



Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Annual Report
January 25, 2009

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
January 25, 2009
Agenda

- I. Quorum Call**
- II. Prayer: Pastor Mark**
- III. Approval of minutes from January 27, 2008**
- IV. Financial Reports**
- V. Reports (attached)**
 - A. Pastor – Mark Boster
 - B. Congregational Council – Jules Pelka
 - C. Building Committee - Larry Newbanks
 - D. Audit Report – Patrick Desiato
 - E. Music Director – Mitch Corso
 - F. Stewardship - Nicholas Wolf
 - G. Mutual Ministry – Chuck Little
 - H. Altar Guild - Darlene Soest
 - I. Outreach – Allen Boyle
 - J. Prairie Connection – Kara and Nick Parry
 - K. Nominating Committee – Kris Fleener
 - L. Sr. Shepherds – Betty Zimmerman
 - M. Women’s Organization (W 4) – Gail Barnard
 - N. Spirit Alive – Katie Desiato
 - O. Shepherd Voices – Gretchen Lane
 - P. Prairie Ringers – Carol Mosby
 - Q. Sunday School – Barb Auwerda
 - R. Vacation Bible School – Donna Brown
 - S. Volunteer Coordinator – Darlene Soest
 - T. DUIJ (Sr. High Youth Ministry)– Katie and Tim Torkelson
 - U. Special Gifts and Memorial Committee
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Building Team Update
- VII. New Business**
 - A. Change to Bylaws
 - By-Law C12.01 to read as follows:
“Number of Council Members: Besides the officers and pastor(s), five (5) additional members shall serve staggered terms on the Congregation Council.”
 - B. Nominating Committee
 - I. Election of Audit Committee
 - II. Election of Nominating Committee
 - III. Election of voting members to Northern IL Synod Assembly, June 19-20, 2009
 - IV. Election of Council Members
 - C. Staffing for Growth
 - D. 2009 Budget Approval
- VIII. Closing Prayer & Adjournment**

Shepherd of the Prairie Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2008

Cosman Center Cafeteria

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Jessica Panella at 12:10pm.
- II. **Quorum Call:** A call for quorum was completed by Council President Jessica Panella. The required quorum was achieved with 132 confirmed congregation members present to vote. All voting members signed in to establish a written record.
- III. **Prayer and Devotions:** Pastor Mark led the members present in a devotions and prayer.
- IV. **Approval of 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes:** A copy of the 2007 Annual Meeting minutes were provided to all congregation members for review. No questions were offered. A motion was made by Sue Wehnes and seconded by Ferdie Kimminau to accept the 2007 minutes as submitted. The motion carried.
- V. **Financial reports:** The financial reports were reviewed and no questions were offered by members present.
- VI. **Reports:** Written reports from all SOTP ministries and Pastor Mark were provided to all congregation members for review. No questions were offered by members present. A motion was made by Russell Deloney and seconded by George Sebastian to accept all reports including the financial reports as submitted. The motion carried.
- VII. **Old Business:** No items under old business were formally acted upon and no additional old business items were offered by members present.
- VIII. **New Business**
 - A. **Recommendation from the Congregational Council:** It was formally recommended by Congregational Council to extend and vote on a Letter of Call to the Rev. Sue Ellen Grudt to serve as Associate Pastor of Shepherd of the Prairie. A motion was made by Janice Shuff and seconded by Nancy Ramirez to vote on extending the Letter of Call. The motion carried. A written ballot of all voting members present was taken and collected for tabulation.
 - B. **Election of Council Members:** A formal announcement was made by Jessica Panella to members present that Devin Burg had been appointed by Council to serve the remaining 1 year of Jeff Meissner's term. Devin Burg accepted the appointment. A motion was made by Bob Zimmerman and seconded by Darlene Polzin to accept the nominees for the 2008 Congregational Council to serve 2 year terms as listed by the 2007 Nominating Committee (Kathy Dahl, Rebecca Fulcer, Mike Kasal and Jules Pelka). The motion carried.
 - C. **Election of Audit Committee:** A motion was made by Janice Shuff and seconded by Kris Fleener to accept the nominees for the 2008 Audit Committee as listed by the 2007 Nominating Committee (Lois Brothers-1 year term; Patrick Desiato-2 year term; Greg Huxtable-3 year term). The motion carried.
 - D. **Election of Voting Members to Northern IL Synod June 13-14, 2008:** A motion was made by Jim Henley and seconded by Rich Wille to accept the nominees for 2008 voting members to the Northern IL Synod as listed by the 2007 Nominating Committee (Anita Bull and Russell Deloney). The motion carried.
 - E. **Building Team Report and Vote:** John Browne, Building Team Leader presented to members a report on the current status of the building project and an outline of the Building Team proposal to be voted upon by the members present. The report and outline presented by John Browne covered the building plan and layout, finances, a construction timeline, building design features and a plan for subcommittee formation. Following the presentation, all members had the opportunity to ask questions which were then answered by John Browne and other Building Team members. Following the question and answer portion of the presentation, a call for the question on the Building Team proposal was made by Mark Fulcer. A full written version of the Building Team

proposal was provided to all members in the Annual Meeting report for their review. Jessica Panella then read the formal Building Team proposal aloud. A motion was made by Gretchen Lane and seconded by Bob Zimmerman to accept the Building Team proposal as written. Prior to voting on the motion to accept the proposal, an amendment to the end of the proposal was made by George Bull which stated: as per the budget and schematic plan as presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Kris Fleener and seconded by Lou Soest to accept the amendment. The motion carried. A vote was then taken to accept the Building Team proposal as written with the accepted amendment, the full motion carried.

- F. **2008 Budget:** A written copy of the proposed 2008 SOTP General Fund budget was provided to congregation members for their review. The budget was further explained by Sue Boyle. Sue also highlighted the change in the hours for the Administrative Assistant position and the addition of benefits at the employee's expense to that position. No questions were offered by members present. A motion was made by Russell Deloney and seconded by Darlene Soest to approve the 2008 SOTP General Fund budget as submitted. The motion carried.
- G. **Report of written ballot to call the Rev. Sue Ellen Grudt as Associate Pastor:** Jessica Panella announced to members present that the vote passed and the Rev. Sue Ellen Grudt is officially called to serve as Associate Pastor at Shepherd of the Prairie. Jessica reported that 132 votes had been cast, 119 yes and 13 no. Congratulations were offered to Rev. Grudt.

- IX. **Prayer:** The meeting was closed with a prayer offered by Pastor Mark and the Lord's Prayer said in unison by all present.
- X. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Jessica Panella at 1:45pm.

