



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 2, 2019

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, February 3, 2019
- 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

February 3, 2019

Prior to the opening of the scheduled meeting, Council President, Lisa Kollmorgen introduced the Northwestern Safety Training video: "Run, Hide, Fight ". She reminded everyone that in the event of an emergency, awareness is the best preparedness. A brief discussion followed to remind the congregation to be aware of all exits at St. James.

Opening Prayer-Pastor Holmer

Call to Order- Lisa Kollmorgen, 10:50 A.M.

Report of the Tellers-Quorum, (64 members present)

Adoption of agenda-Approved

Approval of June 3, 2018 Minutes-Approved

Final 2018 Review – Jon Paul, Treasurer presenting. 2018 ended with St. James having a balanced budget once again. First year without a mortgage! Pledged giving came in at about 98%, with greater than budgeted non-pledged giving allowing for additional benevolence spending, including:

- \$70K was donated to start a Benevolence Endowment Fund to provide for matching grants.
- The first grant, \$8K, was given to match the first \$8K given by other families for Disaster Relief.
- \$15K went to Waukegan to College Fund and this ministry was added to our budgeted benevolence giving in 2019.
- \$6K went to COOL transitional housing.
- \$5K was donated to Sagrado Corazón.
- \$3.4K went to a variety of other ministries, including Super Bowl of Caring, Samaritan Counseling and Refugee One.

In addition, 15% of member giving to the General Fund was distributed to the ELCA, ELCA designated benevolences and a host of other ministries.

Presentation of the 2019 General Fund Budget –

With generous support in 2018, we anticipate a balanced budget, even after allocating \$35.5K to be paid in 2019, for various endeavors. (\$29K to be determined by the Council). Significant factors are as follows:

- Benevolence giving is increased slightly in 2019, as Waukegan to College Fund was added to the benevolence budget.

- Personnel costs came in just under budget in 2018 with the Bell Choir Director position now being handled by the Music Director.
- Property expenses came in close to budget with utilities higher in 2018, but snow removal and maintenance under.
- Technology costs increased, along with miscellaneous costs including gifts to retiring members.
- Insurance costs were under budget with better rates on property insurance.
- Reduced spending in 2018 on guest musicians and organists, however, budget remains the same for 2019.
- Christian Education spending can vary depending upon member participants and any offsetting fundraisers or fees. Budget increased in anticipation of more youth participation.
- Investments declined during Q4 of 2018, but still up over the past 3 years.
- The Land Fund is down to \$42K due to annual distributions to Major Maintenance and Benevolence.
- We had a surplus in the overall operating funds in 2018.
- Due to generous, designated gifts totaling \$70K, a Benevolence Endowment Fund was created to match gifts for various benevolence purposes.

2019 Budget Unanimously Approved

Election of Assembly Voting Members for meeting on June 7/8, 2019, Madeleine Jorgensen and Kim Kazarian

2019 Mission: Experiencing Homelessness

Alane Wanda presented the 2019 St. James Mission: Experiencing Homelessness. This campaign will be kicked off during Lent with a goal of \$12K (before matching funds) for PADS, COOL and Habitat for Humanity.

All agreed we are blessed to be in a solid financial position.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodi Peters, Council Secretary

Report of the President

I have heard it said that abundance is an attitude or a mindset. What does the word bring up for you? In the world around us we hear about abundance in terms of material goods and wealth, yet we hear in the Bible that Jesus came to earth that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). Jesus was referring to life beyond our earthly definitions. Abundance is the word that comes to mind as I think of this past year as President of the church council.

It started out with several important staff positions that needed to be filled. Between June and December of 2018 the following positions were filled: Director of Music, Hand bell Choir Director, Brass Ensemble Director, Nursery Supervisor, and Office Administrators (2). With some big shoes to fill, we were blessed to find exceptional people to serve our congregation in these roles. We have an abundance of talent in our musicians and staff members.

We presented two Safety Sundays that the council felt were part of being a responsible organization that is mindful of safety inside the building. The first, last June, was on fire safety—knowing the exits, location of fire extinguishers and how to use the AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The second in February focused on what to do if someone with a firearm comes in to do harm—Run, Hide, Fight. The news each day tells of the abundance of hate, hurt, and disconnection in our world. We, as the church, serve to love our neighbor, heal spiritual wounds, and to be a source of inclusion and connection in the world.

The council has continued to write “Shepherd Letters” and send emails to member families. We feel it is so important to make connections within the church family. It holds us together, supports our mission, and encourages each of you to reach out to the next member, new members, and

visitors. It invites each of you to get involved in any activity or form of service you might find meaningful. There are an abundance of opportunities to serve here at St. James.

As president, I would like to take credit for the largest general fund surplus ever! But, as is true for most presidents, the credit belongs elsewhere. It belongs with you who give. Council has been thoughtfully deliberating how to allocate this abundance. We have already designated some funds for in-house needs like staff bonuses and equipment, as well as for a variety of benevolence needs. We invite you to contact your council shepherd if you have additional ideas or suggestions.

