

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Annual Meeting  
Cosman Cultural Center  
12015 Mill Street  
Huntley, IL 60142  
January 27, 2008**

**Agenda**

- I. Call to order**
- II. Quorum Call**
- III. Opening Prayer: Pastor Mark Boster**
- IV. Approval of minutes from January 28, 2007**
- V. Reports**
  - A. Pastor**
  - B. Congregational Council**
  - C. Financial**
  - D. Building Committee**
  - E. Stewardship Committee**
  - F. Small Group Director**
  - G. Altar Guild**
  - H. Volunteer Coordinator**
    - I. W 4**
    - J. Spirit Alive**
  - K. Shepherd Voices**
  - L. Prairie Ringers**
  - M. Sunday School**
  - N. DUIJ**
  - O. Music**
  - P. Outreach**
  - Q. Endowment**
  - R. Prairie Points Quilting**
  - S. Prayer Shawl**
  - T. Prairie Crafters**
  - U. Sparkplugs**
  - V. Usher Coordinator**

**VI. Old Business**

**VII. New Business**

**A. Congregational Council Recommendation**

- I. Recommendation from the Congregational Council to extend and vote on a Letter of Call to the Rev. Sue Ellen Grudt as Associate Pastor of Shepherd of the Prairie (by written ballot)**

**B. Nominating Committee**

- I. Election of Council Members**
- II. Election of Audit Committee**
- III. Election of voting members to Northern IL Synod Assembly, June 13-14, 2008**
- IV. Election of Nominating Committee**

**C. Building Team**

- I. Report and Vote**

**D. 2008 Budget Report and Approval**

**VIII. Report of written ballot to call the Rev. Sue Ellen Grudt as Associate Pastor**

**IX. Closing Prayer**

**X. Adjournment**

# Shepherd of the Prairie Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes

## January 28, 2007

### Cosman Center Cafeteria

- I. **Quorum Call:** A call for quorum was completed by Council President Jessica Panella. The required quorum was achieved with 81 confirmed congregation members present to vote. All voting members signed in so that a written record could be established.
- II. Prayer: Pastor Mark led the members present in prayer.
- III. **Financial reports:** All financial reports were accepted as submitted.
- IV. **Reports:** Written reports from all SOTP ministries and Pastor Mark were provided to all congregation members for review. All reports were accepted as submitted.
- V. **Old Business:** No items under old business were formally acted upon. Pastor Mark highlighted the formation of the Endowment Fund and introduced Kathy Dahl as leading the Endowment Committee.
- VI. **New Business**
  - A. **Election of Audit Committee:** A motion was made by Jim Henley and seconded by Ferdie Kimminau to accept the nominees for the 2007 Audit Committee as listed by the 2006 Nominating Committee (George Sebastian, Lois Brothers and Patrick Desiato). The motion carried.
  - B. **Election of Nominating Committee:** A motion was made by Sue Wehnes and seconded by Alice Hallett to accept the nominees for the 2007 Nominating Committee as listed by the 2006 Nominating Committee (Sharon Little, Tim Reincke, Anita Bull, Wally Fuellgraff, Ron Knudson and Corinne Neukirch). The motion carried.
  - C. **Election of Congregational Council Members:** A motion was made by Gretchen Lane and seconded by Kris Fleener to accept the nominees for the 2007 Congregational Council as listed by the 2006 Nominating Committee (Kristi Cordle, Jeff Meissner, Sue Boyle and Ferdie Kimminau). The motion carried.
  - D. **Election of Voting Members for Northern IL Synod:** A motion was made by George Bull and seconded by Ron Knudson to accept the nominees for 2007 Voting members for the Northern IL Synod as listed by the 2006 Nominating Committee (Russell Deloney and Theresa Molgren). The motion carried.
  - E. **Building Site Transfer Resolution:** A motion was made by Kris Fleener and seconded by Richard Dahl to pass the resolution to officially transfer the building site to the ownership of Shepherd of the Prairie from the Mission Investment Fund. Congregational questions fielded regarding the resolution included whether the title for the building site would show SOTP as the owner (SOTP will be listed on the title as soon as the paperwork is finalized); and why isn't the balance already in the Building Fund being used to purchase the building site without a loan (interest is being earned on the balance through the Mission Investment Fund and that outweighs the potential benefit of paying off the land). The motion carried.
  - F. **2007 Budget:** A written copy of the proposed 2007 SOTP General Fund budget was provided to congregation members for their review. The budget was further explained by Tim Reincke and Jeff Meissner. Congregational questions were fielded including why the new building site payment isn't reflected in the budget (because it is not taken from the General fund, rather the Building Fund); how much will SOTP receive back from the expenditure for the "Footsteps of Paul" trip (all \$5100 expended will be returned); what constitutes the "regular giving" line item on the budget (it reflects the offering from regular giving members who do not formally pledge); why aren't actual expenses from 2006 shown (actual expenses were used in calculating the 2007 budget but were not listed on the written 2007 budget given to the congregation); what is the "Division of Outreach Payback" line item (it originates from when expenses for Pastor Ken were being paid by outreach dollars from the ELCA and were intended to be returned to the ELCA through small monthly payments from SOTP); why does Rejoice get more budget

dollars than Shepherd's Voices (because Rejoice expended more in 2007 and Shepherd's Voices has restricted funds available to supplement their budget dollars). Bob Malm, congregation voting member present, then called for the question of approval of the 2007 budget. A motion was made by Jim Henley and seconded by Nancy Ramirez to approve the 2007 SOTP General Fund budget as submitted. The motion carried.

**VII. Prayer:** The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer said in unison.

**VIII. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Jessica Panella.

Prayerfully submitted,  
**Kristi Cordle**

# Senior Pastor Report

## January 27, 2008

### Our Mission

**“Caring for God’s Children of all Ages”**

### Our Vision

**“Growing Disciples, Who Make Disciples”  
2008**

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I enjoy living with the Word. It is quite easy to do. Simply pick a verse of Scripture and live with it for a day. Let that piece of God's Word fill every nook and cranny of your being. Easy to do, a little more challenging to engage! Don't we, however, all love a good challenge?

***"Greater is he who is in me than he who is in the world!"*** This Scripture has fed me more than once in this year. It is the Scripture that I carry with me into this year 2008 and one that I invite each one of you to lift up in prayer and share in this New Year ahead. What part of your life does Christ need to be greater? The great difficulty in life is conquering the desire to put other things higher than he who is greater. We put the accumulation of earthly means at a higher level than he who is greater. We put hobbies, jobs, vacations, relationships higher than he who is greater. This would be a great year to grow your spirit with the power of the Spirit.

It is always a bit overwhelming to encapsulate in a few hundred words the ministry that has occurred over the course of year in the church. The list of various ministries and activities folks are involved with in the church is almost one hundred. That is amazing. We pray “thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Do you recognize in each of these various ministry activities there is the potential of bring heaven to earth. That is our hope and prayer that we would bring reflections of grace in all we do for the glory of God.

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love." We want to become a church that is a bit of heaven on earth. What I mean by that is that we hope people coming to Shepherd of the Prairie feel the blessing of a warm welcome. Our prayer is that people leave worship praising God for the gift of that "little bit of heaven" received. People devoted to loving another in Christ create that sweet fragrance of heavenly grace, mercy and compassion which people cannot do without. I am thankful for your devotion to Christ like love.

"Share with God's people who are need, practice hospitality." What do you suppose is the greatest need in our society? It is not a larger paycheck, less stress, a new car, larger house, more time with the kids. Simply put the greatest need people have in our country today is to know they are loved. I pray that we may continue our efforts to practice hospitality. Continue to creatively bring words of welcome and love to new needy faces that grace our worship space on Sunday morning. I pray each of you consider Sunday morning as an opportunity to meet a new friend in Christ. Let's practice hospitality.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." I am thankful for the signs of spiritual growth within our faith family. New small groups being formed for the purpose of prayer, support, encouragement and nourishment have truly been a blessing. So much sharing and caring can occur within these smaller prayer ministries. Growth in the spiritual life of the congregation has been the result.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." What great wisdom from the Scriptures. There is enough heart ache, anxiety, worry and fear in the world. What would it mean for you to encounter each person that you meet with, at least the thought of" peace be with you. In worship we practice this simple phrase each week. Are their evidences of your Sunday morning worship practices in your everyday life?

Do not be overwhelmed by evil, but overcome evil with good." "Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world." I pray that your partnership in the ministry is equipping you to face trials and temptations with the certainty of God's power. May we put our best faith forward in this New Year. We put our best faith forward by making a difference. How do we make a difference? We put our lives in close proximity to the Difference Maker through the Marks of Discipleship:

1. Commit to grow spiritually
2. Pray and read Scriptures daily
3. Worship weekly
4. Serve for the sake of others
5. Doing outreach
6. Tithing (10%) of your financial resources
7. Encourage spiritual growth in others (pass on the faith)

Finally, I have never served a church where I have been so blessed by so many leaders. I believe in the theology of asking for which you need. Most everyday I am making a prayer request of God to send Shepherd of the Prairie passionate leaders for Christ! How thankful I am for the fruitful abundance of God's amazing grace in answered prayer.

2008, by God's grace, will be the year we put a shovel to the ground on the corner of Main and Manhattan and build a building to help further the mission of Christ. I recently spoke to a dad who has regularly attended Shepherd of the Prairie and he shared with me that when his baby daughter is baptized he also desires to give his life to Christ and be baptized. My most passionate prayer is that we keep ourselves focused in knowing that what we build is simply a tool to better equip us to bring others into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Continue to grow in grace. Open your eyes to the abundance of His mercy and strength poured out to his children. May the peace of God which passes all understanding sustain and bless you in this life and forevermore!

To the glory of the One greater in me and also in you...

**Pastor Mark**

# Congregational Council

The purpose of the Congregational Council is to have general oversight of the life and activities of Shepherd of the Prairie, and in particular it's worship life. The charge of the council is to lead SOTP in stating our mission, to do long range planning, and to evaluate activities in light of our mission and goals. The council is also responsible for financial and property matters of the congregation. Please see our constitution (available on line) for more information on what the council is responsible for.

The Council meets as a whole monthly to manage the business of the church. The Executive Council meets as a group monthly prior to Council meetings and the President meets monthly with the Pastor separately. The non-executive members of Council have a Communicator role. In this role, they touch base with small group leaders to check on how things are going, ask for any concerns or blessings of the group to take to council. In addition, many members of the council are also involved with other committees and groups.

2007 has been a busy year for council. A few highlights from Council meetings are below:

- We transferred the land title from the ELCA Mission Investment fund to Shepherd of the Prairie
- We appointed a Property Manager - Lois Brothers - to oversee the land before we start building
- Established a money market account for the building fund to gain more interest while we prepare to build
- Appointed a new Building Team Leader
- Created a new Communicator position on the council to interact with the small group leaders

Please continue to pray for the Council. The Council is made up of eight volunteers who have the love of Christ and the love of SOTP in their hearts. They work very hard on the behalf of all.

I want to thank the Council, Pastor Mark and all of you for your support of me as President of the Council.

Prayerfully submitted,

**Jessica Panella**

Congregation Council President

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church  
**Balance Sheet**  
 As of December 31, 2007

	<u>Dec 31, 07</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	56,905.67
Citizens First National Bank	56,905.67
Total Checking/Savings	<u>113,811.34</u>
Other Current Assets	
Bank One CD (Chase) 9M 9/7/04	51,674.50
Loan to Mark Boster	8,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>59,674.50</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>116,580.17</u>
Fixed Assets	
Music Equipment	7,315.57
Total Fixed Assets	<u>7,315.57</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>123,895.74</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	-0.99
Payroll Liabilities	-0.99
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-0.99</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-0.99</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>-0.99</u>
Equity	
Retained Earnings	111,886.94
Net Income	12,009.79
Total Equity	<u>123,896.73</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>123,895.74</u></b>



## Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Actual 07 & Budget 07 Calendar Year 2007

	Jan - Dec 07	Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions			
Loose Plate	8,183.61	6,399.96	127.9%
Pledges	291,177.00	311,481.96	93.5%
<b>Total Contributions</b>	299,360.61	317,881.92	94.2%
Flower Contributions			
Grants (Misc)	2,576.00	2,490.00	103.5%
ELCA			
DO Grant	0.00	999.96	0.0%
<b>Total ELCA</b>	0.00	999.96	0.0%
<b>Total Grants (Misc)</b>	0.00	999.96	0.0%
Interest Income	2,131.68	2,000.04	106.6%
<b>Total Income</b>	304,068.29	323,371.92	94.0%
<b>Expense</b>			
Advertising	4,375.67	7,269.96	60.2%
Automobile Expense	2,578.43	4,500.00	57.3%
Bank Service Charges	70.00	50.04	139.9%
Benevolence			
ELCA			
Division for Outreach Payback	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%
NI Synod	36,213.03	35,571.00	101.8%
<b>Total ELCA</b>	36,213.03	36,771.00	98.5%
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	36,213.03	36,771.00	98.5%
Conferences	915.00	2,000.04	45.7%
Contingency	0.00	500.04	0.0%
Education			
Adult Education	467.88	519.96	90.0%
Confirmation	324.95	300.00	108.3%
Sunday School	2,098.46	2,000.04	104.9%
VBS	737.80	699.96	105.4%
<b>Total Education</b>	3,629.09	3,519.96	103.1%
<b>Employee Benefits</b>			
Director of Small Groups	14,450.06	13,749.96	105.1%
Other Salaries	2,291.93	5,100.00	44.9%
Pastor	34,853.13	37,400.04	93.2%
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	51,595.12	56,250.00	91.7%
Employee Business Expense	353.27	399.96	88.3%

## Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Actual 07 & Budget 07 Calendar Year 2007

	Jan - Dec 07	Budget	% of Budget
Equipment Rental	6,706.46	9,000.00	74.5%
Evangelism & Outreach	6,123.75	12,000.00	51.0%
Fellowship	1,829.56	500.04	365.9%
Flower Expense	2,787.24	2,990.04	93.2%
Gifts	165.65	300.00	55.2%
Good Samaritan	89.35	500.04	17.9%
Insurance	450.00	750.00	60.0%
Late Fees	85.30	75.00	113.7%
Legal	85.00		
Licenses and Permits	1,042.60	999.96	104.3%
Natural Church Development	0.00	3,000.00	0.0%
Office Equipment	767.71	999.96	76.8%
Office Supplies	7,795.90	5,000.04	155.9%
Payroll Expenses			
Director of Music	14,800.00	15,000.00	98.7%
Director of Small Groups	25,750.08	25,749.96	100.0%
Pastor	69,870.00	69,870.00	100.0%
Secretary	14,801.04	14,801.04	100.0%
Staffing for Growth	0.00	3,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>125,221.12</b>	<b>128,421.00</b>	<b>97.5%</b>
Postage and Delivery	1,113.36	3,360.00	33.1%
Property Tax	34.88		
Rent			
Office Rent	11,271.00	11,000.04	102.5%
Park District	29,290.00	24,999.96	117.2%
<b>Total Rent</b>	<b>40,561.00</b>	<b>36,000.00</b>	<b>112.7%</b>
Repairs/ Replacement	0.00	500.04	0.0%
Sign Expense	0.00	500.04	0.0%
Small Group Ministries	15.94	750.00	2.1%
Stewardship	67.45	1,500.00	4.5%
Utilities			
Telephone	3,065.07	3,000.00	102.2%
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>3,065.07</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>102.2%</b>
Website	543.90	500.04	108.8%
Worship			
Altar Guild	434.89	500.04	87.0%
Equipment	342.44	1,500.00	22.8%

# Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Actual 07 & Budget 07 Calendar Year 2007

	Jan - Dec 07	Budget	% of Budget
<b>Music</b>			
1st Service Music	552.48	300.00	184.2%
2nd Service Music	355.10	300.00	118.4%
Childrens Choir	210.94	99.96	211.0%
Chime Choir	7.38	200.04	3.7%
Rejoice	0.00	500.04	0.0%
Shepherds Voice	642.93	350.04	183.7%
<b>Total Music</b>	<b>1,768.83</b>	<b>1,750.08</b>	<b>101.1%</b>
Pastoral Assistance	0.00	249.96	0.0%
Supplies	1,249.91	500.04	250.0%
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>3,796.07</b>	<b>4,500.12</b>	<b>84.4%</b>
<b>Youth</b>			
DUIJ	943.96	999.96	94.4%
Kool Christian Kids	0.00	500.04	0.0%
<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>943.96</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>62.9%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>303,020.88</b>	<b>327,907.32</b>	<b>92.4%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>1,047.41</b>	<b>-4,535.40</b>	<b>-23.1%</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
Other Income			
Activity Fund Income	76.00		
Building Fund Income	361,588.15		
Donation 2007			
Restricted 2007			
Books	272.00		
Confirmation	40.00		
Evangelism Outreach	1,341.89		
Fellowship	484.51		
Foot Steps of Paul	5,542.31		
Gas Money for MS Trip	70.00		
Gift from N. IL Synod	1,000.00		
Go & Do Likewise	50.00		
Good Samaritan	50.00		
Heifer Project	487.57		
Hymnal	40.00		
LSSI	50.00		
Lutherdale Retreat	966.47		
Lutherdale Retreat 2008	50.00		
Memorial - Keiths	400.00		
Memorial - Lehman	25.00		
Memorial - McCullough	10.00		
Memorial - Meissner	3,876.00		
Rent for Bazaar	100.00		

# Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Actual 07 & Budget 07 Calendar Year 2007

10:42 AM  
12/31/07  
Cash Basis

	Jan - Dec 07	Budget	% of Budget
Shepherds Voices	80.00		
Small Group - Luke	10.00		
Special Gifts	6,905.88		
Sunday School	10.00		
VBS	592.00		
W-4	114.00		
World Hunger	1,066.80		
Youth & Family Ministry	3,500.00		
Youth Retreat / Scholarship	379.00		
<b>Total Restricted 2007</b>	<b>27,513.43</b>		
<b>Total Donation 2007</b>		<b>27,513.43</b>	
Donations Prior Year(s)			
Restricted Prior Year(s)			
Books	45.00		
Children's Choir	151.24		
Chime Choir Account Prior Yr	472.51		
Computer	101.91		
Conference	585.50		
Confirmation Bible Kits	128.02		
DUIJ	241.84		
Evangelism/Outreach	1,115.00		
Faith Chest	100.00		
Fellowship Prior Yr	1,376.43		
Good Samaritan Prior Yr	1,604.76		
Heifer Project Prior Yr	160.00		
Hymnal	260.00		
Kool Christian Kids	588.53		
Property Sign	730.00		
Shepherd Voices	100.00		
Special Gifts	447.00		
Sr. Shepherds	61.17		
VBS Prior Year	1,162.65		
W-4	363.41		
Youth Calendar	345.00		
Youth Retreat/Scholarship	1,649.00		
<b>Total Restricted Prior Year(s)</b>	<b>11,788.97</b>		
<b>Total Donations Prior Year(s)</b>		<b>11,788.97</b>	
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>400,966.55</b>	
Other Expense			
Activity Fund Transfer		76.00	
Building Fund Transfer		361,588.15	

# Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Actual 07 & Budget 07 Calendar Year 2007

	Jan - Dec 07	Budget	% of Budget
<b>Restricted Expenses 2007</b>			
Books	230.00		
Evangelism / Outreach	444.35		
Fellowship 2007	382.01		
Foot Steps of Paul	372.79		
Gas Money for MS Trip	70.00		
Gift from N. IL Synod	1,000.00		
Good Samaritan	49.50		
LSSI	50.00		
Lutherdale Retreat 2007	944.47		
Memorial - Keiths	400.00		
Memorial - Lehman	25.00		
Memorial - McCullough	10.00		
Memorial - Meissner	3,876.00		
Property Sign	587.67		
Rent for Bazaar	100.00		
Shepherd Voices	80.00		
Special Gifts	6,890.88		
W-4	114.00		
World Hunger 2007	1,066.80		
Youth Retreat-Scholarship	379.00		
<b>Total Restricted Expenses 2007</b>	<b>17,072.47</b>		
<b>Restricted Expenses Prior Yr(s)</b>			
Children's Choir	151.24		
Chime Choir	472.51		
Computer	101.91		
Conference	304.47		
DUIJ Prior Years	241.84		
Fellowship Prior Yr	159.95		
Foot Steps of Paul	5,169.52		
KCK	588.53		
Lutherdale Retreat	22.00		
Shepherd Voices	100.00		
Special Gifts--Other Restricted	447.00		
Sr. Shepherds	61.17		
VBS	1,090.00		
W 4	363.41		

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church**  
**Profit & Loss Actual 07 & Budget 07**  
 Calendar Year 2007

	Jan - Dec 07	Budget	% of Budget
Youth Calendar	345.00		
Youth Retreat / Scholarship	1,649.00		
<b>Total Restricted Expenses Prior Yr(s)</b>	<b>11,267.55</b>		
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>390,004.17</b>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>10,962.38</b>		
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12,009.79</b>	<b>-4,535.40</b>	<b>-264.8%</b>

**Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2007

11:06 AM  
12/31/07  
Cash Basis

	Dec 31, 07
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	192,746.00
EFS Money Mkt(MidAmerica Bank)	192,746.00
Total Checking/Savings	385,492.00
Other Current Assets	
AG Edwards Investment Account	288,938.83
Castle Bank (HBC) CD 3M 2-4-04	55,628.14
Harris Bank CD 6M 9-4-03	54,215.65
Mission Investment CDs (One Yr)	
Mission Invest CD # 4 1-5-06	107,626.04
Mission Invest CD #1 3-8-05	57,258.16
Mission Invest CD #2 9-9-04	113,362.46
Mission Invest CD# 3 4-27-05	55,428.18
Total Mission Investment CDs (One Yr)	333,674.84
PrimeVest Financial Services	52,435.77
Total Other Current Assets	784,893.23
Total Current Assets	977,639.23
Fixed Assets	
Land and Road	608,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	608,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,585,639.23</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Long Term Liabilities	
Land and Road MIF Loan	483,230.58
Northern Illinois Synod Loan	45,000.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	528,230.58
Total Liabilities	528,230.58
Equity	
Retained Earnings	-10,032.00
Net Income	1,067,440.65
Total Equity	1,057,408.65
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,585,639.23</b>

# Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund Profit & Loss

January through December 2007

Jan - Dec 07

Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Contributions		
Andrew &Thekla Nielsen Memorial	1,000.00	
Bob McCullough Memorial	305.00	
Flexman Memorial	8,858.64	
Good Shepherd	1,000.00	
Jeff Weissner Memorial	3,876.00	
Jim Lehman Memorial	2,570.00	
Memorial	400.00	
Minnie Keiths Memorial	400.00	
Prairie Crafters	6,670.60	
SOTP Contribution--2nd Campaign	402,113.32	
Total Contributions	427,193.56	
Interest	29,852.13	
Total Income	457,045.69	
Expense		
Architecture Fees	3,102.00	
Land Loan Interest	6,249.73	
Liability Insurance - Land	400.00	
Loan Fees	1,768.00	
Title Fees	2,722.00	
Total Expense	14,241.73	
Net Ordinary Income	442,803.96	
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Contributions Prior Years		
Bob and Marilyn Engen Prior Yr	1,040.00	
Flexman Mem Prior Year	76,339.08	
Interest Income Pr Yr	32,378.53	
Karl Pohlman Memorial pr yr	460.00	
Ladies of SOTP Prior Yr	12,880.59	
Larry Boster Mem Pr Yr	385.00	
Northern Ill Synod Pr. Yr	45,000.00	
Other Contributions Pr Yr	38,900.00	
Pratt Estate pr yr	10,000.00	
Ray Nelson Prior Yr	1,625.00	
Robert Engen Memorial Pr Yr	318.00	
SOTP Contribution/2nd Campaign	135,827.43	



**Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through December 2007

11:10 AM  
 12/31/07  
 Cash Basis

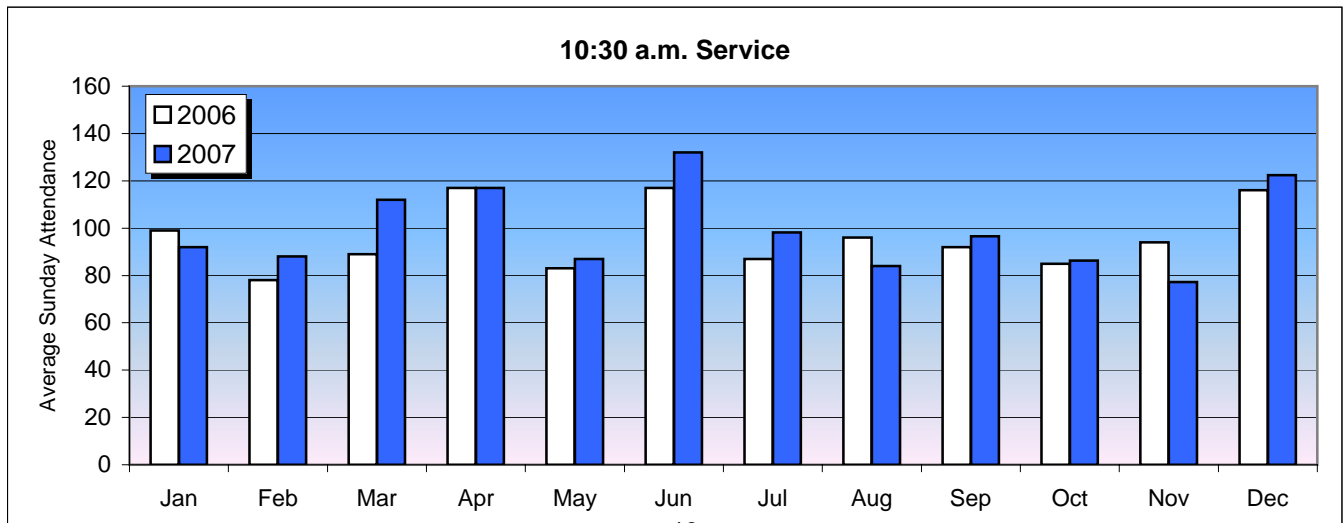
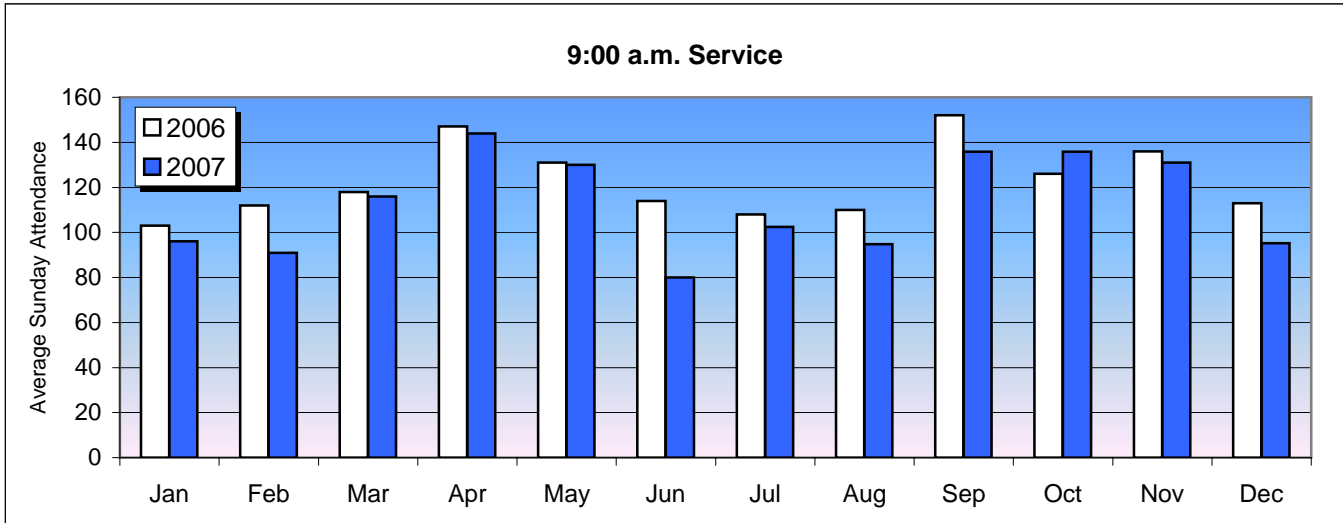
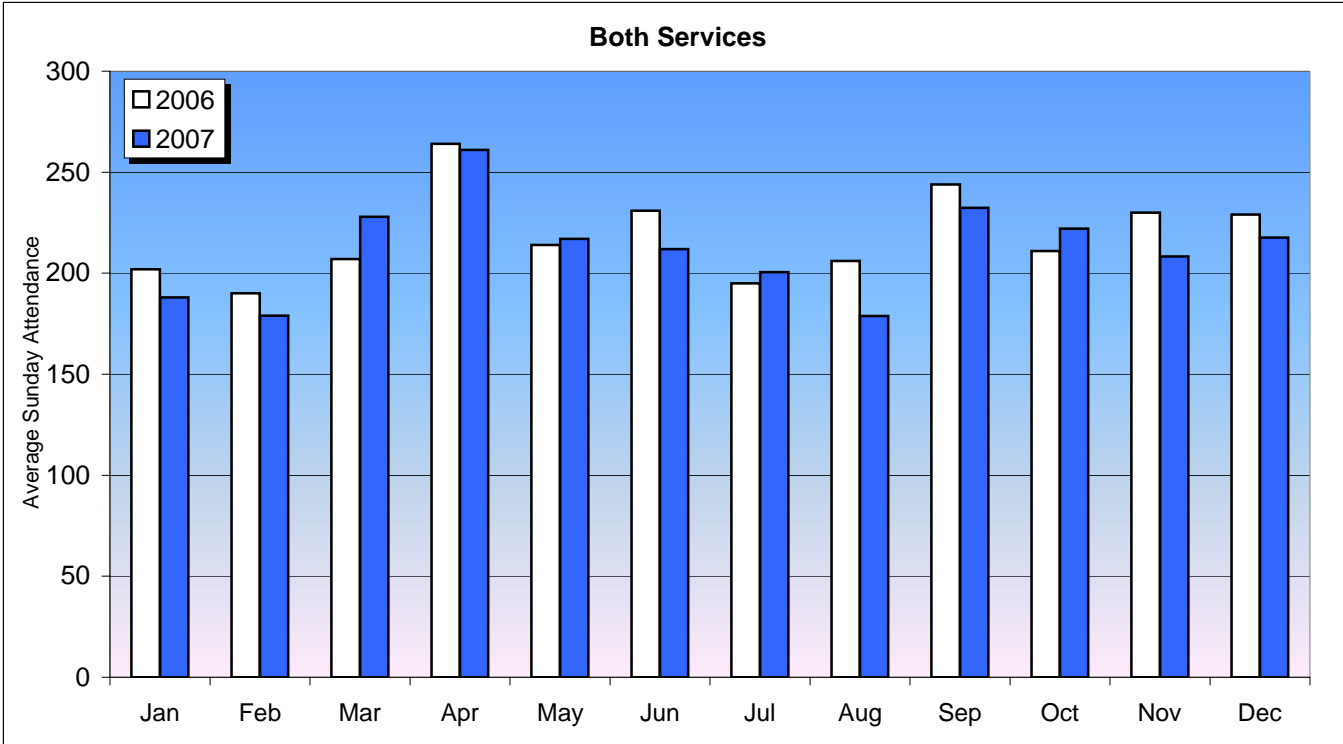
	Jan - Dec 07
SOTP Contributions Pr Yr	371,907.13
William Black Memorial pr yr	100.00
<b>Total Contributions Prior Years</b>	<b>727,160.76</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>727,160.76</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>	
<b>Expenses Pr Yr</b>	
Architecture Fees pr yr	44,416.30
Bank Service Charge pr yr	3.00
Capital Campaign Fees pr yr	25,506.00
Civil Engineering Fees pr yr	3,498.75
Construction Consulting pr yr	3,870.00
Land Survey	10,002.50
Legal Pr Yr	5,796.66
Loan Fees pr yr	750.00
Printing Expenses Pr Yr	30.86
Village of Huntley Pr Yr	8,650.00
<b>Total Expenses Pr Yr</b>	<b>102,524.07</b>
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>102,524.07</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>624,636.69</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1,067,440.65</b>

