



2016 Annual Report of the Congregation

Annual Meeting Agenda
January 29, 2017

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- Approval of Meeting Agenda
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ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 31, 2016

DEVOTIONS/BIBLE STUDY: Devotions by Pastor Horacio Castillo.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Marla Davenport at 10:43am.

QUORUM: It was determined by the President that a quorum (20% of average Sunday worship = 20 people) was present.

AGENDA: Motion to approve the meeting agenda.

*Action Item: - M/S/A (Jerry Vehrs/Pam Klingsporn)

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Motion to approve Secretary's Minutes from January, 2015 and the special meeting of the congregation on August 27, 2015 as corrected.

*Action Item: - M/S/A (Debby Dellis/Stephan Babirad)

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Motion to accept all reports as presented.

*Action Item: M/S/A (Jerry Vehrs/Pammie Klingsporn)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the 2016 Budget

a. There is a \$35,000 shortfall between pledges and the budget. The Finance Committee will revisit the budget in 6 months and if need be will make cuts to programs and/or expenses.

b. Motion to revisit the budget quarterly.

*Action Item: Motion was made by Pam Hinton and seconded by (unintelligible audio).

Motion was defeated by a show of hands.

c. Motion to approve the 2016 Budget

*Action Item: M/S/A (Frank Max/Pam Klingsporn)

2. Election of New Council Members:

a. The Slate of Officers was presented and nominations from the floor were requested. Hearing none there was a motion to close the nominations.

*Action Item: M/S/A (unintelligible audio/Tom O'Brien)

b. Motion to elect the Slate of Officers. (** = new candidate)

*Action Item: M/S/A (Pam Hinton/unintelligible audio)

**President – Pam Sorensen (2017)

**Vice President – Michelle Gydesen (2017)

Secretary – Jim Ostrander (2016)

**Treasurer – Judi Hostein (2017)

Financial Secretary – Charlene Nun (2016)

Children, Youth and Families – Paula Grau (2016)

**Stewardship – Debby Dellis (2017)

- **Property – Marvin Luchsinger (2017)
- **Serving God’s People – Ann Hagestad (2017)
- **Welcoming – Joyce Holes (2017)
- **Worship & Music – Tom O’Brien (2017)

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

*Action Item: M/S/A (unintelligible audio) Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.

LORD’S PRAYER: ...and the church said “Amen”.

NOTE: The next Congregation Council meeting will be a Retreat including current, outgoing and incoming Council members, and will convene on February 13th at 8:30am and conclude at 12:00pm. As of now the intent is to have a potluck breakfast available and the place is yet to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Ostrander
Secretary

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Then Jesus said ... ‘Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, “Come; for everything is ready now.” But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, “I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my apologies.” Another said, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my apologies.” Another said, “I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.” So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, “Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.” And the slave said, “Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.” Then the master said to the slave, “Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.” Luke 14:16-23

This parable has served as a guiding text for our work as a synod in 2016. At our Conference and Synod Assemblies, our leaders and ministers explored together what it means that God wills that “my house may be full”. In drafting a statement of purpose, we discerned that for the Saint Paul Area Synod this includes the conviction that:

“Christ is renewing us today for –
deeper faith in the living God;
wider engagement in God’s world;
bolder trust in God’s work through us.”
(Statement of Purpose, 2016)

Our common work in 2016 was marked by regular opportunities for learning by the lay leaders and rostered ministers of the synod. Over 400 persons participated in the Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders, the Stewardship Lab, two gatherings of the ministerium, the Bishop’s Theological Conference, and ten formal learning cohorts this past year.

In those and other events, attention was given to racial justice as a deep and urgent concern for all members of the Saint Paul Area Synod. At our Synod Assembly, the Rev. Anthony Bateza challenged us to embrace the ways that our identity in Christ frees us to look deeply at racism in our own daily life. In July, many gathered to mourn the death of Philando Castile and to recommit energy to building more just relationships in our communities. In September, a dozen teams from our congregations as well as the synod staff participated in a two-day training session to gain skills for addressing racial justice within our churches. As a synod, we have committed ourselves to addressing racism and racial justice in all aspects of our shared work.

In August, 24 persons from the synod participated in the Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. Memorials adopted there included several sent forward from the Saint Paul Area Synod: repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, calling for renewed attention to reducing gun violence, and utilizing investment screens to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The joy and vitality of being “church together” was apparent through the six days of worship, presentations and legislative deliberations. Appreciation for the last 50 years of formal dialogue between Lutherans and Roman Catholics was expressed through a standing ovation when the document, “Declaration on the Way” was received as a statement of all that is held in common by our faith communities. What a fitting prelude that was to the observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, which formally began on October 31, 2016.

