

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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January 2019

Report from the President

Since beginning my 2-year term as President last July, there were 3 Council resignations; one each of the first 3 months. Each resignation was for a difference circumstance. I am grateful for the contributions made by those that resigned and I was encouraged to find good receptivity to assume Council positions. Kendra Hines, Daryl Molskness, and Suzy Davis joined as members at large. Susan Fickert moved to Vice President and Sue Kerber moved to Secretary. These Council-approved additions and changes will be affirmed by the congregation at our Annual Meeting.

2018 was an active year; moving from the *forming* stages of the Strategic Planning Task Force directly into the *storming* stages of assembling nine strategic action teams. It has been deeply encouraging to witness a high level of engagement and new leadership in many of these areas. The information gathered by our thorough WHIRL survey (May,2017) informed the Strategic Planning Task Force to organize our work as church in distinct areas:

- Invite
- Nurture
- Accompany
- Commission

The Task Force further assessed that Good Shepherd is a strong church, passionate and active in nurturing (education, small groups, etc.) and commissioning (Feed My Starving Children, mission trips, and a myriad of outreach areas). The nine strategic action teams we initiated build on our known strengths and address areas we have not focused on as intentionally.

1. Good Shepherd Connect- Project Horizon, Paul Davis
2. Marketing & Communication- Jennifer Makowski
3. Involvement- Suzie Everingham
4. Capital Campaign Project- Lyle Ziemann, Mike Kelly
5. Mission Trips- Pr. Josh Becht
6. Wellness- Pr. Amy Stewart
7. Grow One Ministry Partner- Josh Brecht
8. Go Green- Julie Deay & FMPC
9. You Belong- Jen Wade

Each team was launched, and most teams have a full and active membership and agenda. I want to emphasize how blessed we are to possess immense talent, passion and commitment to move forward quickly and effectively on so many fronts. Many of you are living out your work in this church by dedicating yourself to either the existing formal structure of our church or through one of these action teams.

An Organization Chart was assembled and published (see wall across from the mail boxes) in order to visually depict all that happens here. The left side shows all we do to operate the church. The right side displays our work to fulfill our mission to Invite, Nurture, Accompany

and Commission. Yet this Org Chart only shows areas and not all 120+ groups, teams, committees, etc. Wow!

At Good Shepherd, we are not content to let our work as a church stagnate. We are in the **norming** stage for the new initiatives. It is normal here to accept new challenges and to always ask what is working well and what may no longer be relevant. It is normal here to opt in and out to strike the right balance for commitment and joy. It has become normal here for Council to function as the governing body and for staff to make decisions with those involved to move issues forward more confidently, yet respectfully.

We have accomplished a good deal this year and Good Shepherd is truly **performing** (and I don't just mean a stellar Cantata!). In addition to what's been mentioned, our Technology Team completed the needed Wi-fi expansion and smart TV installations. The FMPG group completed all the bathroom renovations and has begun the roof replacement and parking lot/canopy project. Exterior lighting and interior signage for more welcoming wayfinding and fire safety is also being addressed. And a broad-based Sanctuary Design Team has been moving diligently towards plans (to be shared in March).

I risk not sharing so many stories and activities that make our church special. But I do want to thank those working on the Stewardship team with Christina Kling-Garrett and Rob Peglar. This team has raised up the joyful opportunity to Expand the Joy. Giving surpassed expenses despite the expected \$70,000 shortfall. I want to thank all those who give regularly to the operating budget. God gives us everything and joyful giving in response to our abundance is happening.

As Council reads yet another book about how church is changing, *Shift*, we are thoughtful to make our mark in this world through our church and always consider what might be next. Therefore, we hold onto what is dear as we continue the process of **forming, storming, norming and performing**. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

We are so blessed.

Glenn Kraft

GSLC Church Council	GSLC Congregational Annual Meeting – Jan. 27, 2019
<p>Glenn Kraft, President Susan Fickert, Vice President Sue Kerber, Secretary Rock Foster, Treasurer Daryl Molskness, Council at Large Jim Anderson, Council at Large (Past President) Andrew Leach, Council at Large Emily Horning, Council at Large Kendra Hines, Council at Large Suzy Davis, Council at Large</p>	<p>1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer 2. Verification of Quorum 3. Approval of Mid-Year & Special Meeting Minutes- June & November 4. Elect Council Members appointed in the Summer of 2018 5. 2018 Church Highlights/2019 Key Strategies 6. New Business a) Presentation and Approval of 2019 Operating Budget 7. Closing Prayer and Adjournment</p>

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Minutes of Annual Meeting 1/28/2018

Opening and Prayer

- Jim Anderson opened the meeting at 12:25 PM and verified a quorum of 142 members were present.
- Pastor Brecht provided the devotional.

Agenda

- Approval of Meeting Agenda. Glenn Kraft moved, and Joyce Candela seconded to approve the agenda with one addition, to approve the capital campaign bathroom project. The vote was unanimous.

Old Business

- 2017 Church Progress. Pastor Wolf: With the addition of Pastor Brecht, we are at full staff for the first time in several years. WHIRL was a success, providing direction and new concepts to try. There are fifty different service events year-round, Feed My Starving Children set records, and we have stellar educational, FLY and youth programs. There is untapped potential for more. The budget will be challenging, but that can be a positive challenge to continue to grow. The church has a bright future, and numerous resources amongst its finances, facility and people. Jim Anderson: I had four goals as Council President, and they were achieved. Conducted a capital campaign, attendance grew if not as much as expected, we have a stable Church Council and we are planning for the future.
- Approval of 2017 Mid-Year Meeting Minutes. Jim Brooks moved and Joyce Candela seconded to approve the Minutes. Page 7 should state Andrew Leach rather than Emily Horning as joining Council. As amended, the vote was unanimous.

New Business

- 2018 Strategic Plan. Glenn Kraft: There will be numerous opportunities for follow-up at various communication sessions. The Task Force spent four months analyzing historical data and performing a SWOT analysis. The Plan framework is Invite (deeper connectivity), Nurture (grow in faith and care for creation and people), Accompany (supporting life transitions) and Commission (empowering leaders). We are strong on CAN and need to work on Inviting. The plan has ten goals for 2018, with new goals to be determined beyond that. The goals are improving membership tracking, improving marketing and communication, increasing member involvement, inviting a new group not represented at church today, rechartering Healing Ministry, reactivating Mission Team, expanding Building Blocks outreach and the Wellness Ministry, partnering with one new local outreach ministry, and moving to a sustainable green church.
- Bathroom Renovation. Lyle Ziemann moved to renovate the bathroom facilities as contemplated by the capital campaign. There are eight restrooms to completely renovate, one ADA compliant restroom to be added on the lower level, and a partial renovation of the restrooms under the sanctuary, for a total of \$292,950 including a \$13,950 contingency. The west wing restrooms will be gutted with new partitions, ceramic tile floor and walls, new toilets with automatic flush, electric hand dryers, replaced lights and fans, diaper changing stations, and new shower faucets and doors. The ADA restroom will have the same. The east wing will have the same except not replacing the toilet fixtures. The restrooms below the sanctuary need fans, new lighting, and cosmetic updates. We will also fix the sewer line pipe joint in the lower level bathrooms where debris gets stuck. The vote was unanimous.

- 2017 Financial Review. Jim Brooks: In 2017 income was under budget by \$36k but expenses were under by \$34k. A \$49,887 deficit was budgeted but it was \$52,044 for the year. The loan for the Building Blocks bathroom was paid off, and the kitchen loan was also paid off, so at the moment there is no debt. The General Fund surplus was \$237k at the beginning of the year and \$185k at the end. The cash amount in the Commerce account is high due to capital campaign funds. The balance of all funds is \$1.033 million. At the end of the year, the Capital Campaign fund has spent \$355k for the kitchen and various architect fees and has \$350k cash. Total revenue for the year was \$2.077 million, comprised of \$1.106 million through the General Fund, \$681.5k through the Capital Campaign, Feed My Starving Children at \$96k, and all other revenues at \$193.5k.
- 2018 Budget. Larry Gustafson moved, and Jim Anderson seconded to accept the presented budget. Jim Brooks: Projected pledged income is \$1.114 million. Under 50% of families pledge, and 80% of those did not increase. We had \$582k in pledges last year, \$710k in pledges this year. With other income items, the total projected income is \$1,159,160. Increases to the budget for 2018 include \$39.5k for music and maintenance position, 3% pay raises, an increase in medical costs of 5%, \$5k to synod mission, \$2.3k to insurance increases, outside musicians and worship expenses of \$7.8k, and other expenses of \$7.9k. The variance between the 2017 actual results and 2018 budget is \$71.8k. With expenses of \$1.229,964, there is a \$70k deficit. It costs money to run programs, worship services, music, and keeping up the building. As a part of the Church's mission we are reviewing staffing needs. Lyle Ziemann called the question and Marv Meinz seconded. With three no votes, the motion passed. On the budget vote, with four no votes the motion passed.

