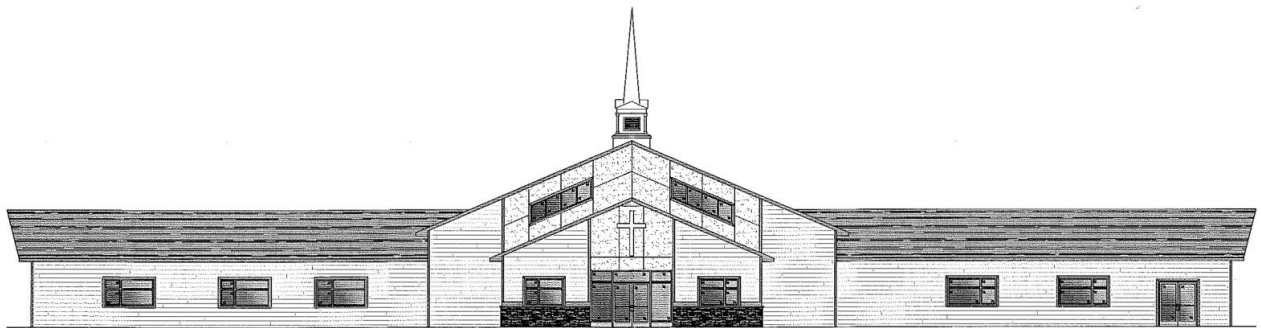


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2016



LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

2016 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

February 7th - 10:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. 2015 Minutes
3. Review of Reports
 - a. Pastor
 - b. President
 - c. Finance
 - d. Property
 - e. Other Reports
4. Council Elections
5. Proposed Budget
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff – 2015

Pastor Bryan Anderson
Sunday School Superintendent Patti Wyss
Custodian Julie Barfknecht
Secretary Terri Moe
Financial Secretary Wayne Severson
Treasurer Kyle Overby
Music Director Brian Wick
Pianist Sheryl Wirth

Church Council Officers – 2015

President Tim Wyss
Vice President Rosemary Johnson
Secretary Jackie Goodmanson

Church Council Members

Until 2016

Aaron Buhr
Jackie Goodmanson
Dave Somsen
Nicole St. John

Until 2017

Curtis Glaesemann
Jason Monson
Dale Rosen
Dale Wirth

Until 2018

Rosemary Johnson
Todd Lillie
Linda McIntire
Tim Wyss



A District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Augustana District * 335 Main Street South * Hutchinson, MN 55350
www.AugustanaDistrict.org

AUGUSTANA DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT **2015**

THANK YOU for your partnership in the Augustana District. We are blessed to be one of the 12 Districts of LCMC. 2015 has been a significant year of ministry and mission!

The Augustana District is a non-geographic district. We consist of 58 congregations from 10 states that span from Washington to Georgia and from Oregon to Texas. Most of our congregations hail from Minnesota. There are 73 pastors on the Augustana clergy roster.

The key words that best describe our purpose are these: *Theology. Church. Mission.* We seek to serve LCMC congregations by tending to theology. Lutheran theology is our gift to share with others and our responsibility to interpret for our context. Alongside this, we also support and encourage churches. This can mean any number of things. Some examples include sharing resources and staff, aiding in the call process or conflict resolution and partnering with congregations for creative programs. Our theology and our work together as churches is all about proclamation – that is, proclaiming the good news to all people from “Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.” This is called the Great Commission and it is carried out locally (“Jerusalem”) and globally (“the ends of the earth”).

To assist in carrying out Augustana’s mission, we have four Boards: Board of Theology and Ministry, Board of Christian Education, Board of Congregational Missions and Board of World Mission. We also have a women’s organization called WOW (Women of the Word). Our District Council is the group that oversees and coordinates our various ministries.

Our website (www.augustanadistrict.org) or our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/augustanadistrict) will give up-to-date information and resources. If you know of other congregations or pastors interested in the Augustana District, please contact Pastor Randy Freund (rfreund@newcreationperham.org), Service Coordinator or Wendy Mayland, Administrative Assistant (wendym@faithlc.com).

Once again, thank you for your partnership in this ministry!
In Christ,
Pastor Randy Freund, Service Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE!
ANNUAL CONVENTION
April 23, 2016, Living Word Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2015

Call to Order:

Tim Wyss called the meeting to order

2014 Minutes- Motion made by Mike Johnson to approve the minutes. Sarah Hillstead seconded the motion and motion was carried with unanimous consent.

Review of Reports- see attached reports

Pastor Bryan took a moment to thank- Brian Wick, Patti Wyss, and Theresa Anderson for all the support and all they do above and beyond the call of duty.

Election of council members:

Verna Pittman and Todd Lillie are on the ballot for Council. Dale Wirth made motion to accept the nominees. Motion seconded by Dixie Croes, motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Budget for 2014:

Questions were addressed. Motion made by Mike Johnson to adjust payroll taxes after consulting with Kyle Overby. Seconded by Jason Monson and motion was carried unanimously. Questions about custodial payroll increase and a clear description for cleaning expectations will be discussed by the council and presented to the custodian.

Motion to approve the budget was made by Dale Wirth and seconded by Mike Johnson and motion was carried unanimously.

No other business was conducted.

Adjourned-

Carol Greene made motion to adjourn and Nicole St. John seconded. Motion carried.

