



Shepherd
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Annual Report
January 22, 2012

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Annual Meeting
January 22, 2012

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Quorum Call

III. Opening Prayer

IV. Looking Back

1. Approval of Minutes from January 30, 2011 Annual Meeting
2. Approval of Committee and Ministry Reports
3. Approval of 2011 Financial Reports
4. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members
Jerry Warnke, Steve Brown

V. Looking Ahead

2012 Ministries – Pastor Mark
Purpose Statement & Guiding Principles
Staffing Introduction
New Ministries

- Elections (*Nominating Report on page 36*)
 1. Election of Audit Committee
 2. Election of 2012 Nominating Committee
 3. Election of Voting Member to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly
 4. Election of New Council Members
 5. 7 Jan Leadership Retreat update

Approval of 2012 Budget (*Page 38*)– Jerry Warnke

VI. Closing Prayer

VII. Adjournment

Shepherd of the Prairie Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2011

Called to order – 11:46am

- Quorum required is 88. In attendance 100.
- Tellers – Ferdie Kimminau and Bob Zimmermann
- Parliamentarian – Jessica Panella

Opening Prayer – Pastor Mark Boster

Looking Back

A motion to approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting, January 24, 2010 was made by Bob Zimmermann, 2nd Wayne Schmidt. Voted on and approved.

A motion to approve the Committee and Ministry Reports as submitted in annual report was made by Ferdie Kimminau, 2nd Alice Hallett. *Voted on and approved.*

2010 Financial Reports

General fund-update provided by Jerry Warnke

- The year closed with income exceeding expenses by \$7,797.00
- In general, church expenses were managed to budget and income received
- Some budget items were higher than planned:
 - ◆ Facilities due to sealcoat of the parking lot for cost of \$6,000.00.
 - ◆ Staffing due to increased hours for Director of Music and Youth Ministry Coordinator
 - ◆ HR due to number of background checks that needed to be done
- We sent ELCA Northern Illinois Synod \$47,925.00 of which \$46,073.00 was our 2010 commitment and \$1,852.00 was balance of 2009 commitment. (Pastor Mark comment on this is 11% benevolence.)
- The account Unpledged Contributions shows \$88,000.00. The represents contributions from members who do not/have not pledged and new members
- The account Misc. Contributions is primarily loose plate offerings
- Providing for the Future
 - ◆ Transferred the budgeted amount to the Balance Sheet under the provision accounts
 - ◆ In addition, Council approved \$30,000.00 of previous year unallocated cash to be split between Provision for building and grounds and Provision for maintenance
 - ◆ This leaves \$111,000.00 of unallocated cash

Question: Budget for pledged contributions – Bob Zimmermann asked for explanation as to why were under budget. Response by Jerry Warnke-It is difficult to explain, but some reasons include, people moved, financial circumstances change, some forget, average is 90% to budget. Bob suggested we should we allow a “discount” for the amount we anticipate not receiving. Jerry indicated this is done in the budgeting process.

Building fund-update provided by Jerry Warnke

- Paid \$45,000.00 to ELCA in January to pay off no interest loan needed to purchase land
- Paid the balance of the Shales McNutt Contract totaling \$66,000.00
- Paid interest payments to MIF on the current loan of \$57,644.00
- Current cash balance in the building fund is \$52,811.00 which consists of \$11,790.00 in faith item donations and \$41,021.00 which is three months of loan payments

Note: In our first full year, we reduced the principal balance of our loan by \$296,000.00!

Jessica Panella motioned to approve the 2010 financials and 2nd by Rich Dahl. *Motion was voted on and approved.*

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members - Kris Fleener, Dick Larrison, Carol Lilla, Jules Pelka

Looking Ahead

Mission statement-We care for God's children of all ages by growing disciples who make disciples. As a reminder, a video montage of 2010 in review was put together and presented by Greg Dowell.

Leadership retreat was held in January 2011. Results/outcome indicates a need to emphasize 2nd half of our mission statement-"Growing disciples who make disciples". All are encouraged to prayerfully consider how they will do their part.

Motion was made by Kris Fleener and 2nd by Lois Brothers to Change by-law C11-03: *No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive (one-year) term in the same office – Motion was voted on and approved.*

Motion was made by Ralph Wehnes and 2nd by Bob Zimmerman to approve council recommendation to transfer \$50,000.00 from the General Fund to the Building Fund for immediate debt reduction. In addition, \$25,000.00 transferred from the General Fund to the Building Fund to be applied to debt reduction at council discretion. *Motion was voted on and approved.*

Church staff members were introduced.

Ministry note – Work is being done to database to keep track of spiritual gifts of others including desire to serve in particular capacity. All ministry leaders are encouraged to follow up with people when names are given to them as being interested in that ministry.

Election of 2011 Nominating Committee

- Outgoing council members (Kris Fleener, Carol Lilla, Dick Larrison, Jules Pelka)
- Donna Sorenson, Greg Gillming, John Arneson

Motion to close nominations was made by Lois Brother and 2nd by Francis Wilson. Motion to elect made by Walter Roth and 2nd by Jan Koerner. *Motions voted on and approved.*

Election of Synod Convention Representatives

- Marlene Boehler and Brian Bremer

Motion to close nominations was made by Lois Brothers, 2nd Wayne Schmidt. Motion to elect made by Noreta Walker and 2nd Jan Koerner. *Motions voted on and approved.*

Election of Audit Committee

- Dennis Minutello (three year term)

Motion to close nominations was made by Kathy Dahl and 2nd Ferdie Kimminau. Motion to elect made by Wayne Schmidt and 2nd Devin Burg. *Motions voted on and approved.*

Congregation Council

- Theresa Molgren, Bob McDuffee, Mike McCann (three year terms)

Motion to close nominations was made by Ron Knudsen and 2nd Wayne Schmidt. Motion to elect made by Joan Rice and 2nd Alice Hallett. *Motions voted on and approved.*

- Jim Rice (filling a vacated term-one year term)

Motion to elect made by Ferdie Kimminau and 2nd Ralph Wehnes. *Motion voted on and approved.*

Annual Report comments

- Dave McCauley would like to see a list of all council members and their terms and all staff members and their titles.
- Wayne Schmidt commented on all the work put into the annual report, very thorough.

Leadership Retreat

Larry Newbanks reviewed results from January 8, 2011 leadership team retreat. The primary focus of the retreat was staffing for growth. A SWOT analysis was done. The results are currently being reviewed by HR team for recommendations.

2011 Budget Highlights

- Two new categories, AV ministry and Staffing for Growth
- Music Ministry budget was done by Mitch and Youth Ministry budget was done by Greg, these budget recommendations were incorporated into overall budget that is being presented.
- Includes a 3% increase for all staff

Bob Zimmermann-wanted clarification on the pledged contributions for 2011 budget-Jerry clarified that the \$420K is based on pledged cards received for 2011 stewardship. Clarification needed on Pastor Mark's salary increase, housing allowance is considered part of salary for this purpose. After this clarification the 2011 budget was presented for motion to approve.

FOOTNOTE: A question was raised regarding the budget line for Pastor Salary. Subsequent to the annual meeting, the treasurer reviewed the line item in question. There was a typographical error made. The line item Pastor Salary amount on page 38 of the annual report shows \$47,075. The correct amount is \$45,075. The total of the line item Pastor Salary \$45075 added to the Pastor Housing Allowance \$32000 represents a 3% increase as approved by church council. Correction to budget has been made.

A motion made by Bob Malm and 2nd by Sue Wehnes to approve 2011 budget. *Motion was voted on and approved.*

Mary Conti wanted to know of the 711 members, how many are adult. There are 437 confirmed members.

Pastor Mark Boster closed with prayer.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kris Fleener and 2nd by Rich Dahl. *Motion was voted on and approved at 12:55pm.*

Prayerfully submitted,
—Kathy Pizarro

Pastor's Report to the Congregation

January 2012

Our Mission – *“Caring for God’s Children of all ages, by growing disciples who make disciples.”*

Dear Friends 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 your life for the day.

"Greater is he who is in me than he who is in the world!" This Scripture has fed me more than once over the years. 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.

Because of your faith filled support in 2011 we have accomplished much in serving God and others through Shepherd of the Prairie. Ministry goals that were agreed to by the congregation as important for the life and ministry of the church have been achieved. Those ministry goals included improved integration of new and existing members, evaluating staffing needs, evaluated space and building needs for the future, develop a Finance Team and implementing leadership training and development. Well done good and faithful servants.

It is always a bit overwhelming to encapsulate in a few hundred words the ministry that has occurred over the course of a year in the church. So rather than lift up a particular ministry I would prefer to share some Biblical reflections Romans 12:9-12 that encompass the faithful ministry of God’s people here at SOTP.

"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 this. We desire that 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 one 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.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." I am thankful for the signs of spiritual growth within our church family. New leaders are stepping forward to teach and share the faith. 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. I am hopeful that as we continue to grow larger we also grow smaller encouraging brothers and sisters to be together in meaningful small group relationships.

"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 on Sunday morning asking yourself, "what new friend in Christ will I meet today." Let's practice hospitality.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." God is blessing us with a wide variety of ministry that is daily happening in and through the church. Tuesday and Wednesday nights the church is full of God's people praising God in song and studying God's word to grow in faith and life. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings children are learning in our "Little Lambs Early Center" the stories from God's Word to help them lead God honoring lives. Adult leaders are stepping up to lead Bible studies through the week in order that God's name might be known. We have a strong sense of mission as God's people are being sent out to make a difference in God's world through activities of service such as the food pantry, quilting, prayer shawls, habitat for humanity, Exodus, Feed My Starving Children, Operation Christmas Child, PADS and so much more...

"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. Let's put our best faith forward in this New Year as we rededicate our lives to the disciplines of discipleship. 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 time & financial resources
7. **Encourage** spiritual growth in others (pass on the faith)

God has an exciting and at the same time challenging path for us to travel in this New Year. The question becomes for us - do we want to go along with him? God's plans are greater than any we could possibly imagine. If we are serious about faithfully following it will be necessary for us to stretch, reach and extend out in ministry to places where God wants us to be - not where we feel comfortable?

