



St. James Lutheran Church

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION ANNUAL GOVERNANCE MEETING 9:30 a.m. June 3, 2018

Schedule

9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting

10:45 a.m. Service of Holy Communion
(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 28, 2018

Annual Reports

 Report of the President

 Report of Pastor Holmer

 Reports of the Committees

Elections

Resolutions

Adjournment

Closing Prayer



Minutes of the Annual Financial Meeting January 28, 2018

Opening Prayer– Pastor Holmer opened the meeting with prayer.

Call to order – Congregation President Mark Wanda called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

Report of the Tellers – A quorum was present - 52 members in attendance.

Approval of the agenda – Congregation member moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of minutes – The minutes of the June 2017, Annual Governance Meeting were approved as printed in the Annual Financial Report of the Congregation.

Final 2017 Review –

Treasurer Jon Paul summarized the 2017 financial results. Highlights were:

- * In 2017 the general fund ended in a \$20,000 surplus and mortgage was paid off in May.
- * Jon Paul presented details from 2017 using the printed Annual Financial Report booklet.
- * Member giving grew significantly in 2017 despite the departure of many members.
- * Jon Paul reported that our Benevolence increased.
- * Property came in under budget – blessed with very little maintenance and repair.
- * Modest increase in Personnel expense.
- * \$46,000 additional contribution to Benevolence \$30,000 also raised through other fundraisers in addition to general fund budget.

Land sale fund saw a 10.7% ROI.

Renewal campaign generated \$723,000.

Jon Paul thanked the congregation for their generosity.

Internal audit was completed and led by Susan Paul. This was the first internal audit for St. James. Reviewed 2016 financials. Outcome was that adequate controls are in place. Minor suggestion for additional documentation.

Jon Paul thanked Chris Meyer, Business Manager, and Susan for their efforts.

Susan Paul thanked Chris Meyer for her extra efforts.

Presentation of the 2018 General Fund Budget – the budget was presented as printed in the Annual Financial Reports booklet. Congregation member moved to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Richard Kaeske thanked the congregation and said that this report brings joy to him. He highlighted the ELCA

Latino Congregation supported (Sagrado Corazon) and brought message to continue to support them.

Jon Paul thanked all committees for their hard work.

Mark Wanda thanked Jon Paul for his outstanding work.

Election of Synod Assembly Delegates – June 8-9, 2018 - Mark Wanda and Lisa Kollmorgen look forward to serving as delegates. Pastor Holmer also serves as a delegate. Still need one more delegate. Motion was made that church council could appoint and approve the third delegate. Congregation member moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and passed.

ELCA World Hunger Challenge

The Metro Chicago Synod of the ELCA congregations raised a total of \$1,060,000 in support of ELCA World Hunger efforts in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. St. James set a goal to raise \$10,000 - \$32,215 was raised.

2018 Education Focus - This year we will focus on education. Waukegan to College will be our main focus. Financial goal of \$10,000 in extraordinary giving during 2018 Lenten season has been chosen. Alane Wanda spoke about the mission of Waukegan to College. She also spoke about ensuring the congregation understands the resource disparity that exists with the Waukegan youth.

Mark Wanda closed with comments from Council -

We are blessed to be in such a strong financial position.

Mark clearly communicated the 2018 areas of focus for the Council.

He thanked the congregation for the support of council.

Detlef made a plea for congregation members to get their picture on the board.

Carol Bennett thanked the council for their efforts.

Richard Kaeske asked us to pray for a good new church administrative assistant.

Adjournment – Congregation member moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:33 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Holmer offered a closing prayer.

Prayerfully and gratefully submitted,
Melinda Hill, Congregation Secretary

Report of the President

Greetings from the skies above the route between Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo, the first leg on my trip home to Libertyville from work in Thailand and Malaysia. As many of you know, my job requires me to traverse the globe with a focus more recently on countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania. On each of my trips to countries I am visiting I look up how to say common phrases like “thank you” in native tongue. When I use the native language to say “thank you” it always brings a smile to the faces of people I meet throughout my visits, even if I sometimes (frequently?) butcher the pronunciation!

Thank you, though, has a common meaning across countries and cultures and it is with heartfelt gratitude that I thank the congregation of St. James for its support and guidance over the past year that I have had the privilege of serving as council president. It is hard to believe how fast my year as President of the St. James Church council has gone by and what a great year it has been. My predecessor, Josh Hornaday, was able to highlight the payoff of our mortgage in last year’s President’s report. I get to highlight the celebration of that payoff (and burning of that mortgage) plus great barbecue and fellowship at the celebration hosted by the Kazarians last summer.

The payoff of the mortgage, what we are doing with the monies saved from that accomplishment, and the celebration all highlight what is great about St. James. When St. James sets its mind to achieving a goal it achieves that goal! When St. James has the resources to bring its fellowship to its community, be it local, regional, national or even global, it does so with a commitment and dedication that is a great reflection of who and what we are as a church and congregation. When St. James gets to celebrate a significant achievement well, we are Lutherans...