**SOTP Activity Fund  
Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2007

11:25 AM  
12/31/07  
Accrual Basis

	Dec 31, 07
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	3,730.96
Harris Bank Checking Account	
Total Checking/Savings	3,730.96
Total Current Assets	3,730.96
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,730.96</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Long Term Liabilities	
Foot Steps of Paul	652.75
Music - Children's Choir	151.24
Music - Chime Choir	378.64
Music - Shepherds Voices	51.05
Retreat - Youth / Scholarship	1,428.00
Senior Shepherds	61.17
W-4	419.58
Youth - KCK	588.53
Total Long Term Liabilities	3,730.96
Total Liabilities	3,730.96
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>3,730.96</b>

## Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Monthly Attendance Charts



## Building Committee

Shepherd of the Prairie has been working diligently since early 2003 to construct a building on our property located on Main Street near the Huntley Library and adjacent to the Village Municipal Center. As we near the end of 2007, we are halfway through our second capital campaign and feel that we are now in a position to move forward with the construction of a building that can adequately house our ministry.

The Building Committee members are Doreen Black, John Browne, Jim Henley, Larry Newbanks, Tom Polzin and Bob Zimmerman.

The Building Committee's mission continues to be to coordinate the design and construction of the initial building for Shepherd of the Prairie.

Over the past several months, the Building Committee has met several times to review the work of the previous Building Committee. With the majority of the groundwork completed by the previous committee, the current Building Committee refined the current building fund budget and revised the plans for the initial building, based on the funds available to the congregation.

The Building Committee made the decision to continue working with Carlson Architecture, as we have invested a significant amount of time and resources together on this project. Carlson Architecture is very familiar with the goals and Core Values of SOTP and shares our vision for the initial building and long-range "Master Plan". Additionally, we made the decision to continue working with our previously contracted construction company, Shales-McNutt.

Having completed the budget review in October 2007, the decision was made that SOTP could afford a 12,000 square foot initial building. This building will allow for future growth of the congregation, adequate housing of Sunday school programs and Ministries, without placing an excessive financial burden on the congregation operating funds.

Upon approval of the final building design, the Building Committee will begin the design development process and start to work with the Village of Huntley and Shales-McNutt on the bidding of subcontractors and the permit process. Based on our projections, we will be able to break ground in the summer of 2008 with an estimated completion date of mid-2009.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**John Browne**  
Chair, Building Committee

## Stewardship Committee

We encourage all followers of Christ to make Stewardship a way of life. We have been given much to be Stewards of and need to be aware of who the giver is and not squander the gifts. Fresh air to breathe, food to eat, homes, families, freedoms, etc. Others don't always have these. We should use what we need (not necessarily what we want) and do our best to share with others and protect what we have been given for those that follow us to have.

The Stewardship Annual Appeal was conducted in November, culminating in Harvest Sunday. The results were disappointing and may be attributed to the lack of focus by the appeal itself. We have 80 Estimates of Giving at slightly over \$250,000. Last year we had 90 Estimates of Giving at \$252,894. We encourage all who have not yet made a commitment to our Lord to do so and then submitted an Estimate of Giving card.

A lifestyle of Stewardship includes time, talent and treasure. The treasure aspect is to strive for the 80-10-10 formula. Eighty percent of income to support the individual or family. Ten percent for the work of the Church and ten percent for the family savings. We recognize that for many this is a challenge and that the "Church" ten percent will mean different things to different people. Also, we recognize that for many the "church" means "charitable giving" and not all 10% will go to the Church! Only the individual and God will know how their 10% is distributed.

Ministries of Shepherd of the Prairie and our ability to make future loan payments on our planned new building depend on the contributions of all our disciples. People will look at our income stream as they decide if they will loan us the money for the new building. Our outreach, youth, education, small groups, music all rely on all of us to financially support these and other programs.

We look forward to new leadership of our Stewardship Team and welcome the involvement of all of our new members and all who choose to immerse themselves in our Ministries and the study of the Bible. Be Stewards of all things at all times and praise the Lord!

**The SOTP Stewardship team.**

## 2007 Small Group Director 2<sup>nd</sup> Service Keyboardist

2007 was a blessed year for Small Group Ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie!

Each month, we had steady interest and support for this relational discipleship building ministry. Thanks and blessings to all who led and/or participated in one or more of our many STUDY, SERVICE, SUPPORT OR SOCIAL Groups. I pray every day that your relationship with Christ and with others was strengthened through the extra efforts you made through the Holy Spirit to be involved in church through our varied venues.

In January, at my Small Group Leaders' Thank-you Luncheon, I expressed that one of my goals for our program this year was to help increase our family unit participation from around 86% to 90% or above in Small Groups; my most recent (December 23, 2007) calculation puts SOTP's Small Group Participation at about or even a little bit over 91% of the congregation's families. This means that nearly all of our 155 plus families have at least one family member partnering in ministry at SOTP outside of worship! Thanks be to God for the many, many gifts all of you bring to the work of God's church. And, let's make 100% participation a goal for 2008—just keep asking, inviting and praying, as *Jesus did when he encouraged folks to "Come and see..."* (John 1:39).

We celebrated over a dozen new short-term and on-going new groups this year:

In January, **Nancy Ramirez** and our dear late **Jeff Meissner** led "*Stress Management through the Spirit*," a very helpful support group. **Carlee Petelle** and I employed quite a few Small Group strategies as we planned the **W-4 Day Retreat**, attended by nearly 50 women, that month.

Similarly, in February, **Pastor Mark, Carl and Sandy Hupert, Steve and Gail Barnard and Pastor Rich Grudt** and I helped to lead about 45 SOTP members in our first inter-generational **Overnight Retreat** at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Also, in the late winter/early spring, **Katie Desiato** led a home study group on the wonderful *Bad Girls of the Bible*, by the dynamic Liz Curtis Higgs. Pastor Mark ran his **FLOC lectionary study group** on Wednesdays at 6 and 10 am from Panera and Citizens Bank while my faithful **Tuesday group** perused Dr. John MacArthur's powerful *Twelve Ordinary Men* together.

Because of the sudden death of SOTP's Adult Sunday School leader and my friend, **Ronn Brower**, I taught his class "*Whatever Happened to Repentance*," in April on Sundays at the Cosman Center. I was also pleased to serve as First Service Keyboardist during **Mary Tabatt's** winter absence, and the Wednesday evening Lenten keyboardist, too.

During this time, **Bob Malm's** interest in Classic Cars led him to form the very appropriately named Social Group, "*SOTP Sparkplugs*". The group's tire air pressure service project definitely saved a few bucks and lives. Many personal thanks and hugs to Bob and Carolyn Malm for helping me with my VERY FLAT tire in the Culver's parking lot. The "Sparkplugs" also took a lovely field trip to the Auto Museum in Volo, with a stop off for treats at our home in nearby Island Lake.

The beautiful *Prayer Shawl Ministry Service Small Group*, under the direction of **Sue Boyle and Alice Hallett**, took off to spread God's warm love in places around the city, country and world. Thank you to all involved. Your gifts are helping in ways we'll never know of here on earth...

Many thanks to **Lois Brothers, Sue Boyle, Phyllis Anderson and Ziggie Bekeris** for helping me start the *Homeless Helpers Service Small Group* this summer. Blessings to the many, many of you who responded to the problem of 250 homeless people in McHenry County, by donating all sorts of supplies for the local P.A.D.S. ministries and Redeemer Lutheran Church's daytime shelter. Thank you to everyone who has come to serve

dinner at the Crystal Lake shelter on SOTP's designated 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, including **Doris Kopp**, who used her catering expertise to plan groceries, and **Kerry, Tom, Tess and Troy Miller** who are leading SOTP's **Confirmation students** in making lunches for the shelter visitors. Special thanks to **Patrick and Katie Desiato, Becky and Tyler Hennessey and Nina Grudt** for serving at the shelter on the night of the very bad snowstorm on December 23.

Sunday nights in the summer were fun with a new group of "**Bible Basics**" students, led by the super-organized and creative **Nancy Ramirez**.

Fifteen dedicated SOTP women began **Lay Shepherd Pastoral Care Training** with me in June in a small group setting. These hard-working ladies were commissioned in August and continue monthly training as they provide pastoral visits, calls, meals and cards for members and our service people. Special thanks to co-ordinator **Janice Shuff**, and **Elaine Neukirch** and **Helen Berry** for their kind efforts to our armed services people.

I was thrilled this summer to guide a small group on Pr. John Ortberg's inspiring DVD and Book, **The Life You've Always Wanted**, participate as a friend and guest pastor at **Mary Tabatt** and **Mary Arneson's Purpose Driven Life (by Rick Warren) Study Group**, and, this past fall/winter, develop a weekly study of the gospel of **Luke: A New Hope**.

**Bob Malm, Rachael Yndestad and Donna Brown** and I were all honored to attend **Willow Creek Church's Small Group Ministry Conference** from September 28-30. We gained much insight into the dynamics of this ministry, have lots of great ideas for the future of Group Life at SOTP— and were more than pleased to get to know the Lord and each other better through marvelous speakers and incredible worship!

Thank you, **Elaine Neukirch**, for assuming a leadership role in "**Faith and Film**" this year.

Thank you, **Theresa Molgren**, for taking on the e-mail **Prayer Chain/Team Ministry**.

In October, **Pastor Jim Carr** taught a fantastic, original Bible study on Sunday mornings titled "**For Milk and Meat-eaters**." Thank you so much, Pastor Carr.

Thank you to **Carol Lilla** and **Theresa Molgren** for your leadership, support and care of the "**Weighty Matters**" group. We so appreciate all the help and love we can get as we struggle with where our faith implicates body image and health and fitness issues.

Finally, I am so impressed with and touched by the God-given musical talent in the 21 children who auditioned for and spent two hours EVERY Sunday afternoon from September 30 through December 9 preparing for our Christmas musical, "**Cookin' up Christmas**". It was a true blessing for me to rehearse with these faith-filled kids, including my own two boys, every week for nearly three months. Many thanks to my colleague and the musical's director, **Annette Boster**, for her talent, patience, and spiritual leadership with these great kids.

Speaking of talent, it is more than a pleasure to work EACH WEEK with such a talented team of musicians. **Director Mitch Corso is a prince. Jeff Cordle, Annette Boster, Jenn Huston, Nina Grudt, Emily Ramirez, Paige Cordle, Macy Luedtke and Jake Luedtke** are so gifted and such a joy. When I am honored to accompany the first service team, I so enjoy the full sound of the horns and winds with **Carol Mosby, Beth and Dave Macaulay**, and, as often as he can play, **Tim Reincke. Singers JoAnn Ward, Donna Sorensen and Mark and Becca Fulcer** just increase the fun and fine musicality.

I am more than grateful for the opportunity to serve Shepherd of the Prairie as your **Small Group Pastor/2<sup>nd</sup> Service Keyboardist**. It is a privilege to know each one of you and help grow the kingdom of God together.. I look forward to sharing my gifts here in whatever ways I am called and needed in the future.

Thank you-- **Pastor Mark Boster** --for your collegiality, kindness and humor. Special thanks -- Office Administrator **Dennis Lilla**-- for your patience and calm demeanor. Always--thank you, my family -- **Pastor Rich Grudt, Nina, Ben and Joe**, for your understanding and love.

*“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering and faithful in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)*

**Pastor Sue Ellen Grudt**

## **Altar Guild**

This has been a very busy year for the Altar Guild. We have three new members, Ann Lehman, Donna Newbanks and Annette Tomaszewski, plus three new set-up volunteers, Jeanne Henley, Barbara Hoppensteadt and Marilyn Schnake and two volunteers for take-down, Amy Sharp and Noreta Walker. So happy to have these women join us, but we could still use additional help, especially with take-down.

Our members and volunteers maintain weekly schedules of responsibility that not only include set-up and take-down, but provide personalized Baptismal Banners and Napkins, monthly laundering of all Altar linens, pastoral robes and draperies and picking up all the Altar flowers ordered. In addition, many of our members assist in baking Communion Bread.

New Purificators have been provided by Carol Lilla and she is in the process of making more as these are used for both services and since they are laundered weekly, they do wear out from constant use. In addition, a beautiful new Fair Linen was made by Carol Lilla and Mary Conti with our sincere Thanks.

Another weekly service provided by the Altar Guild is the care of the Eucharistic Vessels. After the 10:30 a.m. service, these vessels are emptied, washed, dried and packed in the appropriate container for return to the Church office.

Our newest member, Annette Tomaszewski, along with Donna Newbanks have agreed to make a new robe for the Women Assistant Pastors for a more comfortable fit. They are extremely warm and too long. We want to thank Phyllis Anderson for hemming (a second time) one of the older robes.

Also, thanks to Joan Kimminau for the full size Altar Linen, to Phyllis Anderson for re-sewing the WHITE Altar Parament after it shrunk from cleaning, and to all the women who have served this ministry and this chair-person with such enthusiasm, caring and concern in every phase of their responsibilities.

Besides all the items mentioned above that the Altar Guild has accomplished, we would like to add that they have purchased new Liquid Paraffin Wax Advent Candles, including a beautiful Christ Candle. These new candles eliminated the continual wax drippings, which looked so unsightly. And a special Thank You to Ferdie Kimminau who "remodeled" the advent holder to hold our new candles so beautifully.

In addition, the Guild has also agreed upon the purchase of communion wafers to be used only as back-up if someone is not able to make bread. This will eliminate the need for running to the store on Sunday morning if bread is not provided.

We look forward to another rewarding year in 2008 and invite all women and teens to take part in this wonderful ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Darlene Soest and Adele Wogstad**  
(Chair and Cochair Altar Guild)



## **Volunteer Coordinator**

As Volunteer Coordinator, I am responsible for contacting individuals who are willing to serve on various committees in our congregation. The Coordinator also attends Pastor's Orientation Meetings with perspective new members and gives a short explanation of the use of the Time and Talent Sheets and the importance of utilizing their talent for the important ministries of our congregation.

The current Time and Talent Sheet we have been using has been completely revised. Therefore, on Ministry Sunday in January, 2008, new Time and Talent Sheets will be distributed to every member of the congregation. In addition, a brand new booklet has also been developed this past year, explaining in detail what each ministry entails. This booklet will also be distributed to every member along with the Time and Talent Sheets.

Any T&T sheets that are currently being sent to the Church office are then forwarded to me and I, in turn, contact the chair-person or team leader to advise them of any individual wanting to assist in a particular ministry.

Former T&T sheets have been reviewed, but in order to be certain that everyone who wants to serve is notified, the new sheets will enable me to develop a current, accurate listing to be kept continually updated on every member serving on committees.

Respectfully submitted,

**Darlene A. Soest**  
Volunteer Coordinator

## W-4

W-4, Women Who Work Wonders is growing and beginning to think about our future with WELCA. When the church was new we organized casually for fellowship and faith sharing. Our main goal then was to get to know each other and the Lord together. As we have grown, our goal is faith, friendship and also service. We think it is time to become a more formal organization. Last June a committee, headed by Theresa Molgren, was formed to do a feasibility study on how or whether we should join WELCA. Their proposal to join was presented at the fall joint meeting. A ballot vote was held and overwhelmingly passed. It was the consensus that our service projects and any money that was raised should still go to the SOTP Building Fund until we finally have a building. A committee was formed to write the constitution. It will be presented in the spring and officers will be elected.

We continue to meet in homes on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and use the ELCA magazine for our Bible study. We have found the lessons to be meaningful and thought provoking and we really have lively discussions. We pray for each other in time of need. Our spring lunch, put together by Barb Auwerda, was a delightful affair held at Randall Oaks Country Club. At that time we thanked Sharon Little for her able leadership for the past three years.