I am genuinely awed by the generosity of our members. We more than doubled our fund raising goal for “Experiencing Homelessness” and tripled our giving through not one, but three matching gift donations! Out of the abundance of blessings from God we share with those in need. We share financially, we share our time, experience, wisdom, talents, and love. That is what the Gospel says is abundant living!

It has been an honor and a blessing serving as your council president. St. James is both blessed and a blessing. Special thanks to Pastor Holmer for his guidance and tutelage, and to the council for their time and talents. (They also tolerated my occasional wreckage of Robert’s Rules of Order.) Looking forward, the council will continue to discuss ways to strengthen our church family and welcome new members. I plan to continue to connect with members old and new, inviting each of you to find your place to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kollmorgen

Report of Pastor Holmer

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are blessed to be in a good place as a congregation. At present there is a warm feeling of community combined with a clear sense of mission. A spirit of peace and joy is manifest as we gather together for worship. It is a great and happy privilege to lead this community of believers in worship, week by week. It is encouraging to witness the variety of ways our members engage in service to others over the course of the year. It is rewarding to work with the many talented leaders who serve on our church council and committees. It is gratifying to have new members describe the welcoming hospitality they have experienced at St. James. It is inspiring to see persons grow through their participation in learning: at Sunday School, First Communion Class, Confirmation, Adult Class, Faith Forum, Bible Study, Newcomers and Bible in 90 Days.

Wonderful things happen each week, both within our walls and in the wider community where people go to serve. When we experience positive outcomes on a consistent basis, it could be possible to take them for granted. I hope I never do. God's good work is faithfully carried on by all of you. Along with all the good things that happen with regularity, I note a few highlights from the past year.

- * We have added some great new leaders to our staff. When the Hasketts retired, I was unsure how we would be able to replace them. God blessed us with the rich gifts of Rae-Myra Hilliard who is doing tremendous work with our Adult Choir and Handbells. I was very concerned about the future of the St. James Brass when Daniel Heiman had to retire. He has been the heart and soul of that ensemble for 26 years. Yet Ryan Ringnalda came to us at the right moment, and the brass group is flourishing. Nursery Supervisor is an important position – not easy to fill. Vanessa Moreno has proved to be a wonderful asset. (And her brother, Andrew, occasionally plays drums for Damascus Road).

Shelly Holmstrom has grown into her role as Engagement Coordinator, helping to launch

new ministries and involving members in active participation. Our administrative tandem of Carol Bennett and Kristin Haverkampf has a creative and productive partnership in managing the church office. Likewise, Melinda Voelcker and Greg MacAyeal are doing an excellent job sharing leadership for Damascus Road.

Stalwart leadership is also provided by our staff members with longer tenure. Chris Meyer manages our business affairs with skill and grace. Debbie MacAyeal keeps finding creative ways to teach and guide our Sunday School. Wendy Wiegert makes beautiful music with our Children's Choir. Doug Dushtimer has great rapport with our youth.

- * It is always a joy to welcome new members to our congregation. This year we have received two groups of newcomers. Their gifts and energy enrich the life we share.
- * Our members continue to grow in generosity! For the first time in memory, we ended the fiscal year with a surplus balance of \$35,000. We are still considering how best to use these funds. And the response to our special offering to support ministries with those experiencing homelessness has been nothing short of phenomenal. Our original goal was \$12,000, which we hoped to match with funds given for benevolence by a member. Then another member expressed a desire to match the gift – and then yet another. The congregation ended up doubling the original goal by giving \$24,000! Matched with the three gifts, the total comes to \$60,000. Thanks be to God!
- * In recent years we made major renovations to our building and grounds. This past year we have made major improvements in our communications. Our electronic newsletter, Connections, brings news and inspiration on a weekly basis in a creative and interactive format. After a long wait, the flat screen in our narthex is now a lively and informative resource. I enjoy sending my weekly Reflections on the scripture readings for Sunday.

- * We have many great worship services over the course of the church year. Once every three years we host the Community Thanksgiving Service. The worship on Thanksgiving was a great joy.
- * It was most enjoyable to lead a group from St. James on a visit to the Holy Land last November. For some it was a second trip, for others it was their first time. For all of us it was a memorable and moving experience to spend time in that unique place.
- * I find great value in the annual retreats in which I share. The Council retreat helps to strengthen relationship among our elected leaders and time to consider mission plans and priorities. The Men's Retreat serves to inspire and engage all who attend. It would be good for us to find ways to involve more of our members in such retreat experiences.

I am thankful for the faithful service of the council members who are completing their terms. Lisa Kollmorgen, Jenn Bodine, Kim Kazarian and Joe Voelcker have been dedicated leaders. Lisa served as council president this year and her steady hand has been a blessing. Jon Paul has been a tremendous asset to our congregation for many years, sharing his financial acumen. Jon has agreed to serve one more year. As his term as treasurer draws to a close, I extend a special word of gratitude for his faithfulness through both good times and challenging times. Finally I thank all of you who make St. James such a great place to serve and belong by your generous spirit and good hearts.

