service was held in August.
- Reformation Sunday, October 29th, featured Brass and the Bethany Choir at the 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. service, with a special celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Reformation.
- All Saints Sunday, November 5th, was a memorable day of worship featuring Bell Canto Ringers, Bethany Choir, Brass and the Liturgical Dancers.
- On Sunday, December 17th, the Children's Christmas Program, "Tails from the Manger," was presented during the 10:45 a.m. service.
- Three special Christmas Eve services were held: 4 p.m. Family Service, 7 p.m. traditional candlelight service, and 10:30 p.m. candlelight service with Bell Canto Ringers and Bethany Choir.
- A new bowl for the baptismal font was created by a local artist.

VISUAL LITURGY MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Bethany Gola

Committee Members: Judy Hollister, Darrel & Susan Gavle, Jerry, Sharon, & Brandon Larsen, Jill Peterson, Shannon Holtz, Bethany Gola, Renee Brainerd, Sarah Harper.

The Visual Liturgy team continues to enhance worship in the sanctuary and gathering area by creating visual messages that pair with the church themes and teachings throughout the year. This has been a well-received ministry and we thank members for their positive support.

Our worship space is an important reflection of our mission and message. We have continued to receive beautiful and functional liturgical pieces from Memorials including additional sanctuary tables, banner stands, and banners.

We had a very exciting and full year working with changing themes and directions. Through memorial donations, we have several new banners including a white Holy, Holy, Holy banner, a large white cross banner, and two red/burgundy tone banners to use on Palm/Passion Sunday. We also purchased a wooden stable to house our nativity including three wisemen also purchased through memorials.

Our team grows by two this year. Sharon Larsen will be the new chairperson beginning in 2018.

BETHANY ARTS SERIES ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Frank Zimmerman, Chairperson

Calendar year 2017 was another successful and exciting one for the Arts Series, and featured 2 new events along with our first ever musical drama! We offered 2 concerts to complete our 15th season and 1 concert to start our 16th season as follows:

“Cotton Patch Gospel” – 03/12/2017, 4:00 p.m.

Musical Drama – A telling of the gospel narrative with a southern spin.

Reformation Revival with Dr. Michael Burkhardt – 05/21/2017, 4:00 p.m.

Hymn Festival with the Choirs of Bethany Lutheran Church

(Preceded by a workshop for the choirs on 05/20/2017 led by Dr. Burkhardt)

ACTE II – 09/24/2017, 3:00 p.m.

“America’s Got Talent” famed opera duo. Olanna Goudeau & Ashley Watkins

We are grateful for the continued support of our sponsors and those who give through our free will offerings. As a result, we have been enabled to stay true to our mission of celebrating the installation of our Clarence and Agnes Carlson Memorial Pipe Organ by being dedicated to the celebration of music and art as God’s gifts and an extension of worship. Therefore, we will continue our endeavors to nurture and foster community outreach to the glory of God with the following upcoming concerts:

Rodland Duo – 02/11/2018, 3:00 p.m.

Acclaimed sisters, Carol Rodland, Violist, and Catherine Rodland, Organ

Mark Kroos – 04/08/2018, 3:00 p.m.

Award winning double neck guitarist

LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Our first ever \$1,000 Scholarship to a worthy Bethany high school student (or students) to attend the Summer Lutheran Music Camp was awarded to Jared Reiling last summer. We continue to offer the scholarship(s) for 2018.

We also had our first ever Bethany Arts Series Sponsor Recognition Event on Friday evening, July 28, in the Gathering Area of the church. An evening of light refreshments with music by the Stafford Strings was enjoyed by all in attendance.

In addition, plans are well under way for our 16th season of 2018 – 2019.

Committee Members: Judy Hollister, Mary Ann Landon, Tom Leahy, Rev. Dr. Robert E Limstrom, Rich Nielsen, Ruth Ann Poppen, Cindy Zimmerman and Corrine Zoellick, with Pastor Cathy Daharsh as Occasional Advisor.

GREEN TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Bethany Gola and the Green Team

Committee Members: Jim & Judy Hollister, Pam Bock, Pat Henning, Caro Lynn Whaples, Barb Anderson, Shannon Holtz

With the goal of environmental awareness, the Green Team Ministry at Bethany Lutheran Church provides environmental education paired with recycling opportunities for our congregation and community. Through Biblical references and ELCA support we encourage stewardship of Christians to care for God's Creation.

Continued projects in 2017:

- Continuing to offer Fair Trade Coffee – Cheryl Reimer and Global Missions
- Evaluating areas of green change in the building with the Property Team - financially supporting lighting changes
- Using recyclable beverage cups and dishware
- Yearlong Eco-Resource Fair – periodic collection drives focusing on Zero Waste including a post-holiday consumer waste collection and Styrofoam collection among other hard to recycle at curbside items
- Green worship liturgy
- 8th Annual Community Eco-Fair outreach ministry to our neighborhood surrounding BLC – which included our annual plant sale, garage sale, and recycling drive.