We do not meet in the summer, so Phyllis Anderson had an all-day study and lunch at her house for those who wished to pursue the lessons for June, July, and August. On September 22 a group of women attended the NISWO Conference in Loves Park, IL. The bake and craft sale this year was held in the Cosman Center and was again the success we have come to expect. We also got matching funds from Thrivent. In December our annual Christmas party was held at the home of Betty Knawa. Gifts were exchanged with secret pals and new pals chosen. We had several guests and they also received gifts--compliments of the hostesses. Pastor Sue Ellen and her committee have scheduled the Women's Retreat for March 15 this year in order to include some of our snowbirds. All women of SOTP and their friends are invited.

We pray more women will join us this year--all are welcome!

Prayerfully submitted,  
**Lois Brothers**

## Spirit Alive

This year we are using the Kids Own Worship curriculum written by Group. The lessons are hands-on and the children can focus on God in their own way. The teachers provide experiences and worship through fun songs and memorable Bible lessons. The Bible lessons are fun and exciting. We are averaging 12 to 15 students per week. We have a rotating teacher schedule and each teacher teaches Spirit Alive for one month. Currently the teachers assisting with Spirit Alive are: Devin & Kara Burg, Kara Parry, Kim Frendreis, Kim Kozlowski, Steve & Donna Brown, Lori Conway, and Katie Desiato

**Devin & Kara Burg**

## **Shepherd's Voices**

How we have grown from our small beginnings! The credit goes to the faithful members who practice faithfully once a week and perform usually twice a month. This year we bought two new anthems. We also received free choir robes to enhance our presence. Since we don't give enough credit to everyone who has helped the choir to be what it is, I would like to list everyone who now sings or were ever a part of our group:

Ted Anderson, Mary Arneson, Vic Bekeris, Jim Carr, Karen Carr, Doreen Drinan, Wally Fuellgraff, Gladys Feustel, Alice Hallett, Joanne Klinger, Betty Knawa, Jan Koerner, Mel Long, Dick Larrison, Marian Mesenbrink, Elaine Neukirch, Larry Newbanks, Dee Pedersen, Brigitte Pelka, Kathy Pohlmann, Ken Pohlmann, Donna Sorensen, Nanette Storm, Mary Tabatt, Adele Wogstad, Jan Wurl.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

**Gretchen Lane**

## **Prairie Ringers Chime Choir**

After a successful first six months of 2007, our September through December, 2007 crated a challenge for all of us due to illnesses and long vacations of several members. We did not play as frequently the last quarter but 2008 looks much better.

We are always looking for new members to join us.

My hope in 2008 is to start a children's chime choir. If your children or grandchildren are at all interested in music or can read simple music, please let me know.

Thank you for your support.

**Carol Mosby**  
Director

## Sunday School

The 2007-2008 Sunday School year began on September 9--Rally Sunday. After the children's message, all the children met in the cafeteria and made Family Kindness Jars to take home. There are 77 children attending Sunday school--ages 3 years through high school--with 25 teachers who teach on a rotating basis. During the 9:00 A.M. service, there are classes for pre-kdg through high school. During the 10:30 A.M. service, there is one class for 3 year olds through second graders. The teachers during the first service are using Augsburg Fortress materials, Firelight II. The teachers during the second service, Spirit Alive class, use various materials to meet the needs of the different age groups.

On December 16, the Sunday Schoolers and children's choirs presented the annual Christmas program. Sixty-four children participated. Every child who wanted to be in the program was given a part. In the cafeteria, following the program, cookies and milk were enjoyed by the children and their families. Santa was also there to talk with the children and parents were able to take pictures. The food and Santa's visit were donated by church members.

This Sunday School year saw the beginning of Bible Bucks and the Bible Bucks Store which is open in the Welcome Area the first Sunday of the month. Children receive a Bible Buck each Sunday for attending and for other reasons decided by each teacher. The children are excited and enthused by the Bible Bucks program.

Our Sunday School continues to grow in numbers and enthusiasm. By having the teachers teach on a rotating basis, more members become involved. The cooperation and support of SOTP members is wonderful. I look forward to a rewarding second semester.

Submitted by:

**Barbara Auwerda**

Sunday School Superintendent

# DUIJ Youth Ministry

DUIJ is more than a traditional “youth group” where teenagers get to hang out, learn a little bit, and have some fun. DUIJ is a *youth ministry*. This means that the SOTP congregation ministers to the youth by investing time, resources, prayer, and encouragement. In return, the youth use this support to minister to each other, their peers, the congregation, and the world at large.

By providing a comfortable atmosphere to explore their faith and by providing opportunities to live out their faith DUIJ Youth Ministry is about creating “Disciples Under the Influence of Jesus”.

## **Spiritual Growth**

Confirmation was fun – now what? One of the key elements of DUIJ youth ministry is to provide discussions, retreats, topical studies, and group projects that challenge and deepen faith.

In 2007 we had a lot of good discussions on Sunday mornings and explored our faith at the annual Luther College retreat. In addition to this we will branch out a little in 2008 by starting a topical series on “the media” as well as attending the dare2share conference.

## **Group Development**

Another key element of DUIJ youth ministry is to provide events that will deepen Christian relationships while also being a lot of fun. Just as important, these events serve as a non-threatening way to include youth outside of our congregation because we realize that “The world needs what we have”.

Among other things in 2007, we went skiing, rode a haunted train, and saw movies as a group. These shared experiences drew us closer together and some of the memories can still get a hearty chuckle when they are brought up again. In 2008 we plan to go ice-skating, play laser tag, and attend the Cornerstone music festival. We also plan to be more intentional about inviting non-SOTP youth in 2008 and use these fun events as opportunities for peer-ministry.

## **Community Outreach**

You can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk? Some events or projects provide an opportunity to grow by putting faith into action.

One of the things we did in 2007 was helping out at a local homeless shelter. In 2008 we hope to also add a global perspective by participating in the 30 Hour Famine to help feed hungry children around the world.

## **Congregational Involvement**

The congregation needs the enthusiasm and fresh perspective of the DUIJ youth as much as the youth need mentoring and encouragement from those who have been around the block a few times.

In 2007 we helped with the Spark Plugs tire pressure check and have helped in almost every facet of worship. We hope to expand this in 2008 with the addition of drama to worship. We also would like to plan several inter-generational events. Along with all of the people who filled out volunteer forms (thank you!) we will be encouraging the involvement of the confirmation sponsors for each youth.

Submitted by:  
**Tim Torkelson**

## Music

The music teams at Shepherd of the Prairie have worked and grown through another year. The music selection for the services has changed from a committee effort to an individual effort. Pastor Mark selects hymns for the 1st service and I select music for the second service. Both Pastor Mark and myself take recommendations from the 1st and 2nd service music teams. This process is more efficient than it has been in the past.

The 2nd service has returned to using a projection screen during the service with the expertise of Mike Yndestad. Mike has been a big part of growing this aspect of worship. This will be a future area of service for the church, as we will be looking for people to help create the slides and run the program during service.

The sound equipment setup and takedown procedures will become less of a mystery as we are developing a procedures packet for this important service. The packet will include definitions of sound equipment terminology, and directions on the setup and takedown of the sound equipment and other stage needs. There are 3 or 4 others beside myself who are familiar with the process. Our goal is to make this important area of worship more accessible to others. The sound equipment setup crew meets every Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. to prepare the worship space. At the end of the second service we stay behind to clear the worship space. We are always in need of help. The sound equipment procedure packet will help inform the setup and takedown crews of the process.

The soundboard team has grown this past year, but there is still growth needed. There have been Sundays that we do not have a soundboard operator at one of the services. The soundboard operator controls the volume of the speakers, vocalists, and instruments for the congregation as well as for the musicians on stage. Services do not run as smoothly as they should without this important person. Keep in mind that the next time you feel something is too loud or soft that it is the job of the soundboard operator to make any adjustments, NOT the people on stage. Those who feel they would like to serve as a soundboard operator should talk to Don Koerner and myself.

We have a lot of musical talent at our church both young and old. If you are a member of the church and are musically inclined, let us know. The time and talents sheets come out once a year and if you have indicated your musical talent on those sheets and you were not contacted, my apologies. Most all of us lead busy lives and it can be hard to stay on top of it all. If you have a musical ability please let me know personally. The level of commitment can vary and can be discussed on a one on one basis.

The choir and chime choir are important to the music of the 1st service. Now they not only bring our congregation their musical leadership, but they now look good as they're doing it. Shepherd of the Prairie has received robes for the members of these groups to wear during worship. A big hearty "thank you" to all those who lead and serve in these groups. Your service is greatly appreciated.

Finally I'd like to thank all the members of the 1st and 2nd service music teams for staying with me and allowing me to lead for as long as I have. Without your support I would not have been able to grow as a leader these past years. All of you have given freely of your time and talents to provide our congregation with great music. My sincere thanks to all of you.

**Mitch Corso**

## **Outreach**

The Outreach Team introduces Shepherd of the Prairie to the greater Huntley area. We use a number of outreach activities to accomplish this:

1. We deliver a welcome gift to first-time visitors at the Sunday services. In 2007 we delivered 22 mugs to first time visitors in the last three months.
2. Host a booth at the Huntley Expo.
3. Host a booth at the Huntley Fall Fest.
4. Use doorknob hangers to promote special seasonal activities.
5. Publicize special events in our church.

In 2007 we distributed approximately 70 welcome gifts to first-time visitors. Over 160 people visited our booth at the Huntley Expo. The Fall Fest included a 4-hole putting green--many children and adults demonstrated their putting skills. We distributed 200 door hangers marking the Christmas season.