God bless you all!

Peace,

Richard E. Holmer

MILESTONES

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

Elinor Leigh Jarvi
Thomas Jacob Bosau
Robert Joseph Bosau
Paige Elizabeth Bonfante
Jack Charles Bonfante
Chloe Ann Kropf
Harrison James Lowell
Oliver David Lowell

MILESTONES– continued

On September 30, 2018, Bibles were presented to:

Estevan Arazan
Charley Sommers
Kayleigh Dunford

On September 30, 2018, these persons were confirmed in Christ:

Mark Basgall
Kate Gerber
Kevin Hill
Justin Hornaday
Gus Matkov
Blake Vander Jeugdt
Mackenzie Voelcker

On March 3 and 17, 2019, these persons were welcomed to the Lord's table to share in Holy Communion:

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

These persons were welcomed as members of St. James on December 2, 2018:

Brian and Laura Bonfante, Paige and Jack Glen Bonfante
Cathy and Jim Kambol
Marilyn and Ron Koepke
Linda and Wolf Kollacks
Tom Toser

And on May 12, 2019:

MaryBeth Buschmann
Kathryn and Tom Gilbertson
Annie and Paul Moss
Denise Norberg-Johnson

The following members have died in the past year:

Majlis Anderson
Ruth Nissen
Marion Guyton
Walter Arledge
Ruthane Bopp
Helen Abby

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 2022 (Three Year Term):

Scott Hill

For my entire life, I have attended church, and consider my Christian faith an important part of who I am. My wife Melinda and I were married in the church she grew up in, Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church in Lockport, IL. We moved to Barrington, IL and joined Lutheran Church of the Atonement, and were members for several years. We had three children, and they were baptized there. Due to a job change, we moved to Lake Forest, and started attending St. James in 2003. We felt a strong connection to the congregation, as well as Pastor Holmer, and soon afterwards became members. Our fourth child was baptized at St. James in 2004, by Pastor Holmer. All four children participated in Sunday School, Choir, and were confirmed at St. James. Now that our children are older, I am looking forward to contributing more time to St. James, as a council member.

Tom Meyer

While our two boys were still preschoolers, we moved to Lake Bluff and became members at St. James. We, as a family, have always felt that Saint James is our larger family, where we have grown in faith, where our boys have been confirmed, and where we have met most of our closest friends. Early on I became involved in the music and worship at the church, as well as teaching Sunday School. During the church's building program I served on the Architectural Committee, working with the architect that designed the current sanctuary, and later on the Organ Committee, helping select the designer and builder of the church's pipe organ. For six years I acted as St. James' representative on the COOL Board of Directors, and am still actively involved in fundraising for COOL Ministries. I have been involved as a musician with Damascus Road since its inception, as well as singing in festival and regular choirs, and acting as lay minister and lector throughout the years. St. James has been a blessing to me and my family, and I am once again blessed to have this opportunity to serve the Lord as a council member at St. James.

Gail Morgan

My family have been members of St James since our kids were small. Most of my early involvement was centered around them. As they have grown I have been blessed to be able to volunteer in other capacities. I have found that every time I say yes to serving opportunities at the church I receive many more blessings than I give. I am currently an office helper, an offering counter and I also serve on altar guild. I am looking forward to this new chance to serve our St James family.

Alane Wanda

Our family moved back to Libertyville in 2013 after fourteen years on the East Coast. We were very active in our congregation in MA and knew that finding a new church home would be a vital anchor for our family during our transition. While St. James is very different from our previous congregation, it felt right from the first visit – and that was before I learned how service-oriented St. James is! I was baptized and raised in the Lutheran Church and watched my parents' involvement growing up, so it is natural to me to join and serve. I believe that my relationship with God is deepened by my outreach and service to others. I joined Social Ministry as soon as we became members and my heart has been full ever since. I am currently chair and continue to enjoy the relationships I am building within St. James and with the agencies we support. I have served in the same capacity at our

previous church and on two church councils. I believe it expands not only my understanding of the congregation, but again deepens my bond and commitment to the membership and its mission. I look forward to serving in another way and watching God work through the dedicated members of St. James!

Current Congregation Council:

Term Expiring June 2019	Term Expiring June 2020	Term Expiring June 2021
Jenn Bodine	Rob Davis	Tiffany Alexander
Kim Kazarian	Doug Gerber	Bob Hughes
Lisa Kollmorgen	Madeleine Jorgensen	Teresa Miller
Joe Voelcker	Melodi Peters	Steve Thornberry

TREASURER -Jon Paul (term expires June, 2019) Jon has agreed to serve one more year.