Prayerfully submitted,
Kristi Cordle

Financial Reports

(Next Page)

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2008

11:08 AM
 12/31/08
 Cash Basis

	Dec 31, 08
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	71,973.85
Citizens First National Bank	71,973.85
Total Checking/Savings	143,947.70
Other Current Assets	
Chase CD (Bank One) 6M 9/7/04	55,911.29
Loan to Mark Boster	7,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	62,911.29
Total Current Assets	206,859.00
Fixed Assets	
Music Equipment	7,315.57
Total Fixed Assets	7,315.57
TOTAL ASSETS	214,174.57
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	-0.99
Payroll Liabilities	-0.99
Total Other Current Liabilities	-1.98
Total Current Liabilities	-1.98
Long Term Liabilities	
Restricted Donations	
Confirmation Bible Kits	143.07
Endowment Fund	30.00
Evangelism/Outreach	1,852.48
Good Samaritan	1,355.26
Heifer Project	125.35
Hymnal	300.00
Music - Ringers Bells & Chimes	155.09
Music Ministry	1,000.00
Prairie Points	25.00
Retreat - Youth / Scholarship	1,528.00
Thrivent Fund	189.33
Total Long Term Liabilities	7,183.57
Total Liabilities	7,181.59
Equity	
Total Equity	207,000.00
Total Liabilities & Equity	214,174.57

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2008

11:08 AM
 12/31/08
 Cash Basis

	Dec 31, 08
Youth - KCK	588.53
Youth & Family Ministry	3,500.00
Total Restricted Donations	10,792.11
Total Long Term Liabilities	10,792.11
Total Liabilities	10,791.12
Equity	
Retained Earnings	112,007.10
Net Income	19,402.49
Total Equity	131,409.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	142,200.71

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through December 2008

11:08 AM
 12/31/08
 Cash Basis

	Jan - Dec 08	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Contributions			
Loose Plate	15,506.42	8,300.04	186.8%
Pledges	298,336.02	305,826.00	97.6%
Total Contributions	313,842.44	314,126.04	99.9%
Flower Contributions	2,358.00	2,499.96	94.3%
Interest Income	5,432.17	2,199.96	246.9%
Total Income	321,632.61	318,825.96	100.9%
Expense			
Advertising	7,781.62	3,500.04	222.3%
Automobile Expense	2,781.36	3,000.00	92.7%
Bank Service Charges	78.25	50.04	156.4%
Benevolence			
ELCA			
NI Synod	36,193.41	35,636.04	101.6%
Total ELCA	36,193.41	35,636.04	101.6%
Total Benevolence	36,193.41	35,636.04	101.6%
Conferences	733.81	2,000.04	36.7%
Contingency	54.95	500.04	11.0%
Education			
Adult Education	893.26	699.96	127.6%
Confirmation	300.32	399.96	75.1%
Sunday School	1,782.28	2,499.96	71.3%
VBS	1,200.71	1,500.00	80.0%
Total Education	4,176.57	5,099.88	81.9%
Employee Benefits			
Director of Music	1,181.91	1,182.00	100.0%
Director of Small Groups	10,187.52	15,386.04	66.2%
Office Manager	10,494.09	8,493.00	123.6%
Pastor	35,852.06	36,873.96	97.2%
Total Employee Benefits	57,715.58	61,935.00	93.2%
Employee Business Expense			
Equipment Rental	494.79	399.96	123.7%
Evangelism & Outreach	6,164.00	7,500.00	82.2%
Fellowship	5,481.42	6,500.04	84.3%
Flower Expense	478.55	1,500.00	31.9%
Gifts	2,707.14	3,000.00	90.2%
	316.14	300.00	105.4%

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through December 2008

	Jan - Dec 08	Budget	% of Budget
Good Samaritan	243.55	500.04	48.7%
Insurance	450.00	750.00	60.0%
Late Fees	-0.38	99.96	-0.4%
Legal	90.00	150.00	60.0%
Licenses and Permits	661.00	1,239.96	53.3%
Natural Church Development	135.00	2,000.04	6.7%
Office Equipment	223.54	750.00	29.8%
Office Supplies	8,923.50	6,500.04	137.3%
Payroll Expenses			
Director of Music	15,449.90	15,450.00	100.0%
Director of Small Groups	17,658.54	26,523.00	66.6%
Office Manager	9,374.96	9,375.00	100.0%
Pastor	71,267.00	71,267.04	100.0%
Total Payroll Expenses	113,750.40	122,615.04	92.8%
Postage and Delivery	2,326.50	3,000.00	77.6%
Property Tax	30.40		
Rent			
Office Rent	10,404.00	11,349.96	91.7%
Park District	26,280.50	30,999.96	84.8%
School Rent	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
Total Rent	36,684.50	43,849.92	83.7%
Repairs/ Replacement	312.14	500.04	62.4%
Small Group Ministries	213.17		
Stewardship	6,065.29	1,500.00	404.4%
Utilities			
Telephone	3,334.54	3,500.04	95.3%
Total Utilities	3,334.54	3,500.04	95.3%
Website	548.96	600.00	91.5%
Worship			
Altar Guild	500.00	500.04	100.0%
Equipment	23.78	750.00	3.2%
Music			
1st Service Music	233.82	350.04	66.8%
2nd Service Music	166.06	350.04	47.4%
Childrens Choir	221.28	99.96	221.4%
Chime Choir	86.17	249.96	34.5%
Rejoice	0.00	399.96	0.0%
Shepherds Voice	-6.25	399.96	-1.6%
Total Music	701.08	1,849.92	37.9%

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through December 2008

	Jan - Dec 08	Budget	% of Budget
Musicians/Special Occasions	350.00	399.96	87.5%
Pulpit Supplies	212.94	249.96	85.2%
Supplies-Bread, Wine, etc.	74.25	999.96	7.4%
Total Worship	1,862.05	4,749.84	39.2%
Youth			
DUIJ	1,218.37	1,500.00	81.2%
Kool Christian Kids (6-8)	0.00	500.04	0.0%
Youth (K-5)	0.00	500.04	0.0%
Total Youth	1,218.37	2,500.08	48.7%
Total Expense	302,230.12	325,726.08	92.8%
Net Ordinary Income	19,402.49	-6,900.12	-281.2%
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Building Fund Income	162,596.85		
Building Fund PrimeVest	53,539.90		
Total Other Income	216,136.75		
Other Expense			
Bldg Fund Transfer PrimeVest	53,539.90		
Building Fund Transfer	162,596.85		
Total Other Expense	216,136.75		
Net Other Income	0.00		
Net Income	19,402.49	-6,900.12	-281.2%

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2008

11:41 AM
12/31/08
Cash Basis

	Dec 31, 08
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
MIF Construction Account	100.34
National City Money Market	1,078.71
National City Regular Checking	98,140.62
Total Checking/Savings	99,319.67
Other Current Assets	
Harris Bank CD 6M 9-4-03	56,883.88
Mission Investment CDs (One Yr)	
Mission Invest CD # 4 1-5-06	111,166.24
Mission Invest CD #1 3-8-05	58,866.78
Mission Invest CD #2 9-9-04	116,547.21
Mission Invest CD# 3 4-27-05	57,158.60
Total Mission Investment CDs (One Yr)	343,738.83
Total Other Current Assets	400,622.71
Total Current Assets	499,942.38
Fixed Assets	
Land and Road	608,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	608,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,107,942.38
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Long Term Liabilities	
Faith Item Donations	
Audio Visual	325.00
Church Office	100.00
High School	700.00
Items as needed	1,400.00
Kathy Pohlman Memorial	5,840.00
Kitchen	250.00
Landscape	4,810.00
Music Choir	500.00
Pastor's Office	2,858.00
Sunday School	750.00
Worship Area	18,725.00
Total Faith Item Donations	36,258.00

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2008

11:41 AM
12/31/08
Cash Basis

	Dec 31, 08
MIF Building Loan	461,232.66
Northern Illinois Synod Loan	45,000.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	542,490.66
Total Liabilities	542,490.66
Equity	
Retained Earnings	-10,032.00
Net Income	575,483.72
Total Equity	565,451.72
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,107,942.38

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund Profit & Loss

January through December 2008

Jan - Dec 08

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions	
Christmas Card Greeting Fund	320.00
Flexman Memorial	8,858.64
Footsteps of Paul	652.75
Golf Outing	117.00
Good Shepherd	2,000.00
Jeff Meissner Memorial	1,880.00
Jim Gram Memorial	225.00
Jim Lehman Memorial	1,075.00
Luther Memorial Church	4,000.00
Marlon Boster Memorial	2,922.25
McCullough Memorial	15.00
Prairie Crafters	6,122.25
Property Sign	142.33
Senior Shepherds	61.17
SOTP Contribution--2nd Campaign	162,596.85
Youth	5.00
Total Contributions	190,993.24
Interest	26,788.67
Total Income	217,781.91
Expense	
Architecture Fees	96,010.76
Bank Service Charge	28.00
Building Loan Interest	2,343.96
Civil Engineering Services	3,700.00
Concrete-Building & Site	51,199.20
Construction Management Fee	25,450.00
Drain Tile Services	2,860.00
Earthwork/Site Development	120,352.50
Engineering Services	25,302.02
EPA Permitting for the Building	1,040.00
General Contractor Fees	55,182.00
HVAC	15,390.00
Inspection Fees	408.00
Land Loan Interest	7,875.96
Land Survey	3,980.00
Landscape Development	3,842.50
Liability Insurance - Land	400.00
Loan Fees	3,056.12
Monument Sign	200.00
Permit Allowance	52,224.44
Plumbing	23,116.50
Printing Allowance	835.15

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund
Profit & Loss
 January through December 2008

11:48 AM
 12/31/08
 Cash Basis

	Jan - Dec 08
Public Improvements Performance	60,000.00
PUD Submission	5,046.13
Site Utilities	116,985.60
Soil and Material Consultants	3,002.00
Structural Steel	29,871.00
Winter Conditions Allowance	284.00
Total Expense	709,985.84
Net Ordinary Income	-492,203.93
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Contributions Prior Years	
Andrew & Thekla Nielsen Memorial	1,000.00
Bob and Marilyn Engen Prior Yr	1,040.00
Bob McCullough Memorial	305.00
Flexman Mem Prior Year	85,197.72
Good Shepherd	1,000.00
Interest Income Pr Yr	62,230.66
Jeff Meissner Memorial	3,876.00
Jim Lehman Memorial	2,570.00
Karl Pohlman Memorial pr yr	460.00
Ladies of SOTP Prior Yr	19,551.19
Larry Boster Mem Pr Yr	385.00
Memorial (unknown)	400.00
Minnie Keiths Memorial	400.00
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	1,943.00
SOTP Contribution/2nd Campaign	537,940.75
SOTP Contributions Pr Yr	371,907.13
William Black Memorial pr yr	100.00
Total Contributions Prior Years	1,184,206.45
Total Other Income	1,184,206.45
Other Expense	
Expenses Pr Yr	
Architecture Fees pr yr	47,518.30
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 Loan Interest	6,249.73
Land Survey	10,002.50
Legal Pr Yr	5,796.66

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund
Profit & Loss
 January through December 2008

11:48 AM
 12/31/08
 Cash Basis

	Jan - Dec 08
Liability Insurance-Land	400.00
Loan Fees pr Yr	2,518.00
Printing Expenses Pr Yr	30.86
Title Fees	2,475.00
Village of Huntley Pr Yr	8,650.00
Total Expenses Pr Yr	116,518.80
Total Other Expense	116,518.80
Net Other Income	1,067,687.65
Net Income	575,483.72

Statistical Report

2007

2008

Baptized Members	421	478
Worship Attendance	229	241
Ministry Income	\$304,068	\$321,632
Baptisms		21 children, 4 Adult
Weddings		4
Confirmed		6

Pastor Report

Friends in Christ,

Here we are at the beginning of a new year of ministry. This is a transitional year for us as we look forward to making a congregational journey from transience to permanence and finally a place to call home. A foundation has been poured, walls are going up, soon rafters will appear and what was a dream for a number of years will become reality for God's people at Shepherd of the Prairie. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in making the Shepherd's dream come true.

So much ministry has been done in this past year and in these pages you will find testimony to this movement of God through his church at Shepherd of the Prairie. Thank you for all you are doing to make Christ known.

God has a plan for your life and mine. God's plan for you, God's will for you, is that your life be built on a firm foundation. Jesus says, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." The house is, of course, a metaphor for your life. We all have hopes and dreams for our lives that will lead to plans. As Christians, we pray that our lives will be according to God's will. The call of Jesus is for us to build our lives on truth. The truth of God in Jesus is as solid as rock. When we are willing to learn from Jesus by reading God's Word, the Bible, we build on solid rock. When the flood waters come, and they will, we shall still be standing. When terrors of life descend upon us, and we are driven to the very foundation of our souls, we will find power and strength in the rock our faith.

At Shepherd of the Prairie, we know these things and we want to continue to grow in these things. We are committed to giving God the very best. We want to grow this community of faith as a witness to the presence and blessing of God in our lives. That is certainly one of the reason the building of God's house on the corner of Main and Manhattan is surely causing the angel choirs to sing in heaven.

Our neighbors and friends are looking for individual, families, and churches that are built on the solid foundation of God's truth in Jesus Christ. This isn't about perfection; it is about honesty and growth. It is about being real people whose real life is lived in real ways. Is the foundation for your life firm? Is it one that you can build upon as your life changes, your circumstances shift? Teens, are you planting the rock of Jesus Christ in your soul so that your life will be strong enough to withstand the challenges before you, for the rest of your life? As adults, are we planting our days in God's Word so that our relationships flow from this primary relationship with God? The truth is that we are all called to build and the question becomes is the foundation strong enough to build upon?

As we make this journey together toward Main and Manhattan, the new building, what will God have in store for us? One of my primary hopes in this coming year is that we will commit to dig deep into our primary tool of faith, the Bible. I would encourage each one of us to have a plan for spiritual growth in this New Year. Read the Bible daily. Read the Bible to your children each night. Talk with your child about what you have read and what the story means to you. Take part in a small group experiences. That old Proverbs rings so true, "just as iron sharpens iron, so friends sharpen faith." In other words we learn and grow from each other. We want to raise the level of Biblical literacy in our community of faith. I was speaking with a couple a few weeks ago who was looking for a new family Bible. They shared with me that they had found one and that together they had made a plan to get up each morning 15 minutes early so that they could spend time reading the Bible together. What a great way to begin the day.

I encourage you to lay plans out for your life to grow deep in the knowledge and will of God for your life. Use the primary tool of faith, the Bible, daily. Read, reflect and pray upon that which you have read. Ask God how these words are relevant to my life today. Pick out a word or phrase which you have read and live with it throughout the day, remembering it and bringing it to life. This becomes God's living Word for us in real life.

As we continue to seek God's will and way for us at Shepherd of the Prairie we will continue to plan and grow together as a community of faith. Leaders in the church met together in retreat in November for what was an excellent time spent discerning God's will and way for us as a community of faith. One of the main issues addressed during the retreat was that as the building goes up and our hope that God will use what is built to bring more people into a relationship with him we need to plan and staff for that growth. We were encouraged by our facilitator to remember that effective congregations have about 1 program person for every 100 attending worship. Often a congregation can get to 150 in worship with just a pastor, but after that it takes at least 1 program person for 100 added in worship to maintain the ministry. SOTP is already behind those numbers and is likely understaffed for its current ministries, much less for growth. This is common among mission congregations especially when they think about the costs of buildings. But it is also why most mission congregations project growth when they move into their new facilities but end up plateauing within a year or two after they move in.

My prayer for us is that we make commitment to staff for growth. We have established a staffing for growth team who will actually meet for the first time on January 26th, the evening after our Annual Meeting. They will pray, study and work together to game plan a strategy for growth through staffing. The program staff under consideration over the next few years includes and in no particular order these ministry positions:

- Director of Lay Ministries: This person would network, organize, recruit and help equip lay people for various ministries in the church and also in their daily lives.
- Director of Spiritual Formation – work in partnership with the pastor and some key leaders to help deepen the interest and passion in the spiritual lives of participants.
- Director of Youth and Family Ministries: work multigenerationally with youth. Developing plans and programs to nurture faith in the home and through the church.
- Director of Community Ministries: With focus on city and schools and what the church can do to assist. Making Christ Known!
- Office Assistance: A person to help with the office load. As the church grows we will need extra office help to maintain ministry needs.

There is much work to be done by the Staffing for Growth team, as they prayerfully develop job descriptions, a time frame to fill these positions and a logical progression for hiring. Which position do we consider first, second, third, etc? Pray, support and encourage the work of this team. They will help us build a solid ministry foundation for growth in the coming years.

There is a rock of faith upon which we can build a life that works. The psalmist wrote, "know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." The God who alone is God has chosen you and me to be the prize sheep of his pasture. This means that when our God looks upon you and me, God smiles as a shepherd who is pleased with his flock. You give God joy when you live your life as an extension of God's eternal will for his world, that the entire world may know the Lord.

God invites us each day to build our lives on a foundation that will last our entire life, a life built on relationship with God. The greatest commandment is also the invitation to a life worth your living it, "Teacher," they asked Jesus, "which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to them, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. Sisters and brothers, if we will do this, we shall have a life of abundant joy, influence and purpose both as individuals and a community of faith. Why would we settle for anything less? Thanks for your faithfulness and let's make Christ known in all we do!

Congregation Council

The year 2008 was a year that, in some ways, helped define Shepherd of the Prairie. We took that major step, after many years of planning, to break ground on a new church facility. This will indeed provide us with a unique visibility in the community, and provide opportunities for Ministry that are not currently available to us. Our challenge ahead is just how to capitalize on this facility.

The temptation in writing this report is to make it like a Christmas letter, recapping those items that were all positive. We indeed have had some difficult issues to face during this past year. The Council has prayed over these issues and asked for the Lord's guidance in doing the right thing.

I will not try to duplicate what is in the reports to follow. These do reflect, however, the effort and love that has gone into the Ministry of Shepherd of the Prairie. Thank you to all who have led in these areas.

One special event, that has helped us focus on the FUTURE, was our Church Leadership Retreat, led by Pastor Dave Daubert. The challenge he presented to us is to focus on Ministry as we are completing the building process. The building is a TOOL for Ministry, not an END in itself. He identified a recent Willow Creek study that showed, while their numbers growth was high, "spiritual growth" was stagnant. He recommended that we don't neglect those areas that enhance opportunities to grow spiritually.

One of the conclusions of the Retreat, which will come as no surprise to most of you, is that we are well understaffed. The loss of our Associate Pastor has placed a large burden on Pastor Mark. The Council intentionally wanted to wait until we identified the type of Staff positions we need to grow our Ministry. Pastor Mark will speak further on this during the Annual Meeting. Our 2009 Budget reflects a commitment to this.

This was my first year on Council, and the team effort and help provided from the members of Council has been superb. A special thanks to the outgoing members of the Council – Sue Boyle, Kristi Cordle and Ferdie Kimminau. Their counsel will be missed, but their friendship will continue. Even though they will be gone from Council, their talents will be utilized in different areas.

To Pastor Mark, I'd like to offer special thanks on behalf of the Council for his dedication and compassion in what was personally a very difficult year. It has been my personal privilege work with him and to get to know him. We are truly blessed to have him.

On behalf of the Council, I'd like to thank all of the members of the Congregation for their support during this past year. One of our key initiatives for the coming year is member involvement. Rarely have I had anyone say "no" when asked to volunteer. I continually am amazed at the energy and spirit of our volunteers. With God's blessings, this involvement will be extended to even more members in the coming year.

Yours in Christ

Jules Pelka, Congregation President

Building Committee

Anyone driving by Main and Manhattan has to notice that our new church home is taking shape. Walls are going up and roof trusses are being set in place. Much more remains to be done but, after all the planning, we are now well into the “brick and mortar” phase! Praise the Lord!

Last spring, we were targeting construction to begin in late summer. However, it took much longer than anyone expected to obtain three key approvals: the Huntley building permit, the Illinois EPA permit and the Mission Investment Fund loan. Incredibly, all three approvals were received about the same time. Unfortunately, by then we were a good two months behind the original construction plan.

Though the approvals were delayed, we proceeded with our formal Ground Breaking ceremony on August 24th. We were also able to secure a preliminary grading permit that allowed us to start excavation in mid October while we waited for the final building permit. Shales McNutt (our general contractor) has rescheduled construction tasks to better align certain tasks and winter weather conditions. Based on progress to date, we are on target to occupy our new church home towards the end of next summer and achieve our stated goal to be in a new building by September 2009. As Pastor Mark reported, the Bishop had September 13th open on his calendar and expects to be worshipping with us in our new church home on that date!

It takes a lot of effort to oversee a project like this and a lot of your fellow members are actively involved in the many details around this project.

The Building Team consists of:

Chair.....	Larry Newbanks
SOTP Construction Manager.....	Bob Zimmerman
Building Budget Planning.....	Jim Henley
Building Funds Treasurer.....	Don Koerner
Building Management.....	John Browne

The planning subcommittees continue to refine details in their respective areas and are preparing for occupancy of our building. The subcommittee chairs are:

Exterior Design.....	Walter Roth
Interior Design.....	Betty Knawa and Sue Wehnes
Ministries/Small Groups.....	Carlee Petelle
Operations and Maintenance.....	Tom Polzin
Worship.....	Mike Yndestad

To help reduce construction costs, the Building Team determined that SOTP could handle several selected tasks ourselves. The following Building Task Managers will be managing the execution of these tasks:

Audio/Visual.....	Mike Yndestad
Dumpster Fencing.....	Ron Knudsen
Flooring Installation.....	John Thunholm
Kitchen Casework.....	Don Petelle
Sign.....	Walter Roth
Voice and Data.....	Dennis Lilla

In addition to the above leadership, all Shepherd of the Prairie members have a role to play in helping us get into our new church home. In addition to your prayers for the above leaders, everyone needs to prayerfully consider the many Faith Items we’ll need for our new church home.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Newbanks

Audit Report

Summary:

The SOTP audit team met three times to review financial records for the year 2007.

Sample auditing was successfully conducted in review of 100% accuracy for the following:

1. Counter Reports
2. Verification of the matching of Deposits on Bank Statements to the deposits noted on the counter reports.
3. Withdrawals on the Bank Statements could be properly verified with documentation such as monthly invoices, credit card statements, and receipts.
4. Transfer of investment funds could be adequately accounted for and traced from one investment bank account to another.

In Conclusion:

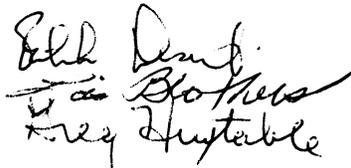
The audit committee agrees that the records needed to fulfill the audit requirements were fully in tact, complete, easy to find, and in complete order. A summary of the recommendations is as follows:

1. A clean counter report is generated and attached to the original report if there are multiple corrections.
2. Make notes with dates on the back of the counter reports.
3. Create a separate journal/calculator tape be created for cash giving only. The word "Cash" should be handwritten at the top of the journal/calculator tape.
4. Create only one complete journal/calculator tape. It is ok if there are multiple tapes, as long as one final tape can be generated. The word "Total or Final" should be handwritten at the top of the tape.

It has been found that all receipts, documentation, statements, journals, counter reports, and summaries of Shepherd of the Prairie, for the year 2007 that were sampled by the audit committee, were fully accurate.

The following committee members do hereby agree to the summary and conclusion of the 2007 Shepherd of the Prairie 2007 financial audit:

Patrick Desiato
Lois Brothers
Greg Huxtable



Music

Another year has passed in our church and I am thankful for all the instrumentalists and vocalists who continue to give their time and musical gifts to the church. The level of participation from the church's members is exciting and I hope to see participation grow further in the coming year. I am thankful to the instrumentalists, vocalists, choir members, bells/chime members and their leaders. It is the involvement of the members that make Shepherd of the Prairie a vibrant place of worship. I am also thankful for our special guests who have helped lead worship over this past year. I hope to bring in more musical guests in the coming year.

I have been with Shepherd of the Prairie since the first worship service led by Pastor Ken McKnight. Back then the thought of having our own church building seemed to be wishful thinking. I am excited that this could potentially be the year the church moves into its own building. However, I feel that there is much preparation to be done before the move. This is one reason that Pastor Mark and I have discussed more work hours for my role at the church. While there is plenty of work that I do from home, there seems to be a great amount of work that needs to be done at the church office and Cosman center. Another work day at the church would allow me to focus on the areas that need attention while making me more available to member's and staff. I am very thankful for what I've learned and my growth through my service at Shepherd of the Prairie. It is my goal to take this knowledge and growth to the next level in the coming year.

Mitchell Corso, Music Director

Stewardship

2008 was a great year in terms of results for Stewardship. The annual appeal had the greatest participation rate in the last 3 years; almost 2/3 of the congregation made a commitment to the 2009 operational budget. As the committee looks to 2009, we are striving to bring additional relevant material to the congregation beyond the annual appeal. Our goal is to bring you programs that will help you in your everyday life in Christ.

Nick Wolf

Mutual Ministry

The Mutual Ministry committee was organized at the end of July, 2008, for the purpose of affirming and strengthening the mission of the congregation and to strengthen the ministry of the pastor(s) and staff. The committee's support of the pastor(s) and staff is done by listening, sharing, communicating, reviewing, caring and praying. The following SOTP members were appointed by the Church Council: Grant Jahr, Chuck Lamb, Chuck Little, Jodie Reed and Sarah Wolf. Council President, Jules Pelka met with this group on Aug, 11, 2008 and discussed the possible roles and responsibilities of the committee. Chuck Little was elected committee chairman and Jodie Reed and Sarah Wolf shared the recording secretary job.

The committee's first task was to develop a job description. The committee examined Mutual Ministry committee job descriptions of other LCA churches and one from the synod and then developed their own.

The committee asked the church council to have a council representative be a member of the committee. Rebecca Fulcer was added to the committee in early October.

The committee met with Pastor Mark to get his input on his goals for SOTP for 2009. The committee worked with Pastor Mark to develop objectives for each of the goals and a timeline for accomplishing these goals. Committee members will work with Pastor Mark to assist him as needed in accomplishing these goals.

The Committee also worked with the church council and Pastor Mark on developing an SOTP organizational chart. This is still in progress and as soon as it is completed, the congregation will be notified.

Due to two members of the committee being gone in the months of Jan., Feb. and March, the committee requested that another congregational member be added. The council added Kathy McGuine to the committee in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Little, Mutual Ministry Committee chairman

Altar Guild

This has been another very busy year for the Altar Guild. We have several new members and then three resigned due to other ministries they felt committed to serve. Because of illness we had several members who were unavailable to assist. However, those who were able have served whenever they could and it is with much appreciation that I wish to Thank each and every member and volunteer for their faithfulness to this ministry and to those who have also served so faithfully in the past.