Mission for 2018:

We will work with Social Action, Property, and Global Mission to direct our proceeds from the Eco-Fair to help green our congregation, our community, and our world. Last year's profits were used for supplementing the funding of beverage cups for coffee hour specifically our biodegradable cups, supporting the Crystal Lake Food Pantry food composting service, and currently we are working on creating reuseable shopping bags for our mission trip participants to take with them to Tanzania in February. In 2018 we will continue to consider appropriate allocations for our profits.

We will lead the garage sale/eco-fair in spring and continue to promote education through our yearlong recycling efforts.

MEMORIAL TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Susan Gavle

Memorial Fund gifts provide a lasting memory for both individuals who have passed away and as a way to honor individuals for special occasions. These memorials and gifts allow Bethan to support projects that enhance the property and ministries of our church.

Gifts are recognized on All Saints Sunday when Bethany also recognizes those who have passed away during the previous year plus the newest saints those Baptized during the past year

The following items were given during the past year: Landscaping, American/Christian Flags, tables for worship/sanctuary, office furniture, Gathering Area furniture, Communion Ware, white banner, Holy Week Banners, Nativity Wise Men, quilting for new banner, PADS, Christian Education classroom tables, and Youth Ministry.

If you are interested in making a memorial gift (designated for a specific item or ministry), or undesignated (to be used at the discretion of the committee for the great need), please contact one of the pastors. Thank you to all past and current members who help provide the connections between the families /funds and the needs of Bethany Lutheran Church.

ENDOWMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Shirley Anderson, Endowment Chair

The Bethany Endowment Fund was established in 2002 with a portion of the Agnes and Clarence Carlson Bequest. In 2007, the Fund received a generous bequest from the Art and Marie Boncosky Estate. The Fund is supervised, managed, invested, and administered by the Bethany Endowment Board of Trustees. The Endowment Board of Trustees meets quarterly and as needed.

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to extend and enhance the mission of Bethany Lutheran Church beyond and apart from the program, ministries and work of the Congregation, which is supported through regular offerings and pledges. Application requests can be submitted by individuals or groups. Our outreach mission has now been expanded to organizations outside our church.

Application Requests approved for funding in 2017 were: \$9,000.

- **Endowment Board Brochure.**
This request was to produce and print a professional full color tri-fold brochure spotlighting the Bethany's Endowment Fund. Through this informational brochure, church members will see how the Fund has supported and enhanced ministries in the past to fuel their imaginations for future possibilities. Included also is procedural information on applications and donations. **(\$1000.)**
- **Lenten Intergenerational Fellowship Events.**
The Endowment Board approved this request of a new ministry to provide hearty appetizers for 5 gatherings on Wednesday evenings during Lent. This was to provide a welcoming gathering for our members encouraging intergeneration fellowship and discussion. **(\$1000.)**
- **Bethany Volleyball Team**
This was an Application Request from Pr. Cathy Daharsh to sponsor an activity that will increase the engagement of additional generations in our congregation. A Volleyball Team is another opportunity to welcome and build relationships. We had 2 Bethany teams. This approval was to provide this new ministry with initial support for team fees and t-shirts. **(\$700)**
- **Youth Mission Trip to Minneapolis: Financial Support** – The Endowment Board approved a request to provide additional support towards a group effort to raise funds for 19 youth & 3 chaperones from Bethany to go to Toronto. This Christian Youth program involves our youth in various service projects during the day and cultural/social activities in the day. **(\$3,000.)**
- **Lutherdale Confirmation Camp Scholarships.** The Endowment Board approved this request, which is an investment in our youth in Bethany. It supports each camper for a week and engages them in one of the richest faith experiences of a young person's life. **(\$1300.)**
- **Bethany Lutheran Church Theater Camp: Artist in Residency**
Ruth Ann Poppen, Bethany Director of Worship & Music requested supportive funding which was approved by the Board for the first Youth Theater Camp at Bethany July 9-14th. This new ministry production, "Welcome Back, Billy Best", was performed on July 13th. The request was to fund 2 Artist in Residence for this program and also the musical drama scripts and instrumental music needed for this project. **(\$1000.)**
- **Pr Cathy Daharsh Companion Synod Trip to India.** The Endowment Board approved this request from our pastor to build and strengthen relationships with our brothers and sisters in India. In building connections with members of the Northern Illinois Synod, Pr. Cathy will be exploring the possibility of starting a new global partnership. This Endowment Board support is in addition to Bethany's Global Mission Team and Church Council support. **(\$1000.)**

Financial Report Balance for 2017 (11-30-17): \$377,797.

The expenses represent payments that were made in the first three quarters of 2016. Some of the expenditures reflect 1 funding request that was approved in 2016 and six that were approved in 2017.

<u>ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust:</u>	Beginning Balance	1-1-17:	\$ 332,853
	Income:	9-30-17:	<u>\$ 29,575.</u>
	Balance:	9-30-17:	\$ 372,482.
<u>Harris Bank Money Market:</u>	Beginning Balance	1-1-17:	\$ 14440.
(cash reserves)	Interest Earned:	11-30-17:	\$ 5.
	Expenses Paid:	11-30-17:	\$ 9130.
	Balance:	11-30-17:	\$ 5315.