**Allen Boyle**

## **Endowment**

The Endowment committee members are Ron Buch, Julia Henderson, Dick Tabatt, Bob McDuffee, Kathy Dahl and Darlene Polzin. The Endowment Fund was established to receive gifts and to administer them for the missions established for Shepherd of the Prairie as stated in the plan of operation for the Fund. The balance in the account as of December 21, 2007 is \$20.46.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kathy Dahl**

## **Prairie Points Quilt Ministry**

This quilt group continues to be dedicated to making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the Linus Project. We have added the Habitat for Humanity to our list of recipients giving a quilt for the dedication of each home SOTP helps construct. We are exploring other opportunities to give quilts to those in need. We have grown from our original six members to 13 at years' end. This year we visited Living Lord Lutheran Church in Bartlett where we learned ways to make quilts more efficiently. Our supply of fabric has been mostly donated with the groups' members purchasing other supplies as needed. We enjoy wonderful fellowship while making quilts for people who really need, not only the warmth that they provide, but the color and beauty they bring.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carol Lilla**

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in Spring of 2007 as another of the many ways we minister to the needs of our congregation and community. We have based this ministry on the book *Knitting into the Mystery* by Susan Jorgensen and Susan Izard. Prayer shawls are made to give to people who are suffering emotionally or physically or to those who have a great joy in their lives such as the birth of a child. Anyone may give or request a prayer shawl at any time. Our shawls are started, worked on and finished with prayer.

This year we have been blessed to be able to give out 68 prayer shawls to members of our community and beyond. Pastor Mark took one with him on his travels and presented it to Pastor Mark Johnson, who serves as director of Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, Israel. We meet once a month to spend time knitting and crocheting together but much of the work is done at home.

We always welcome new members and no experience is necessary. If you would like to join us and do not know how to knit or crochet we would be happy to teach you.

**Alice Hallett and Sue Boyle**

## **Prairie Crafters**

The Prairie Crafters are made up of anyone interested in working on crafts to be sold at our Easter, fall, or Christmas Bazaars. Ideas and hands that are willing are the most needed, we have a common goal of helping to build "OUR BUILDING" with each stitch and project we come a little closer to our GOAL. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon or sometimes even later, especially when a sale is coming up. This past year we made -- Easter - \$1501.80, Huntley Fest - \$201.50, Del Webb Craft Fair - \$410.50 and our 4th Annual Christmas Bazaar \$3308.30 - and finally our Matching Funds from Thrivent of \$1300 - with a GRAND TOTAL of \$6722.10. Guess we grew a brick or two or space to work on crafts in our own building some day.

In His Service,  
**Jan Koerner & Alice Hallett**



## Sparkplugs

Imagine what it would be like to be a Christian racecar driver on the highly competitive and dangerous NASCAR circuit. Darrell Waltrip does just that in his book, *One on One*. The Sparkplugs are using this book as a devotional guide to further our understanding as to what it means to be a Christ follower, under difficult circumstances, in a less than a welcoming environment.

The Sparkplugs are part of the community life groups that have blossomed at SOTP. We have an interest in classic, muscle and sports cars. During monthly meetings, a particular model is featured, such as Mustang, Corvette or Porsche. DVDs, books and articles are used to learn more about the history, racing success and technical aspects of the cars.

The Sparkplugs, with SOTP's Youth Group serving as pit crew, conducted a tire pressure check on a Sunday morning this past summer. Eighteen cars "pitted" and several were found to have underinflated tires, one dangerously low. Through the loan of Ralph and Sue Wehnes' air compressor, they were brought back to proper, and safe, inflation.

A tour at Volo Car Museum and Antique Mall was arranged last fall. Several families enjoyed seeing the great cars of the 1950's and 60's, as well as famous movie cars such as *Herbie* and *General Lee*. Afterwards, we were treated to Pastor Sue Ellen's Famous Brownies at her home, and topped off the day with warm fellowship.

The Sparkplugs meet at the Cosman Center, the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We welcome new enthusiasts! Please call Bob or Carolyn Malm, for details at 847-695-0368.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Bob & Carolyn Malm**

## Usher Coordinator

This has been a good year with utilizing the youth of our congregation ushering for both services when there is a fifth Sunday. It has worked out well, however, it would be nice to utilize the teens in assisting as Ushers on a monthly basis.

There are current Usher schedules for both services which indicate a particular Sunday to serve. If someone is unable to serve, they contact the Group Leader for their particular service to try to get an alternate; otherwise they contact me, the Coordinator.

Ushers are an important part of our congregation as they are utilized in so many varied capacities, such as: welcoming visitors, distribute bulletins, inviting folks to make name tags, pointing out Nursery and restroom areas, preparing Eucharistic elements, collect offerings, guide worshipers to Communion, light and extinguish Altar candles. In addition, it is their responsibility to check weekly the Altar Candles to be certain there is sufficient Liquid Paraffin Wax in order for the candles to burn correctly. They are also aware of locations of emergency phones and fire extinguishers and they have new, recently purchased, Walkie-Talkies in order for the Nursery to contact them if necessary.

Ushers are still needed for both services, especially with many being snow-birds, however, the need is greatest for the second service. Men, Women and Teens are welcome to become involved in order that our services may run in a smooth, efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Lou Soest, Sr.**  
Usher Coordinator

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church  
Annual Congregation Meeting  
January 27, 2008**

**Nominating Committee Report**

*Thanks to the nominating committee for their help in providing a slate of nominees for this years elections!*

**Congregation Council (2 year term)**

- Kathy Dahl
- Rebecca Fulcer
- Mike Kasal
- Jules Pelka

**Audit Team**

- Lois Brothers – 1 year
- Patrick Desiato – 2 year
- Greg Huxtable – 3 year

**Voting Members to Northern IL Synod Assembly**

- Anita Bull
- Russell Deloney

# **Building Team Report and Vote**

## **Building Proposal**

### **Background**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2007, the Building Committee was formed so that we could continue to build on the excellent work of the previous Building Team. Our goals were simple: validate funds available to build, design the right-sized building, and establish a realistic timeline for the completion of the project – March-September 2009. Having completed all three of our goals, we are now ready to ask for a commitment to start the construction project so that we can have a home for our congregation and ministries.

The committee is comprised of six (6) core members at this time. John Browne is the committee chairman, Larry Newbanks is responsible for communications and capital funds, Jim Henley oversees the finances, Bob Zimmerman handles the construction details, Doreen Black and Tom Polzin make up our prayer committee, with Pastor Mark providing the overall guidance and direction for the committee members.

To best determine where we have been and how to proceed, the building committee initially met with Pastor Ron Voss of the Northern Illinois Synod. Through his guidance, it was determined that we are a financially sound congregation and there are not any reasons why we should not proceed with the design and construction of an initial building. The Committee decided we should continue our relationship with Carlson Architecture and Shales-McNutt Construction, since both companies have been involved in all aspects of the designs previously created for our congregation and had the most knowledge about our goals and values as a congregation.

In addition to reviewing site plans and building design, we also looked into other cost-savings measures, such as alternative building materials and the use of Mission Builders. For building materials, we met with representatives from the Solarcrete Company to discuss the use of their concrete-based walls. After much consideration, it was determined that the potential energy cost savings would not be sufficient to offset the additional costs associated with expansion of our building as part of the long-range Master Plan. Regarding Mission Builders, it was determined that the cost-savings benefits from utilizing a low-cost labor force would be offset by the potential delays in the building timeline due to the application process and the additional construction time required to utilize their services.

Based on our current financial situation, the size of our congregation (its anticipated growth), and our congregational goals, vision, and values we decided to proceed with an initial design for a 12,000 Square Foot (SF) building that will start the initial build based on the Master Site Plan that was previously developed. We believe this will allow us to continue our ministries without incurring too great of a financial burden for the congregation.

The following is a detailed explanation of our finances, the building design plans and the proposed timeline for your review and approval.

## **Building Finances**

Based on information available as of December 31, 2007 there is **\$973,959.41** available for the Building Fund. This total is comprised of:

November 30 Current Assets	\$ 824,341
Memorials	\$ 4,311
BF Transfer	\$ 99,895
Prime Vest 09/28	\$ 51,829
December loan payment	-\$ 3,218
Carlson Architects	-\$ 3,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 973,959</b>

## **Project Costs**

Direct/Indirect Construction Costs	\$2,319,231
Land Costs	\$ 484,000
Northern Illinois Synod Loan	\$ 45,000
Contingency Costs	\$ 185,000
Professional Fees (remaining on contract)	\$ 107,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,140,231</b>

*Difference (Equates to estimated mortgage)* **\$2,166,272**

(Costs Incurred to Date) \$ 117,000)

*In addition to the cash on hand, there is still an estimated **\$220,000** in capital pledges that have yet to be collected.*

For a detailed accounting of all building-related finances, please refer to the accounting summary in the Annual Report.

**Construction Cost Summary**

**Shales-McNutt - Shepherd Of The Prairie Revised Budget Summary 1/3/08**

The following budget is based on the sketches dated 11/29/07 from Carlson Architecture.

<b>Direct Construction Cost Projection</b>	<b>\$2,182,581</b>
<b>Indirect Construction Costs</b>	
Permits Allowance	\$10,000
Utility Company Fees / Costs Allowance	\$20,000
Printing and Reimbursable Allowance	\$10,000
SMC Fees	\$96,650
<b>Total Direct and Indirect Construction Costs</b>	<b>\$2,319,231</b>

This budget specifically includes:

General Conditions	Roofing
Gypsum Walls	Insulation
Surveying	Caulking
Fencing	Doors/Frames/Hardware
Site Utilities	Fire Extinguisher/Cabinets
Site Earthwork	Fire Protection
Concrete	Plumbing
Asphalt Paving	HVAC
Landscaping	Electrical
Steel	Fire Alarm
Rough Carpentry	Work In Today's Costs
Painting	Glass/Glazing
Masonry	

**BID CLARIFICATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS:**

**GENERAL**

1. This budget includes an allowance for building permits.
2. General construction cleaning is included in General Conditions.
3. We have included an allowance for utility charges.
4. We have included an allowance for printing and reimbursables.
5. We have excluded winter conditions for the project.
6. This budget has been prepared in today's costs.
7. We have included a \$100,000 contingency.

