



St. James Lutheran Church

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION ANNUAL GOVERNANCE MEETING 10:45 a.m. June 5, 2016

Schedule

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

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

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Report of the Tellers (Quorum is 46 voting members)

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes, January 31, 2016

Annual Reports

Report of the President

Report of Pastor Holmer

Reports of the Committees

Elections

Resolutions from Endowment Board

Resolutions

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Congregation Financial Meeting January 31, 2016

Pastor Holmer opened the meeting with prayer.

Josh Hornaday, Church Council Vice President, called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.

The tellers reported the presence of a quorum.

Josh Hornaday reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve it. The agenda was adopted.

The minutes of the June 7, 2015 Annual Governance meeting were approved as presented.

Josh Hornaday introduced Jim Davoux, chairman of the Endowment Board, to talk about the Land Fund. Jim said that it has been a year since the sale of the land and he wanted to report on what has been done and the Endowment Board's thoughts on the management of the proceeds. The congregation approved the sale of the land on November 2, 2014. The land was sold in January 2015. All of the money was invested by June 2015. Jim reviewed the original resolution, noting that the money was to be a permanent endowment with yearly earnings designated for extraordinary benevolence and a contingency fund with money set aside for inflation and administrative fees.

Jim provided information from the endowment section of our constitution, noting that most endowments are permanent funds in which the principal is not touched and income generated is not used for the annual operating budget. He reviewed the definitions of a Permanent Endowment Fund, in which the principal must be maintained and the proceeds can be designated for restricted or unrestricted purposes; a Temporary Restricted Fund, in which the principal does not have to be maintained, but can be used for a designated purpose; and an Unrestricted Fund, which has no restrictions. The Land Fund money came in as a sale of a church asset, rather than a gift or bequest with restrictions. The endowment board is recommending that it should be treated as a temporary restricted fund. This will give the church more flexibility on use of the funds now and in the future and will allow a simplified disbursement process.

The Endowment Board is recommending that the Land Fund be invested as a temporary restricted fund to be managed by the endowment committee. In an effort to meet the investment objectives and preserve the purchasing power of the Land Fund, 4% of a 3 year rolling average valuation shall be withdrawn. The Board feels that 4% is a very conservative amount and that, over time, this will preserve the principal. Furthermore, the Endowment committee would have the authority to approve a request of more than 4%. Distributions would halt if the balance of the fund were to drop below \$850,000. The Church Council would determine the details of how the distribution would be used, keeping the ratio of 10% for special benevolence and 90% for a reserve fund with priority given to building up a major maintenance fund.

Jim asked if there were any questions.

Susan Paul asked about the type of investment. Ron Kok-Albias, member of the Endowment Board, explained that the money had been invested with Wintrust. The board had given them the parameters of the investment. Wintrust has the responsibility of managing the funds given the church's goals.

Susan Paul asked if the distribution would be 4% of the Land Fund. The answer was yes. She asked what the current value was. It is approximately \$953,000.

It was asked why the 90% was being designated as a reserve instead of major maintenance. Jim Davoux explained that the Endowment Board doesn't want to make spending decisions. The Church Council should make these decisions. The Council's current thought is that major maintenance is a priority, but the Endowment Board thinks the Council should have flexibility for future decisions. Pete Clemens said that the Council had originally designated this money for maintenance, but that he agrees with giving Council flexibility in their future decision-making.

Choosri Goebel asked if there was review of

Wintrust. Jim Davoux said that the Endowment Board meets quarterly and reviews the status of all funds. They meet with Wintrust twice a year.

Jon Paul, Treasurer of the congregation, thanked Chris Meyer for all of her work and time in preparing the financial reports. (Details of the 2015 review and the proposed 2016 budget can be found in the Annual Finance Report of the Congregation dated January 31, 2016.)

Jon said that we were blessed to have a \$6,000 surplus at the end of 2015. He is grateful to the congregation for their faithfulness in giving to both the general fund and renewing fund. He thanked Pete Clemens and the others who had worked to bring about the sale of the land.

In reviewing the Renewing Fund, Jon noted that 2015 projects had been paid for and there was \$11,550 left for projects in 2016. Most money coming into this fund will be used to pay down the mortgage, which should be retired in April of 2017.

Jon moved to approve the proposed budget for 2016. He explained the sources of income and the anticipated expenses. He asked for questions:

Pete Clemens asked what the actual savings had been from the change in insurance carriers. It was between one and two thousand dollars.

Pete Clemens commented on the surplus from 2015, which is something the congregation hasn't experienced in many years.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2016 budget as presented. The budget was approved by voice vote.

Josh Hornaday noted that the Endowment Board had made their presentation to the Church Council and that the new proposal had been vetted by the Council. Pete Clemens commented that he thought the idea of a "floor" amount for the fund was a good idea. Susan Paul asked when we would vote on the Endowment Board's proposal. Jim Davoux said that the Board was not making a proposal today. He explained that the Board is independent and has authority to manage the funds. However, based on today's discussion, he felt it would be a good idea to bring the proposal to the congregation in June.