Five new rostered leaders were ordained or consecrated for service in this synod in 2016. They include Sister Annette Langdon, Pastor John Schwehn, Pastor Stefanie Fauth, Pastor Patrick Joiner and Sister Tashina Good. By constitutional amendments adopted at the Churchwide Assembly, we will now address all Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers as “Deacons” and are grateful for the three dozen persons who serve in these ministries of Word and Service in this synod.

2016 also brought changes to the staff in the Office of the Bishop. We welcomed Michael Gold, receptionist and office assistant; the Rev. Joe Lees, assistant to the bishop for vital congregations, vital partnerships; the Rev. Tom Jenkins, part-time stewardship coordinator; and Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop for vocational formation. This was also the year we said farewell and godspeed to the Rev. Lamont Koerner, Julie Keefe and Sister Noreen Stevens.

At year's end, it is a gift to look back upon the fruitful efforts, the faithful service and the generous mission support that allows us to be on this journey together. It is a privilege to serve as the bishop of the 113 congregations and mission starts that make up the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Yours in God's service –
Bishop Patricia Lull

Let me begin by saying that I did not expect to be writing the council president's report for 2016 when the year began. When no one in our congregation was willing to run for council president, I offered to run for the office if we could find someone willing to run for vice president. Well that worked, and so 2016 found us welcoming Michelle Gydesen as vice president, Tom O'Brien to worship and music, Marvin Luchsinger property, Joyce Holes welcoming and myself as president.

Worship

We continue to worship on Sundays with one service at 9:30am. Charlotte and Tuka (organist and music director, respectively) offered a variety of music at our service with traditional hymns, contemporary tunes led by the Way, and special music from the chancel choir, the bell choir, and solos by various vocalists, musicians and groups. The Woven Service has incorporated the best of traditional and contemporary worship into one service, with the whole service projected on screen. The most prominent change in our sanctuary is the addition of the "pray ground"- a place for young families with babies and toddlers to sit, play and have space to move around, while seeing what is going on during the service.

Vitality Survey/Year of Renewal

In May, we asked you to complete a Vitality Survey to tell us what you thought of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. When the results came back, it was clear that we have a lot of good things here. You then voted to have Holy Cross go through a Year of Renewal that is beginning in 2017. With the Renewal team in place, a coach (Rev. Justin Grimm from the SPAS), and the Holy Spirit working through us all, it will be exciting to see what the next couple of years will bring.

Financial Outlook

Holy Cross began 2016 with a projected budget that was not going to be in the black. But due to fiscal responsibility, and your generous stewardship, we are able to end the year on a good note. However, like previous years, the pledges for 2017 are not as much as hoped. Therefore, we find ourselves again working with a deficit budget.

A couple of fundraising efforts are underway in 2016 and continuing into 2017. The Women's Ministry Group has made a great effort into earning funds for a remodel of the church kitchen. The kitchen has seen a bit of a facelift from a fresh coat of paint and a new tile floor. Thank you to all who helped do this. The other fundraising effort is for a new projection system with screens to be used in worship. That was kicked off by a generous donation by one of our congregational members, followed by a fundraising concert put on by the music department, students from Tartan High School, and a couple of other fantastic outside groups. Both efforts still need funds to be able to see these dreams come to fruition. Hopefully 2017 will see these projects completed!

Ministries

Again, Holy Cross is a beehive of activity! I've seen school supplies, warm clothes, baby needs, and Christmas gifts come to this wonderful place to be distributed to those in need. You are a generous people! The Scouts continue to use our facilities for meeting space. Head Start is a vital part of our building and we may see more of them if they get the ok to offer school year-round. Because of a wonderful grant Head Start received, they were able to improve the outside playground area. We are also in the process of completing a new security system (paid for by the Head Start grant) for the building. Once the new office door is installed, the system will go live and all who are in the building will be protected.

The Men's Ministry Group was busy again this year with cheese curd fun. Because of these fundraising efforts, the parking lot got seal coated and restriped. Thank You!

Thank You

Thank you to all who have volunteered their time and talents to make Holy Cross the wonderful place it is. Your efforts provide us with music, readers, overhead projection, sound, teachers, chaperones, and beautiful seasonal decorations. Thank you to all staff who work tirelessly (well maybe ☺) to keep all the wheels in motion. Thank you Gibson, Pastor Horacio, Tuka, Charlotte, Kevin and Zach!