- SURVEYING**
- FENCING**
- SITE UTILITIES**
- SITE WORK**
- CONCRETE**
- ASPHALT PAVING**
- LANDSCAPING**
- IRRIGATION**
- STEEL**
- ROUGH CARPENTRY**

CASEWORK / WOOD TRIM  
PAINTING  
MASONRY  
GLASS AND GLAZING  
GYPSUM WALLS / ACOUSTIC  
FLOORS  
ROOFING  
CAULKING  
DOORS/FRAMES/HARDWARE  
EXTINGUISHER/CABINETS  
TOILET ACCESSORIES  
FIRE PROTECTION  
PLUMBING  
HVAC  
ELECTRICAL

***Note: This budget specifically excludes:***

Security  
Inspection and Testing  
Premium Time  
Window Treatments  
Owner's Protective Liability Insurance  
Builders Risk Insurance  
Impact Fees  
Labor and material escalation  
Existing underground conditions  
Low voltage cabling – Teledata  
AV Work  
Water meter  
Winter conditions  
Furniture, fixtures or movable equipment  
Acoustical Treatment / Work

## Building Design

Using traditional construction methods, the building will include several “Green” design features intended to minimize the impact on the environment and reduce the operating costs for the building. These include energy efficient systems, use of recycled materials, and other features that will maximize the use of recyclable paper products while minimizing the building’s water consumption.



**Front View of Building**



**Building Back View**

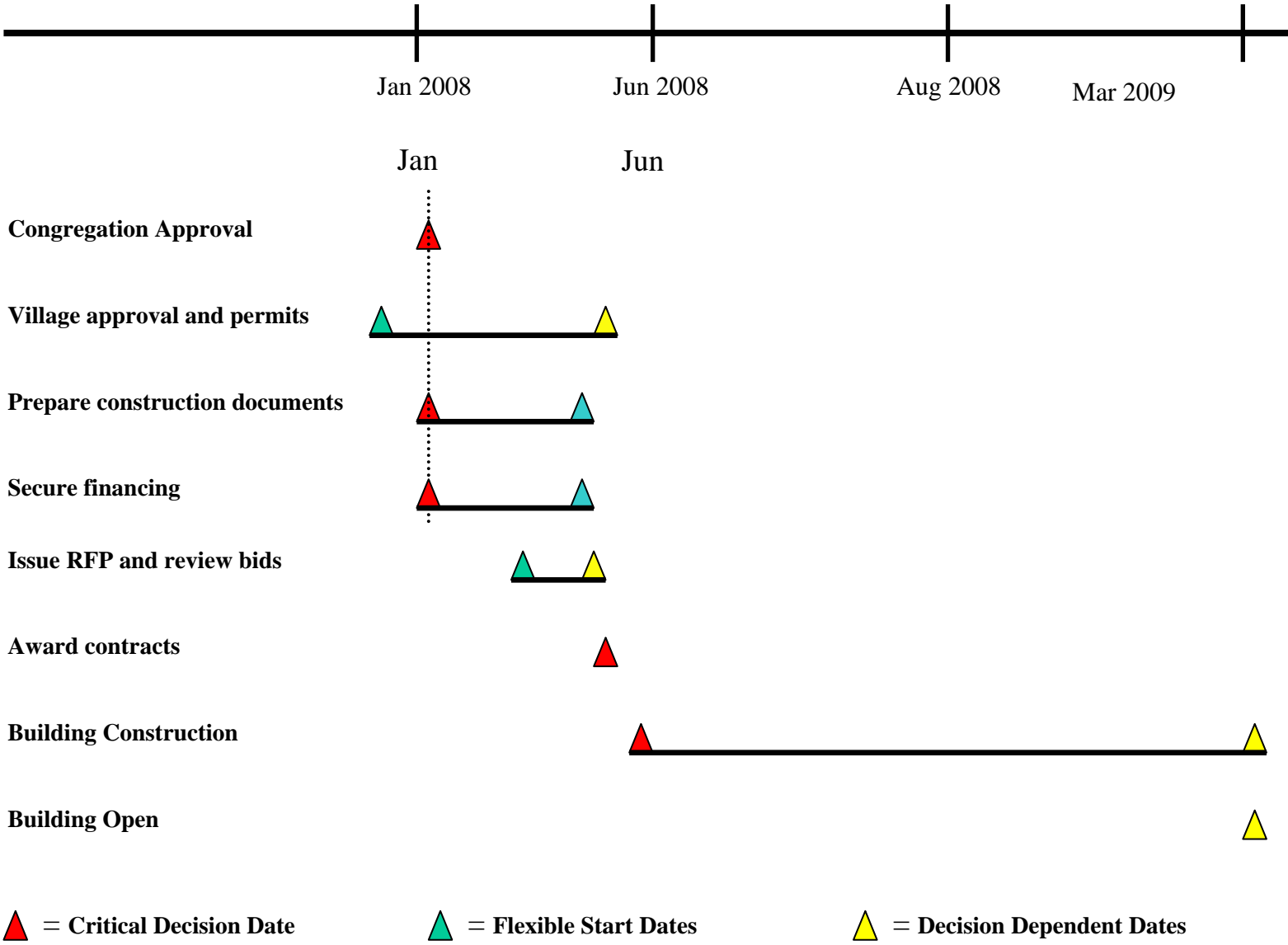




**Additional Views**



**Building Timeline**



**January 27, 2008**

**Motion:**

Whereas Shepherd of the Prairie has renewed its commitment to complete the construction of a building as soon as practicable;

Whereas the building fund balance is sufficient to support the start of construction and the commitment to an appropriate mortgage loan;

Whereas continued faithful commitment to the “*Building the Kingdom ~ Transforming Lives*” fund appeal and its related “*Booster Appeal*” will provide additional funds to support a 12,000 sq. ft. ministry center;

Whereas continued faithful giving to the General Fund are sufficient to support operating costs of the ministry center;

Therefore be it resolved that the Building Team proceed with necessary plans and activities to construct a 12,000 sq. ft. ministry center on the corner of Main and Manhattan in Huntley with a targeted occupation no later than September 2009.

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church  
2008 Budget**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Contributions</b>			
Loose Plate Contributions	6,400	8,184	8,300
Regular giving/non-pledge	54,281		53,440
Pledges	257,201	291,177	252,386
<b>Other Income</b>			
Flower Contributions	2,490	2,576	2,500
DO Grant (NI Synod)	1,000		0
Interest Income	2,000	2,132	2,200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>323,372</b>	<b>304,069</b>	<b>318,826</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Advertising	7,270	4,226	3,500
Automobile Expense	4,500	2,370	3,000
Bank Service Charges	50	70	50
<b>Benevolence--ELCA</b>			
Division for Outreach Payback	1,200		0
NI Synod	35,571	36,213	35,636
Conferences	2,000	915	2,000
Contingency	500		500
<b>Education</b>			
Adult Education	520	468	700
Confirmation	300	325	400
Sunday School	2,000	2,098	2,500
VBS	700	738	1,500
<b>Employee Benefits</b>			
Director of Small Groups	13,750	14,450	15,386
Administrative Assistant	1,595	1,146	8,347
Director of Music	3,505	1,146	1,182
Pastor	37,400	34,853	36,874
Employee Business Expense	400	353	400
Equipment Rental	9,000	6,706	7,500
Evangelism, Outreach & Missions	12,000	6,124	6,500
Fellowship	500	1,830	1,500
Flower Expense	2,990	2,367	3,000
Gifts	300	166	300
Good Samaritan	500	89	500
Insurance	750	450	750
Late Fees	75	85	100
Legal	0	85	150
Licenses and Permits	1,000	1,043	1,240
Natural Church Development	3,000		2,000
Office Equipment	500	768	750
Office Supplies	5,000	7,796	6,500

<b>Payroll Expenses</b>			
Director of Music	15,000	14,800	15,450
Director of Small Groups	25,750	25,750	26,523
Pastor	69,870	69,870	71,267
Staffing for Growth	3,000	0	0
Administrative Assistant	14,801	14,801	7,469
Postage and Delivery	3,360	1,148	3,000
<b>Rent</b>			
Office Rent	11,000	11,271	11,350
School Rent(VBS)	0	1,090	1,500
Park District	25,000	29,390	31,000
Repairs/ Replacement	500	0	500
Sign Expense	500		
Small Group Ministries	750	16	
Stewardship	1,500	67	1,500
Utilities-Telephone	3,000	3,117	3,500
Website	500	544	600
<b>Worship</b>			
Altar Guild Equipment	500	435	500
Music Equipment	1,500	342	750
Musicians/special occasions			400
<b>Music</b>			
1st Service Music	300	552	350
2nd Service Music	300	355	350
Childrens Choir	100	211	100
Chime Choir	200	7	250
Rejoice	500	0	400
Shepherds Voices	350	643	400
Pulpit Supply	250	0	250
Supplies (bread, wine, etc.)	500	1,250	1,000
<b>Youth</b>			
DUIJ	1,000	944	1,500
Youth (K-5)	0	0	500
Youth (6-8)	500	0	500
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>327,407</b>	<b>303,484</b>	<b>323,673</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(4,035)</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>(4,847)</b>