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January, 2017

Dear Good Shepherd Members,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, whose peace passes all understanding and in whom all things are made new. We have finished 2016, which has been full of progress and new beginnings for Good Shepherd:

- A new Council took office at the end of June. The new Council members as of June, 2016 are Joyce Candela, Jim Brooks, Susan Fickert, Emily Horning & Sue Kerber.
- The Associate Pastor Call Committee (Steve Anderson, Jim Brooks, Katherine Franz, Dave Egertson, Julie Griffard, and Andrew Leach) worked diligently work to secure a new Associate Pastor.
- Pastor Brecht accepted the call, relocated from South Carolina to St. Louis in November, and started his call on December 1st.
- We created a Strategic Planning Taskforce (led by Glenn Kraft) to help set a course for us into 2017. They deployed a Church-wide survey and you provided critical feedback to us. The Taskforce and Council developed goals in Worship, Healing, Involvement, Relationships and Leadership (WHIRL).
- The Feed My Starving Children taskforce achieved 728,784 meals pack for the children of Haiti. This is our 10th year of continued accomplishment and service.
- In fulfillment of our Mission, we participated in a wide variety of service activities and mission projects, too numerous to mention here – but please read the individual committee and ministry team reports within!
- We completed a repair of the preschool playground at the north end of our building, led by our Facilities Management Planning Committee (FMPC). Several areas received fresh coats of paint, including the Sanctuary. The building security was improved by new master keying for all doors, a new entry card reader in the north door and installation of a camera/buzz-in system for access during church business hours. We are thankful to the FMPC for their tireless and valuable service.
- Our Senior Pastor and our Ministry teams continued to provide outstanding service and leadership in our collective worship life. We are in debt to all who serve in our Worship Services.

Here are my hopes and goals for Good Shepherd in 2017:

- Improve the sound system in the Sanctuary
- Deliver a strong Capital Campaign for the kitchen and building improvements
- Grow membership and worship attendance
- Increase giving and stewardship to support our vibrant ministry
- Continue our focus on WHIRL and achieve measurable goals
- Support our Mission with our time, talent and treasure
Realizing that we will undoubtedly encounter challenges and wonderful joys at GSLC in 2017, I end with this prayer:

O God, we thank You graciously for a New Year. We ask You, Lord, to bless us and our families, as we begin this New Year with a renewed hope in You. You have seen our challenges, been saddened by our weaknesses, and rejoiced in our successes. Give us faith to go out with good heart and courage, not knowing where you will take us, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Christ,
Jim Anderson
President GSLC Council
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Jim Anderson, President
Joyce Candela, Vice President
Larry Gustafson, Secretary
Jim Brooks, Treasurer
Gary Kallansrud, Council at Large
Cindy Kraft, Council at Large
Emily Horning, Council at Large
Susan Fickert, Council at Large
Sue Kerber, Council at Large

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Sharing God’s Love
Congregational Meeting - Annual Meeting
February 5, 2017

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

2. Verification of Quorum

3. Consent Agenda & Mid-Year Congregational Minutes (June 5, 2016)

4. WHIRL Planning & Goals Update

5. New Business
   a. Presentation and Approval of 2017 Operating Budget
   b. Recommendation to begin a Capital Campaign

6. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
   a. President Rob Peglar called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.
   b. Pastor Wolf opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Verification of Quorum
   a. Quorum was verified with 115 members present.

3. Consent Agenda (Item a and b approved in one vote):
   a. Approval of Agenda
   b. Approval of Minutes from June 2015 Congregational Meeting
      i. Steve Spoerle moved to approve the consent agenda
      ii. Clara Anderson seconded the motion
      iii. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Call Committee Report
   a. Dave Egertson, Co-Chair, introduced the committee: Andrew Leach (Co-Chair), Steve Anderson, Jim Brooks, Kyra Christiansen, and Julie Griffard.
   b. Committee Meetings/Progress
      i. Get to know one another, get organized, elect chair(s) and establish the process
      ii. Met with Council, the Call Process Minister (Rev. JoAnn Arnold) and Pastor Rich
      iii. Conducted member forums and survey
      iv. Ministry Site Profile Report was completed and sent to Synod
   c. Next Steps:
      i. Maintain contact with the Synod
      ii. Obtain candidate suggestions
      iii. Select candidates for further consideration and interview candidates
      iv. Make recommendations to Council
         1. Question – Did the job description change based upon the input from surveys?
            a. Answer - changes were made but only to the profile, not the job description.
         2. Comment: Steve Spoerle suggested the congregation bring referrals forward to the Call Committee who can submit them to the Synod.
5. 2015 Review (see the attached PowerPoint slides.)

6. