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January 2018

Dear Good Shepherd Members,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, whose peace passes all understanding and in whom all things are made new. We have finished 2017, which has been full of progress for Good Shepherd:

- A new Council took office at the end of June. Susan Fickert moved from Council At Large to our Council Secretary. Larry Gustafson and Andrew Leach were elected as members at large. We also appointed Joe Ackerman to Susan's vacant at large position. Glenn Kraft joined Council as President-elect.
- The WHIRL efforts succeeded in developing programs in in Worship, Healing, Involvement, Relationships and Leadership (WHIRL).
 - Established "*Cancer – Now What?*" along with revitalized our Stephens Ministry program, training several new Stephens Ministry members
 - Hired a new Contemporary Worship Leader
 - Kicked off two new Relationship efforts, Brews n Hymns and Father Figures, along with cataloging our small groups
- Reinvigorated our efforts at developing future leaders in the congregation
- We ran a successful Capital Campaign; Go to Grow. Achieving just shy of our initial goal of \$ 2,000,000.
- Our average weekly attendance in 2017 was 469 and we added 76 new members.
- The Feed My Starving Children taskforce achieved over 850,000 meals pack for the children of Haiti. This is our 11th year of continued accomplishment and service.
- In fulfillment of our Mission, we participated a wide variety of service activities and mission projects, too numerous to mention here – but please read the individual committee and ministry team reports in this document.
- We completed the renovation, or remake, of the church kitchen. Please be sure to check it out. A new handicap entry was installed on the north door of the sanctuary level. New speakers were installed in the Sanctuary in time for Easter. We replaced old gutters with new that have larger capacity. All the doors in the lower level were varnished.
- Our Pastors and our Ministry teams (in particular: Children, Youth, Worship and Music) continued to provide outstanding service and leadership in our

- collective worship life. We are in debt to all who serve in our Worship Services.
- There is much to accomplish in 2018. We must not lose sight of our mission: "Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love".

Here are my hopes and goals for Good Shepherd in 2018:

- Continue to grow membership and worship attendance
- Continue our efforts to improve all our worship services
- Increase annual giving to support our vibrant ministry
- Adopt a strategic plan with achieve measurable goals
- Support our Mission with our time, talent and treasure

Realizing that we will undoubtedly encounter challenges and wonderful joys at GSLC in 2018, I end with this prayer:

Lord, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what You want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and regret of the past, so that we might live in peace with one another now, and forever. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Christ,
 Jim Anderson,
 President GSLC Council

<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL</p> <p>Jim Anderson, President Joyce Candela, Vice President Susan Fickert, Secretary Jim Brooks, Treasurer Larry Gustafson, Council at Large Glenn Kraft, Council at Large (Pres. Elect) Emily Horning, Council at Large Joe Ackerman, Council at Large Sue Kerber, Council at Large</p>	<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love Congregational Meeting - Annual Meeting – Jan. 28, 2018</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer 2. Verification of Quorum 3. Approval of Agenda and Mid-Year Congregational Meeting Minutes- June 4, 2017 4. 2017 Church Progress 5. Strategic Plan Update 6. New Business <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Presentation and Approval of 2018 Operating Budget 7. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
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Minutes from Congregation Meeting - February 5, 2017

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
 - a. President Jim Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.
 - b. Pastor Wolf opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Verification of Quorum
 - a. Quorum was verified with 113 members present.
3. Approval of Agenda and 2016 Mid-Year Minutes
 - b. Dave Zahller moved to approve, 2nd by Dave Johnson
 - i. Motion passed unanimously
4. WHIRL Planning and Goals Update
 - a. Pastor Wolf reviewed the five areas, the leaders, committee and staff links and progress to date. (See the attachment for details.)
5. New Business
 - a. Presentation and Approval of 2017 Operating Budget – Jim Brooks
 - i. Jim gave a review of the 2016 income and expenses, the current debt and cash position of the church.
 - ii. 2017 income projection and expense budget was presented by Jim Brooks and Jim Anderson explained why Building Blocks was changed to a Limited Liability Corporation.
 - 1) Beginning in 2018 the change will reduce the church's health care costs significantly since the Building Blocks staff will be counted as employees of the Building Blocks LLC which allows Good Shepherd to be defined as a small organization which reduces the out-of-pocket costs for health insurance.
 - iii. See the attachment for the financial report details.
 - iv. Steve Christiansen moved to accept the 2017 Budget and Dave Zahller seconded the motion and discussion began.
 - v. Steve Christiansen Called the Question to end discussion and the motion to end discussion passed unanimously.
 - vi. The motion to accept the 2017 Budget was accepted unanimously.
 - b. Election of the Nominating Committee
 - c. Recommendation to begin a Capital Campaign
 - i. Jim Anderson recommended to begin a Capital Campaign for an amount between \$1 and \$2.2 million.
 - ii. Dave Johnson moved to accept and Steve Spoerle seconded the motion and discussion began.
 - 1) An improvement list of projects was shown totaling \$2.75 million (see attachments for detail).

- 2) A fundraising consultant was selected by Council, Walsh & Associates after four were interviewed.
- 3) The Campaign will start with a feasibility study to determine the expected amount that Good Shepherd can raise.
- 4) The specific projects will be selected once the Capital Campaign goal is determined. However, the Kitchen project will be done first.
- 5) Bob Fingland Called the Question and the motion to end discussion passed unanimously.
- 6) The motion on beginning a Capital Campaign passed unanimously.

6. Other Business

- a. The Church Council was authorized to find the four Central States Synod convention delegates.

7. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

- b. Steve Christiansen moved to adjourn and Dave Johnson seconded the motion.
- c. The motion carried, unanimously, and the meeting was closed at 1:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Gustafson
Congregation Secretary

Minutes from Mid-Year Congregation Meeting - June 4, 2017

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
 - a. President Jim Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:14 PM.
2. Verification of Quorum
 - a. Quorum was verified with 89 members present.
 - b. Pastor Wolf opened the meeting with prayer.
3. Approval of Agenda and Congregational Meeting Minutes of 2/5/2017 and Special Congregational Meeting of 3/19/2017
 - a. Joyce Candela moved to approve the agenda and the minutes.
 - b. Clara Anderson seconded the motion.
 - c. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Reports:
 - a. Pastor Wolf reported on the many activities that have been occurring at Good Shepherd and many that are yet to come.
 - i. Mid-Year Financial Report – Jim Brooks

- ii. Income is above budget and expenses are below budget generating a \$42,685 surplus through April of 2017.
 - iii. See attached PowerPoint presentation.
- b. WHIRL Update
 - i. Worship – a team is working on enhancements to the 11:00 service and will begin trying some ideas out this summer and fall.
 - ii. Healing – the Stephens Ministry program is getting underway with leadership training and will be looking for members who are interested in being a part of the program.
 - iii. Involvement – over 100 groups have been identified at Good Shepherd.
 - iv. Relationship – the Brews & Hymns program began and has been well attended.
 - v. Leadership – progress continues with developing the process of identifying and preparing members for leadership roles at Good Shepherd.
- c. Capital Campaign Update – Jim Anderson
 - i. Work with the consultant continues in recruiting the leaders and volunteers for the various committees.
 - ii. The campaign is scheduled to kick off in August.
 - iii. The kitchen renovation begins on June 12th.

5. New Business

- a. Nominating Committee for the 2017/2018 term was introduced.

6. Elections

- a. Endowment Fund Committee (Three-year term)

Results as follows:	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
i. Paul Davis	82	0	2
ii. Rock Foster	81	0	3

- b. Nominating Committee (One-year term)

Results as follows:	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
i. Jan Alford	83	0	0
ii. Gene Sanguinette	84	0	0
iii. Karen Fatzinger	84	0	0
iv. Larry Hibbard	83	0	0
v. Roberta Curtis	83	0	0
vi. Joyce Candela (Council)	84	0	0

- c. Council Officers

- | Results as follows: | <u>For</u> | <u>Against</u> | <u>Abstain</u> |
|---|------------|----------------|----------------|
| i. Pres. Elect – Glenn Kraft | 83 | 0 | 1 |
| ii. Secretary – Susan Fickert | 84 | 0 | 1 |
| d. Council Members at Large | | | |
| i. Larry Gustafson | 83 | 0 | 1 |
| ii. Emily Horning | 81 | 3 | 0 |
| e. Based upon the voting results all candidates were elected. | | | |
| 7. Closing Prayer and Adjournment | | | |
| a. Jim Brooks moved to adjourn. | | | |
| b. Joyce Candela seconded. | | | |
| c. Motion approved unanimously. | | | |
| d. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:45 PM. | | | |

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Gustafson
Congregation Secretary

2017 Statistics

Baptisms (12)

Alcamo, Alexa Grace
 Brooks, Charles Robert
 Carter, Anderson Brown
 Heberlie, Ava Jane
 Hines, Alton Bradley
 Landelius, Lucas Ronald
 Legler, Luke Ezekiel
 Meyers, Madilyn Lilian Marie
 Putney, Emma Jane
 Putney, Henry James
 Stahlman, Ethan Bennett
 Watkins-Parker, Nealah

Confirmations (20)

Adams, Kayla Marie
 Bader, Quinton Daniel
 Bles, Lauren Elizabeth
 Dienhart, Veronica Renee
 Eastlund, William August
 Essig, Sophia Ann
 Fatzingter, Sarah Marie
 Geistler, Adeline Dale
 Kruyne, Jasper Mathias
 Mahoney, Maddison Grace
 McClain, Matthew Edward
 Messerly, Caleb John
 Oswald, Karl Ernst
 Schneider, Alec Richard
 Schroeder, Breanna Cailin
 Schultz, Evan Charles
 Schumacher, Aaron Christopher
 Smith-Gackstatter, Sophie
 Stevenson, Owen Scott
 Ware, Marjorie Ellen

Weddings (5)

Dellecese, Jr. Barry/Dallman,
 Natalie
 Narby, Mark/Morrell, Kim
 Sherwood, Kyle/ Boydston,
 Kelsey
 Foss, Christopher/Nicol, Leslie
 Ann
 Sills, James/Williams, Melissa

Transferred In/Inactive to Active (76)

Alcamo, Brittany
 Alford, Jan

Beger, Bob & Judy
 Bolhafner, Tim & Shelby
 Bolhafner, Evelyn
 Borchardt, Cory & Angela
 Borchardt, Derek; Mason
 Busch, Chris & Kathy
 Busch, Lindsey
 Busch, Kaitlyn
 Calcagno, Mike & Kay
 Clark, Bobby
 Combs, Stephen
 Damman, Kirk & Brenda
 Damman, Lauren; Alexander
 Dreher, Paul & Bethany
 Dreher, Tyler; Nathan
 Fletcher, Hazel
 Hautekeete, Rick & Larissa
 Hautekeete, Aaron; Cordelia
 Hilleman, Eric & Rebeca
 Hilleman, Vivian
 Hu, Richard & Jodie
 Hu, Harper
 Krieg, Inger
 McRae, Janet
 Molitor, Urb & Annette
 Naffziger, David & Pat
 Niemeyer, Jenny
 Parker, Shawn & Shelley
 Watkins-Parker, Lancaster
 Roberts, Dan & Nikki
 Roberts, Lacy; Gage
 Santel, Steven & Carrie
 Santel, William; Owen
 Seeber, Chris & Courtney
 Seeber, Jackson; Lillian;
 Caroline
 Steele, Robert & Nancy
 Stein, Jeff & Maxson-Stein, Kim
 Stein, Abigail; Isabel
 Warner, Nicky
 Westbrook, Blake; Geringer,
 Grace
 Wheeler, Ed & Sheila
 Wiedemeier, Heather
 Wiedemeier, Sam; Thomas;
 Julia

Transferred Out/Inactive (63)

Anderson, Ellen
 Bantz, Jane

Battaglia, Emelie
 Belfi, John & Sandy
 Bousman, Patty
 Cowart, Vivian
 Enquist, Dave & Chris
 Ewald, Nathan
 Fine, Laura
 Fransen, Mark & Sherri
 Franta, Mark
 Fussner, Andrew & Nancy
 Stephanie; Rachel
 Graham, Scott & Julie
 Graham, Anna
 Groff, June
 Hayes, Tim & Heather
 Hayes, Nola; Jesse
 Huber, Jeffrey & Sarah
 Huber, Jackson; Sophia
 Kleinfeld, Kirk & Kelly
 Kleinfeld, Hudson; Rowan
 Matheny, Greg & Laura
 Ogroski, Andrew & Heather
 Nolan; Morgan
 Niemeyer, Sr. Joseph
 Joseph Jr.
 Prellwitz, Gary & Ginger
 Riordan, Dave
 Emma; Jack
 Qualls, John & Jackie
 Schnoebelen, James & Amanda
 Schoenherr, Neil & Lisa
 Schoenherr, Kayla; Nathan
 Ulmer, Deb
 Van Buren, Jeff & Lisa
 Jason; Justin
 Zupan, Lori
 Matthew; Sydney

Funerals/Deaths (8)

Bayliff, Carolyn
 Benoit, Marjorie Opal
 Evashenko, Donovan
 Fussner, Donald
 Howard, Ray
 McGurk, John
 North, Glenn
 Runge, Diana

2017 Treasurers Report - Jim Brooks				
2018 Budget Compared to 2017 Actual				
Income Detail	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Bud. Better/(Worse)	
				2017 Actual
GeneralFund Contributions	\$ 1,114,000	\$ 1,059,882	\$	54,118
Loose Contributions	4,000	4,207		(207)
GF Various Revenue	39,950	39,979		(29)
Investment Income	1,650	2,051		(401)
Total GF Income	1,159,600	1,106,119		53,481
Expense Detail				
Benevolence	\$ 71,702	\$ 71,700	\$	(2)
Synod Mission Support	\$ 5,000	\$ -		(5,000)
Salary & Benefits	783,112	743,541		(39,571)
Property	153,150	136,985		(16,165)
Administration	82,850	80,499		(2,351)
Ministry Teams	52,150	51,868		(282)
Worship	32,450	24,839		(7,611)
Interest	-	1,436		1,436
GF Support for:	Service	29,400	29,400	-
	FMSC	15,000	15,000	-
	Loan Principle	-	5,705	5,705
	Hedgewood	(5,000)	(5,000)	-
	Continuing Ed	5,150	4,450	(700)
	Youth Team	5,000	240	(4,760)
	Pumpkin Patch	-	(2,500)	(2,500)
Total Expenses for GF		1,229,964	1,158,163	(71,801)
Net Income				
		(70,364)	(52,044)	(18,320)
Fund Balance at Beginning of the Year		\$ 184,923	\$ 236,967	
Fund Balance at End of Year		\$ 114,559	\$ 184,923	

Endowment Funds 2017			
Beginning Balance in all Funds as of 12/30/2016		\$	692,847
Withdrawals in 2017			(34,255)
Market gains/return/other activity			119,336
Balance as of 12/29/2017		\$	777,928
Average return on all activity			17%

Senior Pastor - Rich Wolf

On occasion, I have mentioned to some of you that I sometimes find myself having to pinch myself as I think of how fortunate I am to serve as your pastor here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. This is a wonderful church that God has richly blessed in so many ways. We have a gifted staff, dedicated and talented leaders, an abundance of resources, and perhaps most importantly, a passion to make a difference in the lives of people, both within and outside the walls of this church. God has richly blessed us.

Looking back, this has been another busy year with a great deal of progress on several fronts. WHIRL teams were active throughout the year working in five different areas: Worship, Healing, Involvement, Relationships and Leadership. New ministries were begun, and others strengthened and improved.

We conducted a successful Capital Campaign raising commitments for just under \$2 million. We have already completed kitchen renovations and will soon be upgrading our restrooms. Soon to follow will be an expansion of our parking lot to the north of our property, improvements to our Sanctuary, Technology upgrades, while also setting aside funds for Capital Maintenance for such necessities as air conditioners and roof repairs. None of these things are particularly glamorous, but all of them are necessary as we position ourselves to be a growing, vital church in the future. Many volunteers made this effort such a success!

At this Congregational Meeting we will be sharing a "first look" at a Strategic Plan that will guide our ministry priorities for the next four or five years. Many thanks to Glenn Kraft and the Strategic Planning Team who helped us look ahead to the future that God has set before us. We have been blessed by God and have many resources to share with our community as we grow in our ability to share the good news of God's graciousness.

All this future planning has been happening within the regular pulse and flow of congregational life. We offer four regular worship services each weekend; provide exceptional Sunday School and Midweek Youth programming; a variety of musical groups to sing God's praises; we support a highly successful Preschool program; and give of our time, talent, and resources in a plethora of service opportunities.

Feed My Starving Children, and Pumpkin Patch are the most visible, but only two of many efforts that make a real difference in the lives of people locally and around the world. A highly talented and dedicated professional staff along with the support of many congregational leaders and volunteers make it all happen seamlessly week after week.

We are a great church and have much to be thankful for. But even so, we have areas that need a bit more attention than others. Financial stewardship for the everyday needs of the church, I believe, is one of them. We are a generous church, that goes without saying. But our generosity is often so focused outside, beyond the four walls of the church, that we neglect some of our own necessities. We can easily raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for benevolent causes, yet often struggle to meet the everyday needs of an active and busy church. The last few years, we have run annual deficits in our budgets. This can be a good sign – constantly stretching ourselves to the limits to accomplish more and more ministry. But in the long run, this is not a good strategy. We need to find ways to fully fund and support the ongoing needs of a fantastically vibrant community of faith. Those needs may not be as glamorous, but are just as important and just as highly honored by God.

Again, I consider myself blessed beyond belief for the opportunity to serve all of you in this place. God is indeed good! I covet your prayers and promise you mine as together we discover what God has in store for us here at Good Shepherd.

Pastor Rich Wolf
Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor – Josh Brecht

Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." - John 1:50

This has been a year of "firsts" for me. I have completed my first full year serving as pastor at Good Shepherd and this past year has been filled with new experiences and opportunities. My family has been richly welcomed into this community and we are truly enjoying living here in St. Louis and all this city and its people have to offer. I am daily grateful to be able to serve at this congregation. Good Shepherd is an incredibly generous community that seeks to make a difference in the lives of people near and far. I am inspired by this church's heart to serve and to give to people who are in need. I am continually impressed by the level of gifts, abilities, and commitment the people of Good Shepherd embody.

As I think back on 2017 I experienced many of the various ministries of Good Shepherd for the first time. The men's retreat at Camp Wartburg was a spiritual and relational high point for me as I was able to worship, pray, and learn with other men of Good Shepherd. Then I experienced First Communion with my son

Elijah and many other families. What a joyous celebration and time of learning! I experienced my first Confirmation service and was amazed at the leadership of Becky Howard and Pastor Amy Stewart as they raise up these young people in the faith and transition them into F.L.Y. Over the summer I experienced VBS at Good Shepherd for the first time. I was in awe of the energy and joy that filled this place throughout that week! What impressed me the most was the number of adults *and* youth who volunteered their time and gifts to make VBS an amazing experience for all our kids! As fall came I was able to experience the Pumpkin Patch and Feed My Starving Children at Good Shepherd. Through these ministries, yet again, I witnessed the amazing spirit of generosity and outreach that defines Good Shepherd.

I was proud to be a part of the Relationship and Worship components of the WHIRL initiative in 2017. Through the work of these teams we were able to make some significant progress in these areas, following the lead of the congregation as expressed through the survey with Holy Cow. We were able to create a sub-committee to explore ways to enhance our 11 am worship service and out of that has come energy and enthusiasm as we explore re-traditioning of liturgical structure and practice. We were also able to welcome a new Contemporary Music Director/Worship Leader, Gail Brecht. Good Shepherd is a church that is both traditional *and* innovative. As we innovate with the 11 am worship service I am excited to explore ways we might enhance and deepen our traditional worship in the future, as well.

The Relationship team was able to launch several new initiatives in 2017. This team helped launch Brews & Hymns which has been a fantastic venue for building community and relationships with people from Good Shepherd *and* at the same time being visible as a church out in the community in a new way. The Relationship Team helped launch Father Figure (a vision cast by Brandon Wade), and continues to explore ways we might deepen relationships with one another at Good Shepherd.

I was able to be a part of an exciting Capital Campaign, Good to Grow, in 2017 as we invest in the future of ministry at Good Shepherd. Shortly after the completion of the campaign the council formed a task force to prayerfully create a strategic plan to clarify our vision, goals, and direction over the next 5 years. This has been an enlightening and exciting process as we have worked through these various dreams and hopes together. I am very excited about the dreams that have come out of this process and can't wait to see how the Holy Spirit moves in this place to enable us to accomplish these ministry goals in the next few years!

What is next for Good Shepherd? We have goals, and we have some ideas, but God is always surprising us. They said, "come and see," and when the disciples met Jesus he said, "you will see even greater things than these." Whatever our hopes,

dreams, and expectations for ministry in this place, I have no doubt that God will surprise us and show us even greater things than we can imagine. Thank you for the continued honor of serving as pastor at Good Shepherd. It is a privilege to serve in ministry alongside you, to hear your stories, and to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into God's future together. May we continue in this mission to be the hands and feet of Christ and make a difference in our church, our city, and our world.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Josh

Chaplain – Suzie Everingham

At the beginning of 2017, I made the decision to address an issue of needed foot surgery. I set up an appointment with the Orthopedic Surgeon and, consequently, set up the date for the surgery – Nov. 30, 2017. Now, I am a planner, so I had meticulously set to work planning for that date, knowing I would be off my feet for what I thought would be about 5 days. When the date approached I had alerted staff and council, and all the teams that I work with at GSLC. I worked as far as I could in advance both at work and home - purchasing groceries, doing the laundry, and completing my Christmas shopping. Whew – I felt ahead of the game. Then, the actual surgery occurred, and the real recovery started. I found myself saying over and over to all that ask – “This was not what I had anticipated.” The recovery was far more painful and extensive than my “plans” covered.

I shared this story with you, because I know many of you have had lived experiences like this one. You have unforeseen physical or financial life events that you, certainly, “hadn’t planned for nor anticipated.”

So, when this happens the proverbial question arises: “Now What?” Whether you verbalize that question out loud or just in your mind – the question “rises up” from the dark and stands right in front of you. You can’t avoid it. Personally, for me, the extra time I spent with my “toes above my nose” also provided extra quiet time with God. Not that I stepped into that time “joyfully” at all – but as time went on – I was able to settle in and appreciate that gift of that time. I shared with a colleague recently that the very essence of my faith is that I believe in a loving God - with my whole heart (to the very depth of my being). So that is the rock that I hold on to or, better yet, the rock that God holds on to my heart. So – when things happen that “wasn’t in my plans” – bad or good – I believe in a loving God – even (perhaps especially) when it is beyond my understanding. Some would say this is the very mantra of Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

I, also, spent some time reflecting on 2017 and the many ways that God's love flowed in and through each of you at Good Shepherd. I am so blessed to be able to work with the Service Team (and the many outreach opportunities), and the Welcome Team (as new members join and share their gifts), and the Feed My Starving Children Team (providing meals for 2,236 children for a year in 2017). Please look at their reports for specifics for the many things accomplished (with your help) in 2017. Also, in 2017, I had many opportunities to visit those who are homebound, those who were in the hospital, those who were healing at home, and many calls and conversations with those who are going through varied life situations of health, death of friends/family and joys. I feel blessed by the fact that you allow me in to pray with you, and walk with you, amid your joys, sorrows, and fears.