Josh Hornaday presented information on the Synod Assembly to be held June 10-11, 2016. Pastor Holmer attends with three members of the congregation. Carol Bennett and Tom Ebert had volunteered to attend. Josh asked for another volunteer. Hearing none, he said that he would go, with Linda Berner being an alternate if he was not able to attend. A motion was made and seconded to approve these delegates. The motion was approved.

Pastor Holmer said that St. James has a long history of supporting refugees, noting the Mungs and Mr. Pejman. In November, he and members from the Social Ministry Committee attended a meeting on the work of Refugee One. This is a consortium that includes Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Chicago is a major hub for settlement of refugees. As a partner, St. James would need to raise \$8,000 for a family's early expenses. We would also provide furniture and other essential items for an apartment as well as personal support as the family gets settled. Refugee One places the families in Chicago close to their offices so that the families can attend classes in English and job skills. Refugee One has a very high success rate with most families becoming independent within six months to a year. The Social Ministry Committee will begin a campaign in May to raise money and gather needed items. A family could be identified as early as June. The Committee brought this information to the Council, who approved Refugee One as an outreach emphasis for 2016.

Josh Hornaday adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Holmer expressed his gratitude for the faithfulness and generosity of the congregation and the faithfulness of service given by the leaders of the congregation. Pastor Holmer closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Berner, Secretary

Report of the President

On a recent road trip with my mother and one of my sisters, we were involved in an accident that left the car severely damaged but us unhurt. After we were safe and on our way again, we marveled at the number of people who helped us get through that time. State troopers, fire fighters, EMTs, courtesy patrol drivers, and tow truck drivers on the scene sorted out what happened and cleared the highway. Gas station employees stowed the damaged car and drove us to a hotel. Hotel employees made us feel welcome and safe. The rental car agent brought a vehicle to our hotel because that was easier for us. The insurance adjuster and agent got the claim started. Yes, they were just doing their jobs, but each one went beyond their duties for us. We thanked every one of them profusely. And then there was Mike, a thousand miles away, who dealt with getting his damaged car shipped back to home. Something good came out of that nasty situation. We went on our way with grateful hearts. We were much less susceptible becoming annoyed at delays, inconveniences, or unexpected changes to our plans. In a way, it made the trip much more enjoyable than it would have been. We went everywhere we had planned to go, and had a wonderful time, on purpose.

During the week my Sunday bulletin is a reminder of how to live each day. I go back to the prayers printed in the service for encouragement and guidance. This offertory prayer is one I should memorize:

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

It is good to be reminded in such effusive language of our many blessings. And we ask God to help us remember those blessings and “pay it forward”.

This book of reports tells how we worship and serve – how we follow Christ, make disciples and live the gospel. Each page shows the accomplishments and goals of the committees. It illustrates how we put Jesus first through our worship and when we see Him in the faces of those we work to help and serve.

This is a time to stop and look, to thank those who have served this year, and to see where each of us can be of use going forward. Each of us has a contribution to make.

It has been an honor to serve as president of this congregation. There is a spirit of renewing here. Many thanks are due the staff and council for their diligence in the day to day matters of the church. Their presence keeps the work flowing so our many volunteers know what to do and when to do it. Thank you to the congregation for all of the volunteer hours and financial contributions this year. We are a healthy congregation in so many ways. And many thanks are due to Pastor Holmer, whose leadership, friendship and guidance is there when we need it.

There is so much work for us to do in this world. Ken Olsen reminded us in his recent message that ours is a good place to be. Pastor Holmer reminded us that we need to speak our faith in words and actions.

I can add nothing to the post communion prayer in my tattered bulletin:

We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

See you in church!

Carol Bennett

Report of Pastor Holmer

In the annual State of the Union address given to congress by the president, it is standard for the president to conclude by affirming that “the state of the union is strong.” While this affirmation may be more valid some years than others, it is always good to end on a positive note.

I begin by stating that the state of St. James Lutheran Church is healthy and strong. While there is always room for growth and improvement, there are a number of reasons in light of which we can affirm the good health of our congregation.

Our church building and grounds are in excellent condition, thanks to the many projects completed in our Renewing campaign. We have increased our visibility by removing all the buckthorn (and the little house) and by adding exterior illumination. The beauty of our church and surrounding properties can now be enjoyed by members and community. Inside there is freshness to all our spaces for worship, education, fellowship and administration. It is a pleasure to come here each day! New windows and new HVAC units have improved efficiency and reduced utility expenses.

We are in a good place in terms of financial stability. Our regular annual offerings enabled us to meet all commitments and end the fiscal year with a positive balance of several thousand dollars. The Renewing campaign funded all our improvements and has reduced our mortgage to the point where we are hoping to be debt free next year. The Land Fund will generate income to meet future needs for major maintenance and benevolence. The generosity of our members is a great source of strength.