2015 Pastoral Acts

10 Baptisms

Sterling Robert Wayne Alvermann
Braxton John Campion
Alexa Monroe Emerson
Clayton Robert Gilbertson
Brantley Steven Harris
Nevaeh Lynn Klinger
Montana Niles
Benstrum Eli Ninke
Maci Lee Nilssen
Alice Reign Stokes Sullwold

11 Confirmation Class

Ryan Anderson
Gabe Colbeth
Jared Fritz
Lucas Kaczmarek
Rob Kjelstad
Mason Krueger
Montana Niles
Maddy Powers
Parker Reindahl
Calvin Rosen
Conner Schramski

13 First Communion Class

Wyatt Brihn
Amelia Buhr
Brayden Christensen
Jakob Foote
Brooke Hadac
Emily Hadac
Nicholas Haley
Kiyah Krueger
Carter Lillie
Barton Lund
Austin Moll
Elizabeth Rosen
Madeline Young

3 Marriages

Anna Anderson & Matthew Wilson
Scott Colgrove & Amy Ahlgren
Richard Selvig & Teresa Collins

5 Funerals

Mark Buhr
Ethel DeCraciun
Viola Johnson
Ruth Paulson
Jodi Voght

30 New Members Received

Louise Ball
Laura Boche-Case (Rayna, Jerret, Jay)
Paul & Heidi Colbeth (Madison, Andrew, Andrew, Gabe, Brennon,
Griffin & Bennett)
Scott & Amy Colgrove (Travis & Emma)
Teresa Collins
Judi Desmond
Ron & Kelly Doeden (Samantha Kelly)
Pat & Bev Hennessy
Dennis & Nancy Luehman
Colleen Moravec
Jim & Carol Williams

8 Members Transferred out

Stacy Kujath (Jakob & Autumn Foote)
Nicole Miller (Dylan & Corrie)
Cyndy Witthoft (Travis Mork)

PASTOR'S REPORT

Given February 7, 2016, summarizing January 1-December 31, 2015

Beloved in Christ, grace to you and peace. Allow me to express my sincere appreciation for the ministry we share as we enter our 10th year together.

WORSHIP

Worship is the central ministry of First Lutheran. This past year our average Sunday attendance for the contemporary service was 49 and the traditional service was 145. I thank all who contribute their time and talent during services, especially our ever faithful and gifted music director, Brian Wick. Special thanks also for Jackie Goodmanson who prepares the projection for the contemporary service and Patti Wyss who has organized the praise band.

Ecumenical services were held on Thanksgiving Eve and Good Friday. Your pastor also leads monthly worship services at the Golden Age Manor in Amery. This past Lenten Season we participated in a Lenten rotation with congregations in our fellowship. It's good to hear another voice from the pulpit. It was a pleasure to have the Silent Messengers from Baldwin lead and excellent worship presentation concerning Christ's passion that was enjoyed by all as well.

EDUCATION

Included elsewhere is an excellent summary of the educational ministry of this congregation. Join me in giving thanks to Patti Wyss for her continued leadership as Sunday school superintendent. We also give thanks to Theresa Anderson for leading the Christmas program. These two servants, along with an army of volunteers have truly inspired and blessed our children.

Currently we have some 74 children registered for Sunday school with many regular attendees. The Community Vacation Bible School was led in cooperation with the Methodist Church and the Covenant Church with 110 kids attending. The committee has decided to rotate the location and leadership duties between the Covenant Church and our own congregation. We continue to enjoy the puppet ministry at Sunday services to introduce the rotation lessons. Volunteers attend a training program to guide our efforts. We are glad to have had some youth assist us in special puppet presentations during Easter.

New Members class in January and November and First Communion classes in the spring are led by your pastor along with Wednesday Confirmation instruction for 8th and 9th graders. I also lead a monthly Women of the Word and bimonthly Lutheran Men in Mission Bible study. Our third Bible Marathon began in January and we had many participants. What undergirds all of my teaching is a trust and respect for the inspiration and authority of God's Word.

Bible Camp Promotion Sunday was held in March and we were successful in recruiting 11 attendees this year. Efforts have been made to strengthen our ministry to youth this past year. In cooperation with area congregations a community Christian youth fellowship has been birthed. They have taken the name, "CLAY" (Christ Led Area Youth). We hold monthly events for fellowship, serving our neighbor and deepening our faith. Special thanks to Jackie Goodmanson

for taking the lead in this area. Many thanks to all who helped with the installation of the playground donated by Mike Lund. This was a big project for the joy of our congregation's children and others who stop by to play.

MISSIONS

We are called by Christ to care for the lost and the least. Your church has done much with our women's prayer shawl and quilting ministries. The ongoing grocery collection for the local food pantry as well as our annual toy drive nets generous giving back to our community. We thank those who continue to sew dresses and shorts. Please also consult the benevolence giving as detailed in the Treasurer's report. Yours is a giving congregation!

Each year we welcome a Gideon evangelist and take a special offering to assist with their distribution of Bibles. The Women of the Word continue a collection of School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Your pastor serves on the local Child Evangelism Fellowship Board. We continued our sponsorship of Child Evangelism Fellowship as a partnering missionary of the congregation. The local director is Lisa Inlow and the offices are in the Clear Lake Community Center. We also continue supporting missionaries from the World Mission Prayer League. One of their missionaries to China, John Gronseth, shared his work and testimony in October to the benefit of all. They have about 100 Lutheran missionaries serving throughout the world. Our high school youth with chaperones, took a week in June to work on a servant team through Youth Works in South Dakota. Finally, thanks also to all who contributed so generously to the Military Bible Sticks this year.