I pray, as you walk into 2018 and the "Now What's" happen you know you are not alone – first and foremost you have God, who loves you, and you have a community of faith to support you, pray for you, and walk with you.

Joyfully in Christ, Chaplain Suzie Everingham

Feed My Starving Children

First, thank you to Good Shepherd for your continued support for Feed My Starving Children. 2017 was the 11th year of the pack. So – just to put numbers to that – over the 11 years – we have packed 4,054,736 meals so that a total of 11,109 children were fed for a year! In 2017 alone, with your help, we packed 816,480 meals so that 2,237 kids were fed for a year. You might wonder where all the meals are going. The following from FMSC provides that information:

1,008 boxes/217,728 meals have gone to Syria with our partner, Love In Action International! Love In Action International Ministries spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ through acts of compassion in the United States and Internationally. They do this by helping support indigenous pastors, building churches/start home churches, providing Bibles to those that don't have access to the Word, and providing food for the impoverished and malnourished, with a strong focus on children. Love In Action has also created Hope Through Education which builds small schools and provides scholarships for children to attend school, while providing school supplies and anything needed for children to succeed. Learn more at <http://loveinactionministries.com>

612 boxes/132,192 meals have gone to El Salvador with our partner, Cross International. Cross International is a Christian ministry that serves the poorest of the poor internationally by channeling aid through existing churches or church-based ministries, cost-effectively helping the poor while advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Cross International believes that change comes from within, starting

with the heart in an active combination of word and deed: "holistic ministry." Cross International is a relief and development organization that provides food, shelter, medical care, water, education, self-help programs, care for orphans, and emergency relief around the world. To learn more about Cross International, their programs, and the work they do, please visit www.crossinternational.org

1,008 boxes/217,728 meals have gone to Haiti with our partner, Love a Child. Love A Child (LAC) is a non-profit Christian humanitarian organization working to reduce the poverty in Haiti. Bobby and Sherry Burnette, founders of LAC live in Haiti at the Love A Child Orphanage, working to spread the word of God and show the love of Jesus by example as they minister to the poorest of the poor in Haiti. Their outreach programs include 13 Love A Child schools where they educate and feed over 5,000 children every day, as well as food distribution programs that feed thousands of Haitian families. They also offer myriad other services to help local Haitians, including housing, agriculture and fishing, medical clinics, and churches. To learn more about Love A Child and the work they are doing in Haiti, please visit www.loveachild.com.

1,152 boxes/248,832 meals have gone to Guatemala with our partner, Food for the Poor. Food for the Poor's mission is to link the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that helps both the materially poor and the poor in spirit. Food for the Poor helps provide food, housing, health care, education, water projects, emergency relief, and micro-enterprise assistance in the Caribbean and Latin America. To learn more about Food for the Poor, please visit www.foodforthe poor.org

To summarize: 1,008 boxes/217,728 meals have gone to Syria with our partner, Love In Action International, 612 boxes/132,192 meals have gone to El Salvador with our partner, Cross International; 1,008 boxes/217,728 meals have gone to Haiti with our partner, Love a Child. Love A Child, and . . . 1,152 boxes/248,832 meals have gone to Guatemala with our partner, Food for the Poor. These 3,780 boxes of food are changing and will continue to change lives in Haiti, El Salvador, Syria, and Guatemala! With the 816,480 meals packed in Manchester in 2017 - 2,236 kids could eat a meal every day for an entire year! What an absolute blessing to those most desperately in need.

As you can see the FMSC food has made a life and death difference to so many children around the world. Our prayerful goal for 2018 is 850,000 meals (\$187,000) so that 2,329 kids will be fed for a year!!!

Marci Wirtz, Senior Event Supervisor, is providing us with the information when/where the meals packed at GSLC are shipped. She ends her e-mails with the following: Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit

"And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10 [\[2\]](#)

Thank you, as we work together to eradicate hunger . . . one child at a time!!!

Director of Youth Ministry – Amy Stewart

2017 was a full and wonderful year! FLY grew over the course of the year, new ministries moved forward, and our youth stretched their faith, built community, and shared their gifts among us and in the world. Here are some of the ministries that I was blessed to be a part of:

Fellowship of Lutheran Youth (FLY)

- Thanks to Keith Repko and his guest teachers, FLY Sunday school has continued to help students to study the Bible and apply to it to their daily lives. I was also able to help teach occasional classes.
- Thanks to Jill Farmer, Angie Franz, Julie Griffard, Nancy Stelmachowicz, and Pastor Josh for providing leadership for the C+ Harmony Praise Band at different points throughout 2017, to Andrew Leach for running their sound, and to Kim Deitzler for coordinating dinners. Because of this faithful leadership, and the commitment of our young people, C+ helped to lead worship in February, May, and November.
- Venture Crew continued in the Spring, under the leadership of Ed Deitlzer and the youth.
- FLY met almost every week of the year. We spent roughly half of our time in fellowship-playing games and building relationships-and the other half of our time in faith development. Thank you to Stacey Anderson, Andrew and Sarah Leach, and Jory Ridenhour for their help with FLY nights. Student leaders helped to create a welcoming and inclusive environment in FLY.
- Fresh Start has been an ongoing success. We meet on Wednesday mornings throughout the school year, rotating locations, and students eat breakfast, fellowship, and share a short devotional.
- A handful of events also brought parents and families together for fellowship and service.
- An "Upper Retreat" (11th and 12th graders) helped upperclassmen/women deal with the stressors of school, life, and college prep. Thank you to Suzie and Charlie Everingham for hosting at their farm!
- We hosted a Metro St. Louis Coalition youth gathering, as well as half of our monthly meetings.
- Celebrated our high school graduates on Senior Sunday (May 7); thank you to the Mission Sewing team for providing blankets for parents to gift to their students in worship!

Fundraisers and Trips

- Thanks to the leadership of Kim Deitzler (Trivia Night), Cindy Thierry (grocery cards), Dominick Misuraca (Superbowl pizzas), Becky Howard (garage sale), and countless other volunteers, our fundraisers, also including cookie sales, were a huge success.
- Thank you to those who purchase Dierbergs and Shop n Save cards, use their Schnucks escrip cards, and support FLY through Amazon Smile. These are all easy and helpful fundraisers!
- 9 FLYers attended Youth Quake, along with the Middle Schoolers, Becky Howard, and Andrew Leach.
- 20 youth and adults participated in a Youth Works trip to Cairo, IL, where they served in the community, fellowshiped with their neighbors, other youth, and each other, and grew in their relationships with God. A huge thanks to Sarah Leach and Steve McMahon for leading alongside me.
- Thanks to the amazing hospitality of Charlie and Suzie Everingham, several of our FLY families enjoyed a 3-day trip to the farm again, where we camped, swam, played, and worshipped together.

Youth in Leadership, Service, and Outreach

- Youth led worship as readers, Communion servers, ushers, greeters, A/V operators, and musicians.
- FLYers mentored and taught younger students through God's Work, Our Hands, Vacation Bible School, Music Camp, Be Like Jesus, Confircamp, Youth Quake, and helping in the SS classrooms once a month.
- They served through Souper Bowl of Caring (benefiting Weekend on Wheels), pumpkin patch, Operation Christmas Child, Covenant House, Feed My Starving Children, Youth Works, raking leaves, and college care packages.

College Outreach

- We continued with our monthly mailings to help our students stay connected to their church family. Thank you to the parents who helped: Kim Sherwood, Brenda DeBolt, Val Swain, Kim Deitzler, Nancy Stelmachowicz, and Roberta Curtis.
- Students enjoyed a lunch together over Christmas break.
- Thank you to the Scholarship Team for their work: Joel Bretscher, Beckie Fingland, and David Franz.