I am looking forward to 2017 with this a year of Renewal for our church. I look forward to getting to know new and old members alike, and see how the Holy Spirit is going to work through each one of us!

Pam Sorensen
Council President

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

We celebrate the new year with much expectation and the unknown. This year we also begin what we call “The Year of Renewal” in partnership with the St. Paul Area Synod. In this Year of Renewal we are looking at ways in which we, as a community of faith, learn how to renew our ministry and find direction to where and how we want to move into the future. As this is an exciting time for Holy Cross, I want us to remember where our foundation is, that this newness of life, this renewal, comes through Christ and his promises for us, his people. There is much work to be done, there is much excitement as well as the unknown but we know that our foundation is in Christ as he leads us with his Word. As Christ feeds us with his Word, we are sent to nourish our relationships within our walls and are also used to serve our neighbors in our community and in the world, first in Christ Word, and second, in material needs.

We moved from one “traditional” and one “contemporary” Sunday Service every other week to a “Woven Service” every week since November 2016. I, along with the Worship and Music Ministry, will continue to look for ways to find both types of music, traditional and contemporary, that will continue to convey God’s promises to his people every Sunday, and every time we gather. Once again, we are reminded that the reason we are gathered by God on Sunday Services is to be nourished and renewed by Christ through his Word of forgiveness, through song, sermons, and Scripture. I am looking to attend different music workshops, along with Tuka and Charlotte, that are offered throughout the year in the Twin Cities in order to continue to convey God’s message of grace and mercy to us through Christ’s work for us as his people.

We also made the move to simplifying the bulletin and the use of the projection system has been done every Sunday. This is so that we have a more user friendly liturgy for all who attend the Sunday Service. We continue to look into finding more funds, in addition to a generous gift that was given last year, in order to upgrade our projection, screen, and computer system for our Sunday Services. The pray-ground was put in place as well so that we are able to provide a space for families with small children. The purpose of this space is so that families can be part of the Sunday Service with their children. Having the children closer to the front will allow them to be more engaged in the service and learn what we do and why we gather for worship.

I continue to lead the confirmation classes for our students along with Jammie Klingsporn as a confirmation leader. I have been preparing power point classes to present the different themes and using video material from Luther House of Studies. I continue to enjoy getting to know the students and look forward to engaging more with them as we work together in the months and years to come. This year the confirmation students will be asking members of Holy Cross, outside of the confirmation families, to be their mentors so that we deepen our relationships as a community of faith.

As part of the Year of Renewal we formed a team of eight people, including me, to begin the work of renewal. The work that has been entrusted to this team is the congregation’s as well not only of the renewal team. This year-long work will require the support and prayers of all of the congregation so that we can deepen our relationships as a community of faith and also find the direction we all want to move forward together.

In order to be able to move forward with confidence in this Year of Renewal, I am offering classes on Sunday afternoon to equip you, as the church, with the tools we need to be the church of God. If the desire and hope for this Year of Renewal is to grow the church, then we need to be prepared to do the work that will take to bring more people into the building. We, as Christ's church, need to be grounded in our identity in Christ so that we are able to share with others who we are and what we do at Holy Cross. This is why Jesus Christ tells his disciples to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them all that I have commanded you" Matthew 28:19-20. But how can we baptize and teach if we do not know what baptism is and what it is that we are to teach and preach? The only way is we can do this is knowing what Christ's promises are for us and how to deliver them ourselves as we have been called as God's children in our baptism.

Another exciting aspect of this year's ministry for me was the visit to our brothers and sisters in the Ikengeza parish in Tanzania. I was refreshed and renewed by their witness to the gospel and their commitment to Christ's calling. I wish you had been there with me! This is why I make an invitation to all of you so that we fulfill the commitment and promise we made to this partnership. We are to continue to pray for them, as they pray for us; to support them in any way we can, as they support us; and to, in the best of our ability, visit with them so that we can deepen our relationship with them. There is much richness that comes with this partnership that we can understand right now, but in order to understand it and be nourished by this relationship we are to get to know them.

As we continue to move forward as a community of faith, there have been some families that have left our community for different reasons. Moving to another state or another city is one reason, or because in the transition of calling a new pastor they found another community. Whatever the case, we have received sixteen new members by transfer and by baptism. This is exciting news as our community continues to change, there is new life that springs from it.