As part of the President’s report I get to highlight many of the achievements of the congregation over the past year and will attempt to do so on the local, regional, national and global levels. At the local level, Social Ministry Outreach focused its efforts this past year on education and the

Waukegan 2 College program. This organization helps families from Waukegan with the challenge they face when sending a first family member to college, something that can seem matter of fact to many of us but represents a considerable change and challenge for these families. Our support for W2C helps to make this transition more manageable for families and ensures that these first timers remain in college and achieve the goal of becoming the first person in their family to graduate from college.

At the regional level, last year’s high school mission trip took the youth of St. James to northern Minnesota where their service outreach helped to better the living conditions with no means to do so themselves.

At the national level, just this past May a contingent of St. James traveled to South Carolina where they participated in a Habitat for Humanity building project. This work helps to address the issue of housing poverty across the United States and throughout the world.

At the global level, the benevolence of St. James and the support we provide to the ELCA continues to help address global problems like world hunger and safe drinking water among many initiatives.

As I step down from the church council presidency (and church council), I am extremely proud of what St. James has accomplished and marvel at the impact our church and congregation has on the community. I know there will be challenges ahead but I also know that St. James has the will and wherewithal to overcome them, grow stronger in the process and even better positioned to advance God’s work.

Thanks be to God and Thank You! Aurigato Goyazaimus! Tesimeh Sahim! Danke! Merci! Gracias! Salammat Sa Iyu! Khob Kun Ka! Dhanyavaad Bahut! Xie Xie! Terima Kasih! Coum on ban!

Mark Wanda

Report of Pastor Holmer

I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing the Gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1: 3-4

It is a joy to share with all of you in the good work of the living the Gospel. Some days we are more effective than others, yet our aim is always to faithfully follow Christ. By God's grace we are blessed, and we are able to be a blessing.

Here are some highlights from the past twelve months.

Burning the Mortgage

What a joyful celebration it was to be free of debt! Your faithfulness and generosity enabled us to pay off past obligations and focus our resources on present and future opportunities. The Kazarians hosted a delightful dinner party on June 10.

New Members

We welcomed seven adults and six children on July 2. They bring talents and fresh energy. We also had a useful feedback session with the members who have joined over the last three years.

Love Gives

This was the theme for our annual stewardship emphasis. It actually describes the consistent attitude and behavior of this congregation. Your love for God and for others moves you to give generously and faithfully.

World Hunger Appeal

Our special mission goal for 2017 was to raise \$10,000 for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, as our part in supporting the Metropolitan Chicago Synod goal of raising \$1,000,000 for the appeal in time for the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Ken and Susan Olsen graciously agreed to match gifts up to \$10,000. You responded by giving \$19,500 making our total \$29,500!

New Staff

Donna Jarvi retired as director of Damascus Road at the end of 2017, after many years of devoted leadership (she continues to sing with the band). Leadership is now shared by two very capable members: Melinda Voelcker and Greg MacAyeal.

Corinne Mattioli also departed last December. Carol Bennett stepped up as interim administrative assistant. Now the position is shared by Carol and Kristin Haverkamp – and they are a splendid team.

Our faithful nursery supervisor, Rebecca Townsend relocated and so had to resign. Annalisa MacAyeal and Isabel Rosa have been faithful substitutes as we seek a new supervisor. Beginning last September, we divided the position of Director of Discipleship into two distinct jobs: Debbie MacAyeal continues as our Sunday School Director and Shelly Holmstrom now serves as Engagement Coordinator. Debbie continues her creative work with our kids, and Shelly has brought great energy and vision to the task of energizing our members in meaningful and rewarding service.

Finally, Tim and Gretchen Haskett are retiring after many years of dedicated service. Tim has been Music Director for 26 years and Gretchen has led Handbells for 16. What a blessing! They leave big shoes to fill.

Council Retreat

St. James is blessed with wise and committed leaders. Their gifts are especially apparent when you spend 24 hours together, as we did last November. Our congregation is in good hands.

Men's Ministry

We now have two monthly gatherings for the men of our congregation. The senior men meet on Sunday mornings for breakfast. The younger men have breakfast on Saturday. This group also had a successful retreat in January which they intend to make an annual event.

St. James Seniors

The newest group at St. James had their first meeting in April. They have already planned monthly events for the next few months.

LFHS Choir

What a joy to have 70+ voices of the high school choir singing at the worship on March 18, before departing on their trip to Italy.

Waukegan to College

A group from St. James attended the annual W2C Oktoberfest last fall. This year we made the program our special mission focus. Each Wednesday in Lent we had guests from W2C,

including students, parents, staff and graduates who helped us to see the breadth and vision of this program. Our goal was to raise \$10,000. You responded by giving \$13,600!

Habitat for Humanity

May 6-11 the St. James Team was at work with the Sea Island Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, outside Charleston SC. We had ten members who worked on three different houses. This is the fourth Habitat Trip in recent years.

Hasketts (again)

Last August 5 was a joyful day, as Lauren Moore and Austin Haskett were joined in marriage at St. James. The whole family has been a musical gift to our congregation for a long time. They have helped to enrich the worship and music that are the center of our life. On June 3 we will express our gratitude to the Hasketts for all they mean to us.

And that's not all...

Many good things continue to happen year in and year out.