ST. JAMES MEMORIAL GARDEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Carey Cote (term expires June 2019)
Randy Daniel (term expires June 2022)
Mark Taylor (term expires June 2020)
Detlef Koska (term expires June 2022)
Cobi Stein (term expires June 2022)

ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Mike Bennett (term expires June 2019)
Rob Davis (term expires June 2020)
Jerry Herb (term expires June 2020)
Jim Davoux (term expires June 2021)
Hans Bodine (term expires June 2021)

Nominee for a 3 year term expiring June 2022: Sue Thomas

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Current members: Pete Clemens (term expires June 2019)
Linda Berner (term expires June 2020)
Dave Van Singel (term expires June 2021)

Nominee for a 3-year term, expiring June 2022: Carol Bettendorf

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Current members: Tiffany Alexander (term expires June 2019)
Melinda Voelcker (term expires June 2019)
Melinda Hill (term expires June 2019)
Mark Wanda (term expires June 2019)
Alison Graf (term expires June 2020)
Paula Doyle (term expires June 2020)

Nominees for a one year term expiring June, 2020: Lisa Kollmorgen and Jenn Bodine

Nominees for a two year term expiring June 2021: Don Bergsrud and Donna Jarvi

Thank you for your faithful service to those members whose terms are expiring this year: Jenn Bodine, Kim Kazarian and Joe Voelcker (Church Council), Lisa Kollmorgen (President) Carey Cote (Memorial Garden), Mike Bennett (Endowment Fund Board) Pete Clemens (Audit Committee); Tiffany Alexander, Melinda Hill, Melinda Voelcker and Mark Wanda (Nominating Committee). And special thanks to Jon Paul who has agreed to serve as Treasurer for one more year.

Report of the Engagement Coordinator

Life at St. James evolves and grows each day. I am fortunate to be in a position to experience the variety of individuals and programs that make up our congregation. One such program is the St. James Senior group which recently approved the new name, OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans). They meet each month for fellowship, service or an outing. I encourage you to check out upcoming events and extend an invitation to a friend. Special thanks to Cobi Stein and Madeleine Jorgensen for their coordination. The ongoing enjoyment and success of this group can be an inspiration for other ideas for small group ministry. I look forward to encouraging and supporting connections with each other as we share in the abundant life God provides.

It has been a pleasure to meet with several new member groups this past year. Hopefully, one on one meetings allow for conversations that increase awareness of opportunities for involvement and service. Long time members of St. James and newcomers alike, we can explore ways to deepen our individual and collective experiences together. “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of

some, but encouraging one another...” Hebrew 10:24-26.

The generous outpouring of support for our “Serving the Homeless” campaign during Lent resulted in significant financial gifts to COOL Ministries, Habitat for Humanity Lake County and PADS. We look forward to deepening our awareness and opportunities for serving also and I invite you to ask me about it!

Reminded that we are all part of the vine, with a variety of spiritual gifts and opportunities, the fabric of our congregation enables us to be enriched as each individual has a voice in the expression of faith in action. We are ALL invited to worship – and there is a place for more of us as worship assistants or in our exciting music programs. ALL are invited to serve – and there is a role for each of us within the walls of our church home or outside, engaged in partnership with our wonderful service agencies. What a blessing to walk side by side as we FOLLOW CHRIST, MAKE DISCIPLES & LIVE THE GOSPEL.

Shelly Holmstrom

Report of the Communications & Technology (CAT) Committee

Since forming in the fall of 2017, our goals to engage and inform continue to be the focus. With two weekly emails, new content updated each week on the flat screen in the narthex, active social media and a new online directory, St. James has moved forward in regard to digital communications. Working in tandem with administrative assistants Carol and Kristin and Facebook lead Suzanne Gerber—grateful for their talents—we look forward to refining our current

efforts as we embrace best practices for church communications. We continue to be in need of technical expertise and would welcome those with a background in networking, graphic design, email marketing, and copywriting to join the team.

Committee Members: Suzanne Gerber, Tom Ebert, Kelly Duncombe, Bill Shinn

Susan Jarzembski

Report of the Evangelism Committee

Members: Barb Basgall, Barb Davoux, Melinda Voelcker, Tom Ebert, Steve Thornberry (Council Liaison) and Shelly Holmstrom (Engagement Coordinator).

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 launching the "Invite 3" program focused on members being more intentional in invitation to spark faith in our members and those that are yet to be members of St. James. If each of us performs 3 acts of Evangelism, or simple invitations that spark ones faith, we'll soon have a roaring fire of faith growth. We will continue to build on this initiative.

Works in progress:

- We continue to extend the visibility of St. James within the community by publicizing open events at St. James. If you have a St. James event open to the community, please contact a committee member.
- The committee has also begun work on a "Connection Center" which will be stationed in the narthex. This Center will display the St. James Mission Statement and focus on "Opportunities to Connect" and provide opportunities to serve and invite. There will also be new St. James information cards for visitors to take with them and new "Connect to St. James" cards for members, and visitors, to request more information about St. James.
- 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,

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Ebert, Acting Chair

Report of the Social Ministry Outreach Committee

Committee Members: Brooke Davis, Siri Eck, Shelly Holmstrom, Sarah Lewis, Teresa Miller, Beth Stresser, Kim Kazarian, 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 the ELCA. 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! This is just one of many ways you make a difference in the daily lives of those struggling in our own community.