Our partnership with Head Start continues and I hope that as we are in this partnership with them, we are able to find ways to strengthen our relationship with the staff there and the students and their families.

I continue to be reminded of God's faithfulness with all the work that he has commended into our hands, and I remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 6 that our of death there is new life in him. God is faithful to his people, he has chosen us through his word of forgiveness and has made us his children. Founded in this promise that the Holy Spirit bring to our ears every time we hear this Word, we can continue to move forward, trusting that Christ will be with us until the end of time.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Horacio Castillo.

Happy New Year!

I am continually amazed at the work the Holy Spirit is stirring up in us at Holy Cross. Each year at this time, we have the opportunity to reflect on our experiences and look with anticipation toward new opportunities. The Children, Youth, and Family team (CYF) is dedicated to the growth of our ministry programs; focused on building up youth leaders, laying down faith foundations, and exploring new and exciting methods. Thank you Paula Grau, Melanie Accola, Michelle Gydesen, Melissa Kohel, Jen Mallinger, and Kyle (and Heidi) Paulson for your partnership in this ministry!

- 2016 was a year of focusing on children in worship. The CYF team began by compiling our feedback of Worship and Music, which was presented to the Worship and Music team, and explored ways we can collaborate. The CYF team is committed to evaluating our program effectiveness, appropriateness, and accessibility to families. We were thrilled to introduce the Young Worship Tool Box and Pray Ground in 2016! We look forward to increasing our inclusive language in 2017!
- During our confirmation retreat and again at the confirmation banquet, the confirmands of 2016 inspired us with their authentic statements of faith, trusting us to join them in this new chapter of their life.
- The R.O.C.K. (Rely on Christ the King) is led by two of our dedicated, passionate, and energetic youth, Drew Accola and Andy Powers. They have been faithful mentors to our steady crew of R.O.C.K.ers on Wednesday nights.
- Vacation Bible School was an intergenerational success. For the second year in a row, we were able to provide a free week of outreach, thank you! Being fiscally responsible and resourceful, Cave Quest was enjoyed by over 50 children, youth and volunteers. A National Night Out event was hosted and we welcomed over 125 people from Holy Cross and the surrounding community.
- We continue to build a culture of service. Our youth travel to Duluth twice a year for a 3-day service and adventure trip where they encounter God in a new place, in new people, and in sometimes difficult situations. During VBS, kids put together care kits which the confirmation youth then delivered to homeless individuals in the fall. These are people-making moments. Thank you for making them possible!
- Our goal when starting a Senior High Youth Group in 2014 was simple; create and sustain a space for connecting. We are doing just that through coffee, conversation, fellowship, and support. In the fall of 2016, we increased from one Sunday gathering a month to TWO!

I am encouraged that God will continue to work in, through, and with us. 2017 marks the beginning of our preparations for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering, continued partnership with Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, and development of policies around safe-guarding God's children. Thank you to the many people who work to share Christ's love with our children & youth. You are a gift and a blessing.

Peace and Joy!

Gibson Stanton
Children, Youth & Family Ministry Director

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some.” Hebrews 10:24-25a

This has been a great year. We have made great strides in updating our worship format. The staff worked for months on creating a pared down bulletin that along with our PowerPoint presentation will make our services more user friendly. This remains a work in progress.

Jim Ostrander donated his sound system to the church which has made an incredible difference in sound quality in our concerts and worship services. We have a staff of 4 that are responsible for the sound in any given event, Marla Davenport, myself, Jacob Powers and Jim Ostrander.

Pastor and I decided that we could benefit from some current Worship Seminars that deal with presenting Traditional Hymns in a Contemporary Way. Charlotte and I will be going to a Jay Beech seminar in Aberdeen, SD, February 3rd and 4th.

Our current projector and screen are out of date and need to be replaced to enhance our worship experience. To that end we have asked for additional donations and had a fundraising concert in November 2016 that was very well received. More concerts and fundraising events will be held throughout 2017.

The Chancel Choir and Handbells have joined The Way on the stage – to facilitate the use of the better keyboard, make it logistically easier for Charlotte to get from Organ to Keyboard, and have all musical participants in the same general area. It also is a work in progress.

We have also introduced a Prayground for our young families and their babies, toddlers and younger children.

A Kawai keyboard was donated for use in the Music Office. This has been a very welcome addition to the office.

There were 3 Sundays this Summer that had special music.