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 what you need. I pray regularly that God continues to send passionate leaders for Christ. How thankful I am for the fruitful abundance of God's amazing grace in answered prayer.

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

Director of Adult Education

What a joy it is to be among the people of God here at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church in Huntley, Illinois! Our coming together has been a real gift of the Spirit to both Carol and me, and we are grateful to God for his grace.

We have felt welcomed here, both by those who have met us with a warm handshake and a smile, as well as by those who have been a part of the classes that have so far been offered. We began with “Lutheranism 101” which gave us an opportunity, over six weeks on Sunday mornings, to explore the roots of our Lutheran faith. This has been followed by conversations around the Gospel of Mark. Here we have not only met on Sunday mornings but also on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings. This has afforded more people the opportunity to attend. And, for those who can’t always join us on Sundays, they can come during the week. I’m so grateful for all those who have been a part of our conversations.

These months, from September through December, have also been a time to visit many of the groups and ministries that are already helping to deepen the faith life of God’s people in this place: the Monday afternoon women’s Friends Bible Study, the Monday evening men’s study led by Matt Greene, the fellowship breakfasts the first Wednesday morning of each month, as well as the numerous congregational gatherings that have helped me to meet members of our congregation.

And what a further blessing it has been to work with the Shepherd of the Prairie staff! I am delighted to be ministering daily with Pastor Mark, Greg Dowell, Patty Driscoll-Shaw, Renae Green, Dennis Lilla, Jane McMullen, and Mickey Waal. The joy at working as a team is a gift indeed.

As we move into 2012, there are a myriad of possibilities for expanding our adult education ministry: Bible studies; identifying, developing and strengthening leaders; beginning a small group ministry; a marriage retreat in the spring; assembling a team of folks passionate about education and learning. Exactly where God’s Holy Spirit is leading us remains to be seen. But the call is to keep open, to listen to the Word, and to trust that the God who has called us to this place yesterday, will strengthen us for today, and will lead us into a future that is held securely in His hands.

—*Pastor Bill Waxenberg*

Lay Ministry Coordinator

What a Wonder-full year 2011 has proven to be. Full of the wonders of giftedness, challenges, changes, successes, limitations and celebrations found in our Congregation - - and I was accepted to walk with and participate in all this community movement.

The Ministry Fair in January, with some 57 ministries present, was germinator of some congregants' articulation of involvement, choosing an involvement, or perhaps, some thinking about changing their involvements. All this energy was in a spirit of service with our God in and beyond SOTP.

I was personally touched and deeply excited to be invited to share with the confirmants my own discernment of and experiences in long-term missionary living overseas in Latin America. Subsequently, I was blessed to share the shorter version with the 6th grade girls' life group. Both presentations enrich my own enthusiasm to foment international and similar local awareness in our congregation.

My own mission energy led me to proactively accompany, through their meetings and activities, some of our groups as they honed in on their direction of ministerial activities. Those groups in which I participated more consistently are: the Outreach Team, Mission Team, FFAA, and WELCA. WELCA even invited me to BE Katie Luther in a skit depicting her role with Martin's life and ministry. Of course this demanded I not only play her, but write the skit and recruit the other players. What a subversive way to get me to research Katie and Martin Luther! I loved it and identified with those principal characters and their life's journey.

Another of my foci this year was to call group leaders into shared leadership: planning to recognize colleagues' gifts; and, as well, inviting and organizing themselves to be mentors to their successors. The groups which fostered this change include: Crafters, Prayer Shawls, Kitchen Care, Altar Guild, Greeters, Photography, Senior Shepherds, Communion Bread Makers, Habitat for Humanity, Prairie Guides and Quilters. I do believe these and other groups could very much appreciate and benefit from some formal leadership training experiences.

The congregation responded very generously to saving a life, or many lives, by donating blood at the Blood Drive.

The Publicity Ministry continues to need attention. While we do have weekly activities listed in the Daily Herald, and a number of photos in the North West Herald, this Ministry has everywhere to grow toward the electronic as well as social media communication.

Dennis, Renae and I worked together to develop a Time and Talent Ministry descriptions booklet and an Online System whereby all members can indicate their gifts, skills and interests. We could not have completed this project without each of the congregations' groups collaborating fully by sending in the description of their ministry. We are thankful to each. They were a wonder, too! Now, watch for the Sign-Up Drive to come.

In January, I was called upon to introduce and invite some 7 main ministries to begin a "Common Ministry Night" the 2nd Monday of each Month. The leaders meet with Pastor Mark and me, followed by prayer in the Sanctuary with the total groups' members, and subsequently each group has their monthly meeting. This new coming together has afforded much more coordination and communication across the Congregation.

Lastly, but certainly one of the most important and exciting processes this year was our New Member Gatherings and Welcoming celebrations. Partnering with Pastor Mark in 5 such Gatherings (February, April, June, August and November) we welcomed 79 adults to discern membership in SOTP. They bring 37 children with them. Several Ministry group leaders were invited to share their own ministry participation to give a flavor of our life at SOTP. Our Prairie Guide ministers emit a certain security that new members do not walk the way alone.

Later, it is of my purview to invite new members to discover involvement in ministry. This last has probably been my weakest link this year due to a plethora of health related distractions draining my energies. Subsequent recent surgery and now recovering through consequent Physical Therapy work on my part, serve to surface in me much new energy and more creativity.

It continues to be my privilege to walk with you and now almost pain-free. You have shown such great care and support and, as well, shone God's presence to me and to one another in being Jesus' Hands and Feet. Thank you for your "yes" to God through faithfulness in ministry. We'll continue to create wonders on our journey with great peace, commitment and joy. Blessings to all of us.

—*Patty Driscoll-Shaw*

Lay Ministry Coordinator

Youth and Family Ministry

Shepherd of the Prairie's Youth and Family Ministries still hold to 5 basic principles:

- Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships.
- The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.
- Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.
- Faith is caught more than it is taught.
- If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.

Summary of 2011 Accomplishments

- 10 Students confirmed in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism
- 62 Students enrolled in Confirmation
- Moved meeting time for Confirmation back to Wednesday evenings
- Held Confirmation classes in Sanctuary
- Used nearly every room in church for small groups
- Added High School students as student leaders for confirmation
- 21 Confirmation students attended 2011 Spring Confirmation Retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin
- 39 Confirmation students attended 2011 Fall Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Outdoors Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois
- Attended "Feed My Starving Children" to package food to send to areas of hunger
- Held Fall Family Fun Fest" at Richardson Corn Maze
- Youth collected and packed 142 boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- High School Youth participated in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine
- Brought Peder Eide to SOTP for Christmas concert
- 15 students attended Creation Restoration Mission Trip to Wilmore, Ky
- 7 students attended Crossings Summer Camp on Kentucky Lake in Hardin, Ky
- 150 young people attended Vacation Bible School

Looking forward to

- Attending Feed My Starving Children in January and March
- Spring Confirmation Retreat at LOMC
- Creation Restoration mission trip in June
- Summer Church camp at Crossings Camp, Hardin Kentucky, on Kentucky Lake
- Confirming 17 students in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism
- 30 Hour Famine

—*Greg Dowell*

Congregation Council Report

Again in 2011, Shepherd of the Prairie was blessed with continued growth and ministry enrichment. In January, Shepherd of the Prairie leaders (council members, staff members and key ministry group chairs) met to chart direction for Shepherd of the Prairie leaders in 2011. The focus of this half-day retreat was “Staffing for Growth.” These leaders used a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis to help identify and prioritize staffing needs based on Shepherd of the Prairie growth and member needs.

Based on retreat results, the Council identified specific 2011 goals for Shepherd of the Prairie. The Goals, published in March, and 2011 results are summarized below.

Improve integration of new and existing members into ministry

A key task to achieve this goal was to staff a Director of Adult Education to “equip volunteers to lead classes and small groups.” We hired Pastor Bill Waxenberg in September and leadership training will begin soon. In addition, existing staff roles were reviewed to ensure, where appropriate, that their jobs placed emphasis on this goal.

Another supporting task was updating a data base for tracking members’ spiritual gifts. Resources were redirected to make an existing data base more user-friendly both to update and to use. Leaders can now contact the Church office when they are seeking members who might be a good fit for their ministry. Many members have now completed their input to the Spiritual Ministry Data Base. If you have not had a chance to participate, contact the church office to request a form or go to the SOTP WEB site. From the SOTP Home Page, just click on Registration to access and complete either the New Member and/or Ministry Interest forms.

Evaluate staffing needs (current and future)

The goal above identified the need for a new staff position. This goal ensured we hired a person to fill it. The Human Resources Ministry Group developed a job description, posted the job, interviewed applicants and recommended Pastor Bill Waxenberg as our new Director of Adult Education.

This goal also directed us to investigate criteria and the possible need to call an associate pastor. After meeting with a representative from the Bishop’s office, the council concluded that an associate pastor is not a current priority for Shepherd of the Prairie. Several factors contributed to this finding. First, Pastor Mark is well supported by an excellent staff for key non-pastoral activities: youth and adult education, congregational communications, office functions, music and integration of members. Further, Shepherd of the Prairie is blessed to have a number of pastors as members who can provide pulpit supply as needed. But perhaps the biggest question raised by the Bishop’s assistant was what our thoughts were about the direction for Shepherd of the Prairie over the next 5 years or so. Without this clear direction, we lack solid criteria on what role an associate pastor would perform. While Shepherd of the Prairie has a Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles as well as developing annual goals, we have yet to focus on where we want to be in 5 years. The council anticipates that answering this question will be a focus for the congregation in 2012.

Evaluate space/building needs for the future

Especially with our continued growth, we are cramped in our new building. To put focus on this issue, we established a Space and Facility Planning Ministry Group this summer. While this is a longer term focus, they have already met with the Mission Investment Fund to better understand financial criteria to consider and are in the process of trying to better quantify specific space needs. It is still early in the process and there are no time frames or other recommendations yet. We want to thank team members Deb Hansen, Bob Zimmerman, Dave Lorenzo and Adam Adams for their service.

Develop a Finance team by June 2011

Another need driven by growth is help to oversee Shepherd of the Prairie's financials. To address this need we formed a Financial Ministry Group this summer to oversee financial processes and procedures and provide guidance for key Shepherd of the Prairie financial decisions. Again, we thank team members George Sebastian, Rich Juergensen and Bud Hansen for their service.