Confirmation

- I enjoy continuing to teach the 8th grade class about the Catechism and discipleship living.
- 8th graders were invited to a few gatherings in the Spring, along with 9th and 10th graders, to help them get to know each other better and to show them what FLY is like.
- I participated in the 8th grade lock in, Confirmation banquet, and Confirmation rite in worship in April.

Other Pastoral Ministry

- I have preached and presided regularly, officiated at weddings, shared in pastoral care and counseling, helped to plan weekly worship (including special services) and taught occasional Sunday school classes, including the Buddies Together in Worship Sunday school class.
- As a part of my call toward the wider Church and need for continuing education, I have participated in the Metro St. Louis Coalition, Lutheran Leaders in Mission, Women in Ministry, synodical events, community care events, and the first tri-annual ELCA Rostered Leaders Gathering.
- I participated in, and shared some leadership of, the "Our Neighbors, Our City" dialogues.
- I participate in the leadership of the Interfaith Potluck that we hosted in April.
- I attended new members meetings each quarter.
- I wrote, the "Lutherans Caring for God's Creation" newsletter article until it stopped after 1 year.
- I participated with the Strategic Planning team that presented a 5-year vision to council.
- I helped with Capital Campaign.

Self-Care

Always seeking to find wholeness as a child of God, I practice self-care through mutual ministry meetings, Scripture reading, monthly Lectio Divina gatherings, monthly spiritual direction, two months with an ELCA clergy coach, regular time at the gym, and time carved out for family and friends.

- Moving into my 5th year at Good Shepherd, I continue to love, and be grateful for, my call here. I look forward to all that 2018 brings, including:
- Trying new ministry ideas for FLYers
- Heading to Houston with 42 youth and adults for the ELCA Youth Gathering
- Having our newest staff member, Gail Brecht, run the C+ praise band
- Helping to implement parts of the Strategic Plan
- Celebrating 10 years of ordination (Dec 6)
- ...and whatever else the Holy Spirit is calling us to do!

In Christ, Pastor Amy

Director of Children & Family Ministry – Becky Howard

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matthew 19:14

In 2017, we were blessed with a continued increase in number of families involved in our Children's Ministry programming. While we "love" the larger class rosters, attendance can vary significantly (a "new normal" throughout many churches) as families seem to be juggling more commitments and opportunities than ever

before. It was such a welcome gift to have Pastor Josh involved this year in everything from VBS to Be Like Jesus to Confirmation Classes.

Here are 2017 happenings in Children & Family Ministries:

- 41 third and fourth graders received their First Communion in February. Jill Farmer has done a terrific job leading this important faith milestone discussion for the last eight years!
- Additional faith milestones in 2017 included: Little Lambs First Bible presentation; 1st Grade Small Catechism study, 3rd Grade Family Bible Study and presentation as well as our 6th grade welcome into confirmation study.
- 27 GSLC youth in grades 3 through 8, along with six high school junior guides and 24 adult volunteers were part of the 2017 *Be Like Jesus* ELCA St. Louis Coalition Service lock-in, hosted here at Good Shepherd for the third time. In total, we had close to 130 youth, junior guides and adults from area churches involved in this event focused on serving others. Good Shepherd is looking forward to hosting this regional 23-hour youth event again over the April 13-14 weekend in 2018! We celebrated as 20 of our 8th graders affirmed their baptism as they were confirmed in April.
- 18 current 7th & 8th graders attended Confircamp at Camp Wartburg in June.
- Middle school summer events doubled in 2017 – great to see this community building among our young people!
- Vacation Bible School 2017 - 140 children (compared to 108 in 2016) and close to 90 volunteers were part of the VBS week fun. Many thanks to this “village” of volunteers – including many of our middle school and FLY youth - who made *Maker’s Fun Factory*a fun and meaningful experience for our kids. Many thanks to Pastor Josh for his music leadership and to Gene and Viki Longfield for their partnership, leadership and set-building creativity!
- The September ELCA *God’s Work, Our Hands* Sunday at Good Shepherd was a bit more limited in scope, but this annual event still kept the hands of Little Lamb to high school Sunday morning classes busy in service to others.
- Seasonal Family Fellowship events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat were, as always, a labor of love for many volunteers and Lots of fun for the participating families. In 2017, 246 folks were here for the Easter Egg Hunt and 220 here for Trunk or Treat fun. Special thanks to Gene and Viki Longfield for their partnership in both events.
- The Sunday School Christmas presentation of *Joy for the World* was an early Christmas gift to many. We had close to 100 children involved in this December 17 presentation. Many thanks to Dianne Unverfehrt, Brenda McCommis, Kyle McCommis and Susan Pingle for their leadership.
- Our Christmas Eve Live Nativity family services were again full (in more ways than one) of excitement.

Our ongoing programs including: Sunday School; Youth Club for 2nd – 8th grade; 2nd Sunday Monthly Family Fellowship; yearly regional ministry events for middle school youth with Quake in January and Confircamp in June, are made possible because of the great group of volunteers we are blessed with at Good Shepherd. We currently have 29 volunteer leaders involved in our Sunday morning Children's Ministry program, and 16 volunteer leaders each Wednesday evening for our Youth Club program just to name a few.

In addition to child-focused programming, Emily Horning does a wonderful job leading our monthly Sunday morning Parenting Group and organizing twice-yearly Parent's Night Out Events. John Webb and Steve Spoerle are doing a fantastic job leading our Sunday morning Adult Ed Topical Discussion and Bible Study Groups, respectively.

In addition to the Children & Family Ministry fun, I was blessed to be part of the summer 2017 Intergenerational Mission Trip to Cree Nation in Fisher River, Canada.

I continue to give thanks for the Good Shepherd Community. It is a privilege to be part of the Good Shepherd community and a true joy to witness the caring hearts, love of learning and Fun passed down to our young people by our volunteers.

Added bonus for me: I am a kid at heart so getting to hang out with our young people is truly awesome ... messy mornings, Goldfish crackers and all!

In Christ, Becky Howard

Director of Music Ministry – Jamie De Geer

Thanks to all of the music staff, leaders and volunteers who so tirelessly give of their time to help make our worship more meaningful throughout the year: Karen Kallansrud (Special Music Accompanist & 5:30 Pianist), Keith Kolander (Organist & 5:30 Pianist), Marcus De Geer (5:30 Pianist & Praise Team Pianist), Dianne Unverfehrt (Praise Team Pianist/Leader, Tone Chime Director), Phil Gomez (Praise Team Pianist), Kelly Witt (Hand Bell Director), Carter Pederson (Celebration Chorus Coordinator), Pike Farr (TOTO Leader), Larry Gustafson (Four Crossmen Leader), Andrew Leach (A/V Team Leader), Julie Griffard (Music Camp Coordinator). There are so many who work together to help make our weekend worship services run smoothly ... too many to mention, but all greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Pastor Josh and Andrew Leach for their work getting new speakers installed and upgrading our microphones.

2017 Music Ministry Highlights:

- The Luther College Symphony Orchestra visited in January. Thanks to Dianne Unverfehrt and Karen Kallansrud for their leadership with

coordination of the meal and housing assignments. There was a nice group in attendance and a wonderful concert was presented.