Your pastor encourages each individual of the congregation to continue to reach out to invite the lost to seek Christ and to serve all people in kindness and love. Let your light shine!

MEMBERSHIP

Currently our total membership is at 580 souls. Seek to join me in welcoming the 30 new members who united with the congregation this past year. You will see a tabulation of the various pastoral acts elsewhere. Our hearts go out to those having lost loved ones.

Our fellowship continues to grow and toward that end let us be ever mindful when visitors join us. We need to be extra hospitable as we extend warm greetings, share names, and invite others to join us at the fellowship hour or Bible study. Our ultimate goal is to bring all into Christ's Kingdom.

We had a budget surplus this year with all bills and missions commitments paid on time. It was especially gratifying that we were able to make considerably more payments to reduce the mortgage rather than the minimum. It would be such a blessing to find a buyer for the old church but nothing has been forthcoming. The Council will have to seriously consider its options in the upcoming year.

In closing, I thank you all for what God has been able to accomplish through us during 2015. Let it be our prayer for God's will to be done as we seek to grow His Kingdom.

Christ's Servant,
Pastor Bryan Anderson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been an honor to serve as the church council president in 2015. The council is comprised of Pastor Bryan and twelve members; each who provides unique skills and perspectives for handling congregational responsibilities. I want to thank council members Dave Somsen and Nicole St. John who have served faithfully and will be leaving the board after completing two terms. I have been inspired by the passion and dedication of our council members as we study God's word and strive to serve the needs of our congregation. I am especially grateful for Pastor Bryan for providing us with leadership and spiritual guidance.

First Lutheran has been richly blessed in so many ways again this year. We have had new members join our church family, have seen an increase in worship attendance, provided a vibrant Sunday School for our youth and conducted a successful summer thrift sale and fall smorgasbord. We continued to expand our outreach programs, participated in the community Vacation Bible School and ministered to the Clear Lake community in numerous other ways. With lots of planning and a host of volunteers, we even added a phenomenal playground for the children! Our youth group, under the leadership of Jackie Goodmanson, has taken a very active role in our church and in the community. They have served meals for the community, assisted with the Smorgasbord, attended Christian concerts and been involved in a host of other events. Many of our youth are also active in Christ Lead Area Youth (CLAY), the Christian youth group for the Clear Lake community and beyond.

We are fortunate to offer two worship services each Sunday morning; one with a praise band and contemporary Christian music at 8:30, and the other with a traditional service and choir at 10:00. We have numerous Bible study opportunities to take advantage of as well.

In 2018 we will be celebrating our congregation's centennial. It is time to make plans and set some congregational goals for that milestone. It is also time to begin the planning for the final phase of our church building project; constructing the new sanctuary. We must set goals and proceed in faith, knowing that everything happens in God's time.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the congregation as president in 2015. It has been a growing experience for me during this historic time at First Lutheran Church. Thanks for taking the opportunity and being a part of it. Share the spirit with others and keep praying.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

Tim Wyss
Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – 2015

- January** Approved Annual Budget of \$157,400.
- February** Elected officers: President Tim Wyss, Vice-President Rosemary Johnson and Secretary Jackie Goodmanson.
- March** Approved special service to be led by the Silent Messengers of Baldwin.
- April** Organized for the installation of a playground.
- May** Received parking lot second layer bids.
- Summer** Special congregation meeting per constitution requirements was held in August to approve the roofing of the parsonage.
- September** Discussed lowering of the old church property sale price.
- October** Approved missionary visit from the Lutheran Word Mission Prayer League. Added WAPO Bible Camp to our benevolence giving at \$1,000 a year.
- November** Discussed communion practices and possible plans for repairing the flat roof at the old church site.
- December** Investigating the replacement of plastic sanctuary chairs with padded pew chairs.

2015 Council

We thank the following Council members for their service this past year:

Aaron Buhr
Curtis Glaesemann
Jackie Goodmanson
Rosemary Johnson
Todd Lillie
Linda McIntire
Jason Monson
Dale Rosen
David Somsen
Nicole St. John
Dale Wirth
Tim Wyss

2016 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Council is an elected body of 12 members serving 3 year terms on a rotating basis. The Council meets monthly on the second Thursday to oversee the ministry of the congregation and its pastor. Each member also serves on one committee and serves as an offering counter and communion assistant on a rotating schedule. A group of four comes up for election at each Annual Meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor:

Term expires 2015

Aaron Buhr

Jackie Goodmanson

David Somsen

Nicole St. John

Term expires 2016

Curtis Glaesemann

Jason Monson

Dale Rosen

Dale Wirth

Term expires 2017

Todd Lillie

Linda McIntire

Rosemary Johnson

Tim Wyss

Nominees/Incumbents*

1. Aaron Buhr*
2. Jackie Goodmanson*
3. Sarah Hillstead
4. Liane Petersen
5. Jerry Thompson

SAMPLE COUNCIL BALLOT **First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 2016** **Vote for 4 for a 3-year term.**

Aaron Buhr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Liane Petersen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackie Goodmanson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Thompson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Hillstead	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Nominees will also be taken from the floor at the Annual Meeting.)

