



2017 Annual Report of the Congregation

**Annual Meeting Agenda
January 28, 2018**

- Call to Order
- Opening Devotions by Pastor Dennis
- Approval of Meeting Agenda
- Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting 4
- Ministry Team and Committee Reports
 - St. Paul Area Synod Bishop 6
 - President..... 8
 - Pastor..... 10
 - Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Director..... 11
 - Music Ministry Director..... 12
 - Welcoming Ministry..... 13
 - Worship & Music..... 14
 - Children, Youth, & Family Team 15
 - Stewardship..... 16
 - Property..... 17
 - Serving God’s People..... 18
 - Finance Committee..... 19
 - Financial Secretary/Treasurer’s Report..... 20
- New Business
 - Mission Site Profile Task Force
 - Phases of Interim Period
 - Approval of 2018 Budget
 - Nominate New Council Members
 - Election of New Council Members
- Adjourn Meeting
- Lord’s Prayer

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 29, 2017

DEVOTIONS: Devotions by Pastor Horacio Castillo.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Pamela Sorenson at 11:15am.

QUORUM: It was determined by the President that a quorum was present. Attendance was recorded at 54 members.

AGENDA: Motion to approve the meeting agenda.

*Action Item: - M/S/A (Debby Dellis/Marla Davenport)

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Motion to approve Secretary's Minutes from January 31, 2016.

*Action Item: - M/S/A (Phillip Follmer/Linda Holm)

PASTOR, MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Motion to accept all reports as presented.

*Action Item: M/S/A (Terry Holstein/Phillip Follmer)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the 2017 Budget

a. The proposed budget as presented showed a 2% increase in staff salaries and changing the pastor's credentials from 5/8 with seminary student experience to 5/8 with 10 years' experience. This brings the pastor's salary more in line with where it should be.

b. It was noted that there is a shortfall of \$55,490.00 between the amount pledged and the proposed budget.

*Action Item: Motion to approve the 2017 Budget. M/S/A (Terry Holstein/Frank Max)

2. Election of New Council Members:

a. The Slate of Officers was presented and nominations from the floor were requested.

b. Kyle Paulson was nominated to chair the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team.

*Action Item: M/S/A (Paula Grau/Debby Dellis)

c. Ronda Watkins was nominated for the position of Financial Secretary.

*Action Item: M/S/A (Terry Holstein/Sue Friesen)

d. Pam Hinton volunteer to accept the position of Secretary.

*Action Item: M/S/A (Frank Max/Marla Davenport)

e. The 2017 members of the Congregation Council are:

President – Pam Sorensen (2017)

Vice President – Michelle Gydesen (2017)

Secretary – Pam Hinton (2018)

Treasurer – Judi Hostein (2017)

Financial Secretary – Ronda Watkins (2018)

Children, Youth and Families – Kyle Paulson (2018)

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)

3. Pam Sorensen gave an update on the carpet fundraiser and the beginning of our Year of Renewal.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

*Action Item: M/S/A (Phillip Follmer/Debby Dellis)

Meeting adjourned at 12:33pm.

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, to convene on February 4th at 8:45am and conclude at 1:00pm. Council members are asked to sign up to bring a “brunchable” item for a potluck breakfast. The location will be the home of Pam Sorensen in Lake Elmo.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Ostrander
Secretary

Dear Partners in Ministry,

On Christmas Eve more than 400 persons gathered for worship at Luther Seminary. All belong to the newly launched African National Ministry mission start, led by Pastor Gilo Agwa, and cosponsored with the Presbytery of the Twin Cities, our Presbyterian counterparts. These women, men, and children are Anuak immigrants, who have moved to Minnesota to flee the tribal violence directed against them in Ethiopia and South Sudan. In their homeland they were members of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, which shares a Lutheran and Reformed identity. Here, they are part of one of our newest mission starts as a synod. Their joyous celebration of Christ's birth reflects the new hope that God raises up for people again and again across the globe.

2017 was a year for remembering and highlighting our common witness with other Christians. There were many poignant observances of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. In congregations and schools, Martin Luther emerged as a lively and contemporary witness to the centrality of grace in our lives of faith and the call to recognize God's active presence in our world today. The Saint Paul Area Synod joined the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Area Synod to inaugurate this observance with a Service of Common Prayer on January 22nd. This quincentenary concludes with a similar service of Evening Prayer at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm. In between these two services there have been lectures and art exhibits, renewed interest in the writings of Luther, and much good music.