Bible presentation class
First communion class
Confirmation & Campfirmation
Sunday School
Adult Class
Faith Forum
Women's Midweek Bible Study
Sewing Group
Grief Support Group
Church Picnic
Advent Dinner
Progressive Dinner
PADS Dinners
Family Care Closet
North Chicago Community Partners
Flu Shots
FOODSTOCK and COOL 5K/10K
Boots for LSSI Preschool
Community Thanksgiving Service
Lessons & Carols, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter on and on...

I am grateful for the talented paid staff at St. James. They keep things lively and moving forward. I appreciate the wealth of capable volunteers who offer countless hours of service. I thank all of our members for sharing in helping to make St. James the wonderful community it continues to be. May we continue to grow in God's Grace!

Peace,

Richard E. Holmer

MILESTONES

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

Palmer Virginia Lowell
Olivia Catherine Sis
Gertrude Louise Schneider
Brynlee Mae Holmstrom
William Fox Perry

On September 17 and 24, 2017, Bibles were presented to:

Hallie Bodine
Morgan Hornaday
Logan Marsch
Lucy Stresser
Clio Stresser
Sophia Voelcker

On September 24, 2017, these persons were confirmed in Christ:

Luke Davis
Holly Doyle
Collin Shinn

On February 11 and 18 2018, these persons were welcomed to the Lord's table to share in Holy Communion:

Kallan Bodine
Bella Bosau
Julia Davoux
Ernie Matkov
Madison VanderJeugd

On July 2, 2017, these persons were welcomed as members of St. James:

Jessie Holtz and Dustin Starkey
Paul and Gina Husemoller, Amelia and Luke Bob Kenehan
David and Beth Stresser, Noah, Evan, Lucy and Clio

On August 5, 2017, the following couple was joined in marriage:

Lauren Jordan Moore and Austin Christopher Haskett

The following members have died in the past year:

Ron Matta, December 21, 2017
Sune Norberg, April 4, 2018

May they rest in God's grace and peace.

Report of the Nominating Committee

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

CHURCH COUNCIL - Nominations for Terms Expiring June 2021 (Three Year Term):

Tiffany Alexander

I grew up in Lake Forest since 4th grade, attended Lake Forest High School, and then after finishing law school and getting married, my husband David and I moved back here in 2011 to raise our family. David and I are both practicing lawyers, his practice taking him into Chicago most days and my practice being split between Chicago and Lake County. David and I were not married in a church because religion was not a big part of my childhood nor did it hold meaning to us in our young adult life. We were brought to St. James by our daughter Isabelle, at age 3, when she simply became consumed by the Pastor's sermon at our nephew's baptism - she lovingly referred to him as the Master not understanding the real word. It became apparent then that as parents we had a duty to bring Isabelle back to church. Soon after that we became regulars at Sunday church so that Isabelle could go to Sunday School. We became members in 2014 and our children were baptized at ages 4 and 1.5 on February 1, 2015 at St. James. What I love most about St. James is the sense of community that it provides, the sense of belonging, and the unconditional appreciation and desire of my fellow members to bring joy into other's lives. The support I have received emotionally and spiritually from its members and its staff has helped me through trying times. I never thought of myself as a spiritual person but St. James quickly became a part of our lives. I truly believe that God was sending a message through our daughter the day of that baptism that we were meant to become a part of the St. James family. I would be honored to become a part of the Church Council and continue to share that appreciation with current and future members.

Bob Hughes

I began coming to St. James, in 2013 and became a member in 2015. Having grown up in Glenview, I was raised as an Episcopalian. I graduated from Loyola University and had a rewarding 35 year career in pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing and sales. I now enjoy a second career as a Realtor. I am pleased to have found a church home at St. James, and I look forward to providing whatever help I can, as a member of Council, in its continued growth.

Teresa Miller

I have been worshiping at St. James since January 2016 and became a member in December 2016. I was welcomed into the congregation first by my good friends and neighbors, Ellen and Emerson Bodell, then by many other members I've had the pleasure to meet. Previously I belonged to the wonderful church community of Holy Trinity in Manasquan, NJ. I was confirmed at St. Luke in Kintnersville, PA, and baptized at St. Paul in Flemington, NJ. So I've been part of a number of church communities, but a constant Lutheran since birth.

While I've spent much of my life on the East Coast, I moved to this area from Luzern, Switzerland. I had been working there in an expat position, but moved here to join my current company, Astellas, where I am Senior Director of Supply Chain Operations. I am currently working full-time on a global SAP project at Astellas. My partner Harry and I love living in Lake Forest. He is a member of St. Mary's, and is retired but constantly active reading, gardening and engaged in other activities.

Recently I have begun serving as a communion assistant at St. James. I am honored to be considered for the church council, and will commit to making a contribution to the best of my abilities.

Steve Thornberry

Steve and his wife, Melanie, with children, Ryan and Margo, live in Lake Forest, and have been members of St. James since 1998. He has been active in the area of property and maintenance and served on the council from 2002-2004, including the office of President of the Congregation. Steve currently serves frequently as Assisting Minister in our worship.