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN OF THE WORD TREASURER'S REPORT – 2015

RECEIPTS

Cards, Napkins, Dishcloths, Beet Pickles	438.10
Bakeless Bake Sale and Salad Bar Luncheon Bake Sale	1547.00
Salad Bar Luncheon	790.00
Smorgasbord Bake Sale and Other Sale Items	956.85
Start-up Change for Salad Bar	150.00
Circles and WOW Offerings, Book Reimbursements	457.63
Donations	349.00

Total Receipts \$4688.58

DISBURSEMENTS

Camperships	1902.00
Cards and Napkin Purchasing	65.14
Lifeline Food Pantry	250.00
Start-up Change for Salad Bar	150.00
Circle Study Books	142.00
Shut-In Gifts	20.00
Methodist Christmas for Children	150.00
Interfaith Caregivers	150.00
Pastor Bryan and Family	150.00
Reimburse General Fund- Patterson Funeral	250.00
Books for Graduates	29.87
Postage	98.00
Gas - Tomah WOW Retreat	37.95

Total Disbursements \$3,394.96

CHECKING ACCOUNT

January 1, 2015	\$2119.35
2015 Receipts Deposited	+4688.58
	Total 6807.93
2015 Disbursements	<u>-3394.96</u>
	Balance-December 31, 2015 \$3412.97

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Anderson, Treasurer

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

Another successful year was accomplished with the help of all the women of the church. A bakeless bake sale and Salad Lunch bake sale brought in \$1547.00 and the Smorgasbord Bake sale and sale items netted \$956.85 plus \$790.00 from the Salad Luncheon. This gives us \$2503.85 to be used toward camperships this summer.

Thank you to the men who help and support the women in these endeavors!

We were able to sponsor 14 camperships totaling \$1902. We were also able to donate to our favorite local charities.

All women belong to the WOW group. All are welcome to join a Bible Study Circle of their choice. The Evening Stars meet the first Wednesday afternoon @ 1:00 p.m. at the church. Priscilla meets the second Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the member's homes and Johanna meets the second Thursday at Ridgeview at 2:00 p.m.

Our attendance to the WOW meetings was low this past year. Low attendance isn't from lack of interest as shown by your support with all of our fund raising projects to which you give so generously. We meet quarterly or when necessary to plan an upcoming event. The next planned meeting will be April 21, 2016 @ 1 p.m.

Thank you to all the women of First Lutheran for your generosity and hard work! Our continued success is possible due to your generosity and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Anderson, Secretary

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you enjoy crocheting or knitting but don't have an outlet for your craft? The Prayer Shawl group is always open to new members. We meet once a month on the last Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Quilting room. A cup of coffee and a snack and a little conversation while we work at our current project for an hour and then we say a prayer for all the recipients and those in need we have ministered to and we are done for the month.

Maybe you don't have time for meetings but you are more than welcome to donate whatever you make. Just leave them in the quilting room or the office with your name attached.

If you know someone who could use the comfort of having a shawl with extra prayers woven into the pattern to help them heal, a rack of available shawls is in the fellowship hall. Take what you need but leave a name on the clipboard so we can pray for the recipient.

So don't feel at a loss while your husband is watching sports on TV or off hunting or fishing. Grab some yarn and your needles of choice and get started constructing a warm hug wrapped in lots of prayer. Someone will be very appreciative.

Verna Pittman
Prayer Shawl Ministry

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

The **Lutheran Men in Mission for Christ (LMMC)** is a men's ministry of this church that provides fellowship and spiritual growth through Bible study. The group meets faithfully on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month. The gatherings are small with up to thirteen men; so join us if a small group Bible study interests you. The morning activities start with breakfast served by one of the men from 6:30 – 7:00 followed by a meaningful Bible study lead by Pastor Bryan. We are studying the Gospel of Matthew and usually cover a chapter in the book during one session.

This group financially supports Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) from the offering received for breakfast. The area CEF office is located on the second floor of the Clear Lake Community Center where Lisa Inlow serves as the local coordinator.

This group strives to make all men feel welcome with no prior Bible study experience needed. If you want to experience honest Christian fellowship with other men and explore your faith through meaningful Bible study, join the LMMC group any first and third Saturday morning. No reservation necessary. Call the church office to be placed on the mailing list to receive a reminder post card.

Tim Wyss
LMMC President

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We are believers who gather around the Holy Word and Sacraments, seeking forgiveness and renewal, to hear God's word proclaimed through scripture, sermon, and music. The one thing that we bring to the service is our sinful self and a repentant heart. We come to the service to hear and receive what God does for us. We need to be respectful of what the service has for each of us and those around you and not use the worship time to use your cell phone, leave the service to chit-chat or grab a cup of coffee, or visit with a person next to you. We need to focus on the word of God and what is in store for our lives as we open our hearts to those words.

We offer two services on Sunday. The first service uses contemporary praise music while the second service has the traditional/modern hymns and folk tunes. Whatever style you prefer, know that the words in the music and in the liturgy, the form of our service, are most important, not the style of music that is used.

We are thankful for the people who add their talents and abilities to make our worship a meaningful experience as we Grow God's Family Through Our Service. This includes Pastor Bryan, the ushers, the altar Guild, the readers of the lessons, the communion assistants, the choir, the worship team, the projection operators, and the acolytes. And we can't forget the Sunday School and puppets who are always a big hit when they perform for service.

The choir continues to function and we are always open to new members joining us. Technology is being used to assist singers learn the music which is very helpful given the busy schedules of the singers. The choir will continue to provide special music throughout the year. If you would like to join the choir, let Brian know.

I invite everyone to consider using your God given ability to help in our worship and music experience in an area that is of interest to you. Contact me or let the church office know of your interest.