Our congregation is truly blessed to have a Mission Endowment Fund. We welcome application requests that would further our commitment. A "Thank You" to Board of Trustees members for their time and contributions: Cynara Pierzina, Jill Peterson, Jerry Shaffer, and Mel Meyer.

STEPHEN MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by Pastor Cathy Daharsh

The Stephen's Ministers met this year to talk about the history of the program and how it might move forward. The reflecting, listening, and support of Stephen's Ministry is valuable and needed in our congregation. As the group talked about reorganizing, it was determined that monthly meetings were not needed as they once were and that communication with the pastor was a helpful and important piece for the success of the program. The group also talked about having occasional meetings and possibly book studies to enhance the reflecting, listening, and support of leaders in this program. It was decided that the pastor would have a current list of Stephen's Ministers who were willing to walk with people during challenging times in their life. The pastor would be the one to initiate those connections. The hope is that this becomes a renewed ministry in 2018.

SCOUT TROOP 347 ANNUAL REPORT 2017

submitted by Jim and Joanna Bradshaw

The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts continue to thrive and grow with the support of Bethany Lutheran Church. The use of church facilities is key to the continued success of both of these groups.

The Cub Scouts currently have 40 scouts with many adult leaders actively participating. The boys engage in weekly meetings with their dens, learning new skills that will allow them to progress from Lion Scouts through Webelos. Lion Scouts is a new program to Pack 347 and engages boys and parents who are enrolled in kindergarten. Some of the things that we did this year included marching in Memorial Day and Festival of Lights parades, fall yard clean up days for senior citizens, selling Christmas Wreaths and Popcorn Scouting for Food, summer family campouts and fishing.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 347 are proud to announce the addition of four Scouts who have reached the rank of Eagle Scout within the Troop. Brandon Helsom, Tyler Helsom, Nick Jensen and Jared Reiling have completed all the steps necessary to attain this prestigious rank and received their awards during a ceremony held at Veterans Acres park in May. The Boy Scouts maintained a very active calendar with many activities and fundraisers to benefit the boys in the troop. Some of the highlights from this year include: For the Love of a Scout Valentine's Day Spaghetti Dinner, week long summer camp, Troop 347's Annual Pancake Breakfast and Craft sale, Survival campout, climbing in silos in downstate Illinois and camping at Rush Creek and Marengo Ridge. The highlight for the year for some of the boys and their families was a 12 day trip to Kandersteg International Scout Center located in Switzerland.

WOMEN OF BETHANY (WELCA) ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Judith Hollister

Women of Bethany (WELCA), is no longer a formal organization. They have held no circle meetings since 2015. Many women of the congregation continue to support & participate in monthly visits to Woodstock Sheltered Village. They talk with residents, play Bingo, bring prizes & refreshments each month. Women also decorate the "Christmas Giving tree" with cards containing the wishes of each of the 90 Sheltered Village residents. Those wishes/gifts were purchased by members of the congregation, wrapped and distributed at the annual Sheltered Village Christmas party. Thank you to those devoted people who remember the Shelter and its residents each year. Funds remaining in the WELCA account will be designated for areas of women's mission in the church. Check expenditures & balance the treasurer's report for this year.

WELCA TREASURER'S REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Corrine Zoellick, WELCA Treasurer

WELCA ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2017

BALANCE ON HAND – January 1, 2017 \$817.83

Disbursements

Memorial Fund	\$50.00	
(Gerda Kristensen & Betty Klehfoth)		
Sheltered Village Christmas (2016)	24.35	
Cary Grove Swing Choir	<u>150.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$ 224.35	<u>(224.35)</u>

Ending Account Balance, December 31, 2017 \$593.48

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by Judy Engebretson, Council President

The year of 2017 was a good and joyous year for Bethany Lutheran Church. With Pastor Cathy Daharsh and Pastor Paul Cannon as our leaders, we celebrated the seasons, heard excellent sermons, and embarked on new services to the community. Our Pancake Breakfast during the Johnny Appleseed Festival was a huge success.

In Sunday School, Jen Martinez acted as interim Superintendent through July 2017, and then Sashire Ayares was hired as Director of Sunday School. She has worked well beyond her hours to organize the department and enhance the Sunday School program.

Bethany Gola and Ruth Ann Poppen are to be congratulated on the many hours and excellent work they have done in the office and in the music and drama area.

We added two new positions during the year. We hired a new Property Manager, Jerry Larson, who has done a tremendous job maintaining our building. We also hired permanent nursery attendants for our Sunday and special services.

I want to thank all the Council members who have contributed their time and talent to so many areas of the church. I'd also like to thank the 4 members who are leaving the Council for their hard work: Cathy Anderson, Dick Anderson, Sherri Gomez, Jason Coates. I'd especially like to thank the Council in my role as President of the Council. It was truly an honor to serve in this capacity. Thank you all.

As to the future, we will have 4 new members on Council, and as they join, we will welcome them and introduce them to Council responsibilities. God and the Spirit will continue to function in our every meeting, and will continue to guide and direct us throughout our days. Glory be to God!