Current Congregation Council:

Term Expiring June 2018

Tom Ebert
Melinda Hill
Bud Lowell
Mark Wanda

Term Expiring June 2019

Jenn Bodine
Kim Kazarian
Lisa Kollmorgen
Joe Voelcker

Term Expiring June 2020

Doug Gerber
Daniel Heiman
Madeleine Jorgensen
Melodi Peters

ST. JAMES MEMORIAL GARDEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Carey Cotey (term expires June 2019)
Mark Taylor (term expires June 2020)
Detlef Koska (term expires June 2021)

Nominee for a 4 year term expiring June 2022: Cobi Stein

ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Jim Davoux (term expires June 2018)
Mike Bennett (term expires June 2019)
Rob Davis (term expires June 2020)
Jerry Herb (term expires June 2020)

Nominees for a 3 year term expiring June 2021: Jim Davoux and Hans Bodine

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Current members: Pete Clemens (term expires June 2019)
Linda Berner (term expires June 2020)

Nominee for a 3-year term, expiring June 2021: Dave Van Singel

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Current members: Tiffany Alexander (term expires June 2019)
Melinda Voelcker (term expires June 2019)

Nominees for a one year term expiring June, 2019: Melinda Hill and Mark Wanda

Nominees for a two year term expiring June 2020: Alison Graf and Paula Doyle

Thank you for your faithful service to those members whose terms are expiring this year: Melinda Hill (Secretary), Tom Ebert and Bud Lowell (Church Council), Mark Wanda (President), Susan Paul (Audit Committee); Tom Ebert, Brenda Shinn, Carol Bennett and Josh Hornaday (Nominating Committee). And special thanks to those members who have agreed to serve for another term: Jim Davoux (Endowment Fund Board).

Report of the Engagement Coordinator

It has been a joy for me to share in the ministry and programs of our St. James community in the staff role of Engagement Coordinator for the last nine months. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20. Such an organic, fluid and evolving role – because the Holy Spirit is constantly breathing life into each of us and the ways we are called to serve.

If I haven't reached out to you personally, please know that I welcome the opportunity (847-302-6988 or sholmstrom@stjameslutheran.org) to discuss how your membership in our family of believers might be strengthened through getting to know others, by volunteering or engaging in a small group ministry.

One such group, affectionately named the "St. James Seniors," has begun meeting once a month for fellowship, educational, enrichment and service programs. Thank you to Susan Olsen for

her leadership and assistance. Please join this group as your calendar allows and bring friends! Upcoming dates include: May 31, June 21, July 26, August 16 and September 15.

As Pastor Holmer preached recently quoting, Martin Luther, "Everything that gets done in this world is by hope," my goal for the position I am entrusted with and for our congregation is that by sharing that hope we will be empowered to reach out to others as ambassadors of Christ to share the good news with friends and neighbors.

"For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Shelly Holmstrom

Report of the Communications & Technology (CAT) Committee

The CAT team was organized in the fall of 2017 in order to address the need for using twenty-first century communication channels for St. James messaging.

Our primary goal is to increase engagement in our mission by more effectively and efficiently communicating church news. After reviewing the current communication landscape we decided to first focus on the monthly newsletter, website and flat screen in the narthex. To date we have:

- Moved from a monthly printed newsletter to a weekly email update named **Connections**. Through this change we have been able to share more photos, respond to items in a more timely manner and post video content, and we are saving mailing and printing costs. We also are posting a printed copy on the kiosk in the narthex each week.
- Updated website information. We have begun the task of clearing out old information, as well as posting signup forms and photos from events on the site.
- Created weekly videos for the flat-screen in the narthex

We plan to continue improving **Connections**, and focus more directly at updating the website including a private member login section where we can post a secure online member directory. We welcome new committee members, especially those who have familiarity with CRM, email marketing, social media and website development.

Thanks to our Committee Members including: Kelly Duncombe, Tom Ebert, Suzanne Gerber, Shelly Holmstrom and Bill Shinn

Serving with gladness,

Susan Jarzembski

Report of the Evangelism Committee

Committee Members: Barb Basgall, Barb Davoux, Melinda Voelcker and Tom Ebert.

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

Projects and activities of Evangelism this past year included:

Ongoing 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)".

Our main project was updating the St. James Photo Board. We asked church members to submit their family photos either electronically, hard copy, or pose for our featured cameraman Detlef Koska. Detlef has been solely responsible for editing, cropping, labeling and mounting of all

the new photos. Thank you Detlef for your incredible effort and tenacity! To date, our success rate is a little bit over 50%. Thanks to everyone who submitted a new photo but we still would like to see all our members submit a photo! Contact Detlef or Tom Ebert for more details.

Works in progress:

We continue 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.

We are always looking for new committee members and new ideas to reenergize our activities. We are working with Engagement Coordinator Shelly Holmstrom to help us in these areas.

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

God's Peace,

Thomas Ebert, Acting Chair

Report of the Youth Ministry Team

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Doug Dusthimer

Committee Members: Sue Ebert, Doug Gerber, Debbie MacAyeal

We had many fun activities with our youth in the past year designed to help them form strong bonds with their peers and with their God. We started the year with an active game of nine square during Rally Day. Other events included Independence Grove, a corn maze, paintball, Crop Walk, Jump America, nerf wars, laser tag, slime making and games, bowling and a sleep under.

This year we also started a new event for the younger age group. We had a game night for the children and their families followed by a pot luck dinner. We are planning on making this a regular event.

