



# St. James Lutheran Church

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

## 2016-17 Officers of the Congregation and Church Council

### President

Josh Hornaday

### Vice President

Mark Wanda

### Secretary

Carol Bennett

### Treasurer

Jon Paul

### Financial Secretary

Joe Voelcker

### Council Members

Jenn Bodine

Carol Bennett

Tom Ebert

Donna Fortney

Melinda Hill

Josh Hornaday

Kim Kazarian

Lisa Kollmorgen

Craig Linn

Bud Lowell

Joe Voelcker

Mark Wanda

### Pastor

Richard E. Holmer

### Church Staff

### Business Manager

Chris Meyer

### Administrative

### Assistant

Corinne Mattioli

### Director of Discipleship

Debbie MacAyeal

### Youth Ministry Director

Doug Dusthimer

### Nursery Supervisor

Rebecca Townsend

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION ANNUAL GOVERNANCE MEETING 10:45 a.m. June 4, 2017

### Schedule

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

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

### Agenda

Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Report of the Tellers (Quorum is 46 voting members)

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes, January 29, 2017

Annual Reports

Report of the President

Report of Pastor Holmer

Reports of the Committees

Elections

Resolutions

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

## Standing Committee Chairs and Other Leaders

### Christian Education

Barb Basgall

### Church Property

John Tanner

### Evangelism

Tom Ebert

### Fellowship

Kim Kazarian

### Finance

Jon Paul

### Social Ministry

Shelly Holmstrom

### Stewardship

Jon Paul

### Worship & Music

Donna Fortney

### Endowment Board of Trustees

Chair Person

Jim Davoux

### Memorial Garden Board of

Trustees Chair Person

Detlef Koska

### Sewing Group

Betty Benton

### Youth Ministry Team

Sue Ebert

### Women of St. James

TBD

### Altar Guild

Carol Bennett

### Church Staff

### Director of Music

Tim Haskett

### Organist

Wendy Unrath

### Damascus Road

### Director

Donna Jarvi

### Director of

Children's Music

Wendy Wiegars

### Bell Choir Director

Gretchen Haskett

### Brass Ensemble Director

Daniel Heiman



## Minutes of the Annual Congregation Financial Meeting January 29, 2017

**Opening Prayer**— Pastor Holmer opened the meeting with prayer.

**Call to order** – Congregation President Josh Hornaday called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

**Report of the Tellers** – A quorum is present

**Approval of the agenda** – Jim Davoux moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and passed.

**Approval of minutes** – The minutes of the June 5, 2016, Annual Governance Meeting were approved as printed in the Annual Financial Report of the Congregation

**Final 2016 Review** –

Treasurer Jon Paul summarized the 2016 financial results as follows:

In 2016 in the general fund, expenses were equal to receipts

Benevolence accounted for about 15% of expenses

The mortgage was paid down to \$36,000 by year end (from regular monthly payments plus contributions to the Renewing Capital campaign)

Investments gained back losses from 2016 and are at healthy levels

Jon Paul presented details from 2016 using the printed Annual Financial Report booklet.

Jon Paul reported that the mortgage will be paid off by June if \$30,000 of the \$56,000 remaining Renewing pledges are received by that time.

Jim Davoux reported that the Endowment Committee recently met with the Wintrust advisors and learned that the even with the conservative investment strategy for the funds, the return was better than the S&P500 for 2016.

Jon Paul thanked Chris Meyer, business manager, Joe Voelcker and the offering counters, and all the committees for their diligence and commitment to St. James.

The evaluation of financial policies and procedures by the Cedarstone group showed that St. James overall exercises good and prudent practices in financial records. The Audit Committee will execute an internal audit of financial records in the spring of 2017.

**Presentation of the 2017 General Fund Budget** – the budget was presented as printed in the Annual Financial Reports booklet. John Tanner moved the approval of the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Election of Synod Assembly Delegates** – Josh Hornaday and Joe Voelcker agreed to serve as delegates. Shelly Holmstrom volunteered to be the third lay delegate. Pastor Holmer also serves as a delegate. All delegates were elected.