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES' ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Jill Reiling, Sharon Larson, Ted Groat, Terry Micklevitz, Julie Leffel and Carolyn Wahl

As Financial Secretaries it is our duty to maintain accurate records and give accurate reports of contributions for Bethany Lutheran Church. These contributions consist of donations to the General Fund and the Mortgage Fund. The General Fund received donations of \$653,557 and the Mortgage Fund received \$120,439 in 2017.

We would like to thank the members of Bethany for their support of the various ministries of Bethany.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Fred McCullough

From many perspectives, this, again, was a "year of years". Certainly, with focus on our finances, it was a record setter in many ways, surpassing the records set last year. Let me review with you the various financial reports we prepare for our Teams and Church Council members on a monthly basis.

You will find a "Statement of Income and Expense for 2016 and 2017 as part of this Annual Report. Your sharing of God's Gifts with our church totaled \$653,556.86 in Tithes and Offerings alone, an unprecedented amount. This is 2.1% over 2016 and .98% under budget. Our expense of \$646,533.22 was 2.3% under budget and 6.9% over 2016. The bottom lines are (1) we planned on our operating results to be a surplus of \$128.12 with an actual surplus of \$9,011.98 and (2) along with the \$21,232 surplus carried over to 2017 we now move forward with a surplus of \$30,243.28.

Similar to last year, this is probably a good place to stop, but there is more good news.

We have an ongoing resolution as part of our Constitution that reads "A minimum of 18% of the current year's receipts will be given as benevolence." This is to be calculated as the percentage of Tithes & Offerings inclusive of Dedicated Funds intended for outreach, such as global missions, World Hunger, social action and Sunday Church

School Benevolence.” The total income received in 2017 was \$672,370. Total expenditures were \$130,589. The percentage of payments to total receipts is 19.4%. We continue to be a generous congregation.

The Building Fund Report found elsewhere provides you with information on that aspect of our ministry. I do want to emphasize your contributions to this Fund totaling \$120,438.50 and the end of year Mortgage balance of \$389,253.22. If our support continues at the current level we will pay off this mortgage in 2020.

Our Property Replacement Fund is alive and well. We began the year with a balance of \$62,224. In 2017 our members contributed \$33,521.96 to this fund (another record high). Users of our building contributed \$5,528.78. Interest Income was \$220.25. We spent \$32,312.81 resulting in a year-end balance of \$ 69,182.18.

Adding all three areas of contributions listed above, the total is \$807,517.32. Just terrific.

The Teams receive reports each month reflecting their expenditures in detail as well as reports reflecting the relationship to their budget on a detailed basis. We hope this has enabled them to own their results and enhanced their ability to prepare their annual budget and manage that budget.

This was my fourth year as Treasurer. There are too many people to thank for their assistance through out the year so I won't try to do that here. The Financial Secretaries, Assistant Financial Secretaries, Assistant Treasurer, Bank Reconciler, Finance Team Leader, Church Council Liaison, Finance Team members and offering counters are all volunteers that care about Bethany Lutheran Church as they do their work related to our Finances. We have had at least these two thoughts in mind as we serve our church. Number one, we manage our funds as a business would, but are always mindful we are a church and two, we are transparent.

Remembering our mission statement: “We reflect Christ in message and actions,” let's have a great 2018. It will be a challenge and we will need many of us to step up.

MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – not available at time of publishing. Please look for insert before or on the annual congregational meeting date.

Submitted by: Gene Bengston

SENIOR PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Rev. Cathy Daharsh

In the same way let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)

Baptisms are a joy! They are a sign of hope, love, and life. My heart is filled with gratitude each time we baptize someone at Bethany Lutheran Church. The more baptisms we do the more I realize the depth and importance of this means of Grace. Each time we do a baptism in church, we have a baptismal host say the words from Matthew 5:16 and hand the family a candle. When we hand over that candle during baptism, it is not just a pretty symbol. It's a call to service. It is a reminder that each day we are called to keep shining our light in Christ, even when our light feels dim, even when it seems like everything around us is trying to put it out. When our light seems to grow dim, God protects our light and breathes us back into renewed light.

This year we have seen much renewed energy and light reflecting Christ's work among us. As I reflect on the covenant we made with God in our baptism, I think about how we serve in Christ guided by those promises.

To live among God's faithful people,

As a staff we continue to work at developing a warm, welcoming professional place where those yet to come and those here already will find a place to engage, grow, and strengthen their faith.

We have added five programs in 2017: Follow Me Devotion for Busy Lives, Extended Sunday School, Impact Youth Sunday, Confirmation Mentor/Mentee Conversations in Lent and Advent, and Brown Bag Movie Series to provide new opportunities for congregation members to build relationships and share their journey of faith.

To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

We emphasize that the Lord's supper is open to all. In addition to pew cards explaining our openness, we have added more words to the invitation to communion. We now say, "All are invited. All are welcome. At Bethany we communion adults and children of all ages."