There is a canoe trip planned to the Boundary Waters this summer with the older youth. There are currently 11 people signed up to go including 3 adults.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ebert

Report of the Social Ministry Outreach Committee

Committee Members: Brooke Davis, Siri Eck, Shelly Holmstrom, Sarah Lewis, Melodi Peters, Beth Stresser, 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, including support of our many “asks” on the kiosk each month!

Volunteer and Financial Support :

- North Chicago Community Partners
- COOL Ministries
- CROP Walk
- Habitat for Humanity
- Help Within the Family
- Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter (PADS)
- RefugeeOne
- Waukegan 2 College

Financial Support Only:

- Bethel New Life
- Career Resource Center
- ELCA Benevolence
- Lake County United
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)
- Sagrado Corazón
- Winchester House Chaplaincy

Planting the seed of Service is our overarching goal. We encourage everyone to volunteer in our various outreach ministries. It is wonderful family time and a wonderful way to get to know other members! We are pleased to have the Confirmation youth volunteer to walk with CROP and at our PADS dinners. Additionally, we have members who faithfully attend PADS, volunteer at

North Chicago schools, and tutor at Waukegan 2 College. St. James sponsors COOL events including the COOL 5K/10K WALK/RUN and FOODSTOCK.

The 2017 theme of HUNGER worked nicely with the ELCA Synod focus on raising funds for World Hunger Appeal. St. James raised \$29,500, which exceeded our goal! As always, this congregation is generous when there is a need beyond our walls.

Closer to home, St. James supports many agencies that deal with food insecurity in Lake County. Your food donations are a huge part of our outreach and make a difference in the daily life of those struggling in our own community. We are blessed that our membership approved a budget in January that will continue to support our extensive outreach. It is a joy to give and serve as a congregation family.

Our 2018 theme is EDUCATION. We chose Waukegan 2 College to receive our Lenten fundraising. We were overjoyed to exceed our \$10K goal and presented them with a check for \$13,600! God is Good, All the Time! We will continue within the theme as we shepherd the Give 5 for Need program in June. We are going to volunteer with many of our partners including, W2C, NCCP, PADS and COOL.

We thank Committee members Debbie MacAyeal and Lori Grauer for their past service and Sarah Lewis for her continued service on the COOL Board of Directors.

Alane Wanda, Chair

Report of the Christian Education Committee

Committee Members: Barb Basgall (chair), Mike Bennett, Linda Berner, Jenn Bodine, Richard Holmer, 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:

- 5 children were presented with Bibles on September 17, 2017.
- 3 ninth graders were confirmed on September 24, 2017.
- 5 fourth graders received First Communion on either February 11 or 18, 2018 following their completed classes.

This year's Youth Programs included the following:

- 25 youth participated in our July 31-August 4, 2017 GIVE5/4NEED program! This program allows our middle school students (with our high school students serving as mentors) to learn what a blessing it is to give to others.
- Vacation Bible School took place August 7–11, 2017. 20 children attended and 10 of our older youth were leaders.
- On Rally Day, the RefugeeOne family that St. James sponsored. Joined us at our picnic and sang for our children and parents.
- We had 17 confirmation students this church year—13 boys and 4 girls.
- Wendy Wiegers led our children's Christmas Pageant on December 10, 2017 at the 10:45am service.
- Campfirmation will take place June 24-29, 2018.

- The Mission Trip will occur July 15-21, 2018.
- GIVE5/4NEED program will take place June 18-22, 2018.
- Our VBS for Families program will take place on Sundays, July 8, 15 and 22, 2018 from 10:30-noon.
- This year's Christmas Pageant will be December 10, 2017.

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:

- *Dusting off Theology, volume I, The Ten Commandments* (James Nestingen) kicked off our educational year.
- In the fall/winter, congregation members viewed *Dusting off Theology, volume III, The Apostles Creed* (James Nestingen).
- To kick off 2017, we viewed *Reformation Roots* to coincide with the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.
- During the spring session, we viewed *When You Pray... The Lord's Prayer* (James Nestingen).

Sunday School

This year the rotation curriculum studied the stories of the Old Testament.

- 54 students are enrolled in the Sunday School program.
- 17 teachers, including 3 high school students, gave their time to educate our children of St. James.
- Both preschoolers and 7th and 8th grade students continued to use the Holy Moly Curriculum and study the main stories of the Bible using a two year plan.

Beginning in September 2018, our 7th and 8th graders will begin using the Collaborate by Spark House curriculum.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Basgall

Report of the Endowment Fund Board

Members: Jim Davoux, Ron Kok-Alblas, Mike Bennett, Rob Davis, Jerry Herb, Pastor Richard Holmer (ex officio)

The Endowment fund began 2017 with a balance of \$222,375 and ended 2017 with a balance of \$245,830. During 2017 no disbursements were made from the Endowment fund. The board has discussed making a one-time scholarship available from the Danielson fund for a Seminary student in 2018. If anyone in the congregation knows of a deserving Seminary student, please contact one of the board members.

The Land Fund began 2017 with a balance of \$1,016,070 and ended 2017 with a balance of \$1,081,783. During 2017 the markets performed well, and the board advised the church council that the Land Fund should take a full 4% disbursement. A 4% disbursement of \$41,592 was made from the Land Fund in June of 2017. Those funds were made available to the church council for major maintenance and benevolence. The investment performance of the Land Fund continues to do well in the spring of 2018. As of the end of March 2018, the balance of the

endowment fund is \$1,071,080. This puts us on track to recommend a 4% disbursement again in 2018.