Closing and Prayer

- Jim Brooks moved, and Jim Anderson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting closed at 2:05 PM with a prayer by Pastor Wolf.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Fox-Fickert , Congregation Secretary

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Minutes of Mid-Year Congregational Meeting 6/3/2018

Opening and Prayer

- Jim Anderson opened the meeting at 12:25 PM and verified a quorum of 80 members were present.
- Pastor Wolf provided the devotional.

Agenda

- Approval of Meeting Agenda. Joyce Candela moved and Jim Brooks seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

New Business

- Year-to-date May 2018 Financial Report. At the start of the year the budget had a \$70,000 deficit. However, total income through end May is \$108,291 over budget. Stewardship committee will be more active throughout the year. Expenses are on plan, ahead of budget by \$23,000 year to date. A maintenance person was hired. Some of the Commerce account was moved to Goldman Sachs as Commerce had 0 interest. Money

will transfer back for capital campaign projects. The capital campaign has brought in \$966,480 to date, \$264,221 for projects is available currently. As campaign money comes in, 15% will be put in a maintenance fund, then put in the budget going forward.

- Pastor Update. Pastor Wolf. Capital campaign projects are ongoing, we are gathering chapel redesign ideas for next year. Vacation bible school and music camp are coming up. Becky Howard will be on sabbatical, so there is an opportunity to fill gaps. There are no definitive developments yet in the property developments to the north and south of the church.
- Strategic Plan Update. There is great involvement in all 9 teams except Healing. Meetings are open to visitors.
- Vote on Extending Call to Gail Brecht to be a Deacon for Music Ministry. Motion on the ballot: Whereas GSLC has enhanced its Contemporary Worship and Music programs and has established a position (Deacon-Music Associate) overseeing these programs and the Congregational Council has unanimously approved bringing forward Gail Brecht for congregational consideration. Let it be resolved, that the congregation extend a Call to Deacon Gail Brecht to serve as Deacon (Music Associate). The vote was 73 for, 3 abstain, 3 against, with 2/3 vote needed for approval. Joyce Candela moved and Brad Anderson seconded for the pay package to be \$15,000 per year. The vote was approved with one abstention.
- Vote Council Officers and Members. Vote totals are below.

	For	Against	Abstain
Joyce Candela	79	2	1
Rock Foster	82	0	0
Emily Horning	81	0	1
Joe Ackerman	81	0	1
Sue Kerber	80	0	2
Jennifer Wade	65	2	0
Steve Schilson	68	0	1
Jan Alford	69	0	0
Gene Sanguinette	68	0	0
Karen Fatzinger	68	0	0
Larry Hibbard	69	0	0
Roberta Curtis	68	0	1
Joyce Candela	68	1	0

Closing and Prayer

- Jim Brooks moved, and Joyce Candela seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting closed at 1:00 PM with a prayer by Pastor Brecht.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Fox-Fickert, Congregation Secretary

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Special Congregational Meeting 11/4/2018

- Call to Order
 - President Glenn Kraft called the meeting to order at 12:14 PM.
- Verification of Quorum and Opening Prayer
 - Quorum was verified with 94 members present.
 - Pastor Wolf opened the meeting with prayer.
- Presentation and update on the completed Capital projects, and presentation of what the motion covers on the three projects being voted on. Questions and Answer session.
- Motion to approve three capital campaign projects
- The Congregation council recommends that the congregation approve the following projects with an additional 10% cushion for budget:
 - Roof Replacement (entire flat roof area) up to \$100,000
 - IT Updates-computers, WiFi, screens up to \$30,000
 - North Parking Lot, Canopy, Drainage, LED lighting for front and back lots, landscaping up to \$630,000 plus a cushion of \$76,000 making \$836,000 for the NPL (total approval for all 3 projects.)
 - Rob Pegler motioned to approve the three projects.
 - Joel Bretscher seconded the motion
 - The motion was voted by voice ballot. Approved with all in favor and 0 against, 0 abstaining the motion.
- Closing Prayer and Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 12:34pm

Respectfully submitted, Sue Kerber, Congregation Secretary

2018 Statistics

Membership at end of 2017=1362 and Membership at end of 2018 = 1330

Baptisms (20)

Aldridge, Owen Richard
 Behling, Luke William
 Brooks, William Robert
 Doss, Gabriel
 Fiasco-Mues, Theodore James
 Fickert, Emily Mary
 Hilleman, Elias Andrew
 Lamkin, Amelia Rose
 Langen, Cooper James
 Lombardo, Edward Guy
 Lombardo, Penelope Rey
 Modica, Thomas Kenneth
 Neuwirth-Deutsch, Julia Ranier
 Ross, Rylie Kathleen
 Schmidt, Olivia Jane
 Schmidt, Oscar Andrew
 Stewart, Carter James
 Vaught, Carli Jan
 Vaught, Elijah Bruce
 Vaught, Ethan Robert

Confirmations (20)

Adams, Cole Henry
 Bader, Ethan Clark
 Bardo, Alexander James
 Borchelt, Lauren Rose
 Brown, Jacob William
 Christiansen, Kaden Clarke
 DuPerrett, Lauren Yates
 Feaster, Grace Carol
 Geringer, Grace Caroline
 Haack, Daniel James
 Horning, Charlotte Sophia
 Hull, Katherine Diane
 Legler, Luke Ezekiel
 Mainquist, Oscar Philip
 Matzdorf, Karissa Ann
 Oelschlaeger, Landon James
 Sawall, Aliana Grace
 Schumacher, Benjamin Dalton
 Spoerle, Jacob Steven
 Witt, Michael Thomas

Weddings (3)

Lochmoeller, Tracy/Tabor, Gary
 Ogroski, Austin/Moss, Shae
 Stelmachowicz, Evan/Licos, Angelica

New Members/Inactive to Active (85)

Ahearn, Paul & Marcella
 Clare; Dominic
 Ashmore, Nathan & Beth
 Evelyn
 Ball, Jim & Diane
 Behling, Elizabeth
 Behling, Mark & Gail
 Boyer, Steve & Megan
 Clampitt, Shirley
 Densford, Stephen
 Doss, Kevin & Kristen
 Engle, Robert & Betsy
 Engquist, Dave & Chris
 Ericson, Bill & Sandy

Francis, Sal & Sonia
 Fussner, Andrew & Rachel
 Nancy; Stephanie
 Haberstroh, Marlin & Cindy
 Roy, Tilda
 Hammond, Mark
 Hrdina, Chris & Kelly;
 Cash
 Kain, Pete
 Kayser, Jason & Garwood, Sarah
 Kayser, Ava; Lila; Vivian
 Kloppe, Sally
 Krieger, Christine
 Lewellen, Andrew & Meredith
 Maley, John & Carla
 Meckfessel, Christina
 Molly
 Metroff, Bill
 Miraflores, Ramon & Susan
 Olivia (Bradshaw); Ramon;
 Gwendolyn
 Moore, Kathryn
 Modica, Jim & Laura
 Mues, Stephen & Fiasco, Emily
 Peglar, Rob
 Reis, Adam
 Schmidt, Kurt & Karen
 Rachael
 Sorensen, Tim & Erin
 Eliot, Clara; Ivy
 Stamberger, David & Betty
 Stockman, Kyle & Cindy
 Caleb; Eli
 Wood, Sarah
 Aidan; Hannah
 Yocks, Beth
 Macy; Jack

Transferred Out/Inactive/Moved (128)

Aper, Scott;
 Alexandria; Scott, Jr.; Taylor
 Barley, Robert & Susan
 Barr, Mary Ann
 Bladow, Jason
 Bretscher, Hope
 Butkiewicz, Joe & Ginny
 Candela, Dennis
 Anthony
 Candela, Kayla
 Canady, Kayden; Kerieana
 Cates, Shawn & Kristen; Eric
 Chida, Andrew
 Ciscell, Steve & Kathy
 Ciscell, Charlie
 Ciscell, Elizabeth
 Clark, Greg & Brenda
 Megan; William
 Conlisk, Dawn
 Clare; Clark; Quinn
 Dart, Tim & Rhonda
 Christopher; Mallory; Megan
 Ferree, Rob & Dawn
 Field, Ashley
 Halsey, ErikaHanson, Suzanne