1. June 19th an ensemble made up of our own parishioners played for our worship
2. July 31st The Country Bluegrass Band, Salty Dogs played for our worship
3. August 21st An ensemble of our own parishioners and members of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church played for our worship – pieces that were written or arranged by Tuka

The Woven service was introduced on All Saints Sunday. This service is still very much a work in progress. Trying to weave all of the music styles and needs into one service is no easy feat. We will continue to work with the CYF Team and the Worship and Music Team to concentrate on what best fits our family at Holy Cross.

In November we brought together all the worship participants for Advent and Christmas, to talk about who does what, how can we make the worship experience better for young and old alike. I think there were some excellent ideas that were shared and implemented. There will be several more of these meetings in the coming year. This way there is more ownership of what we do in worship...and how we do it.

The Cantata presented on Advent 3 was extremely well received for the amount of congregational participation.

We look forward to serving you musically in the next year, as we together serve our God in this place and in our community.

Tuka Markgraf and Charlotte McLendon

WELCOMING MINISTRY REPORT

Welcoming team members are Karen Walsh, Phillip Follmer, Rose Johnson, Dorothy Frank, Marlaine Freeman, Paula Luchsinger. We are all focused on making everyone feel welcome and part of the church family of Holy Cross.

Women's Group of Holy Cross was very involved with raising funds for updating our kitchen. We had a Chili-Cook-Off, Spaghetti Dinner, day trip to Brainerd to the Geritol Frolics and Craft and Bake Sale. Women's Group also gave funds for 1 AED to the church, and funds towards the carpeting of the fellowship hall and surrounding areas and helped with many other projects and activities around the church.

Men's Group of Holy Cross activities included the cheese curd booth for Summerfest Days of Oakdale and Woodbury Days, of Woodbury, along with sponsoring the Fall BBQ and social. They gave freely of their time in helping out and working with other ministries of Holy Cross.

They gave funds for 1 AED to the church, \$5,800.00 for the church parking lot and are giving \$15,000.00 towards the new carpeting in the fellowship hall, and surrounding areas.

Sadly we had funerals for Jen Utecht, Clayton Warrick, and Carri Quinn-Blake. A Consecration for Sister Annette Langdon, Graduation for Pastor Horacio, and Welcoming receptions for new members and a Farewell reception for the Chromey Family.

Submitted by Joyce Holes

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship and Music Leadership Team makes decisions regarding all aspects of the worship service experience from Sunday worship to Holy Week, Easter and Christmas. We also plan special services like lay worship and outdoor worship services. All members of Holy Cross are welcome to attend our meetings and we invite anyone interested in joining the Worship and Music Team to let us know. We would love to have more members. Current team members are Tuka Markgraf, Charlotte McLendon, Pam Sorensen, Dorothy Frank, Yvonne O'Brien and Tom O'Brien.

- Jim Ostrander will set up and train new people on the soundboard.
- "Now the Feast" will be used for the first and third Sundays of the month.
- We received bids on two screens and necessary equipment for each side of the cross.
- We combined the traditional and contemporary worship services into one woven service each Sunday.
- A musical concert was held to raise money for the new screens and equipment. We made \$1000 for the concert, along with another \$1000 donated by the Women's Group. We also received a donation of \$5000. We need approximately \$6000 more to complete this project.
- A Worship and Music meeting was held on December 5th. Members of Ushers, Audio, Powerpoint, and Altar Guild were present to help plan services for 2017.
- The blue grass group "Salty Dogs" will perform the fifth Sunday of July 2017.

Worship and Music meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Thank you to all those who have so generously given of your time to make our services run smoothly.

Thomas O'Brien
Worship & Music Ministry Leader

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY TEAM

The CYF (Children Youth and Family) team meets once a month and its goal is to provide feedback, ideas and support for our CYF programs. The team is led by Gibson Stanton and Paula Grau; other members include Melanie Accola, Jen Mallinger, Melissa Kohel, Michelle Gydesen, and Nina Nason.

We started the year off organizing a number of fundraising events to help our youth fund their trips to Camp WAPO and the National Youth Gathering in July. The youth sold Butter Braids, put on a Palm Sunday pancake breakfast, a car wash, and also sold flower bouquets on Mother's Day. Many different youth participated in the fundraising and enjoyed their time at camp and at the gathering.

A Confirmation banquet and Faith Statement Share was held in April the Wednesday before the Sunday of Confirmation.