**ELCA World Hunger Challenge** – The Metro Chicago Synod of the ELCA is challenging congregations to raise a total of \$1,000,000 in support of ELCA World Hunger efforts as a way to honor the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. The congregation council of St. James set a goal of \$10,000 for our congregation using approximately \$2,500 from the 2016 benevolence distribution from the Land Sale Fund as “seed” money. A video explanation by Bishop Miller was shown (<https://vimeo.com/183538063>). It is hoped that our congregation can meet this goal by Easter.

**Adjournment** – Mark Taylor moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Closing Prayer** – Pastor Holmer offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bennett, Congregation Secretary

## Report of the President

Two things I learned early on in my stint as the Commander in Chief was:

- 1) I didn't give any commands; and
- 2) I wasn't the chief of anything.

Which was a good thing.

But what an amazing time to be on council! Thanks to the years of careful planning and execution by prior leadership, our church is in a very fiscally viable place. We paid off the Mortgage. Let me repeat, WE PAID OFF THE MORTGAGE!

And what's the importance for us as a church to be fiscally viable? It's really kind of a boring sounding phrase when you first look at it. However, it means that we as a church can focus on what we have historically been so good at, which is helping others.

And how do we as a church help others? We don't simply spout scriptures and pat the unfortunate on the back. No! We are Lutherans! We act! We do! We feed the hungry, we shelter the homeless, we put shoes on young feet, and we support other organizations that provide services for those who desperately need it.

Just look what we, as a church, support (here are a few):

A.J. Katzenmaier School in North Chicago

Bethel New Life, Chicago

COOL Christian Outreach of Lutherans, Waukegan

Habitat for Humanity

LSSI Prisoner and Family Ministries Connections Program

PADS

All of you need to feel pride and ownership in what we as a church have accomplished. With careers, family, and all the other time consuming requirements that life throws at us, we have never stumbled as a church in continuing our mission in Christ to help our fellow human beings. By your efforts, we are making the world a better place.

As a final note, I would encourage any member of the church to get involved with Church Council. If you are a first timer or you served years ago and are considering getting involved again, please just do it! It is an amazing experience.

Peace,

Josh Hornaday.

## Report of Pastor Holmer

There are many milestones in the life of our congregation:

- \* 1962 Chartered as the final mission congregation of the Augustana Synod (before merging with other Lutheran bodies to form the Lutheran Church in America)
- \* 1969 Dedication of new church building at 1380 N. Waukegan Rd
- \* 1980 Completed Sunday School Addition
- \* 1990 Completed New Sanctuary
- \* 2012 Celebration of 50th Anniversary
- \* 2014 Land sale of excess property creates permanent fund for Major Maintenance and Special Benevolence.
- \* 2017 Mortgage paid in full

We could add many other milestones to this list, yet what all of these point to is a history of growth and faithfulness. St. James Lutheran Church has continually set ambitious goals—and met them. The generosity of this congregation—not only to meet our own needs, but especially the needs of others—is impressive. We have a heritage of dedicated outreach, vibrant worship and dynamic music.

The most recent accomplishment of paying off our mortgage will enable us to focus our attention and resources on mission and ministry. It is always an act of faith to borrow a significant sum of money to initiate a worthy project. The faithfulness of many members has empowered us to follow through on our plans and pay our debt.

In addition to the many events and celebrations which are part of every year—such as Christmas and Easter, and other annual occasions the past year included these highlights:

- \* We sponsored a refugee family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Working in conjunction with Refugee One, we raised over \$10,000 to help cover the costs of their resettlement. We collected furnishings and

household goods for their apartment. We welcomed them upon their arrival and offered mentoring support in the months that followed. At the Refugee One Gala in April, our family was featured in a video presentation.

- \* Under the theme of “First Things First”, our stewardship program concentrated on giving first to God. Many apples and apple pies were enjoyed—and the response was an 8% increase in pledged offerings.
- \* During Lent we had suppers before gathering for the Service of Evening Prayer. The food was great, the fellowship was lively, and we learned about the work supported by the World Hunger Appeal through a series of videos.
- \* St. James sponsored a series of Grief Support Groups, in conjunction with the Church of the Holy Spirit and First Presbyterian Church. Each congregation hosted a six session series. This worthy ministry will be repeated in the coming year.
- \* The members of the Church Council now serve as shepherds for subsets of our congregation. Each member is responsible for about ten households, staying in touch and encouraging them to participate in worship and other ministries.
- \* The Swedish Glee Club now rehearses once a week at St. James. They joined us for Evening Prayer in Advent and again in Lent, offering an anthem each time.
- \* We set a goal of raising \$10,000 during Lent for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. By Easter we received over \$31,000! \$20,000 will go toward the construction of eight new water wells and the rest will go to address the dire needs in South Sudan created by famine.

I have enjoyed writing brief reflections on the scripture readings for the coming Sunday and

sharing them with you by email. It is good for all of us to come to worship having already listened to the Word we will hear from God. I welcome your comments and feedback. Perhaps the next step is to have a conversation about the sermon preached on those same texts.

We continue to be served faithfully well by all the members of our staff. Chris Meyer handles all accounts and countless tasks with efficiency and grace. Corinne Mattioli keeps up with all the details of our church office. Debbie MacAyeal touches many lives through her work with Sunday School and as Director of Discipleship. Doug Dusthimer faithfully works with our Middle School and High School Youth. Tim Haskett oversees our music ministries and keeps the Adult Choir in fine tune. Gretchen Haskett is the one for whom the bells toll. Daniel Heiman leads a growing and superb Brass group. Wendy Wieggers inspires our kids to sing praises to the Lord. Wendy Unrath faithfully leads worship on organ and piano. Donna Jarvi puts in many hours keeping Damascus Road in top form. Rebecca Townsend does a wonderful job in our nursery.

So many faithful volunteers make our ministries possible and effective. It is a blessing to serve

### **Milestones**

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

**Beau Marshall Bosau**

On September 18, 2016, Bibles were presented to:

**Kallan Bodine**

**Julia Davoux**

**Colton Dunford**

**Ernie Matkov**

**Madison VanderJeugd**

**Bella Bosau**

On September 25, 2016, these persons were confirmed in Christ:

**Matthew Basgall**

**Thea Grauer**

**Kai MacAyeal**

**Mason McGuire**

**Benjamin Rosa**

**Thomas Wanda**

along with such a dedicated group of servants. Special thanks are in order for council members who are completing their terms on council: Josh Hornaday (President), Carol Bennett (Secretary), Craig Linn and Donna Fortney.

Keep in mind these events coming up this summer:

June 10 Mortgage Burning BBQ

June 25 FOODSTOCK

July 8-15 Mission Trip

July 16 Beach Party

July 31-Aug 9 GIVE5/4NEED

August 7-11 Vacation Bible School

September 10 Rally Day/Church Picnic

It is a blessing and a pleasure to serve as pastor of such a talented, generous and faithful congregation. May we continue to seek to do good and gracious things for the sake of the gospel.

Peace,

Richard E. Holmer

On February 26, 2017, these persons were welcomed to the Lord's table to share in Holy Communion:

**Jack Gerber**

**Emily Haverkamp**

On December 4, 2016, these persons were welcomed as members of St. James:

**Mike and Keeley Bosau, Bella and Beau,**

**Andrea Haller, Ethan and Addison and**

**Jack Boehm**

**Teresa Miller**

Funeral services were held for these members:

**Fay Olson, July 6, 2016**

**Dean Holm, August 6, 2016**

**Aurelia Meyer, October 29, 2016**

**Mark Eck, November 12, 2016**

**Char Kreuz, March 4, 2017**

**Ken Olsen, May 6, 2017**

**Jan Nilsson, May 20, 2017**

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 2020 (Three Year Term):