Christopher; Katherine
 Hearold, Keith
 Hearold, Lauren
 Heberlel, Ava
 Hoffner, Warren & Luann
 Kaitlyn; Kristen
 Howland, Rachel
 Howland, Stephen
 Hulsey, Nick & Kathryn
 Jansen, Hannah
 Jansen, Kim
 Johnson, Nicole
 Drew; Naia
 Keithly, Brian & Sarah
 Addison; Emma; Rebecca
 King, Terry & Jackie
 Christian; Jessica; Lucas
 Kopp, Lynn
 Krammer, Ron & Jean
 Mathers, John & Cindi
 Meyer, Dan & Linda
 Meyer, Adam, Jaren & Lucas
 Militzer, Travis
 Miller, Annmarie
 Mowery, Mike (Kenneth) & Janene
 Mueller, Doug & Carmen
 Craig; Eric
 Nicol, Gordon & Jenny
 Reich, Gary & Kathy
 Rubach, Brian
 Schneider, Julie & Kasey
 Stahlman, Bill & Stacey
 Lily; Leah (Gruendler); Adia; Ethan
 Stanton, Joe & Katie
 Audrey; Emma
 Stava, Thomas
 Stovall, Jessica
 Emma; Evan
 Syers, David, Elissa, & Logan
 Unverfehrt, Julia
 Van Paris, Adam
 Van Paris, Alyssa
 Walker-Simelton, Ruth
 Caspian; Luci
 Webb, Amy
 Jackson; Ella
 Whitworth, Fallon
 Winkler, Nathan & Melissa
 Madeline; Wesley
 Wolfangel, Matthew
 Mason

Funerals/Deaths (9)

Blaha, Michael (non-member)
 Erickson, Barbara Sue
 Gilbert, Kathleen
 Groff, June
 Hintz, Gail Marcelise
 Hood, Loretta
 Wilmsmeyer, David E. (non-member)
 Metroff, Margaret (non-member)
 Mewis, David

2018 TREASURER'S REPORT

2018 Actual 2018 Budget

INCOME

GENERAL FUND INCOME

2017 END OF YEAR CONTRIB FOR 2018 BUDGET	\$74,640.00	0.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,144,933.44	\$1,118,000.00
GF VARIOUS REVENUE	38,244.88	39,950.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	6,131.02	1,650.00
 TOTAL INCOME	1,263,949.34	1,159,600.00

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

BENEVOLENCE	\$82,678.00	\$76,702.00
SALARY & BENEFITS	761,865.01	768,112.00
MORTGAGE INTEREST	0.00	1,500.00
PROPERTY	176,164.32	166,650.00
ADMINISTRATION	82,596.27	82,850.00
MINISTRY TEAM EXPENSES	85,233.01	84,600.00
GF Support for: Service	29,400.00	29,400.00
FMSC	15,000.00	15,000.00
Hedgewood	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
Continuing Ed	4,008.98	5,150.00
Youth Team	0.00	5,000.00
Youth Club	-802.18	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,231,143.41	\$1,229,964.00

NET INCOME \$32,805.93 -\$70,364.00

Senior Pastor – Richard J. Wolf

In his classic book, “*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*”, Robert Schnase highlighted the specific church practices that can act as reliable measures of the depth of congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness:

- Radical Hospitality,
- Passionate Worship,
- Intentional Faith Development,
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and
- Extravagant Generosity

Looking back over the congregational life of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, I believe these five areas characterize much of what we have accomplished together in 2018.

- **Radical Hospitality** – Good Shepherd prides itself as being a welcoming church and many of our newer members testify to that quality. Nevertheless, as part of our Strategic Initiatives the “You Belong” Team is challenging us to look at ourselves through the eyes of people that, for one reason or another, have not been welcomed as much as we might wish – specifically those of different sexual orientations. We are discussing, listening, and working together to see how we might extend our Christian hospitality to our LGBTQ neighbors.

On a similar note, “Our Neighbors, Our City” continues to explore the racial divide that exists in the St Louis community. Partnerships with community groups such as Metropolitan Churches United, West County Church Collaborative and with Shaw Elementary School have begun as we work to find ways to reach out to those socially and racially different from ourselves.

- **Passionate Worship** – This year we welcomed Gail Brecht as the new Director of Contemporary Worship. She is helping us to learn new ways to worship in the contemporary style that are engaging and Spirit-filled. Meanwhile, we continue to offer a broad variety of worship options, ranging from informal to contemporary to liturgically traditional. Under the leadership of Jamie De Geer, we offer multiple choirs and diverse musical opportunities such as our annual Christmas Cantata and Music Camp. With three pastors preaching and presiding in worship, we are able offer a variety of preaching style which engages both heart and mind.
- **Intentional Faith Development** – Another outstanding congregational strength is in Christian Education. Whether it be meaningful Milestones in Faith Development, Midweek programing, Sunday morning classes for all ages, or summer offerings like VBS and Be Like Jesus, Becky Howard leads this year-round multifaceted ministry with a welcoming spirit and innovative leadership. (This year, she was afforded a brief sabbatical to research how our faith development efforts might become even more effective.) Pastor Amy Stewart provides outstanding leadership with our High School youth (known as FLY). Through weekly gatherings, mission trips, and weekly participation in the life of the church, our youth display an exemplary depth of faith.
- **Risk-Taking Mission and Service** – Another outstanding area of ministry at Good Shepherd is the broad variety of service ministries we sponsor each year. There are almost

too many to mention here. The largest, of course, is Feed My Starving Children which engages over 3,000 volunteers from GSLC and the wider community and provides needed food for thousands of children around the world. Each month we host many other service opportunities that help our neighbors near and far. Good Shepherd has a true heart for Mission and Service.

- **Extravagant Generosity** – Good Shepherd is in the second year of our Capital Campaign – “Good to Grow” which is raising around 2 million dollars for needed repairs and upgrades to our facilities. All this is happening over and above a General Operating budget which exceeds a million dollars all by itself. Good Shepherd has been gifted by God with deep resources of time, talent, and treasure. These people are generous because they know deep down that they have a generous God who showers us with more gifts of grace than we can ask for or even imagine.

All these things that I’ve mentioned above only just scratch the surface of what the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd is all about. There is so much more that I could lift up but have failed to mention. It is the depth of understatement to say that this church is an active church. It is, and so much more! By God’s grace, the people of GSLC take seriously their calling to *“Follow Christ, Grow in Faith, and Share God’s Love”*. By almost any measurement, Good Shepherd shows all the positive signs of health and vitality that enable us to do powerful ministry in this place. It almost boggles the mind to list all the ways that God has blessed us. I consider it a true blessing that I have been called to serve in this place!

But truly effective leadership is always a team effort. And that is most certainly true here at Good Shepherd. The staff whom I rely upon daily are outstanding in their talent and commitment. Pastors Josh Brecht and Amy Stewart have been blessed with many gifts for ministry that compliment and often exceed my own. Deacons Suzie Everingham and Gail Brecht each use their many gifts to care for and enrich the lives of our people. I’ve already sung the praises of Jamie De Geer and Becky Howard whose particular gifts result in outstanding ministry to all ages. Our office staff – Julie Deay, Jennifer Makowski, Brenda Ogroski, Cathy Putz and Leslie Markovits work largely behind the scenes to make it all happen. Kathy Rebholz, the Director of Building Blocks Preschool along with her teachers and helpers serve our little ones and their families with joy and dedication. Our Church Council and our many ministry leaders work together to keep powerful ministry happening day in and out. We couldn’t do it all without them.

May God continue to bless us as we work together in this new year. There is much to do, and I am confident that the Holy Spirit will continue to provide all that we need to accomplish it.

Associate Pastor – Josh Brecht

It can be easy to become overwhelmed by the moment and get caught in the minutiae. If we are not careful, our field of vision becomes obscured by the tasks of the day to day, and we lose perspective. This is why God is always inviting Israel to remember, to look back and reflect on all God has done. This pause gives perspective to the moment, meaning to the tasks before us, and prepares our hearts to receive what God has in store for us. As I reflect back on the ministry we have done together in the past year, I am amazed at all God has done in 2018!

God led us to begin 2018 with a modified format for our contemporary worship and the addition of a Worship Leader, Gail Brecht. This has been a wonderful shift bringing a new energy to our musicians and worship together. This additional music staffing has also given Jamie De Geer time to invest more in other music groups and worship services, including a new contemporary choir, musical variety at the 5:30 worship service, and a richness to the choral music in our traditional services. God has formed Good Shepherd into a church that is both traditional and innovative and we see this value shining through our worship.

In January I was invited to attend the annual Glocal Musicians training in Chicago with the ELCA's Global Missions unit. In June, a Glocal team was invited to lead our annual Central States Synod assembly and I served on this team. The Holy Spirit moved in amazing ways! It was particularly powerful for me as my local ministry at Good Shepherd converged with the Synodical and the Global Lutheran Church.