We hear the word of God through prayers, scripture readings, preaching, and music. During worship our goal is to provide a variety of worship experiences for all generations and backgrounds. Ruth Ann has done an excellent job of bringing in instrumentalist, providing worship leadership opportunities for all ages, and creating new liturgies.

To proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed,

Serving one another is central to the work we do together in Christ. People in the community know our church and understand with gratitude that we are a generous church that is ready to help where needed.

We have several church members that give of their time in our community at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry, Good Samaritan Program, PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter.), and Shelter Village.

I am involved in leading the Faith Leaders of McHenry County in a monthly Lunch and Learn program where we eat a meal together, hear nonprofit speakers, and work at finding ways to use our resources in our community. A result of this group was to pair all schools in Crystal Lake with a faith community that would assist in any needs. We are paired with Husmann Elementary.

Many of our congregation members are also involved in serving our larger church at a synod level through participation in events and committees. Sarina Mugino is a youth representative of the Synod Council. Judy Engebretsen is a member of the Candidacy Committee. Ron Henning serves on the Global Mission Committee. Pastor Paul serves on the Nominating Committee and on a Youth Ministry Advisory Team. I am leading a small group called MSG (Mission Support Group). I also have been asked by Bishop Clements to begin a 4-year ELCA Systems Academy training to develop leadership programming at the synod level.

To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

I am impressed with the depth of love and care our congregation and staff has for serving all people in Christ. Our God's Work Our Hands Sunday and Trunk or Treat Day where two examples of our staff and many generations of our church coming together in an impactful way to serve the local community and the world. Bethany Gola did an impeccable job of raising up leaders and organizing these two events.

We have a team of leaders that go out monthly to serve communion to others. I would like to personally thank Londa Mattick, Marianne and Dick Anderson, Larry Kohn, Pastor Mary Carol Strug, and Ron Henning for serving in this capacity. In addition, we have a monthly communion service at Fountains where members of our church volunteer to help. Thank you to Pastor Cordell Strug, Gene and Helen Bengsten, and Barb Nelson for assisting me in this service.

And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Our church this year rolled up their sleeves and engaged in many opportunities to hear about injustices in our world. To learn more about immigrants in our country and the challenges they face, we invited Pam Shearman, Director of Jail Ministry for the Interfaith Community of Detained Immigrants to preach and speak in our congregation.

We also had Judy Hollister and a group of local artists share their paintings of Syrian Refugee Children to give us an awareness of this difficult situation and to give us an opportunity to contribute money to help these children.

We again participated in the fall CROP Walk where we had several students and congregation members walk to raise awareness and to work at eliminating world and local hunger.

This year we raised money for natural disasters that happened in Houston, Florida, Puerto Rico, and other places through giving to ELCA Disaster Relief. We also took a special collection for Puerto Rico on Giving Tuesday in November.

I am more than grateful for the thoughtful, dedicated, and compassionate leadership in this congregation. Thank you to Judy Engebretson, our Council President, for her deep faith and care for this congregation. Thank you to Roger Wolfe, our Vice President for his attention to detail and dedication to serving. Thank you also to our council members who provide excellent leadership in our church.

This year our staff has had some changes. Thanks to Jennifer Martinez who graciously stepped into the role of Interim Director of Sunday School and helped us to move forward seamlessly in Sunday School as Barb Buczek retired. In the fall, we called Sashire Ayares to Director of Sunday School. She has hit the road running and has made quite a difference already as she brings her expertise and vision of working with the children. I am excited to see where she takes this program.

We also hired Jerry Larson to be our Property Manager. Just look around the church and you will see the good work that Jerry has already done to empower volunteers, organize tasks, and follow-through with jobs.

Our congregation is seeing more young children attending worship and we have discerned the need again to have a Nursery Attendant. We have hired four high school students to manage our nursery on a rotating basis. The students are Megan Anderson, Sarina Mugino, Madelyn Norstrom, and Lora Reeser.

I cannot say enough about our faithful, thoughtful, creative, fun-loving, compassionate staff. Pastor Paul has been an excellent colleague and team player who has the gift to connect with many different people. Bethany Gola continues to thrive in her position and bring out the best in all of us. Ruth Ann has so much knowledge, and understanding of the church, theology, and relationships that she helps us to stay grounded in our faith and to think deeper.

Fred McCullough, Mike Bagby, Ted Groat, and the whole financial team do so much behind the scenes to make sure that we are good stewards of our resources. I am more than happy with the extra effort they give to this important part of the ministry of giving.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. **Amen.** (ELW pg. 227)

In Christ's Service Together,
Pr. Cathy

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Rev. Paul Cannon

Goal: My stated goal as a Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people (young and old) whom I encounter. This goal is accomplished through the many and varied gifts of the Holy Spirit, but is most often achieved through the building up of relationships, the free giving of word and sacrament in worship, and through the strengthening and careful stewardship of all the resources, programs, and ministries of the church.

In my fifth full year as the Associate Pastor of Bethany, I worked hard to accomplish these goals, while recognizing that this is (and always will be) an ongoing process which is not easily measured. I have faith that God is continuing his good work here and that all things accomplished at Bethany is for the building up of God's Kingdom.