#### **Doug Gerber**

I have had the pleasure of being a member of St. James since 2002 when my wife, Suzanne, and I moved to Libertyville. I grew up a Methodist in Valparaiso, Indiana, and eventually travelled across town to attend a Lutheran university, Valparaiso. My junior year at Valpo I met Suzanne (a lifer at St. James), and we were married in St. James in 1995. Our three children, Kate, Jack, and Peter, were baptized at St. James. For the past five years, I have assisted youth ministry as a Sunday school teacher and as a member of the Youth Committee. I consider St. James my extended family, and I look forward to serving the church as a council member.

#### **Daniel Heiman**

Daniel Heiman grew up in north central Illinois, in Mendota, where he was baptized and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church. He attended St. Olaf College, graduating with a major in Physics and minor in Chemistry, but with considerable time devoted to playing euphonium in several musical organizations. He then spent three years teaching science at the secondary school level in Wenchi, Ghana, West Africa, where he also taught himself to play recorder and guitar. After a year in France learning French and improving skills on recorder and guitar, he returned to Illinois, enrolling in the University in Urbana for the Ph. D. program in chemistry. He met Jineen there at the Lutheran Campus Center, where they were married just as he completed his degree program. After a further two years in a post-doctoral position at the University he moved to Libertyville to work as a chemist at Abbott, transferring to Valent BioSciences along with his business unit when it was sold. He and Jineen joined St. James in 1985, where they quickly became members of the choir. Daniel has played in the St. James Brass Ensemble since it was constituted as a regular participant in the rotation of musical groups for Sunday services, and he has directed the Brass Ensemble since 1993. He also has been a long-time member of the Worship and Music committee at St. James and frequently serves as Assisting Minister.

#### **Madeleine Jorgensen**

When my husband Sven and I settled back in Lake County after a 20 year absence, we started looking for a church "home". We were almost ready to join Holy Cross when my sister-in-law Alice, "the artist", suggested that we check that "interesting looking" church on 43. And one look was all it took. We loved everything about St James, the pastor, the warmth of the congregation, the music, the building itself. And so after attending newcomers' classes we became members in November 2007. I immediately joined the sewing group and involved myself with the Women of St James activities. Sven had also hoped to participate in committees for which he would have been suitable, but unhappily he died in 2010 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Our St James family was of tremendous help during these difficult times. I was born in France and was a school teacher when I met my husband while he was stationed there, serving his country as an Army engineer. We were married there. After finishing his tour of duty we came back to Lake County and eventually took over the family Plumbing and Heating business where I worked as the general manager. I have 3 sons, all in Illinois, and 4 grandchildren. I found a second career when I was widowed and am now working as a "Cheese Specialist". I am honored to be recommended as member of the Church Council and hope to be able to give back, as I have been given so much.

#### **Melodi Peters**

Living in Lake Bluff, Gary and I have been members of St. James since 1989. We have 3 children, Eric, Sissy and Brett, 2 cats and a pug. I work as an outpatient and bariatric dietitian at Advocate Good Shepherd

Hospital in Barrington. I grew up in a small town in Wisconsin, Horicon, home of the Horicon Marsh. I attended, and was married at Zion Lutheran Church there. Among my favorite childhood memories were the countless summers attending Lutheran church camps with my friends in northern Wisconsin and Michigan. Ironically, the more primitive the camp, the more fun we had! We were busy campers by day, but the spirituality of prayer and music at night, still remains with me today. I distinctly remember attending our first worship service at St. James. We had just moved to Lake Bluff and we went to worship in the original sanctuary. We walked in and immediately fell in love with the “up north” feel of the beautiful wood beams, the warmth and wisdom of Pastor Tony, and met our first friends, Bruce and Mary Hamming. We knew we were home. I have taught Bible School and Sunday School here, and can never say “no” to a Women of St. James Bake sale. I have not been on a church council before, but am willing to learn and contribute where I can. Twenty seven years is a long time to be in a community, and admittedly, many things change. But the important things, the things I love most about St. James, the worship service, the people and the music, remain the same. I would be honored to serve on the church council.