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 picking up all of the Altar flowers that are ordered weekly. In addition, many assist in baking Communion Bread.

For those in the congregation who cannot tolerate the bread or regular wafers because of health issues, Gluten Free Wafers are now available to those who need same. A new Eucharistic Minister container was purchased anonymously for these wafers.

One major item that should be noted is that the silver plated Eucharistic Vessels have been repaired and refurbished. They were very badly dented, especially the Flagon which contains the wine before it is poured into the Chalice. After checking with several religious stores, plus Augsburg Press, we were informed that no one knew where the vessels could be repaired. I went to Jared's Jewelers who informed me that they did not repair any silver plated items. Finally I went to Perlman's Jewelers in West Dundee and they said they could repair all the dents in the Flagon, Chalices and Paten at a cost of \$500.00. They also said they could refurbish same to look almost new at an additional cost of \$320.00. Brand new sets would cost approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000. Pastor and Council approved the \$820.00 and \$150.00 was donated anonymously and the balance was taken from Altar Guild funds. Sincere thanks to Carol Lilla for making new quilted covers with embroidery indicating which is the proper cover for each Vessel.

A brand new carrying case, also donated anonymously, was purchased for the vessels to protect them from damage. In addition, a new container now holds the Baptismal Bowl and Pitcher and a beautiful quilted cover was also made by Carol Lilla to protect same.

It was decided by my self and Pastor Mark that we would not use the newly repaired Vessels until Christmas Eve, December 28, Easter Sunday and then packed away until we move into our new building. Then they will be used weekly and stored properly. At the present time, everything is being stored in my home. In the meantime, we will use the blue Ceramic Vessels, which are also stored in my home to avoid breakage.

We look forward to another rewarding year in 2009 and invite all women, men, teens to take part in this wonderful ministry. There is no age limit required and training services will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Soest, Altar Guild Chair

Outreach

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

- We deliver a welcome gift to first-time visitors at the Sunday services. In 2008 we delivered 41 mugs to first time visitors.
- Host a booth at the Huntley Expo.
- Use doorknob hangers to promote special seasonal activities.
- Publicize special events in our church.

In 2008 our Huntley Expo booth featured “Fishing for a new church home.” We handed out over 400 prizes to children and adults. We had volunteered to help at the Huntley Fall Fest, but rain cancelled the activity. We distributed door hangers in various neighborhoods marking the Sunday School Rally Day and Christmas season.

Allen Boyle, Coordinator

Prairie Connection

During 2008, Nicholas & Sarah Wolf and Nick & Kara Parry became the coordinators for Prairie Connection. The annual church picnic was held in August and was a huge success. Approximately 150 people were in attendance and there was lots of food, fun and fellowship available at Deicke Park. In October 2008, a fall gathering was organized at the Cosman Center for past Prairie Connection participants as well as new members at SOTP. A potluck dinner was held along with teambuilding activities for participants to get to know one another better. In addition, child care was provided by middle and high school students at SOTP.

As we look forward to 2009, a Prairie Connection information binder has been created as a way to update members on upcoming events, provide input on possible activities, directions on how to host/coordinate a Prairie Connection event and pictures of past events. This binder is available weekly on the information table at church

Nicholas & Sarah Wolf and Nick & Kara Parry, Coordinators

Nominating Committee

Congregation Council (2 year term)

- Devin Burg
- Kris Fleener
- Dick Larrison
- Carol Lilla
- ❖ Jerry Warnke

❖ *pending change of by law for an additional council member*

Audit Team

- Patrick Desiato – 1 year
- Greg Huxtable – 2 year
- Enrique Rojas – 3 year

Voting Members to Northern IL Synod Assembly

- Jill Lamb
- Victor Pizarro

Nominating Committee

- Sue Boyle
- Kristi Cordle
- Ferdie Kimminau
- Mel Long
- Tracy McDuffee
- Jennifer Trevino

Kris Fleener, Nominating Committee

Thanks to the nominating committee for their help in providing a slate of nominees for this year's elections!

Senior Shepherds

The Senior Shepherds enjoyed the following activities in 2008:

- March.....An Easter Concert at the Evangelical Free Church in Arlington Heights
- April.....We attended the Game Night at Citizens bank
- MayA visit to Morkes Chocolate shop.....it was a " hands on adventure" with chocolate!
This was followed with lunch at Mimi's Cafe.
- July.....We had lunch at the Sweden House in Rockford and then went to a Patriotic Concert at Summerwood in Rockford. However due to rain, the concert was held in the auditorium of the First Free Church.
- September ... We saw " Church Basement Ladies" at The North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. It was a musical comedy about Lutheran Ladies in the church basement.
- OctoberLunch at John Evans in Crystal Lake followed by a tour of the Dole Mansion.
- December....Christmas Concert at the Evangelical Free Church in Arlington Heights.

I realize it is impossible to please everyone, but I am sure that most of the people who participated enjoyed the planned activities.

Suggestions for activities in 2009 would be appreciated.

Betty Zimmerman, Coordinator

Women's Organization (W 4)

Women's Group Grows Exponentially in 2008 !!

This past year saw Women Who Work Wonders (W- 4) become (W – 5) as we affiliated with WELCA and became WELCA Women Who Work Wonders. The transformation was made with the official adoption of a constitution on April 13 and the installation of the first board of officers on June 12.

The slate of officers presented and approved are:

- President – Gail Barnard
- Vice-President/Recorder – Betty Knawa
- Treasurer – Zigrida Bekeris
- Afternoon Bible Study Circle Leader – Helen Fenzan
- Evening Bible Study Circle Leader – Donna Sorensen

At the June installation/luncheon, the president outlined the WELCA philosophy which is that all women of the church are, by virtue of church membership, also members of the WELCA unit. That being the case, all women's groups that participate in activities are considered to be "circles," whatever their name. Included are: quilters, prayer shawl ministry, Merry Widows, crafters, banner ministry, book study groups, and the Bible study circles already in existence.

The various circles meet throughout the year on their own particular schedules. There are four general gatherings scheduled: September was a general kick-off; December the Christmas party; March will be the all-day retreat; and June will be a luncheon/kitchen shower for the new building.

In addition to local happenings, an emphasis is being placed on assisting and participating in some of the many outreach and service projects sponsored by WELCA.

This has been a year of major adjustment as we work at launching the organization without necessarily reinventing wheels. Plans for the coming year are to continue the successful groups that exist and encourage formation and growth in new ways.

Gail Barnard, President SOTP WELCA

Spirit Alive

In Spirit Alive we have been using the Faith Weaver Friends curriculum from Group publishing. With this program the kids are learning to build relationships with Jesus and the people around them. We discuss how to share the news of Jesus with friends and family and ways to share the love of Christ with our community.