In early 2018 the church received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$50,000. The stated intent of the gift is to be used as a "matching gift" fund over the coming years. As St. James holds extra mile giving campaigns for a selected cause (Waukegan to College, Refugee One, etc.) this fund can be used to incentivize the campaign. The fund will not be designated as a permanent endowment, but rather will be exhausted over a period of 4-5 years. The Endowment board has co-invested these funds and will work with the church council to set matching gift amounts as campaigns are initiated.

The congregation is always welcome and encouraged to submit ideas to the board for potential disbursements from the Endowment Fund. Contact any member of the board to discuss your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Davoux

Report of the Finance Committee

We have been blessed by your generous and timely support which makes our job in the finance committee much easier. We are also thrilled by the growth in benevolence gifts which allows us to help so many worthy causes such as Waukegan to College.

We are grateful to Joe Voelcker for many years serving as our Financial Secretary including his recruitment and training of our counters. We couldn't get it done without the help that our counters provide either Sunday after the second service or Monday mornings. Many hands lighten the workload. Thanks to all of you who are part of our counting teams.

Chris Meyer has served us well as Business Manager for many years which includes keeping the books. It is great to have the continuity.

Thanks to my fellow members of the finance committee for their wisdom and oversight throughout the year- Richard Holmer, Chris Meyer, Pete Clemens, Joe Voelcker, Mark Wanda and Bob Kenehan.

Jon Paul, Treasurer

Report of the Worship and Music Committee

In worship, we come before our Lord as broken people in need of forgiveness and grace. Through Word and Sacrament we confess our sins and our inability to heal ourselves. We hear the truth. We praise the God who created us and saved us by sending his Son to die for our sins. We celebrate the gift of grace which allows us to participate in the resurrection, despite our unworthiness. This is our strength and the message we are called to share.

This committee marches to a different calendar. Instead of winter, spring, summer and fall, we have Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and festival days. The Common Lectionary guides us through these seasons, expressed in our worship through changes of liturgy, music, and visual indications like the colors of the paraments. On October 29, we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In Advent and Lent, Vespers services were held on Wednesday evenings. Christmas Eve was a Sunday, with Advent IV observed at 10:45 am and Christmas Eve worship at 4:30 pm. During Holy Week we worshiped on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

We are blessed with an abundance of human resources in this congregation. We are blessed with a pastor who leads us rightly. The members of the musical ensembles, altar guild, and worship servants "staff" the worship services. Our steadfast bakers provide handmade communion bread. The Advent wreath appears on time every year. The baptismal font is maintained. Communion rails and chairs are removed and replaced depending on our needs.

This year, we have had several staff changes. Donna Jarvi retired after serving for 9 years as Coordinator for Damascus Road at the end of 2017 and Melinda Voelcker and Greg MacAyeal stepped in to share the role. Gretchen Haskett retires after serving for 16 years as Handbell Choir Director as of this annual meeting. And Tim Haskett retires after 26 years as Music Director on this day, as well. It is difficult to adequately express our appreciation to these talented leaders. We are so grateful for all the years they

have inspired us through their talent and faithfulness to this congregation. We also thank those who have stepped into these roles. We pray that the search for a Director of Music and a Handbell Choir Director will bear fruit over the summer months.

Still in place are our organist, Wendy Unrath, our Children's Music Director, Wendy Wieggers, and our Brass Ensemble Director, Daniel Heiman. Their talent and faithful leadership are appreciated all year long. The Children's Choir membership has been robust, and the Brass Ensemble has grown in numbers.

This year, the zimbelstern, the spinning star on our organ, has been repaired, the Ministry Scheduler Program for worship servants was updated, and Engagement Coordinator Shelly Holmstrom has been helping to recruit additional worship servants.

Every Sunday, I toss my bulletin on the seat next to me in my car, and it rides with me all week. A blessing of liturgical worship is that the words stay with us out in the "real" world:

We are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Peace be with you.

This is my body, given for you...

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,

The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Go in peace, to follow Christ, make disciples, and live the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bennett, Chair person

Committee members: Tim Haskett, Wendy Wieggers, Melinda Voelcker, Greg MacAyeal, Daniel Heiman, Jineen Heiman, Pastor Holmer (ex officio)

Report of the Property Committee

Committee members: Pete Clemens, Dave Van Singel, Hugh Triplett, Carol Bennett, Chris Meyer, Dave Stresser, Werner Stein, Pastor Holmer (ex officio) and John Tanner (chairman)

-- major patching and resealing of rubber roof (majority of flat roof) but still evaluating area over common room

-- new spot lights in the very high areas of the sanctuary

-- new kitchen floor

--continuous troubleshooting and repair of miscellaneous items with a cost effective attitude

Many thanks to 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 Pete for his continuous vigilance and work, and Shelly Holmstrom for her organizational efforts leading toward an exceptional spring work day.

Respectfully submitted,

John Tanner

Report of the Memorial Garden

Burials

We interred the ashes of one person within the last 12 months.