Implement Leadership training and development

This goal is linked with the role of Director of Adult Education. Pastor Bill is in the process of developing several different leadership curriculums and will begin delivering training first quarter of 2012. Last February, Ministry Night was initiated on the second Monday of each month. Key ministry groups are encouraged to meet on that night and ministry chairs attend a chair meeting 30 minutes before the general meeting. The chair meeting opens communication with the pastor as well as with other ministry chairs enabling chairs to provide better feedback and leadership to their specific groups.

While the above goals were the focus for 2011, there were many other accomplishments and mission completed by Shepherd of the Prairie's various ministry groups. And, there was change. When Mitch Corso decided to step down as Director of Music, we celebrated his 10 years of service to Shepherd of the Prairie and began the search for a new director. Jane McMullen was selected as our new Director of Music and Michael Waal has recently joined us as accompanist. We welcome all new staff members, Pastor Bill, Jane and Michael. We also thank Jim Rice for his service on the council. When his work schedule interfered, Jim had to resign and Steve Brown accepted the invitation to fill in for the remainder of Jim's council term. Shepherd of the Prairie has been richly blessed by its members and their wiliness to serve and advance Christ's mission.

Respectfully submitted,

—Larry Newbanks

President, Congregational Council

Financial Reports

6:29 AM

01/06/12

Accrual Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2011

| | Dec 31, 11 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| Citizens First National bank | 131,349.40 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 131,349.40 |
| Total Current Assets | 131,349.40 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 131,349.40 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| Restricted Donations | |
| Grant Fund | 255.00 |
| World Vision | 355.00 |
| Confirmation retreat | -3,159.69 |
| Building Fund (BOB) | 3,235.00 |
| Youth & Family Ministry | 2,811.06 |
| Youth - KCK | 588.53 |
| World Hunger | 15.00 |
| Christmas Offering | 160.00 |
| Retreat Youth/Scholarship | 453.00 |
| Music Ministry | 1,823.92 |
| Music - Bells | 498.68 |
| Mission Trip | 2,115.45 |
| Local Programs | 500.00 |
| Misc Gift | 544.29 |
| Little Lambs | 5,197.53 |
| Hymnal | 434.20 |
| Heifer Project | 428.62 |
| Good Samaritan | 4,941.49 |
| Endowment Fund | 5,030.00 |
| Childrens Ministry | 1,700.00 |
| Future Bell Maintenance | 250.00 |
| Provision for Inreach | 3,925.00 |
| Provision for Bldg. & Grounds | 22,000.00 |
| Provision for Maintenance | 17,500.00 |
| Provision for Equipment | 9,000.00 |
| Provision for Outreach | 4,500.00 |
| Total Restricted Donations | 85,102.08 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | 85,102.08 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 85,102.08 |
| Total Liabilities | 85,102.08 |
| Equity | |
| Opening Balance Equity | 36,480.50 |
| Net Income | 9,766.82 |
| Total Equity | 46,247.32 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 131,349.40 |

Financial Reports (cont)

6:32 AM
01/06/12
Cash Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2011

| | Dec 31, 11 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| MIF - Mission Plus | 50,740.23 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 50,740.23 |
| Total Current Assets | 50,740.23 |
| Fixed Assets | |
| Land/Road/Building | 1,980,000.00 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 1,980,000.00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 2,030,740.23 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Long Term Liabilities | |
| Faith Item Donations | |
| Church Office | 876.48 |
| High School | 1,600.00 |
| Kathy Pohlman Memorial | 5,840.00 |
| Nursery | 86.05 |
| Pastor's Office | 1,287.10 |
| Sign | 100.00 |
| Total Faith Item Donations | 9,789.63 |
| MIF Building Loan | 1,384,386.80 |
| Total Long Term Liabilities | 1,394,176.43 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,394,176.43 |
| Equity | |
| Retained Earnings | 346,120.95 |
| Net Income | 290,442.85 |
| Total Equity | 636,563.80 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 2,030,740.23 |

6:31 AM
01/06/12
Cash Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund Profit & Loss January through December 2011

| | Jan - Dec 11 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| Contributions | |
| Memorial - Weiland | 10.00 |
| Memorial - Terziski | 10.00 |
| Memorial - Hanson | 240.00 |
| Memorial - Sparks/Debolt | 250.00 |
| Memorial - Martin | 520.00 |
| Memorial - Kipper | 10.00 |
| Memorial - Quam | 2,320.00 |
| Memorial - McNicholas | 10.00 |
| Building Fund | 308,227.00 |
| Building Fund - Youth | 249.50 |
| Debt Reduction | 19,551.33 |
| Prairie Crafters | 5,323.00 |
| Total Contributions | 336,720.83 |
| Interest Income | 296.92 |
| Total Income | 337,017.75 |
| Expense | |
| Misc exp | 0.00 |
| Bank Service Charge | 1.12 |
| Interest - Building Loan | 46,573.78 |
| Total Expense | 46,574.90 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 290,442.85 |
| Net Income | 290,442.85 |

Financial Reports (cont)

6:26 AM

01/06/12

Accrual Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through December 2011

| | Jan - Dec 11 | Budget |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | |
| Income | | |
| Pledge Contributions | 387,900.00 | 414,000.00 |
| Un-Pledged Contributions | 45,488.00 | 30,500.00 |
| Misc. Contributions | 32,840.42 | 30,500.00 |
| Flowers | 2,508.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Interest | 893.54 | 1,000.00 |
| Total Income | 469,629.96 | 479,000.00 |
| Expense | | |
| Reconciliation Discrepancies | 0.00 | |
| Mission Ministry | | |
| Good Samaritan | 991.71 | 750.00 |
| Local Mission | 4,315.53 | 4,640.00 |
| ELCA NI Synod | 52,260.00 | 52,250.00 |
| Total Mission Ministry | 57,567.24 | 57,640.00 |
| Outreach Ministry | | |
| Outreach/Evangelism | 5,107.97 | 7,000.00 |
| Advertising | 4,711.07 | 8,000.00 |
| Misc. Outreach expenses | 162.66 | 1,000.00 |
| Total Outreach Ministry | 9,981.70 | 16,000.00 |
| Christian Education Ministry | | |
| Adult Discipleship | 2,295.92 | 3,000.00 |
| Confirmation | 3,500.02 | 1,125.00 |
| Sunday School | 2,208.77 | 3,500.00 |
| VBS | 3,206.09 | 3,000.00 |
| Small group ministries | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Retreats | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Misc. Christian Ed. | 115.80 | |
| Total Christian Education Ministry | 11,326.60 | 12,025.00 |
| Youth Ministry | | |
| HSYG | 801.49 | 2,500.00 |
| The Well | 1,113.33 | 1,500.00 |
| Youth (K-5) | 883.14 | 600.00 |
| Retreats | 0.00 | 1,250.00 |
| Misc. Youth expenses | 1,062.63 | |
| Total Youth Ministry | 3,860.59 | 5,850.00 |
| Music Ministry | | |
| 1st Service Music | 820.62 | 250.00 |
| 2nd Service Music | 329.19 | 250.00 |
| Childrens Music Ministry | 1,448.68 | 1,000.00 |
| Bell Choir | 976.04 | 1,000.00 |
| Adult Choir | 670.22 | 500.00 |
| Special Music | 2,079.95 | |
| Piano Maintenance | 345.00 | 500.00 |
| Bell Maintenance | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Licensing fees | 537.95 | 1,250.00 |
| Misc. Music expenses | 5,382.55 | 1,500.00 |
| Total Music Ministry | 12,840.20 | 6,500.00 |
| Worship Ministry | | |
| Audio Visual Ministry | 1,100.25 | 1,500.00 |
| Flowers | 2,828.01 | 3,000.00 |
| Altar Guild | 335.28 | 1,500.00 |
| Pastoral assistance | 1,200.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Worship supplies | 1,577.47 | 750.00 |
| Misc Worship expenses | 144.40 | |
| Total Worship Ministry | 7,185.41 | 7,750.00 |

Financial Reports (cont)

6:26 AM

01/06/12

Accrual Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Luthera Church Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through December 2011

| | Jan - Dec 11 | Budget |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Facilities | | |
| Cleaning service | 9,395.00 | 9,000.00 |
| Utilities | 9,784.94 | 14,300.00 |
| Waste removal | 1,218.28 | 1,000.00 |
| Insurance | 6,135.00 | 5,900.00 |
| Lawncare/Snow removal | 9,915.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Maint./Cleaning supplies | 65.85 | 1,250.00 |
| Fire system monitoring | 1,796.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Misc. Facilities expenses | 3,500.52 | 1,050.00 |
| Total Facilities | 41,810.59 | 39,000.00 |
| Office expenses | | |
| Office supplies | 10,701.32 | 8,000.00 |
| Office equipment | 1,198.91 | 750.00 |
| Web/software expenses | 2,139.62 | 750.00 |
| Postage | 2,006.82 | 1,750.00 |
| Dues & Subscriptions | 790.04 | 1,000.00 |
| Equipmental rental | 6,960.00 | 8,000.00 |
| Misc. Office expenses | 560.19 | 500.00 |
| Total Office expenses | 24,356.90 | 20,750.00 |
| Staffing Ministry | | |
| Pastor Salary | 45,712.52 | 45,075.00 |
| Pastor Housing Allowance | 32,000.00 | 32,000.00 |
| Lay Ministry Coord. | 16,067.94 | 16,068.00 |
| Youth Ministry Coord. | 34,278.06 | 34,278.00 |
| Director of Music | 35,630.63 | 39,388.00 |
| Accompanist | 1,000.00 | |
| Office Manager | 24,636.84 | 24,627.00 |
| Office Assistant | 8,033.91 | 8,034.00 |
| Director of Adult Education | 8,937.48 | 25,000.00 |
| Staff training/Con't Ed | 1,723.54 | 5,000.00 |
| Social Security | 9,570.28 | 11,365.00 |
| Pastor Health ins. & S.S. | 38,031.23 | 42,000.00 |
| Misc. Staff expenses | 2,713.09 | 2,000.00 |
| Total Staffing Ministry | 258,335.52 | 284,835.00 |
| Other Church expenses | | |
| Scholarships | 755.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Committee expenses | 3,571.24 | 3,000.00 |
| Automobile expense | 3,494.15 | 3,000.00 |
| Human resources | 1,994.50 | 2,500.00 |
| Bank/Legal expenses | 369.84 | 300.00 |
| Misc. expenses | 7,413.66 | 1,650.00 |
| Total Other Church expenses | 17,598.39 | 11,650.00 |
| Providing for the Future | | |
| Provision for Outreach | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Provision for Inreach | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Provision for Equipment | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Provision for Maintenance | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| Provision for Bldg. & Grounds | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| Total Providing for the Future | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| Payroll Expenses | 0.00 | |
| Total Expense | 459,863.14 | 477,000.00 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 9,766.82 | 2,000.00 |
| Net Income | 9,766.82 | 2,000.00 |