Volunteer and Financial Support :

- **North Chicago Community Partners (NCCP)**
- **COOL Ministries**
- **CROP Walk**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Help Within the Family**
- **Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter (PADS)**
- **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. This past year we have focused on synergies with other St. James ministries – Youth, Sunday School, WOSJ, OWLS, Sewing Group, Evangelism, and Fellowship to name a few – to work together on projects and build relationships.

Beginning in 2018, the committee took over the Give 5/4 Need Program with the intent to plant the seed of Service in our children in 5-8th grades. This dovetails nicely with our Confirmation Outreach, which has our 7th and 8th graders volunteering at PADS in the Fall and Spring.

Starting with Give 5 in 5th and 6th grade begins their Service journey and makes for a natural progression to Service during their Confirmation years. We worked with many of our outreach partners doing volunteer work in the community and, as a new twist, forging new relationships with St. James adults in the OWLS and the Sewing Group. We also expanded the program to two weeks, in order to accommodate busy summer schedules.

Additionally, we have members who faithfully attend PADS, volunteer at North Chicago Schools, and tutor at Waukegan to College. St. James sponsors COOL events including the WALK/RUN and FOODSTOCK

The 2018 theme of EDUCATION paved the way for many opportunities to educate ourselves. We chose Waukegan to College to receive our Lenten extraordinary giving campaign. We were overjoyed to exceed our \$10K goal and present to them a total of \$13,600!

The 2019 theme of SERVING THE HOMELESS has made for a particularly meaningful focus. Supporting three agencies we are very committed to every year and deepening our understanding of their outreach resulted in “blowing the roof off” our goal of \$12K. We thank with deep gratitude three generous St. James members who offered matching funds. We will be presenting PADS, COOL, and Habitat for Humanity with checks totaling \$60K at a special presentation on June 2. WE are blessed to be a blessing!

We are also 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!

Thank you to all the Committee members for their participation and support of our outreach and to Sarah Lewis for her service on the COOL Board of Directors.

Alane Wanda, Chair

Report of the Christian Education Committee

Committee Members: Barb Basgall (chair), 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 are looking for a few more individuals to join the Christian Education Committee. We would appreciate someone with Sunday School age children for representation. Our group selects and implements the St. James Christian educational curriculum for our adults and children.

Youth Education

This year's milestones included the following achievements:

- Three third grade children were presented with Bibles on September 23, 2018.
- Seven ninth graders were confirmed on September 30, 2018.
- This year our Confirmation students participated in serving the PADS meal once in the fall and once in the spring. This was in lieu of participating in the CROPwalk.
- Six fourth graders received First Communion on either March 3 or March 17, 2019 following their completed classes.

This year's Youth Programs included the following:

- Vacation Bible School took place July 8, 15, and 22, 2018 following the 9:30 summer service from 10:30-12:00. The theme was Babylon. An average of 10 children attended per Sunday. We had only two to three youth leaders with two to three parents helping.
- On Rally Day, we opted to provide games for the children rather than a performer.
- We had 13 confirmation students (eight 8th graders and five 7th graders) this church year—8 boys and 5 girls.
- We started a High School Education class that takes place approximately once a month, which is led by Doug Dushtimer and Doug

Gerber. While our high school youth may always join our Adult Education class upon graduating from our Sunday School program, for those youth who wish to participate with students their own age, this program will allow them to do so.

- Wendy Wiegers led our children's Christmas Pageant on December 9, 2018 at the 10:45am service.
- Campfirmation will take place June 23-28, 2019.
- The Mission Trip will occur July 13-20, 2019.
- In 2018, our Give 5/4Need program was coordinated by Social Ministry and has moved to that report.
- This year's Christmas Pageant will be December 15, 2019.

Adult Education

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

- *The Creed* by First Things
- The Weekly Readings
- Our Summer Adult Education offering in connection with Vacation Bible > School was led by Susan Jarzembski and Pastor Holmer. The three sessions were very well attended.

Sunday School

This year the rotation curriculum studied Who is Jesus.

- 45 students are enrolled in the Sunday School program.
- 14 teachers, including 2 high school students, gave of their time to educate our children of St. James.
- Preschoolers are using the Holy Moly Curriculum. This curriculum has a two year plan so that content is new for both 3 and 4 year old's each year.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Basgall

Report of the Worship and Music Committee

"For Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our life of faith. Through God's word, water, bread and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world.

Connected with and central to everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, engages us in thoughtful dialogue and helps us grow in faith. It grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, while demonstrating practical relevance for today's world.

...Central to our worship life is the presence of God through word and sacrament. The word proclaimed and the sacraments —both Holy Baptism and Holy Communion — are called the means of grace. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in these means through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we describe worship as a 'gathering around the means of grace.'" (From the ELCA website Worship page)

We are blessed by the leadership of Pastor Holmer, who will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination June 10, 2019. This milestone will be celebrated by the congregation on June 9, which is the Day of Pentecost this year.