**Current Congregation Council:**

<b>Term Expiring June 2017</b>	<b>Term Expiring June 2018</b>	<b>Term Expiring June 2019</b>
Carol Bennett	Tom Ebert	Jenn Bodine
Donna Fortney	Melinda Hill	Kim Kazarian
Josh Hornaday	Bud Lowell	Lisa Kollmorgen
Craig Linn	Mark Wanda	Joe Voelcker

**ST. JAMES MEMORIAL GARDEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Current members: Randy Daniel (term expires June 2018)  
 Carey Cotey (term expires June 2019)  
 Mark Taylor (term expires June 2020)

Nominee for a 4 year term expiring June 2021: Detlef Koska

**ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Current members: Jim Davoux (term expires June 2018)  
 Ron Kok-Alblas (term expires June 2018)  
 Mike Bennett (term expires June 2019)

Nominees for a 3 year term expiring June 2020: Rob Davis and Jerry Herb

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Current members: Susan Paul (term expires June 2018)  
 Pete Clemens (term expires June 2019)

Nominee for a 3-year term, expiring June 2020: Linda Berner

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Current members: Tom Ebert (term expires June 2018)  
 Brenda Shinn (term expires June 2018)

Nominees for a one year term expiring June, 2018: Carol Bennett and Josh Hornaday

Nominees for a two year term expiring June 2019: Tiffany Alexander and Melinda Voelcker

Thank you for your faithful service to those members whose terms are expiring this year: Carol Bennett (Secretary), Donna Fortney (Church Council), Josh Hornaday (President) and Craig Linn (Church Council), Dave Van Singel (Audit Committee); Bill Shinn and Dave Van Singel (Endowment Fund Board); Randy Daniel, Sarah Lewis, Linda Berner and Brooke Davis (Nominating Committee). And special thanks to those members who have agreed to serve for another term: Detlef Koska (Memorial Garden).

## ***Report of the Worship and Music Committee***

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

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

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

New this year:

The communion flagon was replaced with a glass pitcher because the gold lining of the flagon

continued to flake off even after being refurbished.

The Children's Choir has added the use of choir chimes to many of their anthems, thanks to LFHS and Tim Haskett.

Damascus Road has a new drummer and Doug Dusthimer is playing guitar.

The Adult Choir has added two new male singers.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fortney, Chairman

## ***Report of the Fellowship Committee***

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

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

For the Fall Progressive dinner, Mark and Alane Wanda graciously hosted the appetizer hour and then on to host homes for dinner and dessert.

In December we marked the beginning of Advent with our annual Advent Potluck Dinner. Families

gathered in the fellowship hall and shared potluck dishes and made an Advent craft.

Our Spring Progressive dinner is being replaced this year by our Mortgage Burning BBQ which will be hosted by Greg and Kim Kazarian on Saturday, June 10 at 5:30 pm. Please RSVP by June 4 to church office or [cmattioli@stjameslutheran.org](mailto:cmattioli@stjameslutheran.org). All are encouraged to attend to celebrate this landmark. Food and beverages will be provided. Dress casual for an outdoor party.

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

Respectively submitted,

Kim Kazarian



## Report of the Stewardship Committee



*They gave themselves first to the Lord*

2 Corinthians 8:5

Our theme for the 2017 stewardship campaign in the fall of 2016 was First Things First.

What matters most in our lives deserves first priority. As Christians, we seek above all else to be faithful to God. Regular participation in worship is one way we reflect the priority God has in our hearts. Our offering commitments are another way we have to keep God first.

The offerings we make to God ought to be a first thought, not an afterthought. The biblical model for giving is to offer our first fruits, off the top, not the leftovers. The first step in faithful giving is to decide to give first to the Lord.