Financial Reports (cont)

MIF Loan Report

| | |
|---|------------------|
| MIF loan balance as of 1/1/11 | 1,674,901.02 |
| Principal reductions thru loan payments | 117,514.22 |
| 2011 Memorials | 3,370.00 |
| 2011 Prairie Crafters | 5,323.00 |
| Principal payment - General Fund | 75,000.00 |
| Debt Reduction | 19,551.33 |
| Building Fund - Youth | 249.50 |
| Building Fund - Principal only | 69,506.17 |
| | 290,514.22 |
| MIF Loan balance 12/31/2011 | 1,384,386.80 |
| Interest paid on loan for 2011 | 46,573.78 |

Pastor Mark Boster Loan

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Balance 01/01/2011 | \$4,000.00 |
| Balance 12/31/2011 | \$4,000.00 |

| Statistical Report | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Year | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| Baptized Members | 421 | 478 | 531 | 711 | 849 |
| Worship Attendance | 229 | 241 | 362 | 392 | 426 |
| Ministry Income | \$304,068 | \$321,632 | \$371,390 | \$422,028 | \$469,630 |
| Baptisms | | 21 Children 4 Adults | 8 Children, 3 Adults | 9 Children 4 Adults | 14 Children 6 Adults |
| Weddings | | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| Confirmations | | 6 | 2 | 9 | 11 |

2012 Ministry Reports

Youth & Family Ministries

LITTLE LAMBS

The Little Lambs program kicked off the year in September with a total of 21 students, that's double from last year! With our large number of students this year we have added Donna Brown to our staff, Donna comes everyday to help out during our learning center time. This year we have two different programs, 10 students in our Tuesday/Thursday program, and 11 students in our Wednesday program. During that time, we enjoy circle time, calendar and weather activities, math/language lesson, letter and letter sound recognition, snack, Bible stories, crafts, music, and other fun activities. These education and developmental activities help children develop a love for Bible stories and the knowledge that God loves us.

About the Teachers

- **Kristy Warnke** was an elementary school music teacher for 3 1/2 years and a substitute teacher for over 10 years for District 300. In addition she is a certified Musikgarten pre-school music teacher. She directed church children/adult vocal and handbell choirs for over 30 years and is currently directing the Confirmation Chime Choir at SOTP. Kristy lives in Del Webb with her husband. They have 2 grown daughters and a grandson. This is Kristy's third year teaching at Little Lambs.
- **Jill Gillming** graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Education. She has taught in the Huntley school district and as an aide for kindergarteners with special needs. She has also served as Director of Education at a Sylvan Learning Center. Jill lives in Huntley with her husband and two children. The Gillming family are charter members of Shepherd of the Prairie. This is Jill's third year teaching at Little Lambs
- **Donna Brown** has been a member of Shepherd of the Prairie for six years. Within that time she has volunteered or been involved with several ministries. Starting in the nursery she soon involved herself in teaching Sunday school (Spirit Alive at the time). She has also volunteered as Assisting Minister and Reader. For the past four summers' she has also been the Director for Vacation Bible School. Donna also enjoys spending time knitting shawls with the Prayer Shawl ministry and has recently joined Prairie Ringers. Donna has been married to Steve Brown for 12 years and they have a 7 year old son named Nate.

We invite everyone to come down to the preschool room to see the wonderful cabinet that Ferdie Kimminau built for us, it is so beautiful and useful we use it every day. The children love to walk up to the shelves so they can pull out their own favorite toys. Thank you Mr. Kimminau!

We will be starting our enrollment for the 2012 school year in early February. Children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old are accepted into our program. Enrollment is limited, so if you are interested in signing up your child or if you know someone who is interested, please contact Kristy Warnke at 847-669-3139 or gwarnke@sbcglobal.net.

We see the smiling faces on our students every week and feel the program has been a great success! With God's blessing, we'd like to see the program grow!

—*Kristy Warnke, Jill Gillming, Donna Brown*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Diana Reincke continues in her role as Sunday School Director for 2011. Over 100 preschool through 5th graders are enrolled in Sunday School. The same Sunday School curriculum is offered during both the 9am and 10:30 worship services. Preschool through 1st graders begin worship seated with their parents, and remain through the children's message with Pastor Mark. Afterward, they are directed by their teachers to their Sunday School classroom. 2nd through 5th graders attend Sunday School in their classroom for the full hour.

Sunday School is staffed by 16 teachers. Each teacher typically teaches about twice per month. There are also 4 teenage helpers who assist in the younger grades with more of the hands-on type of activities. A huge thank you to all the volunteers for their time and commitment to the SOTP youth!

Faithweaver continues to be used as the curriculum for the 2011-2012 school year. Faithweaver unites families by teaching the same Bible truth across ALL age levels. Each week, no matter which class is attended, all ages explore the same scripture. This facilitates wonderful family conversation, and unification. Lessons are designed to encourage faith development beyond Sunday so faith grows all week long.

Sunday School started something new and exciting this fall. Every 2nd through 5th grader was presented with their very own Bible. It is wonderful to be able to get a Bible in the hands of each of our youth. We hope to continue this program annually with each new 2nd grade class.

In 2012, Sunday School will continue to follow its theme of "Transforming Kids' Lives". We are always looking for helping hands to make a difference in the lives of the SOTP youth. I invite anyone having an interest in children and/or Sunday School to contact Diana Reincke 847-659-8699.

—*Diana Reincke*

Sunday School Director

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The theme for the summer of 2011 was called "Pandamania" by Group Publishing, Inc. There were plenty of pandas swinging from vines in and throughout the sanctuary, skateboarding pandas in the hallway...you name it! This was a theme meant for kids to hear and incorporate Jesus' teachings in a fun way. We had 250 children coming to hear the word each day at SOTP. What a blessing!

The staff of over 30 were ready to get the fun started in June. There were volunteers of all ages to guide each child station to station. There were 5 stations that the kids visited during their four mornings at VBS. The stations were Music, Interactive Bible Stories, Snack, Crafts and Games. Along with that we had over 20 children in the Pre-K class organized by Kristy Warnke. Kristy made sure that she also had stations available for our littlest children to experience the fun of VBS.

My hopes for next year is that the program will have nothing but growth. I hope that I can be of help to the next director of VBS, since choosing last summer that it would be my last year.

Peace!

—*Donna Brown*

Mission Ministries

GRAFTON FOOD PANTRY

Every month on the first Sunday we have faithfully supported the Grafton Food Pantry with our donations of food and money. The Pantry has about 200 clients that they serve each month. We also gave out complete dinners to our clients for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas in addition to our regular monthly service. It is a pleasure to take a very full van of donations to the pantry every month. We plan to continue this service in 2012. It would not be possible without your donations. Thank you so very much for all you do.

—*Alice Hallett*

MISSION TEAM

Mission Team Purpose Statement: Caring for God's children of all ages and places by identifying Mission Opportunities, encouraging and equipping SOTP members to actively make a difference in God's world.

What this means is that this team will look at opportunities for Mission work where SOTP is not currently involved, reinforce and provide support for those areas where SOTP has a presence. The Team will explore opportunities where we can make a difference, both locally and globally. We also strive to bring a level of awareness of what these needs are and the Agencies that look to address these needs.

We have been entrusted with budget dollars from the Congregation (one percent of the General Fund giving). Key areas where these monies have been used include LSSI, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Larkin Center, Grafton Food Pantry, Faith Lutheran Church in India (building program,) PADS and Prison Ministries. In 2011, this amounted to over \$4,300.

The Church Council has also authorized the offerings from Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas to be designated to various ministries. The Mission Team selected the following agencies as recipients: Faith in Action, ELCA (for the disaster in Japan), Northern Illinois Food Bank, Grafton Food Pantry and Augusta-Victoria Hospital in the Holy Land. This amounted to over \$13,000.

As mentioned, in addition to the work of the Mission Team, there are all types of Mission work that has taken place at SOTP. Prayer Shawl ministry, the Quilting program, Habitat for Humanity, the Youth Mission programs, PADS coordination, Food Pantry volunteers, etc. have all contributed to sharing the blessings that God has given to us with those less fortunate.

As we move forward, the Mission Team, as part of its vision, wants to increase the "Time" element of our mission effort and not just make it a "Financial" vehicle. The Exodus program is a good example of helping refugee families through donations, but also through a personal approach in physically helping these families get settled. Volunteers for PADS, Habitat for Humanity and Food Pantry are also examples of this.

The Team has discussed making options available for mission work, similar to what the Youth Mission trips have done. We are exploring possibilities of partnering with groups inside the church or with other churches to accomplish this. (If anyone is interested in such mission work, please let anyone on the Team know).

I would like to acknowledge the members of this Team for the dedication and joy they bring to this ministry. They are: Sandy Hupert, Theresa Molgren, Tammy Sabie, Corinne Neukirch, Sid Sorensen, Gregg Gillming, Mark Bidinger, Donna Kelly and Steve Legel. Special thanks to Patty Driscoll-Shaw for her wise counsel.

While the above list may look large, busy schedules, winter vacations and many agencies that badly need help, can leave us short-handed at times. We would welcome additional participation. If this area of ministry sparks your interest, please contact me or any member of the Team.

In closing, I cannot state enough the great generosity of this church. This is a time when many people are hurting. As Christ came to serve, so we too are sent into the world to serve.