As 2018 began, we knew God was leading us into a number of strategic initiatives. A Mission Trips team was re-established and has been exploring new possibilities for missional partnerships. This opened the door for me to travel to Costa Rica for a week with Praying Pelican Missions to experience their ministry first-hand. We continue this work and expect to have plans in place for an intergenerational/international mission trip in 2020.

A second strategic initiative was to explore how technology could enable us to be more effective in ministry and foster connection and involvement. A fantastic team came together led by Paul Davis and worked tirelessly over the past year, launching Good Shepherd Connect in November. This new tool, along with our new worship Connect Cards is providing new avenues for people to become connected to do ministry and grow spiritually at Good Shepherd.

We continue to seek God's heart for justice and equality through the work of Our Neighbors, Our City. In 2018 we felt led to seek more community collaboration and action. A relationship was established with Shaw Elementary in the St. Louis Public School District. We are just embarking on this adventure by mentoring kids and cannot wait to see what opportunities God brings out of this relationship!

One of the ongoing strengths of Good Shepherd is small group ministry. I have been blessed to meet with many of our small groups as they continue to foster a deep sense of belonging for people. Two new small groups were created in 2018 as people gather on mission together in their homes for prayer, learning and service. We hope to see this ministry continue to expand in 2019. There are many other smaller groups that develop deep relationships, as well. I have been a part of Basecamp, a monthly men's ministry launched in 2018 by Brandon Wade, Michael Kerber, and Paul Dreher. I was blessed to celebrate Christmas with the CG's at their annual luncheon. I have been so humbled to be invited into so many of your lives and stories through pastoral care, both in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Thank you for allowing me into your hearts.

As we look ahead to 2019, it is easy to begin making plans based on what we want, or think is best. However, let us continue the practice of reflection so that in seeing what God has done, we will always remember to ask the right question: Where is God leading us? What does God want Good Shepherd to look like in the year ahead? In five years? In ten years? I cannot wait to continue this missional journey with all of you!

Chaplain – Suzie Everingham

Writing my annual report gives me time to pause and reflect over the prior year. In my office, I have a hand-stitched wall hanging of what is commonly known as, “The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.” Here are the words, which I know many of you know by heart:

“LORD . . .
*Make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light, and
Where there is sadness, joy.*
O DIVINE MASTER . . .
*Grant that I may not so much
Seek to be consoled, as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is by giving, that we receive
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it is in dying that we are born
To eternal life.”*

I think I love those words so much because they embody our life together as Christians first, and second, as we share our God-given gift of faith as members of Good Shepherd. When I have been in conversations with many of you (either in the narthex, the hospital or in your homes) you have echoed the gift that this community of faith is for you – amid your joys, fears, celebrations, and sorrows. Those opportunities to share God’s love haven’t been limited to just the building – you have walked them out into the world, as you share with others (noted weekly in “beyond these walls”), illuminating the many ways we give outside these walls to those in need both near and far. In a recent conversation, I was told about a church who had T-shirts made that said, “The (name of church) has left the building” – what awe-inspiring words as we go out into the world showing God’s heart to others in need.

As part of my annual report – I am encouraged to give some numbers that reflect my work in 2018. Honestly, this is a bit counter-intuitive for me because numbers (in this regard) are truly unimportant to me. For me, it is the people who are important. The numbers, to me, can never fully show the importance of bringing the “church” to those in need. (I think this request was so that members will rest assured that I have qualities other than being the “ex-official” donkey pusher (or puller) for Christmas eve services. :) So, for those who like numbers . . . here you go . . . over the last year, by the grace of God, I made approximately 423 pastoral care phone calls, plus 36 hospital visits, 143 communion visits, and about 125 calls for those whose attendance has changed. These numbers do not include contacts for Feed My Starving Children both in encouraging participation and in the actual sign-up process. Further they don’t include on-going service contacts made regarding other service opportunities (like Habitat / Thanksgiving Baskets, etc.). And, they don’t include the many conversations that occur in the narthex each week at

weekend worship services. So, hopefully, you can tell that I'm on the phone and/or "left the building" a lot!

Sometimes, I even travel across the state, since I understand part of my call is to assist in support of the Central States Synod. Therefore, I serve by supporting the Synod in two different ways. First, I'm a member of "The Rostered Leader Support Team" for the Synod. This group outlines its opportunity to serve per the following: "We work at the Bishop's direction with rostered leaders across the synod when they need prayerful, discerning support amid times of transition, crisis or conflict within their call. This team, of seven members, meets with individuals quarterly, at the Synod office in Kansas City, to offer prayerful, confidential conversation." Second, I work with documents to assist congregations who are in the interim process. In St. Louis, we have a great deficit in rostered pastors – in part, due to many who have retired. Currently, in the St. Louis area, we have *11 congregations* amid the interim process as they gain knowledge about who they are, the needs (of the congregation and community) in their specific setting. These congregations work with the synod-assigned interim ministers until which time they have a called pastor.

I am so very thankful for the many volunteers that I work with, their dedication, and their gift of time to the on-going ministry here at Good Shepherd. I will not reiterate their work, but I do hope you look at the minutes from the teams to get a picture of that work: Service Team, Welcome Team, Feed My Starving Children, and Involvement Team (making a difference). These teams, work with each of you, so that we all can be "blessed to be a blessing." As we travel together – I pray you will see the many ways that Good Shepherd has "left the building."

Don't worry though, the lights are always left on and burn brightly from the symbol of the eternal light in the Sanctuary to the eternal light within each of you.

Marching in the Light of Christ –
Chaplain Suzie

Feed My Starving Children – Bob Debolt, Leader

We have much to be grateful for in this service ministry. Allow me to start by thanking and recognizing Good Shepherd for creating and sponsoring one of the largest, longest, and most enduring FMSC MobilePacks in the United States. (Good Shepherd's Pack is about 25% longer in days, is about 3 times larger than the average pack, and is 1 of 2 packs recognized for saving lives for 12 consecutive years)

Having just completed its 12th year and since its inception, the MobilePack hosted by Good Shepherd has fed more 13,500 kids a hot meal a day for a year and importantly has provided more than 17,000 service opportunities for our members and the St. Louis Community. We have raised more than \$1.1 Million dollars to pay for 4.95 million meals we packed and brought hope and life to some of the poorest, neediest and most hopeless people in the world. 2018 results were about 10% higher than the previous year as we fed 2,450 kids and had 3,000 plus volunteers who packed more than 894K meals.

This year's meals went to Liberia, Haiti and through our partner Convoy of Hope to many other countries of the World.

Good Shepherd has come a long way from its beginning in the fall of 2007 when a generous Church member sponsored the entire pack and our church youth and members packed 112,000 meals. Today, an estimated 80% of our volunteers come from outside Good Shepherd and provide just less than 50% of the funding to pay for the meals. The FMSC team acts as a catalyst for others now, helping and inspiring them to grass roots fundraise at their churches, Rotaries and Kiwanis Clubs, schools and universities, local businesses and other groups.

You may not know that 2 other FMSC church packs in St. Louis are growing even faster than Good Shepherd...Atonement Lutheran in North County and Gateway Christian Church in West County grew by 42% year over year and combined to pack more than 537,000 meals, feeding more than 1,470 kids in 2018. As you know, we assisted in the start-up of these new MobilePacks, and we continue to help with tables and other expertise where we can...and of course they help us at our pack as well!

Despite our best planning efforts, the last couple MobilePacks at Good Shepherd have proven that we have difficult bottlenecks at our current size and in our current facility. Our packs have at times experienced issues with parking, interruption of services and at times conflict with other building uses, we have had issues with trash removal as well as parking for 5 semi-trailers, we have limited storage and finally, we were slower than usual in attracting volunteers to our mid-day, mid-week shifts which are all we have left to offer new volunteers. There are more issues, but it is clear that it is time to take a step back and ask ourselves what the future of Feed My Starving Children and Good Shepherd looks like?

Earlier in 2018 Good Shepherd's Council, authorized a feasibility team (comprised of people from our team, other area packs, as well as corporate FMSC staff) to develop and evaluate various ways forward for Good Shepherd, FMSC and the community. This team has been working for several months and is close to defining possible ways to continue this amazing ministry. We expect to communicate more about the future plan as it becomes known.

I will close with Good Shepherd's Service Team Mission, which has inspired and guided the Feed My Starving Team for many years.

"To Provide Opportunities to reach out in love and demonstrate our Christian faith by serving those in need in the local and global community in a way that forms community between those who give and receive, so that the faith of all involved is encouraged and enriched."