Vacation Bible school was held the first week in August with the theme of Cave Quest. We were able to offer the week to families for no charge. Since our program was held during the week of National Night out we invited the community to join us for the night. We had dinner outside with many activities for the kids and their families. The Police and Fire Fighters came out and visited as well. It was a great night and a wonderful way to reach out to the neighbors in our community.

Spark Sunday school along with the ROCK and Confirmation classes all started up again in September. We are continuing to use the Spark Sunday School curriculum. Our kids begin in worship with their families and then are excused after a short children's sermon for the Spark Sunday school time. They are then brought back to worship in time for communion with their families. The ROCK students meet on Wednesday nights along with the confirmation students. They start with a time for dinner and socializing and then sing and participate in activities led by some of our older youth. The confirmation students had an opportunity to go on a Service Immersion trip to Duluth in June and again in October over the MEA break. In December the ROCK students along with the church choir shared their musical talents and performed a special Christmas program for the congregation.

It has been a good year for our CYF programs and we thank you for supporting us and ask that you continue to support our programs so that we can continue to grow both in numbers and in faith together.

Paula Grau

STEWARDSHIP

When a person mentions the word Stewardship, they might automatically think of the gift of money. That is only a part of Stewardship. The other parts are gifts of Time and Talent. Holy Cross is rich in resources that our members give back to the church and community.

How do you contribute? Financially only? Volunteer only? Or both? However you contribute, it is so greatly appreciated and needed. The church does need financial support to sustain the budget and would not be able to function without our members giving of their time and talent. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

2017 is the Year of Renewal. How will you renew yourself in the church? Can you give a little more each week? Can you sign up for one volunteer opportunity to see how it goes? Can you greet someone in church that you see all the time but don't know their name? There are so many opportunities for you to expand your involvement in the church. Renew yourself this year and see where it takes you.

Blessings,

Debby Dellis
Stewardship Ministry

PROPERTY

1. Sealed the parking lot
2. Painted strips on asphalt
3. Tiled and sealed kitchen floor
4. Replaced lock in file room
5. John Johnson and Gary Nason took over lawn mowing for janitors
6. Covered numerous woodpecker holes on exterior of church
7. Replaced expansion tank and return pump for boiler
8. John Johnson worked on the furnace with rep
9. Repaired lock on supply door
10. Repaired freezer
11. Fixed the sanctuary blinds
12. Spring clean-up was a success with a large turn-out
13. Shampooed downstairs church rugs
14. Replaced faucet and repaired kitchen sink
15. Replaced paper towel dispenser

In follow up to a blessed 2016 we look forward to the new year ahead with plans to complete the following projects

1. Fellowship hall, hallways, offices, and fireside room will be installed with new carpeting thanks to a generous donation from the men's club
2. The boiler is in the process of being repaired. We must jackhammer and find the leak
3. We have added a gardening committee starting spring 2017 thanks to the volunteers that signed up on a rally day. They will work around the church grounds to enhance the welcoming areas.

A special thank you to John Johnson and Gary Nason for the extra work he does everyday and, also thank you to everybody else on the committee and anyone who helped throughout the year.

Bless you all
Property chair committee
Marvin Luchsinger

SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

Serving God's People team members are Karen Walsh, Joyce Holes, Dorothy Frank, Glenna Kubat, Rose Johnson, Debby Dellis, Jim Dellis, Sue Friesen and Dale Friesen. The focus of this ministry is to reach out and serve others as a reflection of God's love for all of us.

Holy Cross has been very generous in giving to ELCA ministries and to causes here in our community. Through our coin boxes, we donated \$392 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Through special offerings we donated \$800 to Tanzania. Locally, through a special offering and through gifts made at the Dellis' fall picnic, we donated a total of \$1561 plus \$250 in Thrivent funds to the North St Paul Food Shelf. In addition we donated 454 pounds of food to the Food Shelf.

Holy Cross also sent \$5000 to the St. Paul Area Synod to be used for Benevolence (Mission Support).

Coffee and Conversation on Wednesday mornings is in its second year and has been a wonderful fellowship ministry. The group has undertaken a number of fun tasks during the year including, sorting and pricing items for Grandma's Attic (Craft Sale), decorating wine bottles for the spaghetti dinner, preparing tags for the Giving Tree, cleaning candles for Christmas Eve services, and making meatballs for the spaghetti dinner.

Special thanks goes to the North St Paul Food Shelf for donating some of their donated bakery goods (from Costco and Cub) for us to serve at Coffee and Conversation and after Sunday services. Also we are grateful to our local Oakdale Cub store for donating bakery goods each Sunday morning.