In his name,

—*Jules Pelka*

PRAIRIE CRAFTERS

The Prairie Crafters have been very busy this year. We meet once a month but most of our work is done between meetings. Many others have helped at our sales to make them a success. We have turned in \$4546.50 which has been applied to the principle of our building fund.

We are already preparing for our next sale which will be the last two weekends in March before and after each church service.

—*Alice Hallett*

PRAIRIE POINTS QUILTERS

This is the first year we made over 100 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We are very proud of our accomplishment. We sent five quilts to Home of the Sparrow to be used as gifts for the residents. We also sent one quilt to the Holy Lands which was given away. Most of our supplies are donated and Thrivent has given us a \$300.00 donation which we use toward batting. We meet the first and third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at church. We are a social group with a very worthwhile mission. Come join us.

—*Carol Roth, Betty Zimmerman & Ann Lehman*

PRAYER MINISTRY

In September, Zigrida Bekeris stepped down as leader of the Prayer Ministry Team because of health reasons. Ten years ago, Ziggie and Pastor Ken McKnight began a phone chain for prayer requests. During these ten years, the number of people participating has risen to over 60. We've changed from phone calls to email communication, and we've added the Shepherd's Prayer Hour on Friday mornings.

Prayer requests are submitted on the yellow prayer request forms on the ushers' table, given to Renae Greene in the church office, or sent to Theresa Molgren. The requests and updates are sent via email to the 60-member prayer team. These emails include more specific information about the prayer needs. The names are published in the weekly prayer list. If the request is private, we pray but do not publish. Information from the prayer requests are shared with the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team.

On Friday morning at 10:00, the Shepherd's Prayer Hour meets in the church sanctuary. This is a small group of 6 people who meet to pray for all those on the prayer list and to pray for additional needs and blessings that come to our attention. This group includes Ziggie Bekeris, Helen Berry, Theresa Molgren, Phyllis Nordlof, Janice Shuff, and Noretta Walker. Any one is welcome to join us.

"Pray without ceasing . . ." I Thess. 5:17 is our motto, and is basic to our Christian faith. Prayer ministry doesn't take any special talents or skills. If you would like to receive the daily email prayer requests, contact Theresa Molgren at treenuss@prodigy.net.

—*Theresa Molgren*

Prayer Ministry Team

PRAYER SHAWLS

We have been very busy with our knitting and crocheting. We have made over 150 Prayer Shawls and given them to individuals that need a prayer and also to the Centrega Hospital where the chaplains give them out to patients that need our prayers. We have also made and donated 45 sweaters for Knit for Kids at World Vision who then sends them all over the world to people that need them. We pray over each Prayer Shawl; and sweater before they are given away.

This year we are beginning a class teaching knitting and crocheting on Thursday evenings to anyone that wants to learn, This will broaden the number of people that will be making the Prayer Shawls and sweaters so we are able to give out even more this year.

—*Alice Hallett*

Worship Ministries

AUDIO-VISUAL

Introduction – This was a very busy and successful year for the growing Audio Visual ministry. It is expected that the Audio Visual ministry of Shepherd of the Prairie will grow and need additional volunteers to join the Media Operators Group. It is also the recommendation of this committee that SOTP hire a part time Multimedia Technician to help prepare visual elements for worship, support special events, maintain audio & visual equipment and help steward the future plan of the media ministry.

Costs – Through sponsors and aided by SOTP funds, our A/V ministry acquired about \$7,000 of new and replacement equipment in 2011. Less than \$5,000 of this money came from SOTP operating fund; nevertheless, we estimate spending another \$5,000 in 2012 to upgrade our audio monitoring system, install another video camera and to secure additional wireless microphones that could be used for choir and dramatic presentations, along with other equipment and cabling needs.

Use of exemptions- Adam Adams was able to secure us a 24 channel audio mixing board from Mackie at no charge to SOTP.

Support Expectations – We received more requests for event support and worship presentation services than ever before in the history of SOTP in 2011. Our volunteer group was spread very thin! Pastor Mark has been assisting with the preparation of visual slides and audio equipment setup for worship and special events. Together our volunteer team along with “barrowed” staff support spends an average of 10 hours a week supporting the audio visual ministry and most people feel that more time could be spent on preparing Song show presentations for worship, supporting special events, maintaining the growing number of church A/V equipment assets, and being more innovative with the technology and communication tools our church is blessed with.

Administrative Appeals – Media technology is complex. Because of the skills needed it has been a challenge to find and/or train volunteers to help support this ministry. We are always in need of additional help. In any case, it is my opinion that this organization should no longer continue to rely on such a small number of volunteers and ask our Pastor to utilize his time by setting up A/V equipment. I recommend this organization consider hiring an A/V staff member to look after the A/V equipment and provide support for events at the church. This recommendation is largely based on the need for dependable worship support and the growing demands for high-tech communications from the ministries at SOTP.

Staffing Levels – Our goal from last year was to double the number of 8 active volunteer members. We came very close to this goal. Presently, the ministry is mostly run by volunteers aided by the input of staff members. There are about 14 active members of the A/V Ministry which include: Jim and Joan Rice, Walter Roth, Brian Rojas, Sid Sorensen, Jodi Dowell, Ferdie Kimminau, Mike Yndestad, Steve Conway, Tom Polzin, Ralph Wehnes, Henry Martin, Jim Marret and Deon the usher. Even with all these folks, there is not enough coverage to provide A/V support for the more than 200 worship services and events that take place at Shepherd of the Prairie each year.

Comparisons to previous years – this was a very demanding year for the Media Operators Group and the A/V Ministry. We are looking forward to meeting and exceeding the A/V needs of our church in 2012 by accomplishing even more to enhance the total worship experience in a manner that is inviting and warm to newcomers of all ages.

—*Michael Yndestad*

Acting MOG Chairman.

ALTAR GUILD

We are very fortunate to have wonderful members who take great care in preparing the Eucharist for all worship services. Guild members are trained in proper etiquette for set-up and take-down and cleaning of all the vessels. The linens are laundered by guild members and they make sure assistant minister robes are cleaned and pressed. Altar paraments are changed to reflect the colors of the liturgical calendar. We assist the minister and Worship Planning committee for any special needs for all services.

The members work in teams of two or three each month for set-up and clean-up. Bread for communion is baked by volunteers. Thanks to Kerry Miller for coordinating the bakers for the past year and to all the bakers. In 2012 our new coordinator will be Pat Fiorese.

The members set-up for baptisms. Thanks to Carol Lilla for making the embroidered baptismal napkin and Gretchen Lane for making the banner that each child receives on their baptismal day.

Taking orders for flowers for the Easter garden and poinsettias for Christmas are handled by our Guild. We decorate the Christmas tree with the hand-made Chrismons.

Thanks to Tom Polzin for installing a small sink in the kitchen for proper disposal of sacrificial wine.

Membership in the Altar Guild is open to all members of SOTP. We would love to welcome women and men as part of our membership. Thank you to all who serve so faithfully on Altar Guild

Respectfully submitted,
—*Susan Wehnes*
Chairman

FAITH CHEST MINISTRY

The Faith Chest Ministry provides a hand made personalized wooden chest for each person baptized into faith at our Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church.

The Faith Chest is intended to be a place where documents, mementos & keepsakes of one's journey to faith and adulthood can be stored.

The Faith Chest is presented by Pastor Mark immediately following the Baptismal Ceremony.

Currently the Faith Chests are being handcrafted by Chris Trodahl.

If you have any questions about the Faith Chest, please feel free to contact Chris Trodahl at 815-893-0641.

—*Chris Trodahl*

FLOWERS TO SHUT-INS

Any flowers that have been ordered for Sunday services and not wanted by the individual who ordered them are delivered to either someone in the hospital or who is ill at home. This is done by a member of this ministry.

—*Mary Trodahl*

WORSHIP GREETERS

This ministry is one that truly enables individuals to meet and greet current members and visitors prior to worship services at S.O.T.P. Anyone interested in helping in this ministry may contact me or our Lay Ministry Coordinator, who in turn will let me know if someone is willing to assist. This year we have had 10 new volunteers and we will be happy to add more names to the list. It usually involves just one Saturday or Sunday per month and it is not only rewarding to the Greeter but enables the members and/or visitors feel that this is definitely a warm congregation who cares for one another.

Respectfully Submitted,

—*Joanne Klínger*

Chairman

MARRIAGE MINISTRY

2011 Highlights:

- This ministry met with one couple to administer and review the "Prepare Enrich Assessment," and to pray with them in preparation for their future lives together.
- This ministry attempted to provide a Marriage Retreat covering "The Lutheran Course on Marriage" but there was not enough couples signed up.
- Established a recurring newsletter article "To Love and To Cherish" though not a regular submission was possible for this team, a few articles submitted and printed in the newsletter.

Planning: Continue meeting with couples on an as needed basis to administer and review the Prepare Enrich Assessment. Review the purpose and style of the newsletter article, modify if necessary. Work on an improved plan with Pastor Bill to put together another Marriage Retreat.

—*Rachael Yndestad*

USHERS

We as ushers have had quarterly meetings, discussed several items, and made the necessary decisions. I believe the decisions that were made helped improve the flow of the service, Thanks to all of the dedicated people who volunteer to usher. As of now I do believe that every thing is going smoothly.

—*Ferdie Kimminau*

Usher coordinator

WEDDING COORDINATOR

The wedding coordinator's responsibility is to work directly with the Pastor and with the couples preparing for marriage at SOTP. This includes making arrangements such as designating rooms the wedding party may use, coordinating use of facilities, and ensuring the wedding and building usage policies are understood and followed. I also have the pleasure of working with the wedding party during rehearsal so things run smoothly on their special day. There were 4 weddings at SOTP in 2011 and we look forward to many more in 2012.

—*Kara Burg*

WORSHIP PLANNING

This team has been assigned the task of enhancing the total worship experience in a manner that is reverent and orderly yet inviting and warm to newcomers of all ages. To do this, the team has added to its membership a number of persons already involved in the church's ministry.

The members are: Sandy Martin, Sue Wehnes, Ferdie Kimminau, Mary Conti, Marian Mesenbrink, Mike Yndestad, Carol Lilla, Carl Hupert, Jane McMullen, and the Council Liaison, Mike McCann.