Using this program the children have learned how the Old Testament stories in Genesis can guide their actions today. We learned from Adam and Eve how to listen to God, Lot and his wife taught us to obey his word, and then we learned that God is always listening.

The Children learn this through dramatic skits, Projects with a Purpose, and fun games that help teach the lessons from Jesus and the Bible. One project was to collect baby items to give to a shelter, instead of making presents for someone else (unfortunately the weather interfered) during the Christmas season.

This format also helps to build bonds with the members of the Church. The lessons encourage the children to learn more about the roles in our church and community, and how they can be a part of them. They build bonds with the teachers and teens that come in to assist them in this learning.

This next Quarter we are starting with Christmas and learning more from the New Testament. The main focus will be bringing others to Jesus. We will be talking about how to share the message of Jesus with all of our Friends. As our Project we will be collecting items for seniors in February. The children will be decorating bags to fill with small items such as toiletries and other treats to give to the older members of our Community. They also will be making sweet invitations to give to others to invite them to come to church and learn more about Our Lord with us.

I look forward to watching this Ministry grow over the next few years. The children teach me so much when we are together. They absorb the stories and are filled with such wonder and joy while learning how stories from the Bible can really help them in their daily life.

God truly blesses us that we get to help these children in our Church family grow in body, mind, and Spirit !

Katie Desiato, Coordinator

Shepherd Voices

We have had a very successful year. When everyone comes, we are up to nineteen voices; nine of these are men which gives us a wonderful blend and a great foundation to build on We sing usually twice a month from September through May.

Compliments of Dick Larrison, we have performed during the summer at least once a month so the music does go on.

We have had generous donations of music from Trinity in Des Plaines. Marian Mesenbrink obtained them for us from her former church.

Hopefully next year we will do some combined numbers with the audience, the chimers, and some of the instruments.

Gretchen Lane, Director

Prairie Ringers Bell and Chime Choir

The year 2008 has been a successful one for our choir. Not only have we become better ringers able to play more challenging music, but we were also given \$5000 toward the purchase of 3 octaves of bells by a lady who is not a member of our congregation. God truly works in mysterious ways.

This past fall we have had 14 adult ringers in the choir who willingly are learning the different skills needed to play bells and have also been faithful in their attendance at rehearsals on Thursday evenings and at 1st service ringing on Sunday mornings, It is my hope to start a chime choir for our confirmation aged students early in 2009. The confirmands had a taste of ringing when we went to several homes of shut-ins in mid-December to sing Christmas carols while playing the chimes. Several also played and sang in the gathering area prior to the Christmas Eve service.

We are always looking for more ringers. Please contact me if you are interested or have questions.

Carol Mosby, Director

Sunday School

The 2008-2009 Sunday School year began on September 7 which was Rally Day. There are 95 children on the Sunday School Roster with a team of 20 teachers who teach on a rotating schedule. On Rally Day, the Sunday schoolers made a banner displaying a path and titled COME FOLLOW JESUS. Each child outlined his/her foot on a piece of felt and cut it out. The child's name was written on the "foot" and glued to the path on the banner. The banner is displayed at various times in the worship area at Cosman. It will be permanently displayed in the Sunday School hallway in our new building.

In November, every Sunday Schooler age three through sixth grade made an Advent Wreath to take home. The wreaths coordinated with the Sunday School curriculum and learning about Advent. An information sheet was also taken home which explained the meaning of Advent and included family activities and scripture for each Sunday in Advent. The middle school and high school classes made the Advent wreaths and were then delivered to congregation members who are not able to come to church on a regular basis.

On December 14, 2008, the children's choir and Sunday Schoolers presented their annual Christmas program titled It's a Wonder-Ful Life. Following the presentation, milk and cookies were enjoyed by the children and their families.

The Bible Bucks program continues this year. Children receive a Bible Buck each Sunday for attending and for other reasons decided by each teacher. The bible Bucks Store is open in the Welcome Area the first Sunday of the month.

The curriculum for the traditional Sunday School, Firelight, that meets during the 9:00 service, is published by Augsburg Fortress. This year it encompasses the church year--Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Holy week, Easter, and Pentecost. The curriculum will also cover Jesus' parables such as the Good Samaritan and The Sower. The curriculum for the Spirit Alive Sunday School that meets during the 10:30 service is Kid's Own Worship published by Group. This material uses various approaches to meet the needs of the different age groups. Spirit Alive is a whole group class for children ages 3 through 3rd grade.

February 15, 2009, will be a special day. The Sunday School is planning to have the children bring a friend to share in their Sunday School experience. We want to spread the word that all are welcome.

As construction continues on our new church home, the teachers and Sunday Schoolers look forward to having classes in their new building.

Submitted by:

Barbara Auwerda, Sunday School Superintendent

Vacation Bible School – Donna Brown

VBS: **Rainforest Adventure "A Tree Top Bible Blast"** came to us through Augsburg Fortress and consisted of different stations that had a rainforest theme. We had over 60 children sign up from the area. The fun all started on Monday, June 16 at Mackeben Elementary School in Algonquin. There was a new rainforest song taught as soon as the kids gathered together in the cafeteria and then they were set out on an adventure in Science, Crafts, Games and much more.

The children also brought in daily donations for the outreach program set up through Augsburg. When a dollar was donated, the child would then take a leaf and tape it to a bare tree. By the end of the week we had two trees FULL of leaves!

A fun time was had by all and we look forward to our next adventure this summer!

Donna Brown, VBS Coordinator

Volunteer Coordinator

The Volunteer Coordinator manages the Time and Talent Sheets and is responsible for contacting individuals who are willing to serve on various committees within 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 Sheet and the importance of utilizing one's talent for the various ministries available.

On Ministry Sunday, January 7, 2007, a new Time and Talent Sheet was distributed to everyone. Later in the year a complete Position Description booklet was also distributed. This booklet explained in detail the various ministries of our congregation.

Because of many changes and new ministries being formed, I will begin revising the Time and Talent Sheet along with the description booklet. In the meantime, if you have any questions and wish to contact the Chair person(s) of the ministry you wish to serve, please get in touch with me and I will give you the name of the person(s) to contact.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Soest, Volunteer Coordinator

DUIJ (Sr. High Youth Ministry)

DUIJ was busy this past year!!! Major events in the Spring included our First Annual 30 Hour Famine to help raise money for World Vision Organization. With matching funds, we raised around \$5000! The event tested all of us, youth and leaders, and we all realized how much we take for granted in our lives, especially food. We had a great time of group activities. Some of us had certain disabilities and then tried to accomplish certain tasks. Near the end of the 30 hours, we were all beginning to really feel the effects of not eating. We want to send a special thank you to Katie Meissner for allowing us to stay at her house so that we had enough space to all be together. Another thank you goes to Mark and Kim Frenreis and Nancy Ramirez for the wonderful meal they cooked for us once we were able to eat!