God continues to call us into a plentiful harvest. This past year, five persons were ordained as pastors and one new deacon was consecrated in this synod. They include Pastor Peter Christ, senior pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Roseville; Pastor Wendy Steger, associate pastor at Shepherd of the Valley in Apple Valley; Pastor Erik Doughty, chaplain at Southview Acres Senior Residence and St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church in Saint Paul; Pastor Janet Karvonen-Montgomery, associate pastor at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview; and Pastor Maggie Novak, pastor at Bethesda in Inver Grove Heights. Deacon Abby Matter was consecrated and serves at Roseville Lutheran Church in Roseville.

Much of the synod staff's time is invested in the vocational formation of candidates, who desire to serve the church as pastors or deacons. In 2017 there were 37 candidates in the Saint Paul Area Synod. In addition, the synod works with call committees during times of pastoral transition. This includes mentoring the teams that create the Mission Site Profile for the congregation, orienting and supporting the call committee with names of prospective candidates for the vacancy, and overseeing the work and pool of interim pastors who serve in times of transition. During 2017, 19 call processes were completed with 25-30 vacancies at any given time. During 2017 three communities of faith completed a time of discernment with the synod and reached the decision to close. This is some of the most serious work we do as a synod for such a decision is not an inconsequential matter for carrying forward God's call for us to be about God's harvest. Services of Holy Closure were held for Pueblo de Fe (a mission start) on July 23; for North Emanuel in Saint Paul (a 126-year old congregation) on September 17; and for Light of the World in Lakeville (a 10-year old congregation) on October 14. Members, as well as financial legacies, from these faith communities continue to enrich other congregations within this synod. In a sense, the Spirit has replanted those laborers into other contexts for witness and service.

Renewing congregations and reequipping leaders (rostered and lay) remain the key programmatic priorities in our synod budget. In 2017, eight congregations participated in the structured program known as A Year of Renewal. They include Family of Christ, Lakeville; Luther Memorial, South Saint Paul; Holy Cross, Oakdale; Saint Anthony Park, Saint Paul; St. Stephen the Martyr, White Bear Lake; Atonement, New Brighton; Lakeville, Maplewood; and Zion, Cottage Grove.

In addition, many congregations worked with members of the synod staff on shared ministry endeavors, vitality surveys, racial justice projects and skill-building for carrying the good news of Jesus into the

communities in which we live and work. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus assures the disciples that God's harvest is plentiful. Then as now, the task for disciples is often that of preparing to be a faithful laborer in God's work. On a personal note, it was a privilege for me to represent this synod at the consecration and installation of Bishop Blaston Gaville as the new bishop of the Iringa Diocese in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania in June. Like our sisters and brothers in our other companion synod in Guatemala, the testimony of Christians in these global settings is inspiring and clear. From mountain villages to city churches, I was reminded that God is in charge and that the life of faith brings joy and hope amid the challenges of daily life.

For the staff of the synod, 2017 has been a year of continuity. What we are able to do together as a synod of 112 congregations and mission starts is enhanced and amplified by the talent of those who serve as your synod staff. They include Michael Gold, office assistant; Alicia Rodriguez, office manager; Chloe Ahlf, communications coordinator; Greg Triplett, financial administrator; Joe Lees, assistant to the bishop for vital congregations, vital partnerships; Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for next generation ministries; Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop for vocational formation; Anna Marsh, executive assistant to the bishop; Peter Harrits, director of Bega Kwa Bega and assistant to the bishop; and Tom Jenkins, stewardship coordinator (part-time). I know you join me in thanking them for all they do.

Always at year's end it is a gift and a joy to look back at all that God has accomplished in and through us. I am grateful for your prayers and your confidence in our common work.

Yours in God's service –
Bishop Patricia Lull

As I contemplate the year Holy Cross just had, all I can say is whew! We have seen a lot of transition, change and departures during 2017. Just when you think everything is running smoothly, suddenly the rug is pulled out from under you. But, Holy Cross is resilient, and always seems to bounce back from any setback. That is what I look forward to in 2018!