To God be the glory in our worship and music in this coming year. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Brian Wick
Worship and Music Director

EDUCATION AND YOUTH REPORTS

CRADLE ROLL

In 2015 we added 9 lambs to the Sunday school banner in the church. These lambs go up on the date of a child's baptism and are sent to them on their 3rd birthday, along with a Beginner's Bible given by First Lutheran Women of the Word. Throughout the first three years they receive mailings to encourage the nurture of faith in the home. Children enter Sunday school following this ministry at 4 years old and continue through 6th grade when Confirmation instruction begins.

Gloria Hedquist, Packet Coordinator

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are currently 74 children enrolled in and attending our Sunday school program- age 4 through grade 6.

First Communion for our fifth grade students was held on Maundy Thursday, April 2 with 13 participating: Wyatt Brihn, Amelia Buhr, Brayden Christensen, Jakob Foote, Brooke Hadac, Emily Hadac, Nicholas Haley, Kiyah Krueger, Carter Lillie, Barton Lund, Austin Moll, Elizabeth Rosen and Madeline Young.

First Lutheran Church continues to utilize the rotational model for Sunday school. "The Good News Bible" was distributed to the six SS students entering third grade and will be used through confirmation. "The Beginners Bible" is given to and used by children when they exit the cradle roll and is used through second grade.

This year's scope and sequence of lessons published by Augsburg Fortress was: "Noah's Ark", "Joseph and Pharaoh", "The Sower", "The Widow's Offering", "The Lord's Prayer", and "Four Friends". Sunday, February 15 was utilized as Bible Camp Promotion Sunday and 11 First Lutheran Children attended bible camp this past summer.

Rally Sunday was held on September 13 as we kicked off the Sunday school year. Theresa Anderson directed the Sunday School Christmas Program with the help of many volunteers. This gift of song and story, "Around the Manger" was presented at 2:00 in the afternoon on Sunday, December 20.

The rotational model requires the commitment and involvement of numerous members of our church family. As teachers, they bring their talents, experiences and gifts to share with our children. We thank them and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to stir their hearts to stay involved with this very important work of the church. Theresa Anderson and Stacia Hoefflerle write and perform puppet shows to introduce each rotation. Brian Wick provides weekly piano music for opening and Theresa Anderson accompanies the kids on guitar several times throughout the year. Leona Voss works as a consistent volunteer in the preschool room. Theresa Anderson, Michelle Nelson, Patti Wyss, Nikki and Alex St. John and Brayden Christensen attended a Creative Children's Ministry workshop in March. We extend a special thank you to all of them for their ongoing dedication to the Christian education of our children.

Submitted by Patti Wyss, Sunday School Superintendent

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The community Vacation Bible School was held August 16 - 20, 2015. This year, under the United Covenant Church, we were blessed to serve approximately 110 local children in Pre-K through sixth grade with a science-themed bible school. We had a wonderful group of volunteers who assisted with feeding the mind, body, and spirit of the children who attended. Our financials for the year are as follows:

Beginning Balance: \$548.31 – Jan 1, 2015

Total Expenses: \$64.25 – Curriculum supplies, materials, postage (No reimbursement requests yet received from United Covenant Church or its volunteers)

Donations Received: \$555.00 – Received from donor churches and collections during VBS

Ending Balance: \$1,004.24 – December 31, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Liane Petersen, Treasurer

CONFIRMATION

Eleven 10th graders were confirmed on Sunday, October 25th. Confirmation instruction is held on Wednesday evenings for 7th-9th graders. Tim Wyss and Theresa Anderson team teach the 7th grade class. They study the Gospel of John. Pastor Bryan is the instructor for the 8th and 9th graders. 8th graders are lead through a Bible overview and the 9th grade works their way through the Small Catechism. Youth group and regular worship attendance are also encouraged. Each youth must turn in a minimum of 20 sermon notes a year and acolyte on a rotating basis. All Confirmands are also expected to attend a week of Bible Camp in the summer or a servant trip during the three-year program.

Pastor Bryan

YOUTH

Eleven High School youth with chaperones took a weeklong trip to South Dakota to work on various service projects and put on a Bible School for tribal residents and youth with Youth Works. To fund the expense, the youth served an Ash Wednesday Spaghetti Supper, Lenten Soup Supper, and Easter Brunch. We thank the congregation for its generous support of the youth fundraisers. Participating youth shared their experiences at an inspiring Youth Sunday Service on Rally Sunday. Bible Camp Promotion Sunday gained with 11 registering for various programs. Thanks to the generous support of our women, up to \$150 was paid for all attendees this year. A community wide Christian youth fellowship has been initiated. They have taken the name CLAY (Christ Led Area Youth). We also meet monthly for fellowship, service projects and faith growth.

Pastor Bryan



Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc.

Wapo • Ox Lake • Luther Dell • Wilderness Canoe Base
738 Hickory Point Lane Amery WI 54001 715.268.8434 campwapo.org

Congregational Report 2015

Thank you for being an Association Member Church! We cherish our role as an extension of the ministry that happens in your congregation. We are thankful for your support in 2015 and look forward to our ministry opportunities together in 2016.

In February 2015 we welcomed a new executive director, Dr. Paul Hill. Paul has a long history in outdoor ministries as a director, high adventure facilitator, speaker and teacher. He is currently leading a research team on effective camp practices. Connect with Paul at paulhill@campwapo.org.

Early in his leadership transition, Paul completed a six month Major Assessment of LWLBC. You can read the document on our website (campwapo.org/news). The assessment is a critical starting point in helping the board and staff evaluate current programs, plan new ministry experiences, and create strategies to better serve our constituents and congregational partners.