The general duties of the team are to oversee the bell choirs, chime choirs, instrumentalists, vocal groups, ushers, altar guild, and banner makers. Flowers, church decorations, and the operation of the video and audio equipment are additional aspects of the team's responsibility

Throughout the year the team has made recommendations regarding purchases and maintenance of those areas as well as planning activities so as to avoid any "kinks" with conflicting schedules or priorities. Overcrowding, noise, communion bread/wafers, hymn selection, and cleanup have also been topics discussed and acted upon.

In the near future the Team will pursue ways of expanding the musical ministry of the congregation and emphasize refinements in the Audio/Visual components of all three services.

Submitted by,

—*Carl Hupert*

Chairman

Music Ministries

How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!

I am humbled and filled with joy as I reflect on the music ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie over the past several months as the new Director of Music and Worship.

With any change, large or small, there is always a transitional time and yes, we have experienced that here at SOTP. But we press on, knowing God has a plan for us. I continue in prayer daily, to ask God to help me lead and discern how to lead His people in worship. Thanks to all of you that have held our music ministry and myself in your prayers and continue to do so!!

To God Alone Be the Glory!

How exciting it is to be amongst so many talented leaders and servants.

We were delighted this fall to welcome Michael Waal (a.k.a. Mickey) as our main keyboard worship leader and choir accompanist! Michael brings over 30 years of church music experience brilliantly leading God's people in worship on organ and piano.

Currently in our music ministry we have the following groups:

Rejoice Worship Band

Currently we have put together 4 teams to lead our contemporary worship service at 10:30am every Sunday. These teams work very hard to lead God's people in praise and worship constantly preparing 8 to 10 songs per Sunday. We currently are being led by vocalists, piano, guitars, drums keyboard/synthesizer with the addition of violin, flute, saxophone and other instruments on occasion. We are always looking for more team members. Please prayerfully consider joining the band if you have the gift of singing or instrumental music. Contact Jane McMullen if interested.

Shepherd's Voices-- Adult Choir

...has averaged 25 to 30 in size. We welcomed several new people in our Christmas Choir in December. Thanks to all singers who have faithfully come to rehearsals and given their best. We have sung great music with and without vocal and instrumental soloists, and great fellowship together. In January, we will be starting a new schedule, with longer, but fewer rehearsals per month. The hope is to attract new people that have a desire to sing but just cannot commit to every week. In March we will have an Easter Choir and invite more folks to join for 4 rehearsals and sing Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

My goal is to integrate this choir with singers of all ages in order to better lead God's people at our 9am Traditional worship services on Sunday mornings. Please prayerfully consider joining us, we welcome all new members enthusiastically!!

*We currently have 51 people ringing handbells and choir chimes in our music ministry.
All bell choirs are directed by volunteers!*

Prairie Ringers - Adult Handbell Choir

The Prairie Ringers helped to lead worship services at SOTP, 11 times in 2011, including the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service. We had to end in March, last spring, because of the number of scheduling conflicts, but, we started strong, again, in the fall, with 6 new members! We currently have 12 ringers and 5 willing substitutes for us to call on.

We provided treats and set up/cleaned up the Sun. morning coffees twice in 2011.

We were blessed by the talents and willingness of Liss Kundich and Carol Roth, who made lovely new black, floor length table covers for our 4 bell tables.

We rehearse on Thurs. evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, in the sanctuary, Sept. through May.

—*Kristy Warnke*

Director

Spirit Ringers Handbell Choir—Youth Bells from 6th grade through 12th grade

Our Spirit ringers have provided many musical offerings throughout the year in worship and will continue to have a great role in our worship services. We have 15 “energetic, funny, bright, talented” ringers in our groups. Our rehearsals are filled with hard work, fun and great fellowship. This is truly a “bell family”, these kids have bonded beyond my wildest dreams and the Lord continues to bless all of us in so many ways!

Jubilate Ringers (pronounced---”You- bee-la-tae”) beginning handbells 3rd -6th grade

This group has 10 ringers with space for a few more. The Jubilate ringers have provided many musical offerings throughout the year and also on occasion have accompanied our chime choir.

In order to be successful in this group we require basic music reading skills for each ringer. Please email Jane McMullen if your child is interested in joining this wonderful group of little ringers.

Joy Ringers—Chime Choir 1st grade thru 3rd or 4th grade

This is the very beginning of our bell/chime program. There are currently 12 children in our chime choir. We teach very basic music reading skills and promote service and fellowship, and a real sense of what it is like to be in an ensemble. This group is directed by Denise James who has the patience of a saint and has done a really nice job teaching these children the very basics of music and fun and fellowship in a choir.

We currently have 4 children/youth vocal choirs at SOTP!

Cherub Choir—for children grades PK-3 thru Kindertgarten

...currently has 14 members and meets on Tuesday afternoons from 5 to 5:25pm. The children have provided many musical offerings sometimes using bells and other rhythm instruments as well as songs with great actions throughout the year in worship and will continue to share their gifts in the future. This group is directed by Sandy Martin who has done a wonderful job teaching the love of Jesus through song with our littlest singers!

Treasures Choir—for children in 1st and 2nd grades

The Treasures group is our newest group which we added in the fall of 2011. This group meets on Tuesday afternoons at 4:30-5 p.m. , they currently have 11 members. The Treasures have provided multiple musical offerings for our worship services and also participated in the CMM Christmas musical. This group is directed by Annette Boster who has been a true inspiration to these children teaching them the importance of Praising and serving our awesome Lord through the God given gift of singing.

Blessings Choir—for children in grades 3rd thru 5th

Blessings choir also meets Tuesdays, from 5:30-6 p.m. They currently have 12 members. The Blessings have provided multiple musical offerings for our worship services and also participated in the CMM Christmas musical. Many members also joined the Youth choir in participating in a blended choir for the Peder Eide concert. This group is also directed by Annette Boster.

In addition to all these groups, we also have many small instrumental ensembles who have led worship at our 9:00 service. These ensembles have included multiple combinations of: clarinet, flute, violin, cello, trumpet, trombone, baritone and saxophone.

I would also like to heartily thank the sound and media ministry for their patience and perseverance in striving to get the most out of our worship experience through multi media. Mike Yndestad and his team continue to work hard in adding new things to enhance our worship. This team also spends much time setting up for worship and oversees the maintenance of all of the equipment we currently use in worship.

A few additional highlights of 2010 were: In June and August we formed an all women's choir who beautifully sang "This Is" My Father's World" and a men's chorus who sang a rousing rendition of the Spiritual, "Every Time I Feel The Spirit" on Pentecost Sunday. All Saints Sunday, a Dixie Land band was formed to lead "When the Saints Go Marching In" for both Sunday services.

The possibilities are endless! I am excited to see where God is leading the Music Ministry of SOTP. Heartfelt thanks to all who have served and who continue in our mission to make Christ known and honor and praise His Holy name.

—*Jane McMullen*

Director of Music and Worship

Fellowship Ministries

SOTP BOWLING LEAGUE

Our bowling league was established to give church members the opportunity to get together socially while doing something they like to do. We meet only once a month (the 3rd Friday) at Brunswick Zone on Randall Rd. in Algonquin at 6:00 P.M. This is a FUN league. there is no requirement to be a good bowler. It is open to all ages 18 to 100, men & women, married or single. Teams consist of 4 people, and we bowl 3 games. The cost is low, and a great way to have some fun, get together with friends, make new friends, get some exercise, and only commit to 1 night a month from September thru May.

We are always looking for new members to be a regular or substitute bowler. call me at (847) 659-1331 or E-mail me at schmidtw12@ comcast.net.

—*Wayne Schmidt*
League Secretary

CARING CARD

The Caring Card Ministry has sent cards to shut-ins, new members, confirmands, graduates and those baptized. We see that cards for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Veterans Day are sent to those servicemen and their families in the Armed Forces listed in our church bulletin.

—*Helen Berry and Elaine Neukirch*

HELPING HANDS/FUNERAL MEAL

The Helping Hands ministry hosted several successful events in 2011 in addition to its primary function of funeral luncheons. The Easter sunrise brunch and Mitch Corso's going away party are most notable. The plan for 2012 is to add more leaders and reevaluate the future focus for this ministry within our congregation. We are seeking new leaders and members and encourage anyone interested to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Carol Lilla*

OUTREACH/WELCOME

The Outreach Team continues to staff volunteers in the Welcome Center at all worship services to provide a warm welcome for first time visitors through the Mugging Ministry.

The Outreach Team organized the Shepherd of the Prairie booth at the Huntley Expo. We created a "Welcome" brochure featuring pictures of many of the ministries offered at SOTP. Our booth included games, prizes, and information about the fellowship and ministries of our church family. The children enjoyed playing the BOZO bucket game and received prizes and coloring sheets of Jesus with the children. We shared our love for Jesus by inviting the community to attend VBS this summer.

Easter Sunday at SOTP was filled with excitement and songs of joy. Each person attending worship received a key chain reminding us that *Christ is Our Hope*, Romans 6:5. We also placed signs at the exits of our church; they read, "You are now entering the mission field". We hope they will be a gentle reminder to everyone as they leave our church to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus love and resurrection.

This same message is painted on the wall between the exit doors of the church. The wording is placed in a prairie setting and shows our path as we leave worship and go into the community to tell others about Jesus. We thank Pam Perrott for painting this lovely message for us.

Summer was a busy time for us. With help from the members of SOTP, we assembled a float for the Huntley Memorial Day Parade. We all had a great time as we marched down Main Street. We continued to Reach-Out to the community as we participated in the Huntley All American Family Fun Day in Huntley Towne Park. Our booth included information about SOTP worship services and ministries of our church, the children loved the face painting, we also had games and prizes. Fourth of July weekend is a great time to be outdoors and have fun with friends and family. Both events were great opportunities for our church family to work together to spread the Good News of Jesus love to our community. The community can see what a great church family we have as we work together to tell others about Jesus.

Since we have been encouraging those who worship at SOTP to be a good neighbor to the Huntley Library and support their ongoing newspaper recycling project, the collection bins have been full and the library is receiving the maximum amount of money for each bin. This fundraiser supports many programs and activities sponsored by the library.