We have coordinated with Gethsemane Lutheran Church this year on serving Loaves and Fishes meals. We serve the third Thursday of every other month. We donate \$100 to Gethsemane each time we serve. We also worked with Gethsemane on a warm clothing drive for Oakdale Elementary School. In addition to the clothing donated by members of both churches, we were able to purchase more clothing with a \$250 Thrivent Action grant.

The Christmas Giving Tree ministry was a huge success again this year. We were able to give many bags of gifts to the Tubman Family Alliance Shelter in Maplewood as well as dividing \$1135 in gift cards between BridgeView and Oakdale Elementary Schools.

Other ministries include the April Diaper Drive for babies at Tubman and honoring veterans with the assistance of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The Prayer Chain and the Home Communion Ministry are other important ministries under Serving God's People.

It takes many dedicated and hard-working volunteers to keep this ministry a vital part of Holy Cross. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time, money, ideas and prayers for all of the programs under Serving God's People.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Hagestad
Serving God's People Ministry Champion

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Debby Dellis, Judi Holstein, Pam Hinton, Pam Klingsporn, Don Leholm, Frank Max, Charlene Nun
Ex-Officio Members: Pastor Horacio, Pam Sorensen

Mission: The mission of the Holy Cross Finance Committee is to oversee the finances and stewardship of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in accordance with the mission of the church.

The Finance Committee added three new members in 2016.

The Finance Committee meets monthly. We review and approve bank statements and ledger reports.

We assisted the Stewardship committee to plan Stewardship events.

We gathered financial requests for 2017 from Mission Champions to compile the annual budget. Budget was reviewed using pledge amounts given to the Stewardship Committee. Budget was presented to and approved by the Church Council at the December meeting.

Plans for 2017 include:

1. Finance Team will report the Financial Status of our church to the congregation members monthly using the weekly bulletin.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Holstein,

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following are 2016 Year End Financial Secretary's Report highlights:

In 2016, 115 households contributed vs 137 households in 2015

Total funds received for 2016 were \$211,779.57 compared to \$213,322.16 in 2015. The breakdown of funds is listed below.

	2015	2016.
Sunday Worship	\$171,908.89	\$163,653.53
Rental Income	16,550.00	17,150.00
Holiday Offering	5,872.50	7,446.20
Loose Offering	3,965.61	2,546.05
Misc. Income	4,526.88	7,913.43
Total General Fund Income	\$202,823.88	\$198,709.21
Designated/Restricted Funds	10,498.28	13,070.36
Total Income	\$213,322.16	\$211,779.57

2016 breakdown of annual giving

- o 6 families contributed \$5,000.00 or more
- o 13 families contributed \$2,500.00 or more
- o 37 families contributed \$1,000.00 or more
- o 16 families contributed \$500.00 or more
- o 17 families contributed \$250.00 or more
- o 15 families contributed \$100.00 or more
- o 5 families contributed \$50.00 or more
- o 6 families contributed \$49.99 or less

In 2016, 73 households pledged a total of \$136,966. The actual vs. pledged information is below.

	# Giving Units	Total Pledge	Giving	Over/Under
Pledge Non Givers	2	\$ 660.00		\$ (660.00)
Pledge Givers	71	\$136,306.16	\$144,937.53	\$ 8,631.37
Non Pledge Giving	44	\$ 0.00	\$ 18,346.00	\$ 0.00
Total	117	\$136,966.16	\$163,283.53	\$26,317.37

2017 pledges as of year-end are \$131,976.00 annually, with 61 households pledging. This is a decrease from 2016 of \$4,990.00 or 3.78%.

A huge thanks to all the volunteers that counted this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene Nun, Financial Secretary