In the Fall, during the Sunday School hour, we began a video series entitled The Gripping Point about Craig DeMartino. Craig is a man who fell 100 feet while he was rock climbing with his friend. He should not have lived but only ended up losing one of his legs. The video series followed the growth and struggles he, and his family, had physically and spiritually. This sparked many good discussions between all of us.

November we made our second (some third) trip to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa for the Church Wide Youth gathering. We arrived Friday night. Saturday was broken down into 3 "Celebrations" and workshops that everyone signed up for. Sunday morning we had worship. The special music was provided by Lost and Found. It was another truly bonding and great experience, even though we were sleeping on a gymnasium floor with everyone!

2009 will prove to also be a great year. We have learned what happens to an egg (in the shell) when you microwave it and how this can relate to how keeping lies, etc. inside our selves which will then only harden our hearts, but that it will eventually explode and not be good.

January 27, Tim and I will be leaving for formal Youth Ministry Training in New Orleans for the week. "Extravaganza" is the training program/seminar for youth workers. This program is through the ELCA Youth Ministry Network. We hope to be able to learn a lot so that we can make Shepherd of the Prairie's youth program more developed and the best it can be for the youth of our church.

February we will be having our 30 Hour Famine again, so stay tuned! Also, we tentatively have a gathering with Brenda and Justin Pathmann (our DUIJ predecessors) and their new church group.

We will be continuing to have great biblical discussions through sometimes atypical pathways (thanks to the wonderful and creative lesson planning by Tim).

Katie and Tim Torkelson, DUIJ Coordinators

Special Gifts and Memorials Committee

The Gifts and Memorials Committee has been organized by the Church Council to handle acceptance and acknowledgement of all gifts and memorials given to Shepherd of the Prairie. The Committee is responsible for record keeping of gifts received as memorials, honorariums, or other. The Committee acknowledges these gifts in a timely manner and informs the families of those being memorialized or honored.

This past year the Committee acknowledged Building Fund memorials received in memory of the following: Marilon Boster, Gertrude Eckardt, John Gram, James Lehman, Jeff Meissner and Robert McCullough. Memorials were also acknowledged to the Katharine Pohlmann Church Furnishings Fund.

As a special role, the Committee also manages the process of receiving and acknowledging special gifts to furnishing our new church building through the Building on Faith program. The committee will keep the congregation informed of needs for the new building (as defined by the Building Committees) and update those needs as they change throughout the process of occupying our church home.

We are happy to report that as of Dec. 31, 2008, gifted Faith items have been received from 38 member and non-member families and the Katharine Pohlmann Furnishing Fund. The total of the gifted items is \$38,218.00.

This committee will record all the gifted items from our Building on Faith campaign in a Memory Book. This book will be on permanent display in our church home. The Building on Faith campaign will continue throughout 2009 or as long as there is gifting. There are many opportunities for gifting items still needed to occupy our church home. A brochure is available for this purpose. A tri-fold board is available in the Cosman Center gathering area on Sundays showing all the gifted items to date. We are thankful to all members and friends of Shepherd of the Prairie for their generous gifts for our new church home.

Ted Anderson, Helen Fenzan, Sue Wehnes

2009 Budget

(Next Page)

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church			
2009 Budget			
			New Building
		2008 Actual	Sep 1
	2008 Budget		2009 Budget
Income			
Contributions			
Loose Plate Contributions	8,300	15,506	20,000
Pledges	305,826	298,336	325,000
Other Income			
Flower Contributions	2,500	2,358	3,000
Interest Income	2,200	5,432	5,000
Total Income	318,826	321,632	353,000
Expense			
Advertising	3,500	7,782	7,500
Automobile Expense	3,000	2,781	3,000
Bank Service Charges	50	78	70
NI Synod	35,636	36,193	38,000
Staff Training/Continuing Ed.			10,000
Conferences	2,000	734	2,000
Contingency	500	55	500
Education			
Adult Education	700	893	700
Confirmation	400	300	400
Sunday School	2,500	1,782	2,000
VBS	1,500	1,201	2,000
Payroll Expenses			
Director of Music	15,450	15,450	26,520
Director of Small Groups	26,523	17,659	0
Staffing for Growth			38,000
Pastor	71,267	71,267	72,650
Office Manager	9,375	9,375	8,030
Employee Benefits			
Director of Small Groups	15,386	10,188	0
Office Manager	8,493	10,494	9,625
Staffing for Growth			3,675
Director of Music	1,182	1,182	2,030
Pastor	36,874	35,852	37,000
Employee Business Expense	400	495	500
Equipment Rental	7,500	6,164	7,500
Evangelism, Outreach & Missions	6,500	5,481	6,500
Fellowship	1,500	479	1,000
Flower Expense	3,000	2,707	2,500
Gifts	300	316	500
Good Samaritan	500	244	500
Insurance	750	450	750
Late Fees	100	(1)	0
Legal	150	90	150
Licenses and Permits	1,240	661	1,500
Natural Church Development	2,000	135	2,000
Office Equipment	750	224	750

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church			
2009 Budget			
			New Building
		2008 Actual	Sep 1
	2008 Budget		2009 Budget
Office Supplies	6,500	8,924	10,000
Janitorial Supplies			200
Postage and Delivery	3,000	2,327	2,500
Property tax		30	30
Facilities			
Electric			2,700
Water/Sewer			180
Garbage			200
Snow Removal			500
Gas			4,000
Cleaning Service			2,000
Insurance			3,000
Office Rent	11,350	10,404	6,936
School Rent(VBS)	1,500	0	0
Park District	31,000	26,281	20,667

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church			
2009 Budget			
			New Building
		2008 Actual	Sep 1
	2008 Budget		2009 Budget
Repairs/ Replacement	500	312	500
Small Group Ministries		213	400
Stewardship	1,500	6,065	1,500
Utilities-Telephone	3,500	3,335	4,500
Website	600	549	1,000
Worship			
Altar Guild Equipment	500	500	1,500
Music Equipment	750	24	500
Music			
1st Service Music	350	234	350
2nd Service Music	350	166	350
Childrens Choir	100	221	150
Chime Choir	250	86	250
Rejoice	400		400
Misc		0	0
Shepherds Voices	400	(6)	400
Musicians/special occasions	400	350	400
Pulpit Supply	250	212	300
Supplies (bread, wine, etc.)	1,000	74	250
Youth			
DUIJ	1,500	1,218	1,500
Youth (K-5)	500		500
Youth (6-8)	500		500
Total Expense	325,725	302,230	356,013
Net Ordinary Income	1,261	19,402	(3,013)