The Outreach Team is very excited about the new SOTP recycle bags! The bags feature our new SOTP logo and can be used for shopping, carrying books, crafts, or as a gift bag filled with gifts for a friend. The bags were available the first weekend in November at the craft fair for only \$2.00 each.

The Outreach Team wanted to share the warmth and love of the Christmas season. Each person attending the Christmas services received a lovely magnet featuring God's beautiful creation. We hope it is a gentle reminder each day to thank God for the many blessings he has given to each of us.

The main purpose of the Outreach Team is to invite people looking for a church home to worship at SOTP. Please continue to look for pictures in the Neighbor's Section of the Northwest Herald Newspaper featuring events of fellowship as we reach out to our community.

—*Barb Hoch*

PRAIRIE GUIDES

Prairie Guides is a unique social ministry in which members of the congregation serve as mentors or friends in welcoming new members to the church. During 2011, the leadership of the Prairie Guide ministry was passed onto two individuals new to ministry leadership, Amy Brittain and Lisa Sova. Joan Marett graciously bestowed her knowledge regarding all things Prairie Guides before sending us out on our own, for which we are extremely grateful. Thank you Joan for all your work that made the transition easier and smoother for all involved! As leaders of Prairie Guides, we attend each new member gathering, plan and attend the new member welcome the following weekend, pair each new member/family with a Prairie Guide and assemble a bulletin board of pictures to welcome new members. During 2011, Shepherd of the Prairie welcomed new members in February, April, June, August and November. We have greatly enjoyed this experience, especially getting to know not only new members, but also our wonderful Prairie Guides!

We are always looking for new Prairie Guides to join us in welcoming new members to the church. The expectations are simple. Prairie Guides attend the New Member Welcome (the weekend following the New Member Gathering) to meet and greet their new members. Guides also greet their new members at church services and help to introduce them to others in the church or answer any questions. If you enjoy meeting new people, this is the ministry for you. Please contact either of us if you are interested in welcoming new members to our church!

—*Amy Brittain and Lisa Sova*

SENIOR SHEPHERDS

Senior Shepherds is a fellowship group for all seniors in Shepherd of the Prairie. It offers an opportunity to meet new people as well as spending time with those you already know. We try to do different things and are always open for suggestions.

This year we did the following:

- Feb Pot luck dinner and game night at the church
- April We went to see the Dancing Horse Show in Delevan, WI.
- June- We toured the Chicago Botanical Gardens and had lunch there.
- Nov Pot luck dinner and game night at church.

Two other planned activities had to be canceled due to lack of interest.

Carol Gerhardt has kindly agreed to chair this group for 2012. Please give her your support.

—*Betty Zimmerman*

SPARKPLUGS

The purpose of the Sparkplugs is to experience Christian fellowship in a small group with an interest in classic cars, sport cars and motor sports.

In addition to regular meetings, the Sparkplugs were involved in the following activities and events:

- Participated in the Ministry Fair
- Made available to Youth and Family Ministries AT&T's acclaimed documentary "It Can Wait" featuring stories of real individuals whose lives have been adversely affected by texting while driving. If you would like to show the DVD to your family or ministry group, please contact Bob.
- Attended a Huntley Culver's Cruise Night
- Participated in Elgin Cruise Night which included a drive through the streets of downtown before parking the cars in the display area
- Conducted an air pressure and tire tread check in May after both services. Several members had their tires inspected and set to the proper pressure

If you have an interest in cars and would like to learn more about the Sparkplugs, please contact Bob Malm at (847) 695-0368.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Bob and Carolyn Malm*

WELCA

2011 was another busy year for Shepherd of the Prairie's WELCA Unit.

April gathered women for their annual Spring Retreat, "Many Hands, Many Hearts, Many Voices". Marilyn Ward from Storybook Project of LSSI spoke on behalf of prison ministry. Daniel Driscoll-Shaw shared his experience with Interfaith Team's Ministry visiting immigrant detainees. An afternoon closing worship service was led by Pastor Boster with Pastor Diane Dardon, NIU Campus Ministry, as featured speaker. Expenses were \$250 for speakers and donations made were soft-covered children's books for prison ministry.

"The Language of Flowers" was hosted by our Green Thumbs in May during the annual meeting and election of officers for 2011-2012. Officers are Donna Sorensen and Judy Spencer, co-chairs, Frances Wilson, Secretary, and Barbara Auwerda, Treasurer.

Summer studies continued with monthly fellowship opportunities using Lutheran Women Today materials for discussion.

Then WELCA began its 2011-2012 programs with its General Meeting on September 24, 2011, following breakfast and annual general meeting. Speaker Linda Bushkofsky, Director of Women's ELCA explained the uses for the THANKSOFFERINGS.

WELCA members were invited to a Coffee Klatch on October 29th to hear speaker Joy Martin of Home of the Sparrow telling about their needs. Members decided to give gift card donations and quilts from Prairie Point Quilters to Home of the Sparrow during the December meeting.

November brought the Holiday Craft Fair on the 4th, 5th and 6th. Monies made were donated to the church with the purpose of being put toward reducing the principal on the mortgage.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our Holiday Heritage Potluck so successful in December. Our guest, Joy Martin, from The Home of the Sparrow, was presented with a generous collection of gift certificates, 5 lovely quilts from our Quilters, hand-crocheted winter hats made by Gretchen Lane, and a \$59 donation from Outreach Ministry. Our own GEMS, along with their mothers, and Carol Waxenberg as Katie Luther, entertained us with a special peek into the Luther Kitchen on Christmas Eve Afternoon.

WELCA is planning to dedicate Thankofferings to WELCA on the last Sunday in February, 2/26/2012, in honor of Bold Women's Day. Those who have the December GATHER magazine might look at page 37 to see how ELCA distributes the monies. Others can find it on the WELCA bulletin board.

The Jack Frost outing will be held on Saturday, February 4th at noon at the church. It will be a day of fun, food, and fellowship and a chance to trade in some of the winter doldrums for reminders of warmer weather to come.

The WELCA retreat for the women of the church will be held on April 14th, presented by Donna Kelly, who has almost completed her studies to become a deaconess. She will have much to share with us. We have a very special guest, The Reverend Dorothy Symonds, visiting that day from the chaplaincy of Centegra Hospital. A number of us have heard her speak and it was a privilege. We will have a light breakfast at 9, followed by our programs, lunch will be a box lunch, and we will continue until about 2 p.m.

Our service ministries are supported with free-will offerings and are dispersed according to the group's by-laws discretion. Minimal organizational monies are reserved for the following year's projects. 112 quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief by our Quilters in November of 2011. Prayer shawls continue to be sent far and wide as they embrace those who need prayers and comfort.

Our Friendship Circles continue to meet every 3rd Thursday of the month for the GATHER study of Mark supplemented by Pastor Waxenberg's Study of Mark during each Service on Sundays, Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings. The Monday afternoon Friends Bible Study continues with the study of the Parables. Monthly groups meet for Chatter's Book Club and Scrapbooking.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Frances Wilson, Secretary*

FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY

ATTENTION LADIES! Friends Bible Study meets every Monday afternoon from 12:30-2:00 p.m. at the church. We are studying from the book "*Parables, The Greatest Stories Ever Told*" by John White.

The parables illustrate some of Jesus' most important teachings. Jesus was a supremely gifted teacher. Accustomed to preaching to a crowd with a wide range of understanding and attitudes, he based each parable on the common, everyday events that made up first-century life - lost money, sheep and shepherds, cruel creditors. This guide introduces you to several of Jesus parables and their application for today. Please join us and have "ears to hear" what the Lord is saying to you through them.

We are having fun studying the Bible and getting to know each other better. You are invited to join us at any time!

For more information, please contact Barb Hoch at 847-669-6652.

A Friend is a gift you give yourself! Please plan to join us and make new friends!

—*Barb Hoch*

Property Ministries

GREEN THUMBS

This year was a year of mostly maintenance. We weeded around the building and planted the planters for each season.

The highlight of 2011 for the “Green Thumb'ers” was establishing a routine for maintaining the church yard and planters so that the appearance was neat and appealing. And, this routine also included adding new plantings around the church building. We plan on continuing this effort for as long as needed.

Sandy Scalise has taken the lead and has kept communication with the property committee and has worked with them in caring for the natural areas surrounding the church, ending the season with a controlled burn. Next year we will continue the planting of the planters and hope to add a little color to the beds in front of the church. Also we hope to continue to keep the weeds and the watering in check.

The challenge in this type of project is always the weather, but as we all know, that is entirely God's will. We do our best to work within the environment provided by God.

Finally, we are always looking for some additional help in this ministry. We hope that anyone interested in helping to keep the property neat, clean and appealing will contact us. Volunteers would be very much appreciated.

—*Donna Schnepff & Sandy Scalise*

SPACE AND FACILITY PLANNING

The Space and Facility Planning Team began its ministry for SOTP with our first meeting on July 11, 2011. The primary purpose of our ministry is to evaluate the short and long term building needs of SOTP. This could be accomplished by, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Communicate information with the congregation, perhaps in monthly newsletter
- Fact finding missions. Interviewing key members of the ministry teams at SOTP
- Communicate and explore boundaries with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund representative, Pat Dever
- Possibly open communication with the architect, Todd Carlson
- Communicate with Finance committee on key ideas/suggestions
- Prepare and communicate findings with congregation during Annual Meeting
- Prioritize and identify short and long term building/project goals
- Review floor plans of building to consider possible expansion ideas

Bob Zimmerman detailed to the committee the history behind the planning and building of SOTP. Pat Dever, our SOTP mortgage liaison, was invited to and attended the August 8th combined Space and Facility Planning Team and Finance Team meeting. As a result of this meeting, the Space and Facility Planning Team will begin a fact finding mission consisting of a series of surveys to mission team leaders to evaluate past, present, and future needs/concerns for Space Needs at SOTP.

We are in the infancy stages of our service to the congregation, and we look forward to our future findings that God has in store for Shepherd of the Prairie.

Committee members:

—*Adam Adams, Deb Hansen, Dave Lorenzo, Bob Zimmerman*

Administrative Support Ministries

MINISTRY DATA COORDINATOR

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY MINISTRY

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Memorial Fund Report 2011

The purpose of this committee is to record and acknowledge all gifts received from our members and friends of SOTP. Unless otherwise specified all monies received are allocated to the Building Fund. Family wishes for other purposes will be considered. Gifts may be made to SOTP in memory of loved ones; in celebration of a special occasion; or to honor individuals.