The pamphlet, *Once Upon an Apple*, told the story of an apple farmer who faced a decision. Would he give God the first fruits of his crop or just let God have what was left at the end?

During the campaign, we had delicious apples each Sunday, topped off by wonderful apple pies baked by several of you that we enjoyed on Commitment Sunday.

Once again, your response to the campaign was terrific. Even more families pledged and we came up with a balanced budget for the General Fund.

Your generosity has continued throughout 2017. We are near the end of the 3-year Renewal Campaign and your giving to the finish allowed us to pay off the mortgage in May. In addition, your donations far exceeded the targets for the World Hunger program.

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

Jon Paul, Stewardship Committee Chair

## Report of the Youth Ministry Team

We had an active year for our congregation's youth. Most activities had 6-11 participants with the nerf wars coming in at 18 as the perennial favorite. We offer monthly activities to enable our youth to form active and fun ties to our church. Over the past school year the activities included apple picking, paint ball, rock climbing/dodgeball, snow games, laser tag, nerf wars, bowling and a sleep under which included making a "Welcome to America" basket for our refuge family. Our high school youth lead a service every May. Last fall our 7th and 8th graders attended the kick off retreat for confirmation classes in Newark IL.

We are currently planning the mission trip for this summer to Rushville Indiana. We have four high school youth from St James signed up and we will be joining forces with St Johns of Joliet. Next year the plan is to go to the Boundary Waters for a trip that includes a service project/mission work portion and a canoe trip into the interior of the park. High school youth and adults will be welcome to sign up.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ebert

## Report of the Social Ministry Committee

Committee Members: Lori Grauer, Shelly Holmstrom, Lisa Kollmorgen, Sarah Lewis, Debbie MacAyeal, Alane Wanda and Pastor Holmer

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

### **Volunteer and Financial Support :**

- **North Chicago Community Partners:**  
A.J. Katzenmaier School
- **COOL Ministries**
- **CROP Walk**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Help Within the Family**
- **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**

We encourage families and individuals to get involved in volunteering. Members walked for CROP, served dinner at the family PADS site, and volunteered at A.J. Katzenmaier. COOL events sponsored by St. James include the WALK/RUN in November and Foodstock. Special thanks to Sarah Lewis who is currently serving on the COOL Board of Directors. Winter boots were collected for Head Start preschoolers through LSSI.

RefugeeOne was a focus over the past year as we welcomed the Akula's, a Christian family from the Congo on June 27, 2016. St. James members furnished their apartment, helped as mentors and drive them up several times throughout the year to worship at St. James.

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

We are blessed that our membership approved a budget in January that increased our benevolence giving to almost 15% of total member giving. It is a joy to give and serve as a congregation family.

A goal for this next year is to add to our Committee roster and combine efforts with other St. James Committees including Evangelism, Christian Education and Fellowship to Follow Christ, make disciples and live the Gospel.

We thank Committee members Ann Anderson, Donna Fortney, and Elizabeth Takacs Mallory who retired during the year, and remember Mark Eck who died in the faith.

God is Good!

Shelly Holmstrom, Chair

## Report of the Christian Education Committee

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

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

Matthew 28:19-20

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

### Youth Education

This year’s milestones included the following achievements:

- 6 Third graders were presented with Bibles on September 18, 2016.
- 6 Ninth graders were confirmed on September 25, 2016. The confirmation retreat was held at Dixon Valley Camp.
- Two Fourth graders received First Communion on February 26, 2017 following their completed classes.

This year’s Youth Programs included the following:

- 30 youth participated in our June 20-24, 2016 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 8–12, 2016 and the theme was Egypt. Twenty-four children attended and 12 of our older youth were leaders.
- On Rally Day, September 11, children and parents were entertained by a magic show.
- Eleven students attended confirmation classes this church year.
- Wendy Wieggers led our children’s Christmas Pageant on December 11, 2016 at the 10:45am service.