The time and resources devoted to outreach and service to others is a very positive vital sign. Throughout the year we are involved in efforts to be a blessing to others. From PADS to COOL to North Chicago Community Partners to Habitat for Humanity to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois to Sagrado Corazón, we are engaged in

supporting people and ministries in ways that make a difference. Our youth get involved through programs like GIVE5/4NEED and the Mission Trip. Our Sewing Group faithfully provides quilts, pillows and teddy bears. Our focus is not inward but outward. It is a healthy way to live the gospel.

The overall climate at St. James is positive. Members feel good about where we are and where we are headed. Our worship services have a vibrancy and vitality – enriched by the wonderful contributions of all our musical ensembles. Smiles and laughter are common when we gather together. Visitors respond to the warmth and energy they experience when they attend. Children are eager to attend Sunday School. Whenever we ask for contributions or support, people respond.

We are blessed with many talented and capable leaders. Both paid staff and volunteers provide excellent guidance and direction to our ministries. We have two council members who are completing their second consecutive terms on council: Linda Berner and Brenda Shinn. That is six years of devoted service. Tom Ebert and Brooke Davis are completing three year terms. What a pleasure to work with such committed servants! Carol Bennett is completing her year as council president, Josh Hornaday as vice president, Jon Paul will serve another term as treasurer. Their dedication keeps us on track. The quality of our music program is a direct function of the talent and leadership of Tim Haskett, Wendy Unrath, Wendy Wieggers, Donna Jarvi, Daniel Heiman and Gretchen Haskett. Our day to day administration depends on Chris Meyer and Corinne Mattioli. And our ministries with children, youth and discipleship are ably led by Debbie MacAyeal and Doug Dusthimer. It is healthy that our leadership combines long time members with newer members. Two of our new council members joined just last year. Josh Hornaday, our next president, and Mark Wanda, our next vice president are recent additions to our congregation.

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Report of Pastor Holmer (continued)

Along with new leaders, we continue to welcome new members and a growing stream of visitors. It is a blessing to welcome families with young children along with older adults. Our demographic spread includes all age groups.

In addition to maintaining a number of strong ministries, we continue to add new initiatives. We have supported PADS for many years. Last fall we switched to providing a monthly meal to the PADS site at the Presbyterian Church in Libertyville – a change that has worked well. We have expanded our work with North Chicago Community Partners to include the Family Care Closet at North Chicago High School. We provide weekly volunteers, and each quarter we collect items to restock their shelves. We are in the midst of a major effort to sponsor a family through the ministry of Refugee One. This fall St. James will sponsor a grief support group in conjunction with Church of the Holy Spirit and First Presbyterian here in Lake Forest.

With all that is going well, there is surely room for improvement.

We can get better at Evangelism. We do a lot by way of serving others. We can also be more intentional about inviting others to come and share in the blessings we enjoy as God's people in this place. We have good news to share – and we need to do so.

We can engage more adults in learning. We become more confident in sharing our faith as we learn more about the content and history of our

faith. We can learn practical skills in sharing our faith and inviting others to join with us. We can grow closer together by studying God's Word together.

We can increase the overall level of participation in the life of our congregation. The more we are involved together, the stronger we become. This applies to worship, to fellowship events, to serving, to learning. We can become intentional about making participation and engagement a priority.

We can grow in our stewardship. St. James is a generous congregation, and we are blessed by some very generous supporters. The Stewardship Committee has noted that our giving is a bit lopsided, in that a significant portion of our giving comes from a small portion of our membership. We need all our members to become good stewards and growing givers to assure the long term health of St. James.

I am blessed to serve such a healthy, devoted and vibrant congregation. It is a pleasure to work alongside all these talented and capable leaders. It is gratifying to witness the many good things being accomplished in and through St. James. By the grace of God, we have strength to be a blessing – and by that grace we will continue to seek to grow up into the people God calls us to be.

Peace and Joy!

Richard E. Holmer

Milestones

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

**Perry Holmstrom
Adalyn Schlather
Claire Kropf
Kinzie Dunford
Adeline Eileen Sis
Vivienne Elizabeth Schneider
Alice Catherine Marciniak**

During September and October of 2015, Bibles were presented to:

**Adah Bodine
Jack Gerber
Emily Haverkamp**

On September 27, 2015, these persons were confirmed in Christ:

**Allison Grace Abrahams
William Browne Davis
Jacob Carl Goebel
Emma Catherine Graf
Hannah Elizabeth Grauer
Eric James Hill
Madelyn Grace Ingold
Andrew William Lewis
Taylor Burt VanderJeugd**

On February 3, 2016, these persons were welcomed to the Lord's table to share in Holy Communion:

**Anne Davis
Sheppard Graf
Elsa MacAyeal
Andrew Marsch
Andrew Sommers**

On March 13, 2016, these persons were welcomed as members of St. James:

**Brian and Heidi Dunford, Colton, Kayleigh,
Connor and Kinzie
Doug and Suzanne Dusthimer
Elaine Koski
Tyler and Barbara Marciniak, Lillian,
Charlotte and Alice
Ruth Schnell
Siegy and Chary Voss**

Funeral services were held for these members:

Skip Long, April 2, 2016

May he rest in God's grace and peace.