Pastoral Duties: Pastor Cathy and I are continuing to split pastoral duties including: word and sacrament, baptisms, hospital and shut-in visits, weddings, funerals and other things as they come up. This year I presided at two funerals for long-time members Carol Wildey, and Fred Becker. There were five baptisms that I presided over for Penny Englestad, Grey Dwyer, Max Miller, Grayson Holzrichter, and Easton Bruggioni. I also presided over one wedding between Adam Cross and Courtney Mega.

Youth and Family Ministry: In 2017, the Youth Program continued to grow and mature. It was highlighted by our mission trip to Minneapolis over the summer, which saw participation of three chaperones, and nineteen youth. We were able to fundraise the entire cost of the trip through the Spaghetti Dinner and Endowment gifts. On the trip, we served the Minneapolis community in a variety of capacities including: summer schools, home renovation for people of low income, youth employment, and neighborhood cleanup (among others). The high school group also started a new Bible Study called "Dig Deeper" which averaged around five participants. In the fall of 2017, the middle school group started a new program called "Impact Youth Sundays" which was part Christian Education, part Youth Ministry. Attendance hovered around 10-15 participants. In the summer, we chose to do two mission trips for 2018, one to West Virginia and one the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. We began fundraising with a goal of \$28,000, and hoping to accomplish this through our "Fueled by Faith" fundraiser, selling gift cards, and of course, the Spaghetti Dinner.

Christian Education

Sunday School: This summer, we hired Sashire Ayares to be our new Sunday School Director. Besides the new Director, the biggest change to the program was the addition of "Extended Time" where the kids rehearsed for the Christmas program.

Confirmation: Confirmation in 2017 has largely continued the programming and curriculum that we began last year with some minor changes. We have largely kept the requirements the same, but expanded the Mentor/Mentee program to Advent as well as Lent this year because of the success we experienced with it in 2016. Our confirmation enrollment is at 32 students this year, and we have four small group leaders (called *Guides*). Pastor Cathy and I rotate leading this group.

Adult Education: The big change to Adult Ed this year, was the addition of the "Follow Me" faith studies, held during Coffee Hour and Extended Time. We have been using the ELCA Social Statements as our lesson material. Classes have ranged in size from about 5-20 participants. All other adult ed classes have continued as usual this year.

Overview: In my fifth full year as the Associate Pastor of Bethany Lutheran, I would characterize 2017 as the healthiest year for our church since I was called. This is true of the church by a number of measures. Although there were staffing changes, all of our full-time staff members were back this year, which allowed us to focus on ministry, and keep planning ahead. We continue to be financially healthy and stable, but more importantly I think people are truly energized by all the things God is up to in this congregation. The exciting thing, is that there is still a lot of room for our church to grow, as we continue to expand our ministry and mission out into the community of Crystal Lake. The Holy Spirit continues its work here, as we faithfully follow our mission of *reflecting Christ is message and action*.

MINISTRY ASSISTANT ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Bethany Gola

¹⁹ *And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people".* ²⁰ *Immediately they left their nets and followed him.* Matthew 4:19-20

Blessed is your commitment to fish!

What a wonderful year of faith, fellowship, and fun! When I look back on all that we have done together I am in complete awe! I am simply inspired beyond words at the level of commitment through love that all of our members give. Your time, your talents, signs of God's gracious love given to you poured out through your actions.

In this day in age where opportunities to give and serve abound and where time is limited and precious as you dart from activity to activity so many of you choose to make a difference here in the work we do together as brother and sister in Christ. For that we say, "Thanks be to God!"

While we have said goodbye to members as they move away from Crystal Lake, we also say hello to new members ready to join the Bethany family. I'm excited for our new membership each season as I watch a change over the years – our members are more invested in the church *before* they become members. We grow our roots deeper and stronger.

I am encouraged with our evangelism and outreach to our immediate community and beyond. Our new programs (Kick Off Sunday, Trunk or Treat, Johnny Appleseed, and Drama Program with debut at the Ice Cream Social) are all off to a good start. We will also continue to nourish those existing programs that steadily lead us on our way to welcome all and grow our church family.

Teams and taskforces have been given great attention to their communication needs over the last year making sure their messages are delivered to the congregation in a variety of different ways. Comprehensive, unified communication is a strong goal that we continue to work on.

This year has also been a continuation of looking at internal systems in office management. I appreciate everyone's willingness to try things a little differently for the sake of reaching goals effectively and efficiently.

So let's keep fishing together and cast our nets wide in 2018!

DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & MUSIC

Submitted by Ruth Ann Poppen

The Twelve Months of Worship and Music Ministry at Bethany
As recorded in the 2017 Book of Annual Reports

In the **First Month** of music ministry, the faithful members of Bethany Choir and the Bell Canto Ringers resumed weekly rehearsals and regularly shared their gifts with the people of Bethany at *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Second Month** of 2017, the concept of a bereavement choir was favorably embraced. Volunteers led the singing at three funerals during the year. Youth instrumentalists and vocalists added extra variety to the musical offerings at *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Third month** of ministry, High School students and adults presented interactive Lenten Gospel readings and served as cantors at the five midweek Lenten services. The Fine Arts Series sponsored "The Cotton Patch Gospel",

a drama/musical interpretation, which was presented on Sunday afternoon, March 16, in addition to *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Fourth Month** of 2017, Holy week services included the Rite of First Communion for 15 students on Maundy Thursday evening, a visual interpretation of Christ's Seven Last Words on Good Friday, and readers, a soloist, and fire under the canopy were included in the Saturday Easter Vigil. At services on the Sunday of the Passion and Easter, Singers, Ringers, Brass, Percussion and dancers led the congregation in two instead of our three weekly Sunday worship services.

In the Fifth Month of ministry, Dr. Michael Burkhardt presented a hymn festival, "The Lamb", showcasing Bethany's pipe organ. Dr. Burkhardt was assisted by the Bethany choir, youth singers, instrumentalists and readers for this Fine Arts concert. Throughout the month we celebrated the Easter season at each of *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Sixth Month** of 2017, the Vision Dancers and the Bethany Choir celebrated the Day of Pentecost and the birth day of the church. A women's ensemble and talented Bethany vocalists and instrumentalists added vibrancy to *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Seventh Month** of ministry, Bethany's first summer musical drama production, **Welcome Back, Billy Best**, was well-attended and enthusiastically embraced. Twenty students, ages 4 to 17, two incredible "Artist in Residence" directors, producers, accompanists, costume coordinators and parent volunteers made this week long camp and production come to life. A patriotic hymn sing and Christmas in July bookended this month of *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Eighth Month** of 2017, a Wednesday evening blessing of Pets and preparations for the Fall Music and worship season filled the weeks. New handbell tables and newly refurbished hand bells were readied for fall. A men's ensemble and guest musicians supported *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Ninth Month** of ministry, our choirs and bells returned for another year of singing and ringing, youth musicians began their Wednesday evening rehearsals, and the Bethany Arts Series began with a highly varied and wonderful vocal performance by Acte II. Kick off Sunday on Sept. 10 gave renewed energy to *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Tenth Month** of 2017, our students began extended time in preparation for the Christmas program. On the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we had a festival choir, brass and a special monologue sermon by Martin Luther himself at *our three Reformation Day worship services*.

In the **Eleventh Month** of ministry, All Saints Day worship services were highlighted by the Vision Dancers, accompanied by soloists and the Bell Canto Ringers. The Thanksgiving worship service included the Bethany Choir and trombone instrumentals. The month ended with Christ the King Sunday, which included brass accompaniment to the sing-along Hallelujah Chorus as a conclusion to *our three weekly Sunday worship services*.

In the **Twelfth Month** of 2017, the children's Christmas program, **Tails from the Manger**, was presented at the 10:45 service on December 17th. Christmas Eve included flute/euphonium/soloists/guitar/violin/saxophone/the Bethany Choir and Bell Canto ringers. On December 31st, at our ONE weekly Sunday worship service, we bid farewell to Kristin Miller, our faithful accompanist and resident musician since 2002. A reception was held in her honor following the 10:00 a.m., at our *One weekly Sunday worship service*.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Ruth Ann Poppen

Director of Worship & Music

DIRECTOR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Sashire Ayares

Writing the annual report for Sunday school is complicated because the “school” year and the calendar year are different. The report is presented dividing the year up in school year format. Showing the end of one school session and the beginning of another.

Jan.-May '17 the children in Sunday school continued the program B.L.A.S.T.-Believers Learning and Serving Together. This program has all the children, 3 years old and up, integrated into worship on a regular and consistent basis, hoping that the kids will become more familiar and therefore more comfortable in a worship setting. And, in the classrooms, the kids are having fun learning in new and different ways using SPARK's Rotational curriculum materials. Activity leaders presented Art, Science, and Cooking, Bible Stories & Games on a rotation schedule to each grade level except preschool. Milestone curriculum (Faith basics) was sandwiched in during these months as well.

Sept. – Dec '17 We are still using the curriculum from SPARK's Rotational curriculum materials, however instead of having extra adults come in and teach the extras from the curriculum, the classroom teachers have integrated it into what they are teaching. This way the teachers can continue to build a strong relationship with their students. We have added in an extra lesson and celebration on Martin Luther and modified the Advent fair to join in with the rest of the congregation.

The best part of some of these new things added is that the students are learning more about our faith and traditions and that we are blending with the congregation. The best part of Sunday school is bringing people together to learn about Christ! Amen!

In closing, I pray that our Good and Gracious God will continue to richly bless the children and families of Bethany Lutheran. Amen.