With Sincere Thanks and Appreciation,
Bob DeBolt, Volunteer Leader

Director of Youth Ministry – Amy Stewart

2018 was another year of great ministry from, with, and among our awesome high school youth. I learn so much from our young people and I'm encouraged by their faith, leadership, and sense of community. I have also been blessed by several other areas of ministry that I work with here at Good Shepherd. I was overjoyed to celebrate five years here in May and ten years of ordained ministry in December. Here are some highlights of our year together:

Fellowship of Lutheran Youth (FLY)

- Thanks to Keith Repko, and guest teachers, for continued FLY Sunday school leadership. I was also able to help teach and attend occasional classes.
- Thanks to Gail Brecht, Angie Franz, Andrew Leach, Kim Deitzler, and Jenn Bader for providing leadership for the C+ Harmony Praise Band, and for the youth who shared their gifts. C+ helped to lead worship on FLY Sundays, Senior Sunday, and at the ELCA Youth Gathering.
- FLY met almost every week of the year for fellowship and faith development. Thank you to Stacey Anderson, Andrew and Sarah Leach, and Amy Kallansrud for their partnership.
- Fresh Start met on Wednesday mornings throughout the school year, rotating locations. Students ate breakfast, fellowshipped, and shared a short devotional.
- A “Stress Buster” retreat helped youth learn some new coping skills for all of the stressors in their life. This was well received and requested again for the upcoming year.
- We hosted two Metro St. Louis Coalition youth gatherings, as well as half of the monthly meetings.
- We celebrated our high school graduates on Senior Sunday; 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 hard work of countless parents and youth, and the support of the congregation, our fundraisers, including Trivia Night, grocery cards, Amazon Smile, two pancake meals (Shrove Tuesday and Flip Flops and Flapjacks Sunday), and cookie sales were a huge success, making it possible to carry out our regular FLY ministry and trips.
- 42 youth and adults participated in the Gathering, where they had life-changing experiences as they served in the community, fellowshipped with each other and other youth, learned countless ways to serve and live out their faith, and grew in their relationships with God. A huge thanks to Andrew Leach, Gail Brecht, Angie Franz, Patty Geurkink, and Julie Griffard for their selfless and vital leadership.
- 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.
- Hannah Molskness and Emma McMahon gave talks at “Our Neighbors, Our City” and in Adult ed.

- 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.
- Youth served through Souper Bowl of Caring (benefiting Trinity Soulard), Feed My Starving Children, World Hunger, raking leaves, and college care packages, as well as other projects in the congregation.
- Sarah Fatzinger, one of our Gathering team members, created a fundraiser and collected \$700 to send Bibles, books, and sound equipment to a congregation that we partnered with in Houston!
- Several of our youth participated in leadership positions on various teams and committees.
- Thanks to Caleb Messerly for creating a prayer labyrinth on the North hill as his Eagle Scout project. This is a great gift and meditation offering for GSLC and the wider community.

College Outreach

- I researched campus ministries, nearby ELCA congregations, or other faith opportunities for each of our first-year students. They appreciate having an immediate option in a time that can be overwhelming.
- We continued our monthly mailings to help our students stay connected to their church family. Thank you to the parents who helped: Brenda Jansen, John and Linda Webb, Angie Franz, Brenda DeBolt, Val Swain. Thank you to FLY for packing care boxes for college students during their finals.
- College students enjoyed a lunch together over Christmas break.
- Thank you to the Scholarship Team for their work: Joel Bretscher, Beckie Fingland, and Roberta Curtis. We were able to give scholarships to Lexi Swain, Riley Swain, and Aaron Hautekeete, all attending Lutheran schools. We hope to grow this fund in the coming year, to support more scholarships.

Confirmation

- I continue to enjoy teaching the 8th grade class about the Catechism and discipleship living.
- 8th graders were invited to a few Sneak Peek FLY nights, 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, shared in pastoral care and counseling (mostly, but not limited to FLY youth and families), helped to plan worship and taught occasional classes.
- As a part of my call toward the wider Church and need for continuing education, I have participated in the Metro St. Louis Coalition (I chaired this in 2018), Lutheran Leaders in Mission, Women in Ministry, synodical events, interfaith events, the “Young Clergy Women” conference, the “Nevertheless She Preached” conference, and the Alliance for Healthy Communities, to help prevent teen substance abuse.*I attended new members meetings each quarter.

- I participated with the Strategic Planning team that presented a 5-year vision to the congregation. I was also tasked, from this team, to head up the newly formed Wellness Team. After taking a congregational survey, this team created a Facebook group (Good Shepherd Wellness), offered a Game Night/Healthy Potluck, and yoga four classes a month from October-December. Thank you to Cindy Kraft, Kim Sherwood, Suzy Davis, Sue Kerber, and Melissa Huse for helping with these events.
- Helping with ongoing meetings and visioning for the sanctuary renovation.
- I was excited to learn and implement the new Touchpoint system and Connect app.

Self-Care

Always seeking to find wholeness as a child of God, I practice self-care through mutual ministry meetings, Scripture reading, monthly Anam Cara gatherings, monthly spiritual direction, regular time at the gym, honoring my day off and vacation Sabbath days, and time carved out for family and friends.

I continue to love, and be grateful for, my call here. I look forward to all that 2019 brings, including a 9-10 week maternity leave to allow our family to bond with baby boy Stewart (due the first week of April), finding a new balance as a working mom of two, sending 24 youth and adults to Chicago for the summer Youthworks trip, continued ministry with youth and others, and watching for the Holy Spirit at work among us at Good Shepherd!

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

We have been blessed with a year that has shown continued growth in number of families involved in our Children's Ministry programming.

Here are some events that marked Children's Ministry in 2018:

- We celebrated with 40 second and third graders and their families as they received their First Communion in February. The three-week family discussion events leading up to this faith milestone were led by our awesome pastoral staff.
- Additional faith milestones in 2018 included: Little Lambs First Bible presentation; 1st Grade Small Catechism study, 3rd Grade Family Bible Study and presentation as well as 6th grade “welcome into confirmation study”.
- 75 youth in grades 3 through 8, along with 29 high school junior guides and 31 adult volunteers were part of the 2018 *Be Like Jesus* ELCA St. Louis Coalition Service lock-in. It is such a blessing to host this event and see God’s work in the hands and hearts of these young people as well as the dedication and spirit of fun shared by the high school junior guides and adult volunteers. Good Shepherd is looking forward to hosting this regional 23-hour youth event for the fifth year in a row over the April 5-6 weekend in 2019!

- We celebrated as 21 of our 8th graders affirmed their baptism as they were confirmed in April. The Saturday evening celebration banquet was attended by just over 130 people and was made possible by 24 volunteers.
- Nine current 7th & 8th graders attended Confircamp at Camp Wartburg in June of 2018, a smaller number than previous years to be sure. Looking forward to growing this group in 2019.
- Middle school summer events continued to be well attended though we'd always like to have more kids join us!
- Vacation Bible School 2018 – we were thrilled to host 157 children (compared to 140 in 2017 and 108 in 2016) for our week *SHIPWRECKED*. We were blessed with a team of 21 adult volunteers, three college-age volunteers, 27 high school volunteers, 25 middle school volunteers plus three staff members to make this week possible. Many thanks to this “village” of volunteers for making VBS 2018 a fun and meaningful experience for all. Special thanks to Pastor Josh, Kyra Christiansen and Emily Hintz for being our large group music leaders and to Gene and Viki Longfield for their partnership, leadership and set-building creativity!
- We held our annual *God's Work, Our Hands* Sunday in late August this year and made it a family-focused event vs. an in-Sunday-School class activity. This seems to have been well received and was a great lead up to Rally Day the following weekend.
- 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. We welcomed over 250 folks for our fall Trunk or Treat event and 241 for our Easter Egg Hunt (increase of right around ten people for each event). Many thanks to Gene and Viki Longfield for their partnership in the Easter Egg Hunt and again for their leadership, along with Dawn Schwab, of Trunk or Treat.
- The Sunday School Christmas presentation of *The Night Shift Before Christmas* was an early Christmas gift to many. It was a blessing to have so many families commit to the December Saturday rehearsals! Many thanks to Jamie De Geer, Karen Kallansrud, Katherine Van Horn, Laura McCommis, Angela Borchardt and Susan Miraflores for their leadership.
- Our Christmas Eve Live Nativity family services were again spirit-led and well received.
- We hosted three Parents Night Out events in 2018 and plan to increase those fellowship opportunities to four or five in 2019.