Memorial Plaque

There is one plan to add a new name to the plaque. And there is still plenty of space to engrave more names. Please contact any of the trustees with any questions.

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 amount is \$5,499 as of 5/18/18. We anticipate a loan reduction payment of \$3,000.

Current Rate Structure

The current rate structure remains 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

The current composition of the Board is as follows:

Detlef Koska, Chairman – thru June, 2021

Mark Taylor – thru June, 2020

Carey Cotey - thru June, 2019

Richard Holmer – ex-officio member

Tom Meyer – Legal Counsel

Respectfully submitted,

Detlef K. Koska
Chairman

Report of the Women of St. James

There were multiple opportunities for confirmed women of St. James throughout the year.

Faith Enrichment

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.

Sarah Lewis graciously organized and lead three Bible Studies which included: "David: Seeking a Heart Like His" by Beth Moore, "1st and 2nd Thessalonians: Children of the Day" by Beth Moore, and finally "James: Mercy Triumphs" by Beth Moore.

Fellowship

The Annual Cookie Exchange was held Dec. 2, 2017 and Kathy Lowell shared a Kindness Calendar that suggested activities to pursue in December. Sue Ebert and Kathy Lowell coordinated the potluck dinner on February 11. The Women of St. James hosted a reception following summer worship and provided food for Wednesday night suppers during Lent.

Service/Outreach

The bake sale December 3 utilizing goodies from the Cookie Exchange raised \$500 which was donated to Waukegan to College.

Women's Retreat

Carole and John Tanner so graciously offered up their beautiful and very spacious home in South Haven, Michigan for us to hold our retreat in April. There were nine women who participated Friday - Sunday. Our study was called Renovate - Building A Life With God by Jacob Armstrong. The weekend was led by Anne Linn, Kathy Lowell, and Shelly Holmstrom. A great time was had by all and we received very positive comments about the study. We look forward to having another retreat next spring!

An Invitation

The Women of St. James are seeking women to work in teams to lead events during 2018/19. Please contact Shelly Holmstrom or Kathy Lowell 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 Kathy Lowell

On behalf of the Women of St. James

Report of the Sewing Group

Our Sewing Group works at the church on the first Thursday of the month, September through May, preparing 60" by 80" quilts, teddy bears, and pillows. We delivered 12 quilts to the Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Illinois to be assimilated with other quilts and sent to Lutheran World Relief. This year we went to a luncheon where we were privileged to meet Paul Bauman, Executive Director of ELCA, and we also displayed some of our quilts. We took 43 teddy bears, 6 pillows, and 73 newborn baby caps to Lutheran Social Services in Des Plaines.

We welcome donations of cotton material large enough to be cut into 21-inch squares. We make our quilts with sewing machines. We need

volunteers to stuff the teddy bears, tie the quilts, iron the material and cut pieces. We can always use ladies who like to sew by hand or on the machine. We can always find work for someone who is interested. We bring our lunch and share a dessert.

Members include Ann Anderson, Carol Bennett, Betty Benton, Mary Gram, Judy Grodt, Bobbie Hildenbrand, Faye Holm, Madeleine Jorgensen, Shirley Norberg, Ulla Norberg, Carole Tanner, Joan Webster, Ann Anderson, Elaine Koski, and Chery Voss.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Benton

Report of the Personnel Committee

Committee members: Craig Linn, Sue Thomas, Tom Ebert, Lisa Kollmorgen, and Suzanne Gerber

The Personnel Committee had been in abeyance the last couple years, but was reactivated this spring to pursue the hiring of a new Administrative Assistant due to Corinne Mattioli's resignation in December. The Personnel Committee's main focus was to prepare a new job description, post this position internally and externally, receive applications, interview candidates, prepare a compensation package and hire a new staff position. During this process, church member Carol Bennett stepped in to fill the Administrative Assistant role until a suitable candidate could be found. After the dust settled, we now have a "hybrid" Administrative Assistant position consisting of two part-time staff. Carol agreed to continue on a part-time basis and church member Kristin Haverkamp was hired for the second part-time position. What a great team! This new structure provides our office staff more flexibility for cross-training and for when staff takes vacations or needs time off.

The Committee will also be taking on the role of hiring replacements for the Director of Music and

Bell Choir Director positions due to the retirements of Tim and Gretchen Haskett, respectively. In regard to the Director of Music position, a search committee is being formed to assist with finding candidates who possess the musical skill and talent necessary to perform this role.

Moving forward, two goals include completion of a Personnel Policies & Procedure Manual and implementation of a performance review for all paid staff of St. James.

Special thanks to all the members of the Personnel Committee for their considerable time and effort. Sue Thomas you are amazing! Also, thanks to the office staff for their invaluable input and continued patience and especially Carol Bennett for helping us through a very challenging period!

Finally, this committee urgently needs additional members who have human resource and/or benefit plan experience. If interested, please contact Tom Ebert.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Ebert

Report of the Stewardship Committee



Our theme for the 2018 stewardship campaign in the fall of 2017 was Love Gives. We love because God loved us first and because God gives to us, we can give generously to others.

You showed the love with a wonderful response to the campaign. We were able to come up with a balanced budget, as well as increase our giving to the ministries we support financially.