Property Updates

You may have noticed quite a few changes to the church building both inside and out this past year. Your stewardship, through special fundraising and physical labor, along with the Men's Club, helped to grace our floors with new carpeting throughout the hallways and fellowship hall. Of course, the walls could not be neglected, so many of you rolled up your sleeves and painted all the walls. But that wasn't the only place to become beautiful. The gardeners of the congregation took it upon themselves to dig up the garden by the sanctuary doors, and transform it into a gorgeous perennial garden.

Two local Boy Scouts were busy this summer and fall completing their Eagle Scout projects on the Holy Cross grounds. Luke Higgins made wonderful improvements to our outdoor worship space by putting back rests on the benches and planting bushes around the raised platform. Drew Accola built a gaga pit near the garage. What is a gaga pit? Go to <https://www.gagacenter.com/about/what-is-gaga> to see what it is all about. The kids from church and the community will have a "ball" with it!

Staff Changes

Holy Cross has had some staffing changes over the last few months. Gibson decided to pursue her other love, history, and so gave up her position as communications director so that she could take a position at the Warden's House Museum in Stillwater. She is still actively involved with our youth as the Children, Youth and Family director. In June we welcomed Tori to our church as the new office manager/communications director. She is a wiz with social media and all kinds of other "office-y" things. She is a great addition to our staff.

We said good-bye to our pastor, Horacio Castillo in November. It came as a bit of a shock, but as in all things, Holy Cross lands on its feet. The St. Paul Area Synod, and specifically Bishop Lull, gave us the name of an interim candidate. Dennis Sepper graciously stepped out of retirement (recently retired from Pacific Lutheran University, in Tacoma, WA) to be able to help Holy Cross navigate the interim period, and get us ready to call a new settled pastor.

Ministries

We have a lot to be thankful for, and some hard decisions to make heading into 2018. With your financial support for Holy Cross ministries both inside and outside our walls, it will make plans for 2018 much easier. Anything you can do, volunteering your time to serve on Council (five positions open), helping with worship, youth events, teaching, volunteering at the food shelf, or Loaves and Fishes is much appreciated. Financially, we have had some unexpected expenses related to the building. One of the furnaces had to be replaced and the boiler went on the fritz. Thankfully we have some talented individuals who used great detective work to fix that! The refrigerator in the kitchen started acting up and needed repair. We were warned that it could give out at any time, and replacing it would be a smart move. A new refrigerator was installed in December, paid for out of the kitchen remodeling fund (thank you Women's Group!). As you can see, things are aging, and we need to be good stewards of our worship space, meeting spaces and outdoor space. Your yearly giving is crucial to keep Holy Cross running smoothly and to be able to serve our community.

This next year, let us see how we can look outside our walls and do the work of Jesus. Matthew 28: 19-20
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And
remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

It is a new era for Holy Cross. Let's make 2018 a really good year!

God Bless you all!

Pam Sorensen, council president

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

My 2017 report is really a summary of slightly under two months. I began on Sunday, November 12, 2017 as the Interim Pastor at Holy Cross. It was an honor to be asked to fill this vital role and I look forward to working with the church leadership and all of you as the congregation moves toward choosing a new pastor.

Most of my time has been spent learning the traditions and procedures around worship and other administrative items. I have also been getting to know many members of the congregation which has been a blessing and has been fun. Holy Cross has many good things going as you seek to live out the Gospel and your own mission statement. That's not to say that there aren't challenges, but challenges are opportunities to reflect and grow together.

The transition between pastors is a time of reflection on the past and present and setting a vision for the future. In this new year of 2018 we will begin that process so the congregation can proceed to securing permanent pastoral leadership for the years ahead. New Year's blessings to you all!

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Dennis G Sepper

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 delivery methods. Thank you Paula Grau, Melanie Accola, Michelle Gydesen, Melissa Kohel, Jen Mallinger, and Kyle and Heidi Paulson for your partnership in this ministry!