Report of the Nominating Committee

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

CHURCH COUNCIL - Nominations for Terms Expiring June 2019 (Three Year Term):

Jennie Bodine

Jennie, her husband, Hans, and four daughters moved from Chicago to Lake Bluff in the Fall of 2014. Before joining St James, they were members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School in Chicago, where they were all baptized. Pilgrim was a huge part of their everyday lives, as the girls attended school there and Jennie served on the church council and school board. Growing together in their faith and being involved in service is a family priority for Jennie and Hans as they raise their daughters. They feel so fortunate to have found a new home at St James and look forward to building strong relationships for years to come. Jennie is thankful for the opportunity to serve on the church council and hopes to make a big impact on the church's mission to make disciples and live the gospel.

Adrienne Hott

My family and I have had the pleasure of attending St James since 2013 and becoming members in 2015 after moving here from Phoenix, Arizona. We are passionate about our faith and helping develop the faith and personal relationship to the Lord in our 2 and 4 year old children. I have enjoyed helping teach Sunday school to the preschoolers this year, and am looking forward to serving the church family as a council member! I grew up in a loving Christ-centered home where church was always a priority for us. I was always in the choir-kids choir, handbell choir, adult choir-I so love the rich sacred music tradition in Christianity. In High school at the Bible Church we attended, I had the opportunity to serve on the Missions Committee which I really enjoyed. My husband Chris and I both attended Wheaton College for our undergraduate degrees and loved being part of such a diverse Christian Community and learned so much from the bible classes we took! Right after we got married, we helped found an Anglican Church in Phoenix. As with small churches starting out, we all had to pitch in, and we taught a bible study for high schoolers, and I was in the choir while Chris ran the sound team. It was so incredible to see up close how God works through his church and uses such imperfect vessels to draw people close to Him. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to grow and bless St. James as we seek to advance the Kingdom and follow Him!

Kim Kazarian

Our friendship with Nancy & Pete Clemens led us to find our home here at St. James in 1997. In fact, many of you will remember that it led me right to the front row of St. James chosen by John & Alex ("So we can see Pastor Tony" as they would say). I was raised at Salem Lutheran Church in Sandwich, IL. where my Mom and aunts all taught Sunday School for decades. Greg was raised at Holy Spirit here in Lake Forest. He will tell you this is how things go in our house - Kim wins! All three of our children were baptized at home by the priest and friend that married Greg and I, but all three have grown-up here and are confirmed members of St. James. I feel blessed to be given the opportunity to serve on church council and ,yes ,Mike Bennett, I am still teaching Sunday School on rotation with you for decades!

Joe Voelcker

Raised as a Lutheran minister's son, the Christian faith and the church in general have always been a part of my life. I have lived in many different places throughout Germany and America and my Christian faith has always remained a firm rock on which to stand. Due to my job, I moved to Chicago

in 1997 and initially settled in Lake Bluff in 2000. It was during this time that I found and eventually became a member at St. James. I believe it was the intimacy and the absence of any pretentiousness that drew me to St. James. It was at St. James that I met my wife Melinda, where I got married and where our children, Mackenzie and Sophia, were baptized. St. James is our home. I served on the church council from 2005 to 2008 and am still today a member of the Finance and Stewardship committees. Since we, as a family, regard St. James as a part of our family, it is with joy that I can play a little role in various committees, programs, activities and functions at St. James. I hope that little role will eventually expand into more in the years to come.

Current Congregation Council:

Term Expiring June 2016	Term Expiring June 2017	Term Expiring June 2018
Linda Berner	Carol Bennett	Mark Eck
Brooke Davis	Donna Fortney	Melinda Hill
Tom Ebert	Josh Hornaday	Bud Lowell
Brenda Shinn	Craig Linn	Mark Wanda

ST. JAMES MEMORIAL GARDEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Detlef Koska (term expires June 2017)
 Randy Daniel (term expires June 2018)
 Carey Cotey (term expires June 2019)

Nominee for a 4 year term expiring June 2020: Mark Taylor

ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Bill Shinn (term expires June 2017)
 Dave Van Singel (term expires June 2017)
 Jim Davoux (term expires June 2018)
 Ron Kok-Alblas (term expires June 2018)

Nominees for a 3 year term expiring June 2019: Mike Bennett

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Current members: Dave Van Singel (term expires June 2017)
 Susan Paul (term expires June 2018)

Nominee for a 3-year term, expiring June 2019: Pete Clemens

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Current members: Randy Daniel (term expires June 2017)
 Sarah Lewis (term expires June 2017)

Nominees for a one year term expiring June, 2017: Linda Berner and Brooke Davis

Nominees for a two year term expiring June 2018: Tom Ebert and Brenda Shinn

Thank you for your faithful service to those members whose terms are expiring this year: Linda Berner, Brooke Davis, Tom Ebert and Brenda Shinn (Church Council), Steve Thornberry (Audit Committee); John Tanner (Endowment Fund Board); Pete Clemens, Glenn Basgall, Suzanne Gerber and Kathy Lowell (Nominating Committee). And special thanks to those members who have agreed to serve for another term: Mark Taylor (Memorial Garden) and Jon Paul (Treasurer).