- In February the Joint Choirs sang ‘in the round’ on Transfiguration Sunday. They also presented an F. M. Christiansen arrangement of *Beautiful Savior* which was lovely.
- Ash Wednesday Services were held at Noon and 7pm; with leadership by myself and Mary Spoerle during the day and Keith and LOLs in the evening. Thanks to Pastor Josh and Gail for leading the music at all of the mid-week Lenten services this year. The focus was on Psalms and Pastor Josh wrote original music each week.
- Joint Choirs sang an uplifting “Holy Spirit” song on Pentecost Sunday.
- We had an awesome week at Music Camp in June with a great group of campers, leaders and volunteers. Thanks to camp administrative director, Julie Griffard, for all her hard work that makes the week run so smoothly.
- The Music Ministry Participants were celebrated in September with a banquet to thank them for their service. There are some members who have been involved for 4 months and some for over 40 years! All are truly appreciated for sharing their time & talents to help lead our worship services.
- In October we celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with participation by the Joint Choirs and Brass Ensemble. The congregation sang some Martin Luther hymns and the choir sang some special arrangements by our own Keith Kolander.
- The Bells & Brats Event (*Gateway Ringers Concert & Sausage Supper*) on All Saint’s Sunday was once again a huge success with a record crowd at both the concert and the supper. Thanks to Jon and Karen Fatzinger and Carol Ziemann for another year of amazing leadership of the Sausage Supper.
- The Annual Christmas Cantata was presented to a packed room at Meramec Bluffs on December 5th. And, presentations at Good Shepherd on December 9th and 10th were also well received. Special thanks to Pastor Josh for his participation on guitar and we were happy to have Phil Gomez (*11 pianist*) join us on bass guitar. It was a very participatory program with a lot of audience singing encouraged.
- As the result of recommendations from the 11 worship sub-committee who met for several months this year; evaluating, discerning and researching; a new position was created, advertised and filled with a highly qualified and experienced candidate. On January 1st we welcome Gail Brecht to the music staff as Director of Contemporary Music/Worship Leader. Gail will take over leadership of the 11 am worship service with both planning and staffing duties in February with January as a time of transition.

Director of Building Blocks Early Childhood Center – Kathy Rebholz

Building Blocks Early Childhood Center and Preschool is a ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and embraces the mission of this church: Following in Christ, Growing in Faith, and Sharing God's Love. Each day, we teach about God's love for each child, while exposing them to rich, educational experiences. We are a child-centered, play-based preschool that promotes hands-on learning and the development of Christ-centered values and life-long learning. With the support of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Building Blocks Preschool has made a powerful impact on children in and outside of the Good Shepherd Church community!

Facts about Building Blocks Preschool

- Building Blocks is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
- Building Blocks serves children from 12 months old thru 5 years-old
- Teachers enjoy providing rich educational and spiritual experiences
- Staff attends early childhood workshops to maintain and learn up-to-date teaching methods and strategies; monthly staff meetings take place as well.
- A small, loving community with low teacher to student ratios
- Director is a member of the West County Director's Group that meets monthly for discussion groups and plan an annual Curriculum Conference
- There are 10 degreed staff members; seven teachers with Master's and Bachelor's Degrees in Education, specialty certificates and Early Childhood Certifications; one teacher with a background in special education; three teachers are church members

Highlights of 2017

- Blending of Church and Preschool with Pastor Josh:
 - has fully embraced his role in Building Blocks Preschool and holds weekly Chapel Time! All the preschoolers and parents know and love him.
 - has embraced the staff of Building Blocks and has assisted the staff while one of our team members fights cancer.
- Completed our first year operating as an LLC.
- Enrollment remains healthy with an FTE at an all-time high of 45.6. (Our annual goal is 43.)
- Our community outreach touches 67 children in our area

Strengths that Differentiate Building Blocks from other Programs:

Classroom Curriculum: The integrated curriculum is designed to encourage the development of the whole child, spiritually, socially, emotionally,

cognitively, and physically. The teachers use the children's interests as a focus for developing hands-on activities and creative experiences, such as well-planned learning centers, science experiments, and art projects.

Spiritual- Through daily Bible lessons, songs, activities, and prayers, the child learns about our loving God and about ways to apply his/her faith to everyday living.

Social- Through large and small group activities, listening to stories, and role-playing the child learns to establish positive relationships, to communicate more effectively, to value others as a child of God, and to name and understand his/her emotions.

Emotional- Through age-appropriate learning experiences in a Christian atmosphere the child develops a positive sense of self-worth as a child of God.

Cognitive- Through a wide variety of hands-on experiences, the child learns to investigate the world, discover science concepts, explore counting and math concepts, and develop and improve verbal and written language skills.

Physical- Through active play, creative movement, and the use of a wide variety of manipulative materials, the child develops fine motor and gross motor skills, as well as a better awareness of himself in relation to the world around him.

Handwriting Without Tears

The Preschool Four classroom teachers integrated the *Handwriting Without Tears* program with a creative curriculum. Handwriting Without Tears is a readiness curriculum full of developmentally appropriate activities that teaches children about letters, body awareness, numbers, sequencing, and sharing in a fun, engaging, and informal manner. This was very popular among children and parents!

Additional Learning Opportunities at Building Blocks Preschool

- Religious Education: daily devotions are done in the classrooms & weekly "Chapel Time" occurs in the church sanctuary with our pastors & teachers
- A Discovery Room: a hands-on science and math class that enriches and supports the daily classroom experience
- The Music and Movement Program: a program that supports language development and concepts, pre-reading opportunities and math literacy. Christian songs are used to enhance bible stories and Christian values.
- Family Events: Ice Cream Social, Family Fall Festival, Christmas Program, Grandparent's Day Program, Spring Picnic, Completion Ceremony
- On-Site Field Trips: Firefighters Visit, Good Shepherd Pumpkin Patch, Police Officer Visit, The Dentist Visit, Irish Dancers, Safe Touch Program, Flutist
- Service Projects: Feed My Children, Operation Christmas Child

BUILDING BLOCKS	2018 Budget
INCOME	
Tuition Income	\$151,000
Registration Income	\$5,800
Lunch Bunch Income	\$22,000
Thrivent	\$100
Snack	\$2,500
T-Shirt	\$200
Schnucks Income	\$300
Fundraiser Income	\$1,925
Building Blocks Donation	
Total Income	\$183,825
EXPENSES	
LLC Rent Expense	\$13,000
Salaries	\$144,005
Pension Expense	\$2,000
Benefits Expense	\$9,100
BB Payroll Taxes	\$12,000
Snack	\$1,600
Background Checks	\$45
Advertising	
Immunizations	\$100
Curriculum Conf.	\$1,100
Memberships/Subscriptions	\$720
Furniture/Large Equipment	\$300
Miscellaneous	\$100
BB General Supplies/Bulk	\$2,450
Family Events	\$250
Fundraiser Expenses	\$0
Student Gifts	\$265
Teacher Gifts	\$700
ADP Payroll Fees	\$1,400
Property Expenses	\$0
Bank Fees	\$125
Total Expenses	\$189,260
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (5,435)

Welcome Ministry Team – Elliott Haugen, Team Leader

Thanks for being the most important part of Good Shepherd's Welcome Ministry! That's right; you are an important contributor to the welcoming, warm and friendly traditions of Good Shepherd. Your smile, handshake, and make eye contact make our members and visitors feel valued and welcomed at our worship, educational, service and other activities. You are also invited to join the Welcome Ministry Team. We support Good Shepherd's mission, traditions and successes by promoting a friendly, inclusive and supportive atmosphere for members and visitors. We work with GSLC staff to provide information for prospective members and communicate with the congregation about our shared welcoming ministry.

Who We Are

Team members are Karen and Jon Fatzinger, Vicki and Elliott Haugen, Verill Johnson, Sandy and Mike King, Carter Pederson, and Linda and John Webb; Suzie Everingham represents the GSLC staff. We meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday and interested persons are invited to attend.

What Was Accomplished in 2017

- Promoted a welcoming environment for members and visitors by being present in the Narthex and by encouraging members to share their love, support and caring with each other and others. We arrange for front door greeters (9:30, 11 AM services) and parking attendants for Easter Sunday.
- Welcomed 76 new members in 2017. Most attended the two-part orientations held in March, July or September (54 joined in 2016.) We created a short informational video for these sessions and updated the Welcome packets given to visitors.
- Visitor attendance were tracked, and calls were made by team members and GSLC staff to frequent visitors. Names and contact information are collected from the red friendship registries and through personal conversations.
- Ordered ceramic "Come Share the Spirit" cups for first-time visitors; 60 were distributed during the year (cups were funded by a Thrivent Action Team grant.)
- Communicated via Bulletin announcements and monthly "Wink" Newsletter articles, regarding the importance of being a welcoming and inviting church for members, visitors and others who attend. We continued to produce "Welcome Children" pew inserts and GSLC Fall informational hangtags for the Pumpkin Patch, and cooperated with the WHIRL Involvement Team and office to update the online pictorial directory.