This was a year of change in our music staff. We said farewell and Godspeed to Tim and Gretchen Haskett (Music Director and Bell Choir Director). Daniel Heiman retired as Brass Ensemble director. We welcomed two new music leaders to our staff. Rae-Myra Hilliard fills the role of Music Director (which includes directing the adult choir) and Bell Choir Director. Ryan Ringnalda is the Brass Ensemble director. Melinda Voelcker and Greg MacAyeal share the Damascus Road Coordinator job, Wendy Wiegers continues as Children's Music Director, and Wendy Unrath serves as our organist.

A few words from Rae-Myra Hilliard:

I was overwhelmed with the celebration of Jesus' resurrection because of the high level of musicianship that was presented. I have had many church "jobs" but since 2007, my duties have been in the director position. I have to say that at my previous church, Zion Evangelical Lutheran, the musical standard was very high, and I was blessed to have worked with the folk there for 11 years.

St. James has the same high standard of musicianship BUT the big difference is the number of

ensembles that live within the church. Because of these ensembles, St., James can literally touch everyone with its music program. In reading and studying the Word, music has a leading role in religious celebration.

The collaboration between the brass and adult choir at the 8:30am service maintained the tone set by brass and organ from the start of service. But then came the 10:45 service and, yes, I am showing a bit of favoritism here. The "Don't Cry" anthem is very dear to my heart because of how it helped me to see and grow beyond the "sadness" of Good Friday. I think the presentation brought forth in the service was the best we had performed and the 10:15 rehearsal was pretty powerful!

I am blessed to have this opportunity to work with all of you fabulous musicians at St. James.

To God be the Glory!

A few words from Ryan Ringnalda:

First of all, I am very fortunate to work with such a devoted and talented group. Joining with the other musical ensembles, under the leadership of Rae-Myra to support the ministry of St. James, is truly a blessing. We look forward to each and every opportunity to join together, share these gifts, our talents, and our reverence with our congregation.

A few words from Wendy Wiegers:

The Children's choir is an exceptionally talented group of young singers from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Not only do we sing at one service almost every month, but provide most of the singers, narrators, and characters for the Christmas Pageant as well as the synopsis of the Sunday School year on Mother's Day. We will dearly miss our graduating 8th graders and hope they will join their talents in one of the other musical groups as young adults. Thank you to all the parents who continue to support the choir.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bennett, Chair person

Committee members: Daniel Heiman, Jineen Heiman, Rae-Myra Hilliard, Greg MacAyeal, Ryan Ringnalda, Wendy Wiegers, Melinda Voelcker, Greg MacAyeal, Pastor Holmer (ex officio)

Report of the Endowment Fund Board

Members: Jim Davoux, Mike Bennett, Rob Davis, Jerry Herb, Hans Bodine, Pastor Richard Holmer (ex officio)

The Endowment fund began 2018 with a balance of \$245,830 and ended 2018 with a balance of \$278,194. 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. Again, near the end of 2018, an additional gift of \$20,000 was received. As Saint James holds extra benevolence campaigns for a selected cause (Disaster Relief, Focus on the Homeless, 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. During 2018 a disbursement of \$8,000 was made from this benevolence fund for Disaster Relief. In 2019, a disbursement of \$24,000 was made from this benevolence fund for the focus on the Homeless campaign.

The Land Fund began 2018 with a balance of \$1,081,783 and ended 2018 with a balance of \$985,589. During the first half of 2018 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 \$42,234 was made from the Land Fund in June of 2018. 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 2019. As of the end of April, 2019, the balance of the endowment fund is \$1,091,250. This puts us on track to recommend a 4% disbursement again in 2019.

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 St. James OWLS

In March of last year Shelly Holmstrom and Susan Olsen were co-leaders in starting a new group designed primarily for those who are retired, consider themselves seniors or are interested in a specific event, a group that would encourage growth, learning, service and new experiences.

At the start it was named "St. James Seniors" and at the anniversary meeting in March 2019 it was re-named by popular vote "St. James OWLs", which stands for Older Wiser Lutherans.

The group meets monthly, usually on the third Thursday of the month unless the planned event needs to be scheduled on a different date.

The events and presentations have been varied and held "in-house" as well as "out-of-town". St. James members Mike Jarvi, Madeleine Jorgensen, Linda Kollacks, Detlef Koska and John Webster have contributed their knowledge and expertise on very interesting subjects. There have been outings to an architectural tour

of Chicago churches and the Naperville Christmas Market. We had a day of service for the PADS program, followed by a potluck lunch. We also had a day with the Give 5/4 Need group who helped with smart phone issues (Kids and Srs had a great time).

Some of the planned outings are a Lake Geneva Mailboat tour in July, geared especially for the OWLs and their grand-children, and a 3-day trip in October to visit the covered bridges of Indiana, to name a few.

The OWLs are not exclusive and welcome members of all age groups, their family and guests who would like to participate in any of their events.

For further details please look us up in Connections, on the Kiosk, or you may contact Cobi Stein or Madeleine Jorgensen.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Jorgensen and Cobi Stein

Report of the Property Committee

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

—Inspected and rebuilt as needed (148) of the 400 oak chairs throughout the facility. Included removing unneeded back brackets and placing oak plugs in holes.