Report of the Memorial Garden

Burials

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

Memorial Plaque

Two names were engraved, but there are still plenty of empty spaces on the Memorial Plaque. If anyone is interested in having a name added, please contact any of the committee members.

Sale of Burial Sites

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

Financials

The check book balance amounts to \$2,867 as of 4/20/16. The loan amount was reduced by \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Current Rate Structure

The current rate structure remained unchanged as follows:

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

Board Members

Mark Taylor agreed to serve one more term until 2019 if this nomination will be approved.

The current composition of the Board is as follows:

Detlef Koska, Chairman – thru 2017

Randy Daniel – thru 2018

Mark Taylor – thru 2019, pending approval of nomination

Carey Cotey - thru 2018

Richard Holmer – ex-officio member

Tom Meyer – Legal Counsel

Respectfully submitted,

Detlef K. Koska

Chairman

Report of the Worship and Music Committee

Committee Members: Carol Bennett, Donna Fortney (Council Liaison), Tim Haskett, Daniel Heiman, Jineen Heiman, Donna Jarvi, Wendy Wieggers and Pastor Holmer.

The Worship and Music Committee oversees the worship services and coordinates the volunteer groups which contribute to worship at St. James: musical ensembles (Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, Damascus Road, St. James Brass, and offerings of special music), Altar Guild, and worship servants such as lectors, acolytes and communion assistants. We are blessed that all of these groups are thriving and functioning well.

We always welcome additional workers. To participate in music at St. James, contact Director of Music, Tim Haskett; to join the altar guild, contact Carol Bennett; to join the worship servants, contact Debbie MacAyeal.

New this year is the smaller size bulletin for worship services. There are 20 large print bulletins for those who prefer them.

Also this year the communion flagon was refurbished as the gold is flaking off into the wine. It was paid for by money from the Fred Fortney Memorial fund.

This year St. James hosted the Thanksgiving Eve service for three Lake Forest churches in a three year rotating plan: First Presbyterian, Holy Spirit Episcopal and St. James Lutheran. They combine clergy and choirs for a very festive service.

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

The committee wishes to express its gratitude to all who gave of their time and talents in the worship of our Lord. Soli Deo Gloria.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fortney,
Chairman

Report of the Fellowship Committee

St James had another year filled with fun and festive Christian Fellowship! We kicked off the summer with our annual Lake Forest Beach Party Picnic. Families gathered at the beach to share pot luck dishes and cook food on the grill. We had a day filled with sunshine, good food and friendship!

We closed the summer with our Rally Day Picnic. Salads, sandwiches and desserts were provided by the Picnic Basket in Libertyville. Hot dogs were cooked and served for the children. We mixed things up a little this year by setting up our tent in the back of the church; the change was well received by all!

In October Ann and Kevin Dwyer generously opened their beautiful home for an Oktoberfest dinner! The event was professionally catered with authentic German foods and crafted beers. The weather was beautiful and the food was delicious!

In December we marked the beginning of Advent with our annual Advent Potluck Dinner. Families gathered in the fellowship hall and shared potluck dishes and made an Advent craft.

Our Spring Progressive dinner is being shifted into the first official weekend of summer this year, June 25th. The signup sheet is currently on the kiosk and a table will be set up before and after summer services on Sundays in June. Don't miss this well-loved annual event!

The Fellowship Committee is seeking volunteers that would like to join our committee and add even more events to our calendar next year! Please contact Brenda Shinn or Debbie Mac Ayeal if you are interested.

Respectively submitted,
Brenda Shinn

Report of the Stewardship Committee

Our theme for the 2016 stewardship campaign in the fall of 2015 was generosity.

At worship one Sunday many took time to write down their own experiences of generosity. Some of those testimonies were shared with you in a letter. Seeds and potting soil were given out so we could witness the simple wonder of growth: how new and good things can emerge from small beginnings. We can all grow in generosity.

Generosity is not a duty, it is a joy. "God loves it when the giver delights in the giving." (2 Corinthians 9:7) As you are blessed by the gracious generosity of God, you may also know the blessing of growing in generosity.

We have a generous God who blesses us with life and all that makes life worth living. We aim to follow God's example of generosity. St. James has a history of being generous in our ministries of outreach and mission support. Our generosity as a congregation is the fruitful outcome of the generous giving of individual members and families.

Once again, your response was tremendous. Even more families participated in the campaign and we came up with a balanced budget for 2016. Meanwhile, you were very generous in

2015 as we came through with a slight surplus in the General Fund for 2015. In addition, we are now two years into the Renewal Campaign. Your timely gifts funded many wonderful facility and site improvements as well as keep us on track to pay off the mortgage by spring 2017.

Stewardship is more than a once a year campaign, it's an ongoing event. It's more than actions, it's a mindset, a reflection of your heart. You have blessed us with your time and talents—without those St James couldn't operate. You also have reached beyond our church to be the hands and feet of Jesus, helping so many in need in as mentioned by Social Ministry. You stepped up even more lately, as we get ready to welcome a new family into the country through Refugee One.