2016 Annual Treasurer's Report

	2016 BUDGET	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
General	141,050.00	134,340.49	6,709.51
Payroll (salary & FICA)	115,300.00	110,297.32	5,002.68
Travel	750.00	0.00	750.00
Continuing Education	800.00	410.00	390.00
Health Ins. Pensions	18,700.00	21,035.16	-2,335.16
Official Meetings	500.00	0.00	500.00
Professional & Ministerial	500.00	162.27	337.73
Misc. Salaries	1,200.00	1,107.50	92.50
Contingency Expense	500.00	765.00	-265.00
Renewal Expense	2,500.00	175.44	2,324.56
Adult Education	300.00	387.80	-87.80
Administrative	18,675.00	18,767.75	-92.75
Office Building Supplies	3,000.00	3,516.13	-516.13
Office Equipment	3,000.00	2,477.63	522.37
Telephone	1,300.00	1,578.21	-278.21
Internet	1,300.00	689.67	610.33
Postage	1,200.00	550.33	649.67
Payroll Process	1,500.00	2,906.99	-1,406.99
Technology	1,500.00	1,224.79	275.21
Advertisement	250.00	199.00	51.00
St Paul Synod Benevolence	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Camp WAPO Assoc.	625.00	625.00	0.00
Property	33,550.00	26,942.24	6,607.76
General Maintenance	5,000.00	1,702.93	3,297.07
Insurance	8,200.00	8,769.07	-569.07
Seasonal Cleaning	1,000.00	28.79	971.21
Gas-Electricity	12,000.00	11,132.73	867.27
Water & Sewer	1,800.00	1,395.01	404.99
Garbage Removal	1,500.00	1,536.12	-36.12
Security System	1,000.00	1,074.05	-74.05
Snowplowing	2,500.00	1,175.00	1,325.00
Lawn Care	550.00	128.54	421.46
Welcome Ministries	1,450.00	630.70	819.30
Rally day/Block Party	200.00	160.06	39.94
Hospitality	1,000.00	360.50	639.50
New Member	250.00	110.14	139.86
Worship & Music	4,100.00	2,680.60	1,419.40
Music Drama	1,500.00	1,474.00	26.00
Worship Supplies	2,600.00	1,206.60	1,393.40
Instrument Maint	0.00	0.00	0.00
Growing In Faith	3,950.00	3,727.82	222.18
Children,s Ministry	925.00	673.45	251.55
Birth - Three Ministry	300.00	34.90	265.10
Ministry Milestones	500.00	143.76	356.24
VBS Materials	1,025.00	975.46	49.54
Youth Ministries	1,200.00	1,900.25	-700.25
Stewardship Ministies	1,000.00	509.46	490.54
Stewardship Materials	300.00	20.87	279.13
Offering Envelopes	700.00	488.59	211.41
Serving God's People	1,500.00	535.21	964.79
Outreach	1,500.00	535.21	964.79
TOTAL	205,275.00	188,134.27	17,140.73

2016 TREASURER'S REPORT

DESIGNATED FUNDS

	OPENING	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
General	4,301.79	2,115.00	1,926.79	4,490.00
Pastor's Discretion	426.79	500.00	926.79	0.00
Post HS Scholarship	3,875.00	1,615.00	\$1,000.00	4,490.00
				0
Growing In Youth	\$569.49	3,934.81	4,155.29	349.01
Confirmation	569.49	843.00	1,409.36	3.13
WAPO Bible Camp	0.00	3,091.81	2,745.93	345.88
Service Learning Trip	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
				0
				0
Property Funds	36.23	0.00	0.00	36.23
Energy Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance Funds	36.23	0.00	0.00	36.23
Serving God's People	0.00	1,575.36	1,666.45	18.91
World Hunger	0.00	392.45	392.45	0.00
Food Shelf	0.00	492.91	474.00	18.91
Tanzania Student	0.00	640.00	750.00	0.00
Tanzania Parish	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Worship Ministies	6,018.54	1,167.00	200.00	6,985.54
Music Ministry	1,018.54	0.00	200.00	818.54
Audio/Visual Fund	5,000.00	1,167.00	0.00	6,167.00
Welcome Ministries	6,021.55	8,641.56	4,091.66	10,571.45
Hospitality	0.00	221.49	0.00	221.49
Women's Group	4,431.46	500.00	1,882.67	3,048.79
Kitchen Remodel	1,706.25	5,927.03	959.59	6,673.69
Barb Schuette Funeral	-116.16	1,993.04	1,249.40	627.48
Memorial Fund	1,087.54	0.00	0.00	1,087.54
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Elevator Fund	32,900.00	2,000.00	0.00	34,900.00
Headstart	18,807.70	0.00	0.00	18,807.70
TOTAL RESTRICTED	51,707.70	2,000.00	0.00	53,707.70
Holy Cross Endowment	4,678.00	3.76	0.00	4,681.76
FUNDS AVAILABLE DECEMBER 31, 2016				
Lake Elmo Bank		48,009.82	Total Funds	109,239.24
Money Market		56,547.66	Total restricted Fund	53,707.70
Endowment Fund		4,681.76	Endowment	4,681.76
			Total designated	23,538.68
TOTAL		109,239.24	Available Funds	27,311.10