—Conducted a “Safety Sunday” where key safety procedures were communicated to the congregation and building history was reviewed (thanks to John Webster).

—Music room was reorganized for easier access to robes including relocating less used items to new shelves in the back Common Room closet.

—Continuous troubleshooting and repair of miscellaneous problems including reducing access

points for rodents (door sweeps and “chipmunk hole” in front brick wall). Werner Stein key electrical wizard.

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 Clemens for his continuous vigilance and work, and Don Bergsrud for participating in over 20 work sessions repairing chairs and assisting in rearranging the music room.

Respectfully submitted,

John Tanner (previous chairman) and Josh Hornaday (current chairman)

Report of the Sewing Group

Our Sewing Group works at the church on the first Thursday of the month throughout the year preparing 60" by 80" quilts, teddy bears, and pillows. We deliver quilts to the Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Illinois to be assimilated with other quilts and sent to Lutheran World Relief. Each year we go to a luncheon where we meet with other Lutheran women from our area all devoted to working on the same project, and we also display some of our quilts. We take teddy bears, pillows, and 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, Madeleine Jorgensen, Elaine Koski, Shirley Norberg, Ulla Norberg, Carole Tanner, Chery Voss and Joan Webster.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Benton

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 year at St. James.

Meetings will resume in the fall and dates will be published in the St. James Connection.

Sarah Lewis graciously organized and led three Bible Studies which included: "Sermon on the Mount" by Jen Wilkin, "To Live is Christ" by Beth Moore, and finally "Stepping Up" by Beth Moore.

Fellowship

The Annual Cookie Exchange was held Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018. The women all enjoyed an informative program about Habitat led by Anne Browne and Carole Tanner, Sarah Lewis led a discussion about COOL Ministries followed by Brooke Davis explaining about the opportunities at PADS. Kathy Lowell coordinated the potluck dinner on February 3rd, 2018. Alane Wanda brought food and all the items necessary to pack lunches for serving at PADS the next day. The Women of St. James hosted a reception following summer worship and provided food for Wednesday night suppers during Lent. On Sunday, August 12, St James men and women enjoyed Bluffinia. We had a great turnout with plenty of food for all.

Service/Outreach

The bake sale December 9 utilizing goodies from the Cookie Exchange raised \$600 which was evenly donated to Habitat, COOL, and PADS.

Women's Retreat

We are looking forward to another retreat sometime in the near future.

An Invitation

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.

In closing...One thing that needs to be said about all the women of St James is when and where there is a need to serve, to bake, to deliver a meal, to grocery shop, to walk dogs, to drive a member to an appointment, etc. We are there! Time and time again the women have "stepped up to the plate."

Submitted by Kathy Lowell

On behalf of the Women of St. James

Report of the Youth Ministry Team

Committee Members: Doug Dushtimer, Sue Ebert, Doug Gerber

Our youth events continue to be well attended and enjoyed. The past year events for middle/junior high included boating at Independence Grove, Krolls corn maze, paintball at Promised Land, Skyzone, the ever popular nerf wars, laser tag and a sleep under. New this year was a service project which was helping out at a PADS site. We also added a high school program at church the second Sunday of every month.

Campfirmation will be the last week of June at Augustana. Then in July we have at least 8 high schoolers signed up to go on a canoeing trip in Wisconsin.

Give 5/4 Need is having two separate weeks this summer for youth up to 8th grade. We are hoping to continue to get increasing participants for these worthy activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ebert

Report of the Personnel Committee

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

The Personnel Committee had a limited role this year with the exception of assisting with the formation of a search committee, comprised of members from the Worship and Music committee, to find candidates to fill the vacant Director of Music position. Through their efforts, Rae-Myra Hilliard was hired and has been an amazing blessing with her talent, leadership and joyful personality. We could not have asked for a better person to lead our incredible music program.

The Worship and Music committee also was responsible for hiring Ryan Ringnald as the new Brass Ensemble Director.

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

Special thanks to Sue Thomas and members of the Music Director search committee for their considerable time and effort!

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 2019 Stewardship Campaign, introduced in the

fall of 2018, was Faith Leaps. We encouraged the members of the congregation to take a leap of faith by growing in their faith, love and generosity. As with love, faith is active, not passive. Faith in God moves us to go boldly forward making ambitious efforts for the sake of the gospel.

Our congregation took a leap of faith and grew in generosity! The campaign/pledge response was truly a blessing. While the number of families that pledge remained constant versus the prior year, those who pledged, increased their giving by over

6%. These contributions help in so many ways. They enable our congregation to expand our ministry and mission within our church and to touch and help others both in our local community and around the world.

Many thanks to our Stewardship Committee members for their dedication and energy.