Your love keeps on flowing, as evidenced with your overwhelming support for Waukegan to College earlier this year, where we far surpassed our goal.

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 many in need as mentioned by Social Ministry.

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

Joe Voelcker, Craig Linn, Michael Montalbano, Dave Van Singel, Richard Holmer and Madeleine Jorgensen

Jon Paul, Stewardship Committee Chair

Report of the Fellowship Committee

Committee Members: Sue Ebert, Shelly Holmstrom, Madeleine Jorgensen, Kim Kazarian, Cobi Stein

St. James had another year filled with fun and festive Christian Fellowship! We kicked off the summer with a Mortgage Burning BBQ! It was a fun filled, casual evening. Real Urban Barbecue was enjoyed by all. The temp was hot and the flames high as the mortgage papers burned! It also happened to be the 38th anniversary of Pastor Holmer's ordination. We couldn't let that go by without song & cake!

We met in July for our annual Lake Forest Beach Party Picnic. Families gathered at the beach to share pot luck dishes and cook food on the grill. The day was cool but enjoyed by all there with great conversation!

We closed the summer with our Rally Day Picnic. Salads, sandwiches and desserts were provided by The Picnic Basket in Libertyville. Hot dogs were served for the children.

For the Fall Progressive dinner, Brenda Shinn again put together an amazing menu! Kim and Greg Kazarian graciously hosted the appetizer hour. Brenda had us all organized and sent us on our way to host homes for dinner and dessert. Thank you Brenda!

In December, Cobi Stein put together an amazing beginning to Advent! The annual Advent Potluck

Dinner started early in the morning on December 3rd with a group of men rolling Swedish meatballs! The menu was a traditional Swedish meal that left nothing on the buffet table it was so popular! We sang together accompanied by Betty on the piano. Cobi led families in assembling live advent wreaths. The greens were beautiful! A big thank you to Cobi!

For advent services, many provided cookies and desserts to enjoy after the services. As we rolled into Lent, we gathered for soup suppers prior to vespers on those Wednesday evenings. This was well attended and the talks by Waukegan to College were very informative. It was a lovely setting in which to meet several Waukegan to College families.

Also in March, the fellowship committee put together desserts to thank the Lake Forest High School choir and Tim for "practicing" at the 10:45 service before embarking on their European adventure.

This year's Fall Progressive dinner will be replaced by a casual backyard potluck complete with yard games on Saturday, September 29th. We will all gather together for conversation, food & fun! Please save the date.

Respectively submitted,

Kim Kazarian

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 2017-2018.

We express our gratitude to all who serve on the Church Council, especially Tom Ebert, Melinda Hill (Secretary), Bud Lowell and Mark Wanda (President), who have completed their terms of office. In addition we acknowledge with great appreciation our other 2017-2018 officers: Lisa Kollmorgen, Vice President; Jon Paul, Treasurer and Joe Voelcker, Financial Secretary.

We welcome into our church family the 7 adults and 6 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 Ron Matta and Sune Norberg who died in the Faith during this year, their families and others who mourn the loss of loved ones through death; those who have been hospitalized or seriously ill at home due to the loss of good health; those who have known the fear and frustration of job loss; those who in any way have experienced the pain of great sacrifice. We pray that all may find comfort and help in the promises of our loving and merciful Lord, Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior.

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

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

**2017-2018 Officers of
the Congregation
and Church Council**

- President**
Mark Wanda
- Vice President**
Lisa Kollmorgen
- Secretary**
Melinda Hill
- Treasurer**
Jon Paul
- Financial Secretary**
Joe Voelcker
- Council Members**
Jenn Bodine
Tom Ebert
Doug Gerber
Daniel Heiman
Melinda Hill
Madeleine Jorgensen
Kim Kazarian
Lisa Kollmorgen
Bud Lowell
Melodi Peters
Joe Voelcker
Mark Wanda
- Pastor**
Richard E. Holmer
- Church Staff**
- Business Manager**
Chris Meyer
- Administrative Assistants**
Carol Bennett and
Kristin Haverkamp
- Sunday School Director**
Debbie MacAyeal
- Engagement Coordinator**
Shelly Holmstrom
- Youth Ministry Director**
Doug Dusthimer
- Nursery Attendant**
TBD

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**Standing Committee Chairs
and Other Leaders**

- Christian Education**
Barb Basgall
- Church Property**
John Tanner
- Communications &
Technology**
Susan Jarzembksi
- Evangelism**
Tom Ebert
- Fellowship**
Kim Kazarian
- Finance**
Jon Paul
- Social Ministry**
Alane Wanda
- Stewardship**
Jon Paul
- Worship & Music**
Carol Bennett
- Endowment Board of Trustees**
Jim Davoux
- Memorial Garden
Board of Trustees**
Detlef Koska
- Sewing Group**
Betty Benton
- Youth Ministry Team**
Sue Ebert
- Women of St. James**
Kathy Lowell
- Altar Guild**
Carol Bennett
- Church Staff**
- Director of Music**
Tim Haskett
- Organist**
Wendy Unrath
- Damascus Road Directors**
Greg MacAyeal and
Melinda Voelcker
- Director of
Children's Music**
Wendy Wieggers
- Bell Choir Director**
Gretchen Haskett
- Brass Ensemble Director**
Daniel Heiman