Ongoing programs include: Sunday School; newly-named Wednesday evening programming (SHiNE for 2nd – 5th grade; RiSE for 6th – 8th grades); 2nd Sunday Monthly Family Fellowship; Summer Children’s Church, yearly regional ministry events for middle school youth with Quake in January and Confircamp in June. These offerings are made possible because of the support of this congregation and the army of volunteers we are blessed with at Good Shepherd. We currently have 25 volunteer leaders involved in our Sunday morning Children’s Ministry program, and 14 regular volunteer leaders each Wednesday evening for our SHiNE and RiSE programs ... and, yet, we still find ourselves looking for more volunteers, perhaps more often than we’d like, *but* with an awareness that this need for additional hands on deck to guide our children means we have a growing program.

In addition to child-focused programming, Emily Horning continues to do a great job leading our monthly Sunday morning Parenting Group and organizing the parent portion of 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 in 2018, I was invited to be part of the You Belong Task Team as well as the Mission Team in planning for an intergenerational trip in 2020.

I was blessed with my 8th-year sabbatical this year. This time away from Good Shepherd included much reading, reflection, visit to a conference focused on Cross-Generational Ministry, opportunities to visit other churches and youth programs and good time of self-care. While I will be forever thankful for this time of sabbath, I was anxious to return to my church family in November. From the young families who trust us to partner with them on their child's faith journey and the many ministry partners who so freely give of their time and talents to make our children and family events meaningful and possible, to the blessed noise in our Sunday morning narthex and eager sharing of peace and joy in worship, I will forever be grateful for this place I call home.

In Christ, Becky Howard

Director of Music Ministry – Jamie De Geer

The year began with the welcome addition of Gail Brecht to the music staff as Director of Contemporary Music. With the addition of this new position, I would be relieved of some responsibilities and taking on new ones, and it was suggested to me that I get a fresh start. Thus, I ended 2017 by cleaning, re-organizing and putting a fresh coat of paint on my office. Thanks to Julie, Rachel and Patrick Griffard for their expert painting and to Joe for the new furniture. Gail and I worked together to re-arrange the music room to accommodate a Sunday morning rehearsal space for the Worship Band which has been well utilized. I attended a music conference the first week of January and came back refreshed and ready to face the new year!

Here are some highlights from 2018:

- Choirs continue to grow in size and spirit. We were pleased to welcome several new singers over the course of the year as well as some returning singers.
- Joint Choirs sang on Transfiguration Sunday! Thanks to Carin Recks for her expert leadership of an inspirational spiritual titled "*Lord, I Know I Been Changed*".
- Once again, the Lenten Services were held at noon and 7pm. At the midweek services, I served as vocal leader with Marcus De Geer on piano at noon and Mary Spoerle served as vocal leader at the 7pm services with Keith Kolander on organ.
- All Choirs participated in services on Easter Sunday with Celebration Chorus at 8am, Faith Choir at 9:30 am and Ladies of the Lord at 11am.
- In April, the Wartburg Choir presented a wonderful concert. Thanks to the Endowment Team for supplementing the free will offering to meet the college's concert travel expenses. Thanks to everyone who helped with the meal, housing and concert preparations, especially Karen Kallansrud, Dianne Unverfehrt and Bev Militzer.

- Music Camp was a success with our first ever Christmas Musical titled “*All About That Baby*”. It was a fun change to celebrate Christmas during June! Thanks to Julie Griffard, Karen Kallansrud, Nancy Stelmachowicz, Katherine Van Horn, Carin Recks and many more for their leadership. We learned how to pull together in times of crisis when our fantastic accompanist, Karen, suffered a stroke on Friday and was unable to be there for the performances. She was greatly missed but we are so glad that she received excellent care and will be able to be back with us for music camp 2019.
- Unfortunately, Karen Kallansrud has had to resign from her duties as Special Music Accompanist due to some lingering vision problems. She will be greatly missed by all the choirs and vocal groups that she worked with. Thanks to Karen for over 40 years of service at Good Shepherd. And, thanks to Marcus De Geer and Keith Kolander for filling in as accompanists in her absence.
- In response to conversations with regular 5:30 worship attendees who participated in discussions about that service, I began planning and leading a praise team at the 5:30 service once a month.
- I began leading a Contemporary Choir in June which sings at the 11:00 worship service once a month. People who formerly sang or played on 11 praise teams were invited to participate. Membership has opened to others on an invitational basis. There have been 12-16 involved each month. Thanks to Gail and the worship band for accompanying the choir.
- Hand Bells and Tone Chimes were sent to the manufacturer to be re-furbished over the summer. They returned in time to begin fall rehearsals and sound better than ever.
- Joint Choirs sang on Pentecost in June and All Saint’s Sunday in November.
- The Bells & Brats Event was a success again this year. Thanks to Jon and Karen Fatzinger and Carol Ziemann for their leadership.
- The Christmas Cantata was once again a great success with 60 participants. There were a few setbacks at the beginning with an accompanist that had to be let go, but Marcus De Geer was able to step in and do a wonderful job.
- The Sunday School Christmas Musical “*The Nightshift Before Christmas*” was a lot of fun this year. We have some many talented youths who participated. Thanks to all the leaders and helpers for making this a success.

Thanks to all the music staff, leaders and volunteers who give so much of their time and talent to support the worship and music ministry here at Good Shepherd. As I look back on 2018, I realize how unexpected life can be at times. The year began with a fresh outlook, filled with promise and hope. And, over the course of the year, challenges were faced. There were hills and valleys to navigate. There were good changes and some difficult changes. But through it all, God is with us and that is one thing that we can always count on.

Director of Contemporary Worship – Gail Brecht

It has been an incredible year at Good Shepherd! I began serving in this position in January, not knowing quite what to expect, or how the contemporary service may evolve under my leadership. Jamie De Geer helped ease everyone into the transition in January, she has been great to work

with, and I am so thankful for her continual support! I started using Planning Center Services, which is an online tool that allows me to easily create and transpose lead sheets, share audio and video files with users, and schedule musicians and A/V volunteers. It has helped the 11am worship service and worship band and singers in tremendous ways.

I've also been working with the high school youth band, C+. We rehearsed through the school year, and they led all of worship on Senior Sunday in May. C+ was asked to lead worship on our Synod Day at the National Youth Gathering this summer in Houston, TX. They led their peers from the Central States Synod from Missouri and Kansas in worship with Bishop Gustafson preaching. They did amazing and it was an incredible trip. Needless to say, the Bishop was quite impressed with their musicianship, and was full of complements for our awesome high school youth! Well done, C+!! Special thanks to Andrew Leach, Angie Franz, Kim Deitzler, and Jenn Bader for being fantastic helpers for C+!

Another highlight of my year was being Consecrated as a Deacon in October. I am deeply grateful to Pastor Rich for facilitating (and Good Shepherd for extending) a Call to ministry to me. I couldn't ask for a better place to land in my first call as a Deacon. Good Shepherd has been a blessing to me and my family, especially after I have waited for 6 years for an official call to ministry! Thank you so much!

Special thanks to the many singers and instrumentalists who have put in so many hours of individual practice and rehearsals to provide an uplifting contemporary worship service at 11am. I would like to thank Shawn Geurkink (electric guitar), Jason Fulbright (bass guitar), and Christian Saia (drums) for their incredible dedication and willingness to grow as instrumentalists whose skills have improved tremendously this year. Having core instrumentalists has created a deeper sense of community, as well as a strong musical report. Very special thanks to Andrew Leach for his leadership with A/V and making sure the ProPresenter slides are correct and work well and look great on the screens at worship, (This has been especially important after going green and simplifying the bulletins to one sheet at the Contemporary service.) All in all, it's been a very full year, and I look forward to another great year in 2019!

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!



**BUILDING BLOCKS
PRESCHOOL**
at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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 and provides 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

Events of 2018

- Blend of Church and Preschool
 - Students attend Chapel Time with Pastor Josh - All the preschoolers and parents know and love him.
 - Church staff and Building Blocks staff work together to implement this ministry
- Completed our second year operating as an LLC.
- Our community outreach touches 73 children in our area; enrollment remains healthy with an FTE 42.8. (Our annual goal is 43.)
- There are 9 degreed staff members; five 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
- A Building Blocks teacher, Peg Metroff, lost her battle to cancer in January 2018. Peg taught many different age levels for over 30 years. After retiring from Parkway School District, Peg taught at Building Blocks for three years.
- *The Peg Metroff Memorial Fund* was started in honor of our beloved teacher and friend to help future students attend our church preschool ministry.

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, music 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 and weekly “Chapel Time” occurs in the church sanctuary with our pastors and 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 and donation items made to church collections

Welcome Ministry Team – Elliott Haugen, Team Leader

“Thank you” for your welcome ministry contributions this past year. You, the members of Good Shepherd, are the key to ensuring that those who attend our worship, educational, service and other activities feel truly invited, welcomed, and included. The Welcome Team understands your impact because we hear about it all the time from those attending our new member orientations. We heard similar comments when we contacted those who joined earlier in 2018.