In 2011 the church received memorials totaling \$2890.00 for the Building Fund.

The memorials were received in loving memory of the following:

- Tim Martin
- Judy Quam
- Jonette Jepsen
- Lynn McNichols
- Joe Weiland
- Nick Terziski
- Al Litwin

In addition \$280.00 was received for the Good Samaritan Fund in loving memory of Connie Hansen Meyer.

-Susan Wehnes

BULLETIN ASSEMBLY

Please help us with our **weekly Bulletin Assembly**. Assembly requires about 1-1/2 hours once a month. Two volunteers are scheduled for Thursday morning between 9:00 and 11:00 am You can sign up with your spouse, a friend or meet a new one. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Crossroads. For questions, call Donna Cygan at (847)961-6828.

—Donna Cygan

Congregation Support Ministries

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resource Committee in 2011 was tasked by the church council to create and fill a position for Director of Adult Education. A job description was developed, written, advertised and interviews conducted. We are pleased that Pastor Bill Waxenberg joined our staff in September of 2011. Also in 2011, Mitch Corso, unexpectedly, resigned his position as Director of Music. An extended replacement search was conducted and Jane McMullen was chosen to take over the music department at Shepherd of the Prairie. Also in 2011, Mike Waal was added to the staff as pianist/leader within the music department. Other duties of the HR committee during the year included security checks for staff as well as continual updating the Shepherd of the Prairie Policy and Procedure Manual for all staff members.

—*John Boehler*

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Mutual Ministry is a small group of people who meet monthly with the Pastor Mark to provide a safe and confidential environment for him to share new ideas, blessings and concerns he may have about his ministry at SOTP. This group also supports the pastor by making sure he has good work and family balance, he takes his vacation and is attending continuing education opportunities. Each year Mutual Ministry prepares and distributes a survey to the staff and a representative sampling of the congregation on the pastor's performance to be used as a part of his annual performance evaluation. This group also helps Pastor Mark establish meaningful goals at the beginning of each year. Mutual Ministry members are also available to the congregation for feedback or concerns specifically about the pastor or his ministry.

The Mutual Ministry team is made up of five members serving in staggered three year terms; one member is a Council Liaison. The current team members are Rebecca Fulcer (Council Liaison), Mike Hoch, Grant Jahr, Jessica Panella (Char-person) and Sara Wolf. Grant Jahr is rolling off this year and a new member will be added.

If there are any questions about this group please contact one of the representatives or Pastor Mark.

Prayerfully submitted,

—*Jessica Panella*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominees for positions for 2012 at Shepherd of the Prairie are as follows:

CHURCH COUNCIL (3-Year Term)

- Devin Burg - 2nd three year term
- Kathy McGuine - 1st three year term
- Wayne Schmidt - 1st three year term

AUDIT

- Jim Henley

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES (Synod Convention, June 15 & 16, Rock Island, IL)

- Marian Mesenbrink
- Mike Yndestad

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2012

- Jerry Warnke - *Outgoing Council*
- Steve Brown - *Outgoing Council*
- Ralph Wehnes
- Jodi Dowell
- Jim McGuine
- Sandy Hupert

A special thanks to those who served on this Committee—Carol Lilla, Dick Larrison, Donna Sorensen, Gregg Gillming and John Arneson.

Respectfully submitted,
—*Jules Pelka*

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee met several times during 2011. The primary function was planning and overseeing the 2012 commitment program. Our commitment program was designed with the probability we would receive responses from at least 92% of our membership indicating that they would or would not pledge.

As of the end of December, 81% have responded and that leaves 67 households that haven't responded either way. We also had planned 4 temple talks prior to Commitment Weekend covering various aspects of SOTP. By the end of December we had received for the General Fund 206 pledges for \$404,175.00 and for the Building Fund 168 pledges for \$222,517.00. Both figures are slightly below last year's totals.

Dennis was able to design an on-line pledge link that will be available during all of 2012. So far 39 households have used it for their response.

Last year the Debt Reduction green envelope was introduced. During 2011 over \$20,000.00 was contributed using the green envelope that will save us over \$14,000.00 in interest. We are also listing the amount of our building and land mortgage as well as the pay off date in the monthly newsletter.

For the year 2011 though the generous contributions of our Congregation along with excess from last year, our mortgage principal was reduced by over \$450,000.00, and the pay off date was moved forward 4 years and 8 months.

We are considering offering a Charitable Giving workshop in late spring. We are also encouraging the use of Simply Giving, our on line electronic funds transfer program. Presently 35 households are enrolled in the program.

Also, I want to thank the members that volunteered to be offering contribution counters. They spend 2-3 hours each week to make sure our contributions are counted and distributed to the proper accounts

Respectfully submitted,
—*Ralph Wehnes*

Stewardship Committee Chairman

Financial Report

2012 Budget

| SOTP Budget 2012 | Budget 2012 | Actual 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Pledge contributions | 415000 | 387900.00 |
| Un-Pledged contributions | 37500 | 45488.00 |
| Misc. Contributions | 38900 | 32840.42 |
| Flowers | 3000 | 2508.00 |
| Interest income | 600 | 893.54 |
| Total Income | 495000 | 469629.96 |
| Mission Ministry | | |
| ELCA NI synod 11% | 53900 | 52260.00 |
| Local mission 1% | 4900 | 4315.53 |
| Good Samaritan | 750 | 991.71 |
| | 59550 | 57567.24 |
| Outreach Ministry | | |
| Outreach/Evangelism | 8000 | 5107.97 |
| Advertising | 6000 | 4711.07 |
| Misc. Outreach expenses | 1000 | 162.66 |
| | 15000 | 9981.70 |
| Christian Education Ministry | | |
| Adult Discipleship | 4000 | 2295.92 |
| Confirmation | 1500 | 3500.02 |
| Sunday school | 3500 | 2208.77 |
| VBS | 3500 | 3206.09 |
| Small group ministries | 400 | 0.00 |
| Retreats | 1000 | 0.00 |
| Misc. Christian Ed. | 0 | 115.80 |
| | 13900 | 11326.60 |
| Youth Ministry | | |
| HSYG (DUIJ) | 2500 | 801.49 |
| The Well (Kool Christians Kids) | 1500 | 1113.33 |
| Youth (K-5) | 600 | 883.14 |
| Retreats | 1250 | 0.00 |
| Misc. Youth expenses | 1000 | 1062.63 |
| | 6850 | 3860.59 |
| Music Ministry | | |
| 1st Service music | 250 | 820.62 |
| 2nd Service music | 250 | 329.19 |
| Adult bell Choir | 1000 | 1448.68 |
| Childrens Music Ministry | 1000 | 976.04 |
| Adult Choir | 1000 | 670.22 |
| Special Music | 0 | 2079.95 |
| Piano Miantenance | 500 | 345.00 |
| Bell maintenance | 250 | 250.00 |
| Licensing fees | 750 | 537.95 |
| Misc. Music expenses | 3000 | 5382.55 |
| | 8000 | 12840.20 |
| Worship Ministry | | |
| Flowers | 3000 | 2828.01 |
| Altar guild | 1500 | 335.28 |
| AV ministry | 1500 | 1100.25 |
| Pastoral assistance | 1000 | 1200.00 |
| Worship supplies | 750 | 1577.47 |
| Misc. Worship expenses | 0 | 144.40 |
| | 7750 | 7185.41 |

Financial Report (cont)

2012 Budget (cont)

| SOTP Budget 2012 | Budget 2012 | Actual 2011 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Facilities | | |
| Cleaning service | 7200 | 9395.00 |
| Utilities | 16000 | 9784.94 |
| Waste removal | 1100 | 1218.28 |
| Lawncare/snow removal | 7600 | 9915.00 |
| Maintenance/Cleaning supplies | 1200 | 65.85 |
| Fire system monitoring | 1500 | 1796.00 |
| Misc Facilities expenses | 0 | 3500.52 |
| | 34600 | 35675.59 |
| Office expenses | | |
| Office supplies | 8000 | 10701.32 |
| Office equipment | 800 | 1198.91 |
| Web/software expenses | 1500 | 2139.62 |
| Telephone expense | 1900 | |
| Postage | 1905 | 2006.82 |
| Dues & subscriptions | 1000 | 790.04 |
| Equipment rental | 7500 | 6960.00 |
| Misc. Office expenses | 500 | 560.19 |
| | 23105 | 24356.90 |
| Staffing Ministry | | |
| Pastor salary | 81300 | 77712.52 |
| Lay Ministry Coord. | 16550 | 16067.94 |
| Youth Ministry Coord. | 35306 | 34278.06 |
| Director of Music | 30375 | 35630.63 |
| Accompianst | 12000 | 1000.00 |
| Tech Support Manager | 25366 | 24636.84 |
| Office manager | 8275 | 8033.91 |
| Director of Adult Education | 32825 | 8937.48 |
| Staff training.Con't ed | 4000 | 1723.54 |
| Social security | 12048 | 9570.28 |
| Pastor health insurance & S.S. | 40000 | 38031.23 |
| Misc staff expenses | 2500 | 2713.09 |
| | 300545 | 258335.52 |
| Other Church expenses | | |
| Scholarships | 1200 | 755.00 |
| Committee expenses | 3000 | 3571.24 |
| Insurance | 6300 | 6135.00 |
| Automobile expenses | 3000 | 3494.15 |
| Human resources | 2500 | 1994.50 |
| Bank/Legal expenses | 400 | 369.84 |
| Misc expenses | 1000 | 7413.66 |
| | 17400 | 23733.39 |
| Providing for the future | | |
| Provision for Outreach programs | 750 | 2000.00 |
| Provision for Inreach programs | 550 | 2000.00 |
| Provision for Equipment | 1000 | 2000.00 |
| Provision for Maintenance | 3000 | 4500.00 |
| Provision for Bldg. & Grounds | 3000 | 4500.00 |
| | 8300 | 15000.00 |
| | 495000 | 459863.14 |
| Net Income | 0 | 9766.82 |