- Over the course of 2017, the CYF team reviewed our policies around safeguarding God's children. Many months of revisions, research, and dialogue, we have put together a sustainable set of guidelines to insure we are creating a safe environment for all you participate in CYF.
- At the confirmation banquet, the confirmands of 2017 (Ellie Mallinger and Hope Tschida) inspired us with their authentic statements of faith, trusting us to join them in this new chapter of their life.
- The Flea Market and Food Truck Fest was a fun fundraiser and community engagement event. The CYF team was thrilled that this inaugural event brought over 2,500 visitors to Holy Cross.
- Wednesday night ministries has partnered with Beaver Lake Lutheran and House of Prayer Lutheran. Together, we are able to serve a larger number of youth in confirmation, increasing dialogue and peer learning. The R.O.C.K. (Rely on Christ the King) is a new program to our neighbor churches and continues to be led by two of our dedicated, passionate, and energetic youth, Drew Accola and Andy Powers. Part of this collaboration brings us to each of the churches throughout the year, so if you don't see us on a Wednesday, know we are at our neighbors ☺ This ministry is an exciting growth opportunity, we are excited to see what God has in store !
- Partnerships were definitely key this year. Don Marsh and his Service Learning Camps stayed with us this summer and provided many weeks of community projects in the area, including here !
- Vacation Bible School was an intergenerational success. For the third year in a row, we were able to provide a free week of outreach, thank you! Being fiscally responsible and resourceful, Maker Fun Factory was enjoyed by over 50 children, youth and volunteers. A National Night Out event was hosted and we welcomed 100 people from Holy Cross and the surrounding community.
- We continue to build a culture of service. Our youth travel to Duluth for a 3-day service and adventure trip where they encounter God in a new place, in new people, and in sometimes difficult situations. 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.

I am encouraged that God will continue to work in, through, and with us. 2018 brings the ELCA National Youth Gathering, continued partnership with Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, and discerning God's call for us. 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 year of great challenge. Working within the limitations that were set: most of the songs that were part of the congregation’s hymnody (songs) were deemed unacceptable and I had to find hymns or songs that would fall in line with Martin Luther’s literal theology from 500 years ago. This was very hard to deal with because it was in direct conflict with the congregation’s history of worship. Many of the hymns in the ELW hymnal were also deemed unacceptable. Getting back to where we were remains a work in progress.

We have a staff of 4 that are responsible for the sound in any given event: Marla Davenport, myself, Jacob Powers and Jim Ostrander.

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. Some of the money that had been raised was used to purchase a new laptop for the sanctuary, to replace the one that was stolen. More concerts and fundraising events will be held throughout 2018.

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 is also still a work in progress.

There were 3 Sundays of outdoor worship this Summer that had special music.

1. June - an ensemble made up of our own parishioners played for our worship
2. July - The Country Bluegrass Band, Salty Dogs played for our worship
3. August - an ensemble made up of our own parishioners played for our worship

In March we brought together all the worship participants for Lent and Easter, to talk about who does what, when where and how to 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.

I need to thank Charlotte for jumping in and leading worship music as well as care for me at home following emergency back surgery. This was an amazing feat. We are blessed to have Charlotte as our Organist and Assistant Choir Director. I would do the planning and Charlotte would implement the worship plans. I am anxious to get back to work and look forward to being with you all again.

We look forward to serving you 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 purchased new tablecloths for the round tables, donated \$100.00 to the Christian Cupboard Emergency Food Shelf and \$100.00 to the youth that attended Camp Wapo. They also worked with the Worship and Music Team at the Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers. The free-will offering went to Worship and Music toward the new sound system.

They also participated in the Food Truck and Flea Market Fest, helped with spring cleaning inside and outside the church, served cookies and coffee after the Adult Forum with Pete Orput, Washington County Attorney on July 16, 2017 and helped organize and service a picnic brunch after the July outdoor worship service.

The Spaghetti Dinner was on October 14, 2017 with proceeds going to the kitchen model. Another fundraiser for that was on October 27, 2017 when the women went on a day trip to the Geritol Follics in Brainerd, MN, organized by Doris Johnson. November 4 and 5, 2017 was the Craft and Bake Sale.

Men's Group of Holy Cross was again busy in the year 2017. They started out on May 6, 2017 by participating in the Food Truck and Flea Market Fest. They donated \$1,100.00 to the youth for their Youth Gathering in Houston in the summer of 2018. The men again sold cheese curds and corn dogs at both the Gethsemane Lutheran Church Block Party and Woodbury Days. They were voted the best food booth at Woodbury days.