Who We Are

We welcomed Pat and Dave Naffziger to the Team which includes Suzie Everingham, Karen and Jon Fatzinger, Vicki and Elliott Haugen, Verill Johnson, Sandy and Mike King, Carter Pederson, and Linda and John Webb. We meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday and you are invited to attend.

What Was Accomplished in 2018

- Supported Good Shepherd’s mission, traditions and successes by promoting a friendly, inclusive and supportive atmosphere for members and visitors. Communicated via the “Wink” article (in monthly Newsletter) regarding the importance of being a welcoming and inviting church for members, visitors and other attendees. Scheduled front door greeters (9:30, 11 AM services) and parking attendants for Easter Sunday.
- Welcomed 74 new members in 2018; they attended 2-part orientation sessions where they learned about Good Shepherd and shared their background, faith and expectations. Tracked visitors and made calls to first-time and frequent visitors and sent first-time attendees a letter from the pastors. Transitioned to getting visitor names and contact information from the “Connect” cards.

- Offered ceramic “Come Share the Spirit” cups to first-time visitors and provided prayer patches to children and others. The “You are loved” squares were made by Good Shepherd knitters. Initiated giving each person joining a “Welcome” ribbon/bookmark. Requested updates to GSLC’s “First Time Guests” web page.

Our Goals for 2019

The Welcome Team seeks to further Good Shepherd’s welcoming ministry by fostering communications, interpersonal relationships, and connectedness:

- Schedule three multi-session, new member orientations
- Offer Luther’s Small Catechism to new members
- Evaluate the use of greeters at the North door once the new parking lot and canopy are completed
- Support greeting and welcoming opportunities at Pumpkin Patch, Bells/Brats, FMSC, etc.
- Explore the need and opportunities for ensuring members who are place-bound to still feel welcome at Good Shepherd
- Invite others to join the Welcome Team

Service Ministry Team – Judy Leach, Team Leader

The Service Team Mission is, “To provide opportunities to reach out in love and demonstrate our Christian faith by serving those in need in the local and global community in a way that forms community between those who give and receive, so that the faith of all involved is encouraged and enriched.”

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 (2018), the operational budget included \$29,400 for Local Benevolence, roughly 3% of the anticipated general fund revenue, and the Service Team distributed over \$31,000 (there were some reserves that carried over from 2017). These funds were used to support a number of 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 choose to 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 2018 include:

100 Neediest Cases	Lutheran Family and Children's Services
ARC	Magdalene House (Bravely)
Almost Home	Mary Ryder
Beyond Housing	Meals on Wheels
Cade De Salud	Meds & Food for Kids
CHAMP Assistance Dogs	Microfinancing in Africa
Circle of Concern	Missouri Veteran's Endeavor
Community of Hope	North Grand Neighborhood Services
Crudem Foundation	Nurses for Newborns
ELCA Disaster Relief	Our Lady's Inn
ELCA Fund for Leaders	Parkway Food Pantry
ELCA Good Gifts	Project Backpack
ELCA Missions	Project Peanut Butter
ELCA Special Needs Retirement	Santa's Helper
ELCA Malaria Project	SPOT Youth Center
First Step Back Home	St. Louis Crisis Nursery
Fisher House	St. Peter and Paul Community Center
Gateway 180	Trinity Soulard
God's Helping Hands	USO of Missouri
Heat Up Cool Down St. Louis	Village of Hope
Home Sweet Home	VOYCE
Independence Center	Wings of Hope
International Partners in Mission	With God's Little Ones
Kids in the Middle	World Servants
Lafayette Industries	Worth Industries

The Team meets on the first Monday evening of every month. New members are welcome! Team members in 2018 were:

Norma Anderson, Suzie Everingham, David Franz, Dave Hawkins, Vicki Haugen, Melissa Huse, Gary Kallansrud, Karen Kallansrud, Cindy Kraft, Judy Leach, Julie Patthoff, Dennis Mall, Barb Rouse, Janie Wolfangel.

Worship Ministry Team – Jim Morrell, Team Leader

In pursuing our mission to provide opportunities to Worship God, through Word & Sacrament in a variety of styles, the Worship Team's focus in 2018 was on continuing our efforts to define and implement a clear and unique "identity" for each of our 4 services, and to do so within the context

of GSLC's Vision to increase discipleship - encouraging and providing opportunities for all who want to participate.

You may recall that in 2017, a special "sub-committee" was established to focus solely on the 11:00 service. 2018 saw the implementation of the recommendations of that task force, including the hiring of a Director of Contemporary Worship, Gail Brecht, the formation of a worship team that took on a greater role in many aspects of worship, enhancements to the Audio/Visual components of that service, and the reduction of many of the "high church" elements that are the foundation of a traditional service but which were less relevant to those who appreciate the contemporary style. The creation of a "contemporary choir", accompanied by the worship team, provided a new and welcome opportunity to increase participation periodically throughout the year.

With the success of that effort, we embarked on a similar process to understand and enhance the 5:30 service on Saturday evenings. From the "listening" sessions to the planning sessions by a dedicated group of those who regularly attend that service, we learned that preserving the informality of that service, while trying to increase diversity from week to week, were qualities of the service held in high regard. A new contemporary worship team led by Music Director Jamie De Geer, participate in that service once a month, and have added an element of diversity and increased involvement that has been well received.

Another notable enhancement to all worship services was the creation of new "contact cards" distributed with the worship bulletins. These cards combined the purpose of the old "blue card" prayer requests and the old attendance sheets, while also providing a convenient method for members to express their interests in worship (or other) participation and to capture the numerous ways in which members live and share their faith outside our four walls.

One of our goals in 2018 was to make sure we were as prepared as one can possibly be for handling emergency situations during worship. We made an initial start in this area, but because this is a need that goes well beyond just Sunday mornings and Saturday evenings, this effort will now be addressed by a new Council task force. In 2019 we hope to introduce a "Pray Ground" - an area in the sanctuary for our youngest members, to enable worship participation by everyone.

We are indeed blessed to have three outstanding pastors who bring their unique styles, personalities, and perspectives to our worship services, a tireless and amazing Director of Music who has shaped the culture of worship through music at Good Shepherd, a refreshing and imaginative Director of Contemporary Worship, and a fantastic organist in Keith Kolander who has been praying all year that the organ will not fail him again this coming Easter! A very special thank you to Karen Kallansrud and Marcus De Geer, our talented accompanists, to Kelly Witt and Dianne Unverfehrt, our Handbell and Tone Chime directors, respectively, to all those who participate in our numerous choirs and music teams, and to all who helped make our Christmas Cantata and Children's Christmas musical so much fun for everyone.

While a lot of worship involves music, it's not everything, and so we are also blessed to have Gary Klopf and Janie Wolfangel dedicated to ensuring that we have the ushers we need and the altar guild participants for all four services every Sunday. Thanks to everyone who serves in those capacities! Both Gary and Janie would love to have more people help them in their efforts, so please fill out the Contact Cards if you are willing and able! Thanks to our small group of

Worship Assistants who lead us in prayers, and the readers who bring the bible to life. We are also looking for more of them! Thanks to Andrew Leach for his profound dedication to ensuring our A/V needs are met every week, and for building the team that helps him in this endeavor. Thanks also to all the office helpers who handle the weekly offering and prepare the weekly bulletins.

Members of the worship team in 2018 included Gail Brecht, Jamie De Geer, Gary Klopf, Keith Kolander, Hannah Molskness, Jim Morrell, Janie Wolfangel, Pastor Brecht, and Pastor Wolf. We meet every other month, and we would love to have you join us!

Jim Morrell
Worship Ministry Team Interim Chair

Stewardship Team – Christina Kling-Garrett, Co-Chairperson

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Oh, how the JOY is expanding at Good Shepherd! The Stewardship team is thankful for each of you who volunteered, joined a new team or ministry, or pledged and donated monetarily to our church this year. All three areas of time, talent, and treasure function together in order for a healthy stewardship environment to thrive. So it is at Good Shepherd.

Financially speaking, for 2019, we have received 128 pledges, totaling \$622,204. We have seen an increase in pledged giving as well as new families pledging, thank you! This provides a base from which to create a realistic budget for Council to work with and set the estimated value of the General Fund, from which most church activities (e.g. staff salaries, benefits, programs, activities, etc.) are funded.