- Campfirmation will occur June 25-30, 2017.
- The Mission Trip will occur July 8-15, 2017.
- GIVE5/4NEED program will take place July 31-August 4, 2017.
- Our VBS program will take place August 7-11, 2017.
- 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:

- *Embracing a Life of Meaning DVD: Kathleen Norris on Discovering What Matters* kicked off our educational year.
- In the fall/winter, congregation members viewed *Faith Out Loud*.
- To kick off 2017, we viewed *Reformation Roots* to coincide with the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.
- In the spring, we viewed *Down and Out: Where Grace Takes You*.
- Rick Steve’s DVD *Luther and the Reformation* will complete this year’s adult education program.

### Sunday School

This year the rotation curriculum studied the Old Testament lessons from creation to Joshua along with Christmas and Easter.

- 49 students are enrolled in the Sunday School program.
- 15 teachers, including 5 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 witness curriculum and study the main stories of the Bible using a two year plan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Basgall

## **Report of the Endowment Fund Board**

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

The Endowment fund began 2016 with a balance of \$196,021 and ended 2016 with a balance of \$222,375. During 2016 no disbursements were made from the Endowment fund. The board made the decision in 2016 to move the investments from Blue Prairie to Wintrust so that all of investments would be managed by a single entity. As of the end of April 2017, the balance of the endowment fund is at \$229,434.

At the annual congregational meeting in June of 2016, the congregation voted to change the Land Fund from a Permanent Endowment Fund to a Temporary Restricted Fund. The following verbiage was passed as the final Resolution.

“Be it resolved that the Land Fund will be invested as a temporary restricted fund to be managed by the endowment committee. In an effort to meet the investment objectives and preserve the purchasing power of the Land Fund, up to 4% of a rolling 3 year average valuation may be withdrawn. The Land Fund will be valued for this purpose as of June 30 each year.”

The Land Fund began 2016 with a balance of \$979,258 and ended 2016 with a balance of \$1,016,070. During 2016, 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 \$40,618 was made from the Land Fund in June of 2016. Those funds were made available to the church council for major maintenance (\$36,556) and benevolence (\$4,062). The investment performance of the Land Fund continues to do well in the spring of 2017. As of the end of April 2017, the balance of the endowment fund is \$1,052,667. This puts us on track to recommend a 4% disbursement again in 2017.

The board is discussing an initiative in 2017 to encourage members to include St James in their estate planning. The congregation is always welcome and encouraged to submit ideas to the committee for potential disbursements from the Endowment Fund. Contact any member of the committee to discuss your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Davoux

## **Report of the Finance Committee**

The long awaited internal audit is 90% done and will be finished in June not long after this annual meeting. Susan Paul and Chris Meyer have worked incredibly hard performing a much more thorough audit than we have ever had in the past, using the ELCA audit guidelines as a template. Susan has been extremely diligent in documenting the process, which will make future audits easier.

Susan shared the good news with the Finance Committee that the financials for December 2016 are correct. She will have some minor suggestions on improving some documentation and processes which she will share with our committee this summer to put in place this year. Pete Clemens who is also on the audit committee will review Susan's file in detail as well.

A thrilling piece of news is that we will pay off the mortgage by the end of May. We will have a Mortgage Burning BBQ on June 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate this momentous event. It wasn't that many years ago

that we had a \$1.4 million balance. Your generous support over the years including the recently completed Renewal Campaign made this possible. This eliminates a \$16K expense that can go towards outside benevolence and other purposes in future years.

We are grateful to Joe Voelcker for many years serving as our Financial Secretary including his recruitment and training of our counters. We are blessed for the help that our counters provide each Sunday after the second service and also on Monday mornings. Many hands lighten the workload and we are so pleased to have a number of new counters join our crew this past year.

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.

Jon Paul, Treasurer

## *Report of the Evangelism Committee*

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

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

Projects and activities of Evangelism this past year included:

Continuous improvement of garden plots in the vacant land west of the playground. We have a few raised beds that still need gardeners. All green thumbs are invited to join us as there is plenty of room for your gardening pleasure. If interested, contact Tom Ebert at 847-295-2048.