The Men's Group donated \$15,000.00 for the new carpeting, which was installed this past summer.

They also sponsored St. Paul Saints and Twins baseball games over the summer, as well as hosted the annual Fall BBQ at Jim and Debby Dellis's house.

There were 2 funerals this year: March 4, 2017 David Huber and March 27, 2017 Harlan Harthun.

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.

- The talent show on Feb. 26, 2017 was well received and attended. \$200 was raised and donated to the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf.
- During Lent, the processional cross gradually moved each week from the back of the church to the front, which symbolized the journey of the cross.
- We combined the Chancel Choir and The Way due to lack of participation. For the same reason, the Bell Choir remains inactive for now.
- The sanctuary laptop used for Power Point needed to be replaced. It was voted and approved to buy a new H.P. laptop priced at \$899.00
- For the first time in many years, the weather cooperated and we held three outdoor services in 2017. There was also an increase in attendance for those services. The Salty Dogs shared music for the August outdoor service.
- We celebrated Christmas on Sunday, December 24. We had a regular service at 9:30am and a Christmas service at 4pm due to the 4th Sunday of Advent falling on this day. There was not a 10pm service.

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

What a great year it has been for the CYF team! We have seen many highs including great community events including the 1st annual Flea Market and Food Truck event, National Night Out, and spreading holiday cheer with our partner confirmation churches. We have also opened our church to several churches from around the country who have joined us in church while offering their services to those in our community. Finally we have seen our youth and others from the scouts program build a gaga pit, put backs on the outdoor benches, put up new lights and signs around the church, and more.

The team has been working hard on several activities this past year. The first has been revamping our policies on Protecting God's Children. The second activity has been Gibson creating community with our partner confirmation churches by inviting families to join The ROCK while older students participate in confirmation and senior high Sundays. Finally the team and the worship and music team have been meeting to look at other worship opportunities outside of our normal service...stay tuned.

Thank you for supporting our program and we look forward to 2018!

Kyle Paulson

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is..._____.

What comes to mind when you think of Stewardship? Most people will think of financial contributions – money to support our church and its programs. It is that, but so much more. Stewardship is caring for the resources we have, which includes a wealth of volunteers giving of their time and talent. Holy Cross is rich in this type of Stewardship. There are so many people that do things in front and behind the scenes and deserve a huge THANK YOU. The building is an important resource that has been well cared for this year. Improvements include new carpet, walls painted, new gardens outside to welcome worshippers, new tile and refrigerator in the kitchen. Again, thank you to all that helped on these improvements. This next year will bring us the challenge of continuing to provide financially for Holy Cross. Please be generous in your continued financial support in this new year. Thank you all for your care of Holy Cross.

Blessings,
Debby Dellis
Stewardship Ministry

PROPERTY

1. Replaced carpeting in church
2. Painted fellowship hall, hallways, pastors office and the fireside room
3. Replaced furnace in main floor furnace room
4. Fixed roof on church
5. John Johnson and Gary Nason took over lawn mowing for janitors
6. Covered numerous woodpecker holes on exterior of church
7. Replaced paper towel dispenser in men's bathroom
8. John Johnson worked on the furnace with rep
9. Replaced numerous lights throughout church
10. Repaired freezer
11. Fixed the sanctuary blinds
12. Spring clean-up was a success with a large turn-out
13. Added main entrance door going into office.
14. Fixed main entry door latch
15. Changed outside gardens throughout church

In follow up to a blessed 2017 we look forward to the new year ahead with plans to complete the following projects

1. Hope to update kitchen appliances
2. Painting back stairwell and downstairs hallways and classrooms
3. Cleaning out and re-organizing the garage

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 Lutheran Church has been very generous in giving to ELCA ministries and to causes here in our community. Through our coin boxes, we donated \$418 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Through special offerings and budgeted funds we donated \$1765 to Tanzania for student scholarships. Locally, through a special offering and through gifts made at the Dellis' fall picnic, we donated a total of \$2059 to the North St Paul Food Shelf, in addition to 588 pounds of food to the Food Shelf.