In addition, we are now a year into the Good to Grow capital campaign, which runs parallel to the General Fund pledge effort, and have successfully renovated the kitchen and bathrooms, made improvements in the narthex and other areas of the church, and have reached full staffing. We have also created several new ministries and started construction on the parking lot. While we may be a “unicorn church” with many blessings, we still have much to achieve in 2019, for which we are grateful for your ongoing support!

Finally, the Team itself seeks two new members for 2019 – this is a great opportunity to serve our beloved parish. Many of you have seen the Team in action - during temple talks, reading the newsletter articles and letters to the congregation, seeing the balloons, and everything else. Please consider serving Good Shepherd in this way during 2019. The time commitment is short – once-a-month meeting for 30 minutes. Plus, of course, your ideas, thoughts and willingness to participate!

On behalf of the entire Stewardship Ministry Team, thank you again, very much, for your generosity, for your commitment, and for your support of Good Shepherd. Truly, God’s work is being done here!

“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 2019! Together in Christ, The Stewardship Team: Brad Anderson, Jennifer Fisher, Claire Geurkink, Michael Kerber, Christina Kling-Garrett, Stewardship co-chair, Daryl Molskness, Sharon Misuraca, Rob Peglar, Stewardship co-chair

Leadership Development Committee by David Franz

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

This year the committee focused its efforts on the supporting the leadership needs of WHIRL, its team efforts and our current strategic planning to further define opportunities, priorities and activities of our church. The team also is in the process of developing tools and a process to better onboard and orient new leaders. An ongoing focus is assisting in the planning of an annual leadership meeting with a key focus of sharing of effective leadership practices to lead ministry teams.

An ongoing focus 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. This coming year, we will explore ways of leveraging new technology to identify potential leaders as well as opportunities to provide for the growth and development of our gifted lay and staff leadership.

Facilities Management & Planning Committee - Michael Kelley, Chair

FMPC Members: Rod Hollenbeck; Lyle Ziemann; Paul Proefrock; Mike Kelley (chair); Julie Deay (staff representative).

FMPC takes seriously its responsibility to help GSLC fulfill its mission by supervising and maintaining all property belonging to the congregation to ensure that all people have a safe and welcoming place to meet Christ.

To continually complete that mission, during 2018 FMPC completed the remodel of the kitchen and renovated all the restrooms in the building, both of which were large and complex projects extending over months. Other projects completed included sealing cracks in the parking areas; painting exterior hand railings; replacing an exterior door and two windows in the nursery area (the oldest section of our building); repainting the entire lower level; replacing specific HVAC equipment as required; adding exterior accent lighting (funded by a member gift); and contracting to upgrade all interior signage.

Additionally, FMPC committed to contracts to bring about the projects outlined in the Capital Campaign, specifically the north parking lot expansion and reroofing all flat areas of the building to alleviate leaks which occurred as the old roof aged. Both projects are now underway. The

redesign of the sanctuary, also part of the Capital Campaign, is in the final design stages to be approved by the specific sanctuary committee and subsequently the congregation.

Many members spent hours providing hands-on time and labor for construction, maintenance and repair through the year, including a brush clean up by the Men's Group and an Eagle Scout labyrinth completed by Caleb Messerly. Specifically, thanks go to Carl Christiansen, Jon Fatzinger and Scott Azzarello who weekly volunteer time and effort to make our building better, almost all behind the scenes.

Information Technology Team – Elliott Haugen, Chair

In 2016 the FMPC formed an Information Technology (IT) Team to provide planning and coordination that would yield a more integrated and consistent approach for Good Shepherd's technology development and deployment. In 2017 the IT Team completed a plan that addressed GSLC technology uses, requirements, and future needs. GSLC staff and other ministry teams consolidated the PowerChurch and Servant Keeper's databases; upgraded Sanctuary microphones and speakers; posted sermons on the GSLC website; and added mobile pay options. The IT plan's recommendations and costs were updated for the "Good to Grow" campaign (technology was the fourth highest priority for the congregation).

In mid-2018 the Team began work on approved "Good-to-Grow" projects. The highest priority was the improvement, consolidation, and expansion of the Wifi coverage throughout the church. Bids were solicited from multiple, qualified vendors for network design, hardware, implementation, wiring, and documentation. This project has been completed. "Smart" high-def televisions were added in two classrooms and two TV's relocated to other educational spaces. A networked multi-purpose printer/copier/scanner was purchased to replace an older system; it is shared by the entire office. The "Project Horizon" Strategic Action Team (led by Paul Davis) addressed another priority - better membership-related database functionality and access. The Council approved their recommendation and the TouchPoint software was installed. The Council, in June, approved moving the Technology Team reporting relationship from the FMPC to the Council.

In 2019 the Technology Team will continue to phase in planned computer/system improvements, identify emerging technology needs, and support the "Good-to-Grow" sanctuary improvement project by assisting with sound, video and other multimedia enhancement planning.

Endowment Committee – Lee Naas, Chair

For the Endowment Committee, 2018 was an exciting year. We approved and Council ratified 13 Grants totaling \$41,138 for missions within GSLC, our Community, the Nation and the World. A summary of each grant made in 2018 is as follows:

GSLC Grants include:

- \$5,000 for a GSLC member Wartburg Seminary scholarship
- \$800 to the GSLC WHIRL Relationship Team for tables and chairs in the narthex to promote relationship building among members and visitors

- \$750 to fund a new interactive non-competitive Kidsport ministry at GLSC
- \$660 to upgrade the GSLC Community garden

Community Grants include:

- \$5,000 to Magdalene House STL (recently renamed Bravely) to support sexually battered and exploited women with 3 months of food needs
- \$5,000 to Wings of Love and Care for mission-related facility upgrades,
- \$4,800 to Beyond Housing for critically needed children's school supplies
- \$1,232 to support the mission of the Wartburg College choir

National Grants include:

- \$5,000 to support Wartburg Seminary's GSLC scholarship fund
- \$1,896 for ELCA Disaster Relief

Global Grants include:

- \$5,000 to the Campaign for the ELCA and designated for global mission work
- \$5,000 to Feed My Starving Children
- \$1,000 to help purchase an SUV for itinerant Lutheran ministers in Russia

Because 2018 was designated as the Committee's Year of Awareness, we concentrated on increasing visibility and recognition of the Endowment Fund. We did this by having an estate-planning seminar, which was very well attended. We also utilized a suite of professionally produced materials to increase Awareness, which included bookmarks in every hymnal, as well as trifold brochures and giving envelopes in every pew. A supply of those materials is also right outside the sanctuary and can be used for memorial gifts or in honor of special people and occasions.

Throughout 2018, there was extensive use of slides before services, announcements in the weekly bulletin and articles in the online newsletter encouraging people and organizations to submit Grant Requests. We also publicized Grants as they were made. We were pleased that a total of over \$3,000 was given to the Endowment Fund by individuals and Council during our first Year of Awareness. In addition, there were several inquiries about including the Endowment Fund in parishioner wills and trusts.

In 2019, the Committee will continue publicizing the principal objective of the Endowment Fund, which is to support missions in perpetuity. We will encourage the submission of Grant Requests and Endowment Fund donations, both in the estate-planning process as well as to commemorate special people and occasions. Finally, we will explore allowing dedicated Endowment gifts to support specific missions, such as scholarships.

With any questions, please call Lee Naas, Chair at 314-952-6227 or lee63141@aol.com.

Chronologically Gifted – Jane Wagner

2018 was another successful year for the CG's. We are made up of singles and couples who qualify as "seniors." Our monthly events are usually the third Thursday of the month, and they are planned by members. The CG's is a welcoming and open group of people and we encourage the members to take a turn at planning an event. This year our Christmas Luncheon was again very successful with 80 in attendance.

New members are signing up for our monthly events. Our goal is to familiarize our group with new members of the congregation. Anyone who has attended any of the activities over the years will agree that the CG's has played a very important part in the lives of its seniors. We look forward to many years of fellowship, fun and special events!

A Bible Study/Discussion 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.

2018 Activities included:

- January - Chili lunch at church.
- February - Speaker Bev Schuetz, "Harry Truman," lunch at Hunan-Peking.
- March - St. Pat's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage, catered lunch at church.
- April - Lunch at Mimi's, followed by movie "I Can Only Imagine"
- May - Fox Theatre, "Phantom of the Opera" including lunch at the Fox.
- June - Info/Educ. Seminar sponsored by the Endowment Committee, with lunch.
- July - No event planned.
- August - Lunch at the Lazy River Restaurant.
- September - Lunch at the Hawthorne Inn, Labadie.
- October - Storyteller, Clara Barton, lunch at the Hearth Room.
- November - Westport Playhouse "Away in the Basement", lunch at Mineo's.
- December - Annual Christmas Luncheon, at Holiday Inn, Eureka.