Ongoing updates of James Group and Gno-me related information and scheduled outings on our St. James Facebook page. This media connection presents an exciting forum to enhance the visibility of St. James by sharing information with our fellow members and new friends too. Anyone is welcome to view our page by searching in Facebook for "St. James Lutheran Church (Lake Forest, IL)".

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

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 ideas to reenergize our activities. Shelly Holmstrom and Melinda Voelcker have offered to bring their talents to our team.

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 Property Committee

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

-- finished landscaping plantings

-- mulched borders and trees including interior patio

-- removed distressed yews and trees

---cleared electrical workroom - passed fire inspection --comprehensive masonry repair and tuck-pointing including memorial garden and memorial sign in front --roof patching which fixed leaks in narthex and roof stairwell, but will be going forward with overall repair and sealing in 2017 for longer term --parking lot lighting repairs --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.

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 are no current plans to add new names 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 amounts to \$2,247 as of 5/19/17. The loan amount was reduced by \$3,500 to \$6,500.

### 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 2021, pending approval of nomination  
Randy Daniel – thru 2018  
Mark Taylor – thru 2019  
Carey Cotey - thru 2018  
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.

**Annual Report for the Sewing Group** (provided by Betty Benton)

The Sewing Group works at the church the first Thursday of the month, September through May, preparing 60" by 80" quilts, teddy bears, and pillows. Eleven quilts were delivered 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 and were privileged to meet Geri Sicola, Vice-President for Strategic Partnerships and External Relations at LWR, and displayed some quilts. In addition to the quilts, 55 teddy bears, 8 pillows, and 42 newborn baby caps were delivered to Lutheran Social Services in Des Plaines.

Donations of cotton material large enough to be cut into 21 inch squares are welcome. Quilts are made with sewing machines and volunteers are needed to stuff the teddy bears, tie the quilts, iron the material and cut pieces. Work will be found for all who are interested, like to sew by hand or on the machine. Individuals bring their own 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, and Elaine Koski.

### **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: "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore, "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" by Beth Moore and a study on Gideon.

### **Fellowship**

The Annual Cookie Exchange was held Dec. 3 and Ann Anderson shared a delightful Christmas story with the group. Sue Ebert coordinated the potluck dinner on January 29. The women of St. James hosted a reception following summer worship and women (and Detlef Koska!) provided food for Wednesday night suppers during Lent.

### **Service/Outreach**

The bake sale December 4 utilizing goodies from the Cookie Exchange raised \$500 which was split between the Family Care Closet in North Chicago and PADS.

### **An Invitation**

The Women of St. James is seeking women to work in teams to lead events during 2017/18. Please contact Shelly Holmstrom with questions. All women are invited to attend these programs throughout the year and guests are welcome. Meetings provide opportunities for sharing laughter and building friendships. Rides will gladly be arranged and childcare is available upon request. We learn from each other and enjoy the blessings of abundant life that God has promised us when we gather in His name.

Submitted by Shelly Holmstrom

On behalf of the Women of St. James

## *Resolutions*

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

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

**We express our thanks** to our Pastor, Richard Holmer, all our salaried staff and our many volunteers -- committee chairpersons and members, organizational leaders, church school staff, choir members and musicians, ushers, worship assistants, nursery attendants, altar guild, sewing circle and all the dedicated individuals who have given service in 2016-2017.

**We express our gratitude** to all who serve on the Church Council, especially Carol Bennett (Secretary), Donna Fortney, Josh Hornaday (President), and Craig Linn who have completed their terms of office. In addition we acknowledge with great appreciation our other 2016-2017 officers: Mark Wanda, Vice President; Jon Paul, Treasurer and Joe Voelcker, Financial Secretary.

**We welcome** into our church family the 5 adults and 4 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** Fay Olson, Dean Holm, Aurelia Meyer, Char Kreuz, Mark Eck, Ken Olsen and Jan Nilsson 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.