Holy Cross sent \$5000 to the St. Paul Area Synod to be used for Benevolence (Mission Support), and \$500 for our participation in the Year of Renewal project.

Coffee and Conversation on Wednesday mornings is in its third 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), preparing tags for the Giving Tree, cleaning candles for Christmas Eve services, stuffing envelopes for Tori, 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 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 help bag food at the North St. Paul Food Shelf two mornings every 8 weeks.

The Christmas Giving Tree ministry was a huge success again this year. We were able to deliver many bags of gifts to the Tubman Family Alliance Shelter in Maplewood as well as dividing \$1160 in gift cards between BridgeView and Oakdale Elementary Schools.

Other ministries include the April Diaper Drive for the babies at Tubman Shelter in Maplewood, honoring veterans in November with the assistance of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and donating treats to the Head Start students.

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, Chalene Nun
Ex-Officio Member: 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

Frank Max resigned from this committee in November, we thank him for his three plus years of service. The Finance Committee meets monthly. We review and approve bank statements and ledger reports. Each check written the previous month is reviewed to assure accuracy.

We assisted the Stewardship committee to plan Stewardship events.

We gathered financial requests for 2018 from Mission Champions to compile the annual budget proposal. Budget was reviewed using pledge amounts given to the Stewardship Committee. Proposed budget was reviewed and updated by the church council at the December meeting.

Plans for 2018 include:

Keeping the congregation updated on the financial status of the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Holstein,

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

2017 Financial Secretary's Year End Report:

In 2017, 107 households contributed vs 115 households in 2016

Total funds received for 2017 were \$247,383.81 compared to \$211,779.57 in 2016. The breakdown of funds is listed below.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Sunday Worship	\$163,653.53	\$168,827.54
Rental Income	17,150.00	17,200.00
Holiday Offering	7,446.20	7,368.00
Loose Offering	2,546.05	2,534.23
Misc. Income	<u>7,913.43</u>	<u>7,044.50</u>
Total General Fund Income	\$198,709.21	\$202,974.27
Total Expenses	<u>(\$188,223.27)</u>	<u>(\$207,896.11)</u>
Total Income (loss)	\$ 10,485.94	(\$ 4,921.84)

Giving to designated or restricted funds in 2017 was \$44,409.54 while in 2016 it was \$13,070.36.

2017 breakdown of annual giving

- 8 families contributed \$5,000.00 or more
- 11 families contributed \$2,500.00 or more
- 35 families contributed \$1,000.00 or more
- 17 families contributed \$500.00 or more
- 12 families contributed \$250.00 or more
- 7 families contributed \$100.00 or more
- 4 families contributed \$50.00 or more
- 13 families contributed \$49.99 or less

In 2016, 73 households pledged a total of \$136,966. In 2017, 63 households pledged a total of \$131,837.

2018 pledges as of year-end are \$110,040.00 annually, with 47 household pledging. This is a decrease from 2017 of \$21,797.00 or 19.81%.

The actual vs. pledged information for 2017 is below.

	<u># Giving Units</u>	<u>Total Pledge</u>	<u>Giving</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Pledge Non Givers	0	\$ 0.00		0.00 \$ 0.00
Pledge Givers	63	\$131,837.00	\$139,051.00	\$ 8,045.00
Non Pledge Giving	<u>42</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 29,776.54</u>	<u>\$29,776.54</u>
Total	105	\$131,837.00	\$168,827.54	\$37,821.54