Committee Members: Madeleine Jorgensen, Craig Linn, Michael Montalbano, Dave Van Singel and Joe Voelcker.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Montalbano

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 fond farewell and God Speed to the Haskett's on June 3. After 26 years of service, Tim and Gretchen retired. The table was filled with food and garden plants (now that the Haskett's will have time to actually use their green thumbs). The room was filled with storytelling and reminiscing.

We met in July for our annual Lake Forest Beach Party Picnic July 15. Families gathered at the beach to share pot luck dishes and cook food on the grill. The day was beautiful and enjoyed by all there with great conversation! Thank you to the Holmer's for taking groups out on their sailboat!

We closed the summer with our Rally Day Picnic 9/9. Salads, sandwiches and desserts were provided by The Picnic Basket in Libertyville. Hot dogs were served for the children.

At the end of September, we gathered for a casual evening on the Kazarian's back patio on 9/29. Greg and Bud manned the grill! Most of the food was gone before the light rain brought us inside.

In December, Shelly Holmstrom and Cobi Stein put together an amazing beginning to Advent! The annual Advent Potluck Dinner started early in the

morning on December 2nd 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 were then treated to a concert performed by the Swedish Glee Club.

It's not a long winter when you can play bocce ball! A huge thank you to Cobi Stein for getting this organized and on the calendar. February 9th brought a "highly competitive" group together to bowl. Of course, there is no bowling on an empty stomach! Participants first gathered for a homemade Italian dinner. Thank you Cobi for the beginnings of an annual outing! I hear a trophy may be involved for February 2020!

For Advent services, members 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 Habitat for Humanity Lake County, COOL, and PADS Lake County were very informative. It was a lovely setting in which to hear about these organizations that support individuals and families in Lake County who need assistance and guidance to acquire and maintain a stable residence.

Respectively submitted,

Kim Kazarian

Report of the Memorial Garden

Burials

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

Memorial Plaque

There are no current plans to add a new name to the plaque. But 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 \$400 after three reimbursements to past subscribers. After a payment to the Endowment Fund of \$3,500, the outstanding loan amount is \$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, 2022

Randy Daniel – thru June, 2022

Mark Taylor - thru June, 2021

Richard Holmer – ex-officio member

Tom Meyer – Legal Counsel

Respectfully submitted,

Detlef K. Koska

Chairman

Report of the Finance Committee

It's been an uneventful past 12 months for the Finance Committee, which is a good sign. We came in with a slight surplus for 2018 and were able to put together a balanced budget for 2019 which is on track so far.

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 Serving the Homeless.

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 each Sunday after the second service. 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, Joe Voelcker, and Bob Kenahan. We welcome anyone new who would like to become part of our group.

Jon Paul, Treasurer

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 2018-2019.

We express our gratitude to all who serve on the Church Council, especially Jenn Bodine, Kim Kazarian, Lisa Kollmorgen (President) and Joe Voelcker, who have completed their terms of office. In addition we acknowledge with great appreciation our other 2018-2019 officers: Doug Gerber, Vice President; Jon Paul, Treasurer and Joe Voelcker, Financial Secretary.

We welcome into our church family the 16 adults and 2 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 Majlis Anderson, Ruth Nissen, Marion Guyton, Walter Arledge, Ruthane Bopp and Helen Abby 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.

**2018-2019 Officers of
the Congregation
and Church Council**

President

Lisa Kollmorgen

Vice President

Doug Gerber

Secretary

Melodi Peters

Treasurer

Jon Paul

Financial Secretary

Joe Voelcker

Council Members

Tiffany Alexander

Jenn Bodine

Rob Davis

Doug Gerber

Bob Hughes

Madeleine Jorgensen

Kim Kazarian

Lisa Kollmorgen

Teresa Miller

Melodi Peters

Steve Thornberry

Joe Voelcker

Pastor

Richard E. Holmer

Church Staff

Business Manager

Chris Meyer

Administrative Assistants

Carol Bennett and
Kristin Haverkampf

Sunday School Director

Debbie MacAyeal

Engagement Coordinator

Shelly Holmstrom

Youth Ministry Director

Doug Dushimer

Nursery Attendant

Vanessa Moreno

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**Standing Committee Chairs
and Other Leaders**

Christian Education

Barb Basgall

Church Property

Josh Hornaday

**Communications &
Technology**

Susan Jarzembski

Evangelism

Tom Ebert

Fellowship

Kim Kazarian

Finance

Jon Paul

Personnel

Tom Ebert

Social Ministry

Alane Wanda

Stewardship

TBD

Worship & Music

Carol Bennett

Endowment Board of Trustees

Jim Davoux

Memorial Garden

Board of Trustees

Detlef Koska

St. James Owls

Madeleine Jorgensen
and Cobi Stein

Sewing Group

Betty Benton

Youth Ministry Team

Sue Ebert

Women of St. James

Kathy Lowell

Altar Guild

Gail Morgan

Church Staff

Director of Music

Rae-Myra Hilliard

Organist

Wendy Unrath

Damascus Road Directors

Greg MacAyeal and
Melinda Voelcker

Director of

Children's Music

Wendy Wiegers

Brass Ensemble Director

Ryan Ringnalda