Our Goals for 2018

The Welcome Ministry seeks to build on Good Shepherd's successes while fostering communications, interpersonal relationships and connectedness:

- Schedule three multi-session, new member orientations.
- Offer Luther's Small Catechism to new members without a Lutheran background.
- Promote updates to the online/web pictorial directory.
- Foster greeting and welcoming opportunities at Pumpkin Patch, Bells/Brats, FMSC, etc.
- Seek new Welcome Ministry Team members.
- Coordinate with other GSLC ministries, especially new WHIRL-related teams.

Service Ministry Team – Judy Leach, Team Leader

The purpose of the Service Ministry Team is to reach out in love and demonstrate our Christian faith by serving those in need in the local and global community.

The Service team is comprised of a group of committed and enthusiastic members who meet monthly to help coordinate church-wide outreach activities throughout the year and to make decisions about the disbursement of Local Benevolence funds to various charitable organizations which serve populations of needy people both locally and internationally. The congregation at Good Shepherd is both generous and caring. Last year (2017), the operational budget included \$29,400 for Local Benevolence, roughly 3% of anticipated general fund revenue, and the Service Team sent out just under \$30,000 (there were some reserve funds carried over from 2016). Of that amount, \$5,000 was given to Habitat for Humanity to maintain the same level of support as in past years. The remainder was used to support various non-profit agencies which are listed at the end of this report. The Team uses monthly themes to provide for a diversity of needs:

January:	Missions	July:	Helping Children/Youth
February:	Random Acts of Kindness	August :	Health
March:	People with Disabilities	September:	Affordable Housing
April:	International Outreach	October:	Assisting our Older Citizens
May:	Women's Concerns	November:	Hunger
June:	Men's Concerns	December:	Christmas Giving

The Service Team also responds to unforeseen crises and needs in both the local and global community, so the themes are a guide, not a directive.

Before any money is approved for any agency, the Team researches the mission and financial integrity of that agency using annual reports and internet sites such as Charity Navigator and GuideStar to investigate each charity's use of funds to ensure that our contributions will be put to good use. Each member of the Team also has personal contact with one or more of the St. Louis based charities we help support. Many of those organizations send representatives to Good Shepherd to speak to the Team or the adult Sunday School topical class or even the congregation via temple talks before the weekend services. A goal of the Team

has been to establish personal relationships as much as possible with the organizations we support on behalf of the congregation.

Throughout the Sundays of Lent, the team continued the tradition of Reverse Plate offerings which resulted in donations of many needed items to Circle of Concern, Fisher House, Nurses For Newborns, Project Backpack and Trinity - Soulard.

The non-profit agencies receiving donations (either cash or goods) from Good Shepherd through Local Benevolence in 2017 include:

100 Neediest Cases	Lutheran Family and Children's Services
ARC	Magdalene House
Beyond Housing	Meals on Wheels
CHAMP Assistance Dogs	Meds and Food for Kids
Circle of Concern	Micro-financing in Africa
Community of Hope	Missouri Veterans Endeavor
Crudem Foundation	Nurses for Newborns
ELCA Disaster Relief	Operation Christmas Child
ELCA Fund For Leaders	Our Lady's Inn
ELCA Good Gifts	Paraquad
ELCA Missions Papua New Guinea & Russia	Project Backpack
ELCA Special Needs Retirement	Project Peanut Butter
ELCA World Hunger Appeal	Santa's Helpers
ELCA World Relief Malaria Project	St Louis Crisis Nursery
First Step Back Home	St. Peter and Paul Community Center
Fisher House	Trinity Soulard
Gateway 180	USO of Missouri
Habitat for Humanity St. Louis	Village of Hope
Home Sweet Home	VOYCE
International Crisis Aid	Wartburg Theological Seminary
International Institute	Wings of Hope
International Partners in Mission	With God's Little Ones
Lafayette Industries	World Servants
	Worth Industries

The team meets on the first Monday of every month. Team members in 2017 were:

Norma Anderson, Suzie Everingham, David Franz, Dave Hawkins, Vicki Haugen, Melissa Huse, Gary Kallansrud, Karen Kallansrud, Jean Krammer, Cindy Kraft, Judy Leach, Julie Patthoff, Dennis Mall, Barb Rouse, Nancy Steele, Janie Wolfangel, and Della Bretscher

New members are welcome at any time!

Respectfully submitted, Judy Leach, Chair

Worship Ministry Team – Jim Morrell, Acting Team Leader

The Worship Team's mission is to provide opportunities to Worship God, through Word & Sacrament in a variety of styles so that Worship is a foundation for living our daily faith. In pursuing this, we strive to do so within the context of the GSLC Vision with a focus on increased discipleship: providing opportunities for all who want to participate. With guidance from Council's interpretation of the WHIRL survey results, a key focus in 2017 was on defining "transformational change" and offering "exceptional" worship services - goals made much more achievable due to our being blessed with an exceptional pastoral and music ministry staff.

By generating and implementing ideas to keep the worship experience relevant, active, growing, and faith-building for all who attend regardless of where they are on their faith journey, the Team concentrated on three major areas last year:

- Establishing a clear and unique "identity" for each of our 4 services.
- Enhancing our physical infrastructure, especially in terms of our sound capabilities
- Redefining the role of the Worship Team

Some of the changes made to achieve a unique personality for each service were straight-forward. For example, our Traditional Service has become "more traditional" in many respects - a strict adherence to liturgy and music as presented in the Lutheran Book of Worship, robes for assisting ministers, careful selection of special musical offerings, and other such changes. Other services were less straightforward in terms of what needed to be done. There had been a consensus that our 11:00 service, for example, could benefit from some changes, but our previous "congregational surveys" had been inconclusive with regards to what those changes should be. In 2017, a special "sub-committee" was established to focus solely on the 11:00 service. This sub-committee met several times, visited several other churches, and held multiple "listening sessions" with the congregation. Key findings from this effort were that Contemporary worship must not only be contemporary, but most importantly, it must be worship. Our goal is to define contemporary worship within the bounds of our Lutheran heritage, taking careful concern not to adapt for the sake of adaptation, but rather to focus on enhancing the flow of worship through that adaption. A second recommendation from the sub-committee, recently approved by Council, was to hire a Contemporary Music Director to implement these adaptations. A specific resource devoted to the contemporary service at Good Shepherd will enhance the quality as well as provide a transformational, exceptional contemporary worship experience. You can expect to see the fruit of this effort early in 2018. Our other two services will be considered next with a similar level of focus and attention.

Regarding enhancing our sound system, an effort led by Andrew Leach, Katherine Van Horn, and Pastor Josh led to the installation of new speakers and a variety of new

microphones that have exceeded our expectations for dealing with the mishaps and the poor quality associated with our previous system.

Finally, the Worship Team has been focusing on what it's role should be going forward. With our exceptional pastoral and music staff, there is less need to focus on extensive review and planning for specific services, but rather looking ahead with more long-term visioning. Consequently, our mission is expected to evolve into one that stays aware of and plans for various "macro trends" regarding evolving worship practices throughout our society. We will also be a central place for responding to various Council initiatives and directives regarding worship, and a touch point for the Leadership team in our related areas such as how we might facilitate, in worship, the GSLC strategic plan for being more invitational, nurturing, accompanying, and commissioning. And we will continue to be a "home" for, and a vehicle for alignment of the various functional worship teams, such as ushers, altar guild, sound team, specific service subgroups, and other worship service providers.

Our Worship Team is dynamic, but during the past year has included: Steve Anderson, Tiffany Anderson, Jamie De Geer, Eedy Gustafson, Gary Klopf, Keith Kolander, Andrew Leach, Hannah Molskness, Jim Morrell, Janie Wolfangel, Pastor Brecht, and Pastor Wolf.