Finally, thanks so much to our stewardship committee team for their energy and creativity:

Joe Voelcker, Craig Linn, Michael Montalbano, Faye Holm, Davd Van Singel, Richard Holmer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Paul

Chair

Report of the Youth Ministry Team

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

We offer monthly events during the school year for children in grades 5-8 to build fellowship with their peers and deepen their tie to the church. This year's events included a corn maze, rock climbing, snow games, laser tag, nerf wars, bowling and a sleep under. We have been averaging 8-14 kids at each event. We also do service projects in addition to participation in the Crop Walk. One service project was to bring a

favorite snack to the sleep under and then make a "Taste of America" basket for our refugee family as a gift. We are also planning a Give 5/4 Need week again June 20-24 which will be a week of serving others in our community through various ways. Our senior high students will be leading the church service on May 22. We have 7 youth and 2 chaperones signed up to go on a mission trip to Red Lake, MN July 16-27.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ebert

Report of the Social Ministry Committee

Committee Members: Ann Anderson, Mark Eck, Donna Fortney, Lori Grauer, Shelly Holmstrom, Sarah Lewis, Debbie MacAyeal, Elizabeth Takacs Mallory, Alane Wanda and Pastor Holmer

The purpose of the committee is to promote and support activities of various agencies and programs serving the needs of the local community and beyond. We encourage members to get involved and thank those who have volunteered in a variety of ways.

Volunteer and Financial Support :

- **North Chicago Community Partners:**
A.J. Katzenmaier School
- **COOL Ministries**
- **CROP Walk**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Help Within the Family**
- **Lake County United**
- **Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter (PADS)**
- **RefugeeOne**
- **Waukegan 2 College**

Financial Support Only:

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

We have encouraged families to get involved in volunteering together. Several families have walked for CROP, served dinner at the family PADS site, and volunteered at A.J. Katzenmaier. A.J. Katzenmaier offers a variety of volunteer options and times for different ages and we have helped staff a Back-to-School Fair, Health & Wellness Fair, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Fair and provided volunteers for the after school program, lunch-bunch and served staff luncheons.

COOL events sponsored by St. James include the WALK/RUN in November and Foodstock. Special thanks to Tom Meyer whose term on the COOL Board ended – and to Sarah Lewis who is currently serving. Winter boots were collected for

Head Start preschoolers through LSSI. A Thrivent sponsored Habitat for Humanity Build in Asheville, NC in May included ten St. James members.

2015/16 saw a change in our PADS location as we moved our support to assist the 1st Presbyterian site in Libertyville and established St. James as a once a month provider of dinner and volunteers. This has proved to be a wonderful location for us – and many additional volunteers have enjoyed the opportunity to serve. In December, we made another change and held a drive for winter clothing, coats, mittens, and other essentials in support of this PADS site in place of our traditional service project at Bethel.

RefugeeOne was approved as a new congregational initiative after the first of the year. Several Committee members attended an informative workshop sponsored by Refugee One. Social Ministry has partnered with Christian Education to provide a series of Adult Education offerings around the topic of refugees. We are pleased to report that over \$8,000.00 has been received to support the initial living expenses of a refugee family. Household items are being collected and we should be in a position of readiness to welcome a St. James sponsored family to Chicago after June 1! Volunteer mentors are needed – please contact a Social Ministry Committee member for more information.

An important in-reach within St. James is “Help Within the Family”, a program that matches the needs of individual members experiencing illness or loss with willing volunteers to provide meals, transportation, and assistance as able. We invite you to contact Debbie MacAyeal to sign up to be included on a roster of potential volunteers to serve each other in time of great need.

God is Good!

Shelly Holmstrom, Chair

Report of the Christian Education Committee

Committee Members: Barb Basgall (chair), Mike Bennett, Linda Berner, Melinda Hill, Richard Holmer, Jason Lewis, Kathy Lowell and Debbie MacAyeal

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

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

Youth Education

This year’s milestones included the following achievements:

- 3 Third graders were presented with Bibles on September 20, 2015.
- 9 Ninth graders were confirmed on September 27, 2015.
- 5 Fourth and Fifth graders received First Communion on February 3, 2016 following five classes.

This year’s Youth Programs included the following:

- On Rally Day, Mammals and More Animal Show entertained our children and parents.
- Wendy Wiegers led our children’s Christmas Pageant. Wendy wrote a script based upon the hymns of Christmas.
- On Mother’s Day, Wendy Wiegers led the Sunday school student’s and several parents and grandparents in the performance of a wonderful choir piece *Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth*.
- Vacation Bible School took place August 3 – 7, 2015 and the theme was Nazareth. The children walked in the Lake Forest Day parade. This year’s VBS program will take place August 8-12, 2016.
- 40 of our youth participated in our July 6-10, 2015 GIVE5/4NEED program! This program was created to allow our middle school students (with our high school students serving as mentors) to learn what a blessing it is to give to others. The *Pioneer Press* covered the program in their publication. Debbie MacAyeal and Melinda Hill will co-lead this year’s program from June 20-24, 2016. Additional adult help is more than welcome as the program is rapidly expanding!