YOUTH MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Paul Cannon, Associate Pastor

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the youth ministry program at Bethany Lutheran Church is to create an environment that enables Bethany youth to connect with God, with the church community, with the wider community and with one another. The youth ministry team is working towards this goal by strengthening relationships through fellowship, service, and worship, knowing that this is all accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Family Ministry: Our family ministry events continue to see good turnout throughout the year. Our Back-to-Church BBQ was well attended again this year. We also had good turnout for the Hayride (which was cancelled due to rain, but brought indoors and turned into a family game night!). Bell Ringing in December had a number of families attend as well. I continue to believe that today's families, particularly with the increase of dual income households, are hungry for meaningful time spent with their children, which is something the church can provide.

Middle School Youth Group: In the beginning months of 2017, our middle school group met monthly for various activities. This group has a lot of overlap with Confirmation, as I consider that to be part of their weekly fellowship that we provide. For that same reason, Confirmation Camp at Lutherdale, which students went to last June, also ties in to our Youth Ministry goals. We had thirteen youth attend Confirmation Camp this summer. In the fall, we changed our programming to happen on the third and fourth Sundays of the month, and called it *Impact Youth Sundays*. These events have been well attended, averaging around 15 participants.

High School Youth Group: Our high school youth group continues to be driven by the mission trips that we have every summer. We had 19 youth join us in Minneapolis this past July to help serve the community for a week up there. We have also scheduled two different mission trips for the summer of 2018, one of them to West Virginia for a typical mission trip, and the other to Houston for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. We have 22 Youth signed up between the two trips. Our participating families are actively engaged in the fundraising efforts for the trips. We have struggled, however, to engage our high school youth in most regularly scheduled events. Our weekly Bible study fizzled out, and we were never able to engage our high school youth in Impact Youth Sundays, as we hoped. The feedback we've received has been that this is largely due to their busy schedules.

Bethany Youth Account: Our 2017 mission trip to Minneapolis was relatively inexpensive (around \$9,000 total), and we were able to easily fundraise this amount with the Spaghetti Dinner and help from Endowment. For our 2018 Mission Trips, we will have a much larger fundraising goal of \$28,000. We are off to a good start with our “Fueled by Faith” fundraiser and Scrip Gift Card sale. We will also still have the Spaghetti Dinner in 2018 to help bring in some money. Endowment asked us to submit future mission trip requests differently. Instead of a lump sum, they are asking that individual families submit scholarship requests.

Youth Summit and What’s Next in 2018: In November of 2017, I was invited to a “Youth Summit” called by the synod and attended by Bishop Clements to talk about how to do youth ministry better in the synod. One way we would like to approach this, is through collaborative ministry, particularly between other local ELCA churches in our area. We are encouraged by this past year as to what’s ahead for us in 2018. We have a lot of great foundations to build on, and a lot of great opportunities ahead of us. We see God working in our young people every day, and through the Holy Spirit; they have shown tremendous leadership as they continue to grow in the love of Christ.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Submitted by: Roger Wolfe

The Nominating Committee consists of voting members of Bethany Lutheran Church. The committee’s purpose is to encourage and select members of the congregation to volunteer their time and talents to serve on the Bethany Lutheran Council and other positions.

2017 Nominating Committee Members:

Christine Ticknor, Sherry Bagby, Tammy Nobbe, Roger Wolfe, Pastor Cathy Daharsh

Positions Nominated to be Elected by Congregation

Church Council:

Tom Leahy (3-year term)
Rob Huffman (3-year term)
Christine Ticknor (1-year term)
Roger Wolfe (1-year term)

2018 Nominating Committee

Pastor Cathy Daharsh	Senior Pastor
Don Barkley	Outgoing Council/voting member
Judy Engebretson	Outgoing Council/voting member
Laverne Lund	Outgoing Council/voting member
Todd Pierzina	Outgoing Council/voting member

Endowment Fund Board of Trustees – 5-year term

Sherry Bagby

Synod Assembly

(Sue Dobbe-Leahy, 2 council members TBA, 1 voting member TBA plus
1 youth member TBA)

Positions Approved by Council

Treasurer – Fred McCullough (term expires January 2019)
Assistant Treasurer – Mike Bagby (term expires January 2019)
Council Recording Secretary– Karen Meador (no term requirements)
Synod Assembly– TBA

Continuing Positions

Council Members –Don Barkley (term expires January 2019), Judy Engebretson (term expires January 2019) Laverne Lund (term expires January 2019) Tammy Nobbe (term expires January 2019), Todd Pierzina (term expires January 2019), Christine Ticknor (term expires January 2019), Roger Wolfe (term expires January 2019), Charlie Hall (term expires January 2020), Phil Smith (term expires January 2020).

Audit Committee – John Engebretson, Cheryl Reimer, Mel Meyer (terms expire January 2019)

Financial Secretary/Assistant Financial Secretaries

Ted Groat (term expires January 2019)
Sharon Larson (term expires January 2019)
Jill Reiling (term expires January 2019)
Terry Micklevitz (term expires January 2019)

Assistant Financial Secretaries – Simply Giving

Carolyn Wahl (term expires January 2019)
Julie Leffel (term expires January 2019)

Endowment Fund Board of Trustees –Jill Peterson (term expires January 2019), Jerry Schafer (term expires January 2020), Shirley Anderson (term expires January 2021), Mel Meyer (term expires January 2022)