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Nun, Financial Secretary

2017 Annual Treasurers Report

	2017 Budget	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
General	157,565.00	144,646.86	12,918.14
Payroll (salary & FICA)	129,895.97	118,686.87	11,209.10
Travel	940.00	0.00	940.00
Continuing Education	800.00	870.00	-70.00
Health Ins. Pensions	19,604.03	21,938.54	-2,334.51
Official Meetings	1,000.00	863.55	136.45
Professional & Ministerial	325.00	0.00	325.00
Misc. Salaries	1,200.00	935.00	265.00
Contingency Expense	500.00	165.80	334.20
Renewal Expense	2,500.00	900.00	1,600.00
Adult Education	800.00	287.10	512.90
Administrative	20,775.00	19,553.61	1,221.39
Office Building Supplies	3,000.00	3,294.70	-294.70
Office Equipment	3,000.00	3,891.11	-891.11
Telephone	1,300.00	1,450.23	-150.23
Internet	1,300.00	916.92	383.08
Postage	1,000.00	651.10	348.90
Payroll Process	2,800.00	3,063.74	-263.74
Technology	1,500.00	1,285.81	214.19
Advertisement	250.00	0.00	250.00
St Paul Synod Benevolence	6,000.00	5,000.00	1000.00
Camp WAPO Assoc.	625.00	0.00	625.00
Property	35,150.00	35,296.49	-146.49
General Maintenance	5,000.00	5,397.61	-397.61
Insurance	10,000.00	9,170.91	829.09
Seasonal Cleaning	300.00	114.17	185.83
Gas-Electricity	12,000.00	12,745.19	-745.19
Water & Sewer	1,800.00	2,190.06	-390.06
Garbage Removal	1,500.00	1,330.17	169.83
Security System	1,000.00	2,016.75	-1,016.75
Snowplowing	3,000.00	1,800.00	1,200.00
Lawn Care	550.00	531.63	18.37
Welcome Ministries	1,450.00	162.84	1,287.16
Rally day/Block Party	200.00	0.00	200.00
Hospitality	1,000.00	162.84	837.16
New Member	250.00	0.00	250.00
Worship & Music	4,100.00	2,612.08	1,487.92
Music Drama	1,500.00	1,204.00	296.00
Worship Supplies	2,600.00	1,408.08	1,191.92
Growing In Faith	3,950.00	3,231.39	718.61
Children,s Ministry	925.00	556.67	368.33
Birth - Three Ministry	300.00	68.34	231.66
Ministry Milestones	500.00	364.02	135.98
VBS Materials	1,025.00	1,025.00	0.00
Youth Ministries	1,200.00	1,217.36	-17.36
Stewardship Ministies	1,000.00	692.84	307.16
Stewardship Materials	300.00	258.04	41.96
Offering Envelopes	700.00	434.80	265.20
Serving God's People	2,500.00	1,700.00	800.00
Outreach	1,500.00	700.00	800.00
Tanzania Student	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
TOTAL	226,490.00	207,896.11	18,593.89

2017 TREASURER'S REPORT

DESIGNATED FUNDS

	OPENING	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
General	4,490.00	705.00	500.00	4,695.00
Pastor's Discretion	0	105.00	0.00	105.00
Post HS Scholarship	4,490.00	600.00	\$500.00	4,590.00
				0
Growing In Youth	\$349.01	7,591.13	5,177.77	2,762.37
Confirmation	3.13	506.00	474.13	35.00
WAPO Bible Camp	345.88	6,545.13	3,896.80	2,994.21
Service Learning Trip	0.00	540.00	806.84	-266.84
				0
				0
Property Funds	36.23	20,785.00	20,956.60	-135.37
Maintenance Funds	36.23	20,785.00	20,956.60	-135.37
Serving God's People	18.91	1,615.80	1,683.67	-48.96
World Hunger	0.00	417.64	417.64	0.00
Food Shelf	18.91	483.16	501.03	1.04
Tanzania Student	0.00	715.00	765.00	-50.00
Tanzania Parish	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worship Ministries	6,985.54	998.00	851.97	7,131.57
Music Ministry	818.54	0.00	0.00	818.54
Audio/Visual Fund	6,167.00	998.00	851.97	6,313.03
Welcome Ministries	10,349.96	9,520.66	6,802.92	13,067.70
Hospitality	0.00	77.28	0.00	77.28
Women's Group	3,048.79	1,100.00	1,694.25	2,454.54
Kitchen Remodel	6,673.69	7,364.01	4,000.33	10,037.37
Barb Schuette Funeral	627.48	979.37	1,108.34	498.51
Memorial Fund	1,034.00	102.00	0.00	1,136.00
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Elevator Fund	34,900.00	2,000.00	0.00	36,900.00
Headstart	18,807.70	0.00	9,353.45	9,454.25
TOTAL RESTRICTED	53,707.70	2,000.00	9,353.45	46,354.25
Holy Cross Endowment	4,681.76	2.35	0.00	4,684.11
2017 Total	Income	Expenses		
	202,856.86	207,896.11		
	-5,039.25			