The theme this past summer was AMAZINGGRACE, emphasizing both the unconditional grace of God in Christ, and the call to run the amazing "race" of serving others as Christ's disciples. We hired 201 college-aged summer staff to work with campers. We were inspired by their courage to answer this call to ministry, their dedication to kids, and their unwavering willingness to serve.

Certainly a highlight of the year was the completion of the purchase of Wilderness Canoe Base, the camp we have been managing since 2001. In 2014, we were presented with the unique opportunity to assume ownership of the camp. With the help of many amazing friends of Wilderness we are on track to raise the last \$287,000 to complete our \$1.3 million Renewal campaign for the purchase of Wilderness.



Luther Dell saw some physical improvements this year, including a new beach, a reinforced deck on Sunwall, and continued work on bathrooms. Luther Dell continues to be a favorite get-away for families and youth groups. We treasure our relationship with YouthWays Ministries and are grateful for the Luther Dell summer camp experience we can provide for these kids.

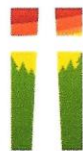
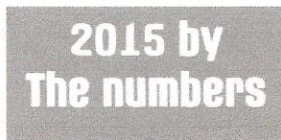


The summer programs at Wapo consistently draw large numbers of youth campers. We are so grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside these young people. In 2015, almost 200 campers attended one of several Wapo One Day programs and the waterfront boasted a new water trampoline. Our retreat ministry continues to fill the year round calendar. We are thankful for these guests who come away to quilt, scrapbook, sing, worship, meditate, pray and play.



Ox Lake hosted a variety of programs last summer. One highlight for staff was a new Day Camp for local youth. We were thankful for a faith-filled, flexible and hardworking staff. They welcomed their campers with gusto and grace.

We are profoundly grateful for the friends who pray for this ministry on a regular basis and for those who support us with financial gifts, and for the hundreds of volunteers who give the gift of time and talent. Thank you for helping make a difference in the faith lives of thousands of kids each year.



- 5395 Summer campers at all 4 sites
- 201 Summer Staff hired
- 5000+ Year round retreaters at all 4 sites
- Over \$120,000 in Camper Scholarships
- 94 Association Member Churches



Lifeline Food Pantry – 2015 Annual Report

“Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it.” Prov.22:9

Another year has passed and because of the generosity of our supporters, Lifeline Food Pantry was able to offer food assistance to many families in the Clear Lake and Clayton areas. We are so grateful for the donations we receive. Thank you!

During 2015 our local pantry distributed over 111 ton of food. Donated funds allowed us to purchase over \$24,000.00 in food items. Our resources come from grants, churches & church groups, community drives, individuals, civic clubs & groups, and businesses. Core contributors are our area churches and individuals. The bulk of our purchases are made from Second Harvest Heartland; the upper mid west’s largest hunger relief organization that constantly accepts and distributes donations. As an agency partner, we are able to receive items from them for pennies per pound, thus monetary donations offer us more ‘bang for our buck’ ☺

Lifeline Food Pantry is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization described in section 501 (1) (3). Your contributions are tax deductible. LFP is one of 32 host sites for Westcap’s TEFAP (*The Emergency Food Assistance Program*) A federal program offering commodities to supplement the diets of low-income needy families, including the elderly, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance. Our pantry and our clients meet eligibility requirements to receive these items.

We are open for service twice per week and emergency contact information is posted for those in need. Currently we support an average of 165 families that follow our ‘once per month’ visit policy. We sincerely respect our client’s privacy and confidentiality is a priority. The statistics below represent our normal service activity.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Number of families	1,882	1,886	1,732	1,946	1,976
Individuals in these families	5,366	5,525	4,549	5,291	5,418
Adults, 18 & older	3,437	3,610	3,165	3,586	3,571
Children under 18	1,929	1,915	1,384	1,705	1,847

LFP is also one of 13 local host sites in Westcap’s seven county service area for the seniors only *Commodity Supplemental Food Program*. Low income seniors who are pre-qualified (age 60+ and at or below 130% of the federal poverty level) will receive a box of assorted commodity foods as a nutrition supplement. The USDA commodities arrive at the pantry and LFP distributes on behalf of Westcap. On average, 90 individuals benefit from this monthly program. This service is separate from normal pantry operation.

We look forward to the area’s annual ‘Christmas for Children’ project. Each year, gift boxes are prepared to furnish program coordinators with a generous amount of nutritious foods to distribute to families participating in this program. Our local Lions Club offers their support by providing a Christmas meat for these boxes.

Our many volunteers are priceless. Without them we would be lost. They unselfishly give of their time and energy. They are all greatly appreciated and true assets to our team effort. **Thank you** to everyone. I am always overwhelmed by God’s faithfulness in providing for our pantry’s needs. May you be blessed as you continue to support the work of Lifeline Food Pantry and our mission to fight hunger in our community.

Gratefully,
Deb Arcand - Administrator

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

As we get comfortable with our new building, work continues to keep improving it.

- ✓ Last year we expanded the parking lot, this year we were able to apply a layer of asphalt.
- ✓ We purchased a freezer to be used for a multitude of things including storing our treats for the all-important fellowship each Sunday.
- ✓ Thanks to many hours of a dedicated few, we were able to install the donated playground for the youth.
- ✓ The parsonage roof was re-shingled.
- ✓ New aluminum can bin in the back of the church. Thanks to all who donate their aluminum.