St. James U

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

- Carol Bennett led The Bible in 90 Days program that was completed by a group of individuals which included numerous congregation members and a couple from another church congregation.
- In the fall/winter, congregation members viewed Sparkhouse’s “The Animate Series.” The adults studied all three programs - *Faith, Bible, and Practices*.
- Six couples participated in the St. James “5 Great Dates” program that reinforces faith in our marriages and reminds couples to take time for each other.
- In the spring, we learned about the Refugee One program and how our congregation is able to help with the worldwide crisis.

(Continued on page 15)

Sunday School

This year the rotation curriculum studied the miracles of Jesus.

- 61 students are enrolled in the Sunday School program.
- 16 teachers, including three high school students, gave their time to educate our children of St. James.
- Both 7th and 8th grade students and preschoolers use age appropriate witness curriculum that provides students with a Bible overview over the course of two years.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Basgall

Report of the Endowment Fund Board

Members: Jim Davoux, John Tanner, Ron Kok-Alblas, Bill Shinn, Dave Van Singel, Pastor Richard Holmer (ex officio)

The endowment fund began 2015 with a balance of \$213,182 and ended 2015 with a balance of \$196,021. During 2015, a disbursement of \$5,437.34 was made for Sheila Rawn from the Tony Danielson Fund to pay the remaining balance of her student loans. In addition, a disbursement of \$6,500 was made to Trinity International University for Yakubu Bakfwash. In March of 2016, the endowment fund received a payment of \$5,000 on the loan made to the Memorial Garden. As of the end of April 2016, the balance of the endowment fund is at \$205,201.

After the land sale was completed in early 2015, the Endowment Board took over the responsibility of investing the Land Sale Fund with Wintrust Wealth Management as the investment advisor. Wintrust completed investing the initial principal of \$1,013,000 into various investments near the end of Q2 in 2015. The Market experienced a significant downturn in early 2016. However, the market has rebounded somewhat in

2016. As of the end of April of 2016, the balance of the fund is at \$998,935.

At the annual congregational meeting in January 2016, the Endowment Board presented a recommendation that the Land Fund should be changed from a Permanent Endowment Fund to a Temporary Restricted Fund. During the discussion a member of the congregation expressed their concern that this recommendation should be brought up as an official proposal and voted on by the congregation. The proposal will be brought forward for a vote at the meeting in June of 2016.

The board will be developing an initiative in 2016 to encourage members to include St James in their estate planning. The initiative will be rolled out in 2017. The congregation is always welcome and encouraged to submit ideas to the committee for potential disbursements from the endowment fund. Contact any member of the committee to discuss your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Davoux

Report of the Evangelism Committee

Committee members currently include Barb Basgall, Barb Davoux and Tom Ebert. Pastor Holmer participates as ex-officio member.

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

Ongoing activities of Evangelism this past year included:

- Last summer the garden plots in the vacant land west of the playground yielded a bountiful harvest. John Tanner upgraded our water supply system and hose line to allow our gardeners easy access for irrigating their thirsty plants.
- Ongoing updates of James Group and Gno-me related information and scheduled outings on our St. James Facebook page. This media connection presents an exciting forum to enhance the visibility of St. James by sharing information with our fellow members and new friends too. Anyone is welcome to view our page by searching in Facebook for "St. James Lutheran Church (Lake Forest, IL)".

The faith based "St. James Book Club" continued to meet throughout the year to enhance fellowship and spirituality of our congregation. The club rotated their meetings at different member houses. New members are always welcome! Contact Jon Paul.

Works in progress:

We are always working to extend the visibility of St. James within the community by publicizing open events at St. James, including newspaper releases and flyers posted in the community. If you have a St. James event open to the community, please consider a press release.

All of us at St. James are part of Evangelism. Over the past year, this committee has somewhat been held in abeyance as we struggle with limited committee members. We are in desperate need of additional members to bring fresh ideas to our team. We welcome your participation on the committee, or as a facilitator of your interest area. Please feel free to call or pass on your comments and concerns to any committee members. Together we join hands to serve as God's people.

God's Peace,

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Ebert, Acting Chair

Report of the Property Committee

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

- HVAC units and roof exhausts for office area and Fellowship Hall. Replacement including relocation of condensers to grade level
- East and west Sanctuary stain glass windows frame structures rebuilt with new tempered exterior glass glazing
- Completed carpet replacement and painting of church offices
- Patched and seal coated parking lot
- New high capacity gutters installed on the north and south sides of the Fellowship Hall
- Cleaned off copper stains on exterior of sanctuary and painted light fixtures, outlets, and exposed concrete blocks
- New member garden area established including deer and rodent fencing
- Extensive new landscaping west of main entrance in front of the office
- Continuous troubleshooting and repair of miscellaneous items of the facility and grounds (Pete Clemens is the master)

Many thanks to all the committee members and numerous others for their commitment and hard work toward the upgrade of appearance and function of our facility and property.