This team has done an outstanding job recruiting ushers; handling communion setup; A/V; leading the 11:00 subcommittee, and all the other logistical aspects of our worship that just seem to automatically happen. Thanks, also, to the office staff for their efforts in recruiting assisting ministers, greeters, readers and communion servers. And most of all, Thank You to all who volunteer as assisting ministers, ushers, greeters, readers, video operators, sound operators, singers, musicians, worship leaders, etc.!

Jim Morrell, Worship Ministry Team Interim Chair

Stewardship Team – Christina Kling-Garrett, Chairperson

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Good Shepherd – 2017 has been an exciting year for our church! We have successfully launched the Good to Grow capital campaign that will ensure we have funds to keep our facilities in the best shape possible. The kitchen renovation was recently finished and the results are amazing! I'm excited to see what changes lie ahead as we continue to improve our beloved church.

This fall, the Stewardship team launched our pledge drive, "In Unity We Grow," where we showcased how the general fund and operating budget impact each area of ministry at Good Shepherd. Along with graphic representations, we encouraged an increase of pledges for 2018. I'm happy to report that throughout the campaign, we received 152 pledges totaling \$710,741.

Thank you to each of you who returned pledge cards, joined a new team or ministry area, or volunteered more time at church this year. All of these work together to create healthy stewardship. As we move into 2018, we need to keep our sights on both the General Fund and the Capital Campaign. Together, in unity, these two funds allow the great work of Good Shepherd to continue.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have." - 2 Corinthians 8:12

Blessings for a wonderful 2018!
Christina Kling-Garrett, Stewardship Chair

Leadership Development Committee by David Franz

The Leadership Development Committee continues to (1) identify individuals who have gifts in leadership and the interest, knowledge and ability to fill current or future leadership needs; (2) helping equip and support existing leaders to be more effective in their leadership roles; and (3) developing and expanding the number and diversity of individuals prepared to lead our ministries.

In January, the team supported the planning and leading of a men's retreat with the purpose of deepening discipleship and relationships while encouraging members to participate in ongoing leadership opportunities within Good Shepherd. Over 20 men participated in the successful retreat building new relationships and encouraging members to participate in other ministries within our church.

To help identify and clarify leadership roles and expectations, team leader and Council member role descriptions were finalized and shared with the Nominating Committee as guide for their roles going forward. We also tested interest in a team leadership mentoring effort as a formal way to support succession planning, but determined this type of formal program might be premature or currently not the right fit for Good Shepherd.

More recently, the committee began to focus its efforts on identifying emerging leadership needs of our church from WHIRL, its team efforts and our current strategic planning to further define opportunities, priorities and activities of our church. Another goal is increasing the visibility and focus of leadership as an area of strategic importance, especially as we make needed enhancements to our church and plan for its future. As we continue this strategic work, we will test new ways to identify leaders as well as encourage the growth and development of our gifted lay and staff leadership.

Facilities Management & Planning Committee – Lyle Ziemann, Co-Chair

Members of the FMPC include Jim Brooks (Council rep), Julie Deay (Staff rep), Rod Hollenbeck, Dave Johnson (co-chair), Mike Kelley, Paul Proefrock and Lyle Ziemann (co-chair).

During 2017 the FMPC investigated, arranged and supervised many projects to make your church property safer and better able to support the ministries of Good Shepherd. The largest project completed was the remodeling of our kitchen. Other projects included replacing exterior siding in the nursery play area to improve safety for children using that area; replacing air conditioners and heaters for the sanctuary overflow area and the kitchen; replacing undersized and leaking gutters and downspouts on the north and west sides of the building; installing new landscaping on the east side of the property to enhance its visual appeal (funded by a member gift); refinishing the west lower level doors; refinishing wood handrails throughout the building; and upgrading the north entry doors for improved handicapped access. Additionally, the FMPC provided approximate cost estimates for projects to be funded by the Capital Campaign.

Another project, now in the late planning stages, is the proposed 2018 renovation of our restrooms, many of which are tired and outdated.

The FMPC also oversees the Information Technology (IT) Team consisting of Elliott Haugen (chair), Andrew Leach, Steven Paul, Marques Stewart, and Brandon Wade. In January 2017, the IT Team submitted a comprehensive status report about GSLC technology uses, requirements, and future needs. Recommendations and costs were updated for the Capital Campaign. Recommendations implemented in 2017 included achieving a single, integrated membership/finance database, resulting from the migration of Servant Keeper's data into the PowerChurch software; upgrading microphones and loudspeakers in the Sanctuary; regularly posting all sermons (podcasts) on the GSLC website; and promoting online giving and e-pay and adding new mobile pay options.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank those who spent many hours providing hands-on maintenance support throughout the year. These include especially Carl Christianson, Jon Fatzinger and Scott Azzarello, as well as Jeff Van Buren and his family, who maintained our outdoor landscaping for many years but transferred their membership to another congregation in 2017.

Endowment Committee – Lee Naas, Chair

If 2016 was the Year of Restructuring, then 2017 was the Year of Implementation; the new structure was affected, we publicized the Endowment's existence and actively solicited grant requests. We updated investment objectives with our advisor to be consistent with the Endowment Fund's long-term mission. We created a new webpage and instituted financial and operational transparency. As a direct result of these efforts, we had an unprecedented number of grant requests and made over \$30,000 in grants in 2017, the largest, BY FAR, in the history of the Endowment.

Looking forward, 2018 will be the Year of Awareness. We want people to know that a gift to the Endowment Fund is a gift that keeps on giving; only a small percentage

(currently 5%) is used to fund Missions in any given year. We have developed an entire suite of consistently-branded materials, including an informational trifold, bookmarks as gifts and for use in hymnals, as well as pre-stamped giving envelopes in specially-designed Lucite holders for visual appeal.

There will be targeted letters to all parishioners over 60, which will include a request that they consider including the Endowment Fund in their estate planning. We will be going to CG and other targeted stakeholder meetings to encourage giving now, but more importantly, to stimulate giving later through bequests, insurance and other methods outlined in the trifold. Whenever there is a 5th Sunday, Endowment will be featured in the bulletin with that quarter's donors and honorees.

Finally, the Endowment will continue to actively encourage the submission of grant requests, as we have over \$40,000 in spending capacity in 2018.

Chronologically Gifted – Jane Wagner

2017 was another successful year for the CG's. This group is made up of singles and couples that qualify as "seniors". Our monthly events are (usually) the third Thursday and they are planned by members. The CG's is a very welcoming and open group of people and we encourage the members to take a turn at planning an event. Our final event of the year is our Christmas luncheon. I am pleased to report that there were 82 in attendance, the largest group ever for this event. This has been a great year for welcoming several new members who have attended our events. Anyone who has attended any of the activities over the years will agree that the CG's has filled a very important role in the lives of GSLC seniors. We look forward to many more years of fellowship and fun and special events that will be planned.

A Bible Study/Discussion group, is sponsored by the CG's, and meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 10 a.m. in Room 205. You are invited to join this group for any or all sessions. 2017 Activities included:

January – Fox Theater, "An American in Paris", including lunch.

February – Steeplechase Horse Race event with chili lunch following.

March – St. Pat's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage catered lunch at church; also, Concert at the Sheldon.

April – Lunch at the Blue Owl, Kimmwick.

May – Presentation on fraud protection, home and fire safety at Manchester Fire Station, and lunch following at Hunan Peking.

June – Lunch at Hawthorne Inn, Labadie, MO

July – Speaker Bev Schuetz, "J Edgar Hoover," lunch at Hunan Peking.

August – Westport Playhouse, "Church Basement Ladies".

September – No event planned.

October – Lunch at the Hawthorne Inn, Labadie.

November – Speaker, Bev Schuetz, "Mark Twain", and lunch at Hunan Peking.

December – Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Holiday Inn, Six Flags.