Looking to the future,

- ✓ Thanks to a few parishioners that are willing to donate materials and labor, we will be moving forward in getting signage for our church.
- ✓ We are looking at moving forward with the purchasing some pew chairs. These will replace the folding chairs.
- ✓ Replacing the parsonage driveway.

We are also trying to maintain our former church, keeping it marketable, as we pray for a potential buyer. Last year we replaced the shingles on the old fellowship hall. This next year we are in the need to explore options to fix the leak above the entry way.

Please remember, we are always in need of volunteers to shovel snow, mow the lawn and serve on committees.

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd Lillie & Dale Rosen

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Our First Lutheran family continues to grow and give generously to the Church. In 2015 giving towards both the general fund and the building fund exceeded budget requirements. In the general fund this allowed us to complete several projects, most notable the expansion of the parking lot and reroofing the parsonage. The building fund (mortgage) commitment has been met each month and with the excess given to the fund and with the benefit of several large fund raising projects, (the Clear Days garage sale, basket raffle, and smorgasbord to name a few) we have continued to pay down the principle. This is important as we start to move forward with discussions on when to build the new sanctuary. Through your continued support either by monetarily gifts or volunteering your time, many other projects too numerous to note and many that go unnoticed were also completed.

Please review the attached 2016 proposed budget and note changes from 2015 resulting in an increase just under five thousand dollars. It is important to note that at current giving levels we ended 2015 with a generous excess of slightly more than \$21,000 and the 2016 budget even though higher than 2015 should still show a potential excess at the end of the year. We have added four large projects to the bottom of the budget for the congregation to consider. Given the money left from last year and the projected excess from this year we should be able to complete all these projects if the congregation so desires.

As Christians we are called to do God's work and produce good fruit. Our giving of monetary gifts and gifts of time and talents allow us to "grow God's family" both internally within the walls of this Church and externally as you can see by the list of external benevolences provided. The committee gives special thanks to Kyle Overby for serving as church treasurer and Wayne Severson for serving as financial secretary. We also thank the many counters that assist council members after each service performing that task.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Wirth and Dave Somsen

Matthew 12: 33

"A good tree produces only good fruit, and a bad tree produces only bad fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces."

MEMORIAL FUND

2015 Summary

January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

BALANCE BY ACCOUNTS

Account	Balance 1-1-15	Gifts	Expense	Transfer	12/31/2015
Building Fund	\$1,175.00	\$1,975.00		(\$3,025.00)	\$125.00
Unspecified	\$1,301.09	\$295.00	(\$557.60)		\$1,038.49
Sunday School	\$687.74	\$270.00	(\$771.60)		\$186.14
Memorial Garden	\$4,212.00	\$1,265.00			\$5,477.00
Outdoor Signage	\$0.00	\$1,227.00	\$0.00		\$1,227.00
Total:	\$7,375.83	\$5,032.00	(\$1,329.20)	(\$3,025.00)	\$8,053.63

Date	Checks	Written to	Purpose	Fund	Amount
01/22/2015	#5012	First Lutheran Church	Sunday School Dry Erase Boards	Sunday School	\$462.00
02/20/2015	#5013	Clear Lake True Value	Upright Freezer	Unspecified	\$549.00
02/20/2015	#5014	First Lutheran Church	Creative Ministry Conference	Sunday School	\$189.00
2./20/2015	#5015	First Lutheran Church	Transfer to Building Fund in General Fund	Building Fund	\$1,670.00
04/10/2015	#5016	Pastor Bryan Anderson	Sunday School Puppets	Sunday school	\$120.60
11/16/2015	#5017	First Lutheran Church	Transfer to Building Fund in General Fund	Building Fund	\$1,355.00

*Check order charge of \$8.60 for deposit book was deducted from Unspecified Fund on 7/9/2015.

INCOME REPORT - 2015

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Envelopes	7699.00	10826.00	13717.00	10352.00	16434.00	12365.00	9225.00	12376.00	11109.00	9181.00	13567.00	11477.00	138358.00
Simply Giving	1635.00	1635.00	1885.00	1655.00	1885.00	1655.00	1655.00	1885.00	1655.00	1655.00	1885.00	1655.00	20740.00
Plate Offering	1719.04	1635.41	2335.77	1737.80	1056.63	885.52	421.91	600.21	450.85	1363.26	916.75	1252.17	14375.32
Lent Envelopes		583.00	1550.00										2133.00
Easter Envelopes				600.00									600.00
Christmas												4514.94	4514.94
Debit/Credit memos													
Memorials				70.00	25.00								105.00
Sunday School		16.25		26.67					10.28	83.35	12.86	35.36	184.77
Other	150.00	1047.00	513.87	116.00	256.00	277.58	197.00	319.00	110.00	994.09	1297.84	805.00	6083.38
Interest	0.73	0.78	0.67	0.23	0.26	0.31	0.34	0.36	0.48	0.35	2.80	2.39	9.70
Reimbursement							689.00	89.45				137.10	915.55
M-Thursday				340.00									340.00
Thrivent		21.00	47.00		70.00			18.00		24.00	73.00		253.00
G.F. Added deposit		127.00	79.16										206.16
G.F. Income	11203.77	15891.44	20128.47	14897.70	19726.89	15183.41	12188.25	15288.02	13335.61	13301.05	17785.25	19888.96	188818.82
S.G. Bldg. Fund	936.00	936.00	1016.00	941.00	1016.00	941.00	941.00	1016.00	941.00	941.00	1016.00	941.00	11582.00
Building Fund	2425.00	5050.00	4925.00	3870.00	3205.00	3168.00	3430.00	3132.50	3312.00	3136.00	4067.00	5180	44900.50
B.F. Added deposit					20.00	4282.95	122.00	3000.35	20.00		8085.00		15530.30
B.F. Income													72012.80
Total WB.F.	14564.77	21877.44	26069.47	19708.70	23967.89	23575.36	16681.25	22436.87	17608.61	17378.05	30953.25	26009.96	260831.62