A special thanks to Chic Martin who during his 4 years as the Chairman of the Property Committee led us through the exceptional Renewing Program and the many improvements that have made our property so attractive and welcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

John Tanner

Report of the Women of St. James

The mission of the Women of St. James (WSJ) is “to build relationships through faith enrichment, fellowship, service and social awareness.” All adult females of the congregation are welcomed automatically into membership and encouraged to attend. Here is a description of our activities this year:

Faith Enrichment

The Annual Spring Retreat was held April 23 at St. James and coordinated by Donna Jarvi. The curriculum, “Lavender Springs Spa” by Group focused attendees on a day-long exploration of the Psalms. Special thanks to Donna Jarvi and others who assisted with leading the program.

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

Fellowship

On December 5, Pat Quade, Linda Berner and Donna Jarvi hosted the “Vintage Christmas Program and Annual Cookie Exchange” which included time to share favorite Christmas traditions. Sue Ebert coordinated the potluck dinner on January 31. The women of St. James hosted a reception following summer worship.

Service/Outreach

The bake sale December 6 utilizing goodies from the Cookie Exchange raised \$650: The Family Care Closet administered by NCCP received a donation

of \$550 and LSSI received \$100 to assist with the Nepal Disaster. Thank you to Madeleine Jorgensen who serves as Treasurer of the Women of St. James.

The longest running service project for the Women of St. James is the sewing group which meets the first Thursday of each month, September through May. The group continues to make pillows, teddy bears and quilts for Lutheran World Relief and LSSI. Donations of material are appreciated and volunteers welcome. Betty Benton, Ulla Norberg and Carole Tanner attended the annual spring luncheon of Friends of Lutheran World Relief April 22 with featured guest speaker, Reverend Rafael Malpica Padilla, Executive Director of the ELCA Global Mission Unit.

An Invitation

The Women of St. James is seeking women to work in teams to lead events during 2016/17. Please contact Shelly Holmstrom with questions. All women are invited to attend these programs throughout the year and guests are welcome. Meetings provide opportunities for sharing laughter and building friendships. Rides will gladly be arranged and childcare is available upon request. We learn from each other and enjoy the blessings of abundant life that God has promised us when we gather in His name.

Submitted by Shelly Holmstrom

On behalf of the Women of St. James

Resolutions

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

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

We express our thanks to our Pastor, Richard Holmer, all our salaried staff and our many volunteers -- committee chairpersons and members, organizational leaders, church school staff, choir members and musicians, ushers, worship assistants, nursery attendants, altar guild, sewing circle and all the dedicated individuals who have given service in 2015-2016.

We express our gratitude to all who serve on the Church Council, especially Linda Berner (Secretary), Brooke Davis, Tom Ebert and Brenda Shinn who have completed their terms of office. We acknowledge with great appreciation our 2015-2016 officers: Carol Bennett, President; Josh Hornaday, Vice President; Linda Berner, Secretary; Jon Paul, Treasurer and Joe Voelcker, Financial Secretary.

We welcome into our church family the 10 adults and 14 children who were received into membership during the past year and pray that they here experience growth in faith and service.

We remember in our thoughts and prayers Skip Long who died in the Faith during this year, his family and others who mourn the loss of loved ones through death; Those who have been hospitalized or seriously ill at home due to the loss of good health; those who have known the fear and frustration of job loss; those who in any way have experienced the pain of great sacrifice. We pray that all may find comfort and help in the promises of our loving and merciful Lord, Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior.

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

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

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Congregation and
Church Council**

President
Carol Bennett

Vice President
Josh Hornaday

Secretary
Linda Berner

Treasurer
Jon Paul

Financial Secretary
Joe Voelcker

Council Members

Carol Bennett
Linda Berner
Brooke Davis
Tom Ebert
Mark Eck
Donna Fortney
Melinda Hill
Josh Hornaday
Craig Linn
Bud Lowell
Brenda Shinn
Mark Wanda

Pastor

Richard E. Holmer

Church Staff

Business Manager
Chris Meyer

Administrative Assistant
Corinne Mattioli

Director of Discipleship
Debbie MacAyeal

Nursery Supervisor
Rebecca Townsend

Youth Ministry Director
Doug Dusthimer



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**Standing Committee Chairs
and Other Leaders**

Christian Education
Barb Basgall

Church Property
John Tanner

Evangelism
Tom Ebert

Fellowship
Brenda Shinn

Finance
Jon Paul

Social Ministry
Shelly Holmstrom

Stewardship
Jon Paul

Worship & Music
Donna Fortney

Endowment Board of Trustees
Chair Person
Jim Davoux

Memorial Garden Board of
Trustees Chair Person
Detlef Koska

Sewing Group
Betty Benton

Youth Ministry Team
Sue Ebert

Women of St. James
TBD

Altar Guild
Carol Bennett

Church Staff

Director of Music
Tim Haskett

Organist
Wendy Unrath

Damascus Road
Director
Donna Jarvi

Director of
Children's Music
Wendy Wiegars

Bell Choir Director
Gretchen Haskett

Brass Ensemble Director
Daniel Heiman