Wayne Severson, Financial Secretary

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

January through December 2015

	TOTAL		
	Jan - Dec 15	Budget	\$ Over Budget
GENERAL FUND			
Income			
Income	188,528.46	157,400.00	31,128.46
Interest Income-General Fund	9.70		
Total Income	188,538.16	157,400.00	31,138.16
Expense			
Staff	102,805.25	104,500.00	-1,694.75
Property	31,770.40	25,500.00	6,270.40
Office	5,775.89	6,200.00	-424.11
Worship	3,198.85	4,800.00	-1,601.15
Education	5,123.74	4,000.00	1,123.74
Missions	10,943.01	8,400.00	2,543.01
Miscellaneous Expense	7,491.91	4,000.00	3,491.91
Total Expense	167,109.05	157,400.00	9,709.05
NET GENERAL FUND	21,429.11	0.00	21,429.11
BUILDING FUND			
Other Income			
Mortgage Reduction Fund	71,405.46	45,168.00	26,237.46
Building Fund Receipts	180.00		
Interest Income-Building Fund	193.97		
Total Other Income	71,779.43	45,168.00	26,611.43
Other Expense			
Thrivent Principal Payments	46,110.56	19,337.00	26,773.56
Interest Expense-Building Fund	25,406.90	25,831.00	-424.10
Building Fund Expenditures	14,857.98		
Total Other Expense	86,375.44	45,168.00	41,207.44
NET BUILDING FUND	-14,596.01	0.00	-14,596.01

Respectfully submitted: Kyle Overby

SAVINGS AND FUNDS

December 31, 2015

FUND	WESTCONSIN CREDIT UNION	FIRST MERIT	TOTALS
Building Fund	10,079		10,079
Building Fund-CD's		-	-
Total Building Fund	10,079	-	10,079
Mortgage Reduction Fund	22,564		22,564
Church Savings		1,043	1,043
General Fund		33,525	33,525
Total General Fund		34,568	34,568
TOTALS - ALL FUNDS	32,643	34,568	67,211

Thrivent Note Payable Principal Balance

536,701

Respectfully submitted: Kyle Overby

2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2016 Proposed	2015 Actual	2015 Budget
Staff			
Pastor			
a. Base Salary (Tier 15)	50,500	48,718	48,700
b. Social Security Offset	3,863	3,725	3,725
c. Pension	7,222	6,046	6,965
d. Health & Disability	1,300	1,284	1,300
e. Mileage	1,200	0	1,200
f. Continuing Education	600	790	600
g. Supply Pastor	300	400	300
Administrator/Secretary	26,305	25,800	25,800
Music Director	4,600	4,500	4,500
Pianist	1,200	0	100
Treasurer	1,600	1,600	1,600
Financial Secretary	750	750	750
Custodial Services	6,120	6,125	6,000
Payroll Taxes	3,013	3,085	2,960
Property			
Insurance	5,800	5,729	5,300
Communications	2,500	2,122	2,200
Utilities	15,000	13,063	15,000
Maintenance (2015 Actual includes \$7,330 for Parsonage Roof)	3,000	11,250	3,000
Special Projects:			
a. Chairs	(2,500)	----	----
b. Old Church Flat Roof	(3,000)	----	----
c. Parsonage Driveway	(5,250)	----	----
d. 2 nd Layer Blacktop	(38,500)	----	
Office			
Postage	1,600	1,691	1,800
Copy Machine	1,600	1,634	1,600
Office Supplies	2,500	2,527	2,800
Worship			
Supplies & Licensing	3,000	2,670	4,000
Offering Envelopes	800	529	800
Education			
Sunday School	1,500	1,596	1,500
Confirmation & Youth	1,500	1,678	1,500
Adult Education	1,000	1,050	1,000
Missions (See Benevolence Schedule)	9,400	10,733	8,400
Miscellaneous	4,500	7,596	4,000
Mortgage	(45,168)	(71,405)	(45,168)
Total Budget	162,273	166,691	157,400
	Special Projects (+49,250)		

2016 BENEVOLENCE SCHEDULE

Month	LCMC	Augustana District	Local Ministries	World Ministries
January	\$100	\$100	\$250 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
February	\$100	\$100	\$250 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
March	\$100	\$100	\$250 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
April	\$100	\$100	\$250 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
May	\$100	\$100	\$250 Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
June	\$100	\$100	\$250 Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$250 Lutheran Bible Translators
July	\$100	\$100	\$250 Child Evangelism Fellowship	\$250 Lutheran Bible Translators
August	\$100	\$100	\$250 Child Evangelism Fellowship	\$250 World Mission Prayer League
September	\$100	\$100	\$250 Habitat for Humanity	\$250 World Mission Prayer League
October	\$100	\$100	\$250 Habitat for Humanity	\$250 World Mission Prayer League
November	\$100	\$100	\$250 Salvation Army	\$250 World Mission Prayer League
December	\$100	\$100	\$250 Salvation Army	\$250 World Mission Prayer League
December			\$1000 WAPO Bible Camp	
TOTALS	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$3,000	3,000

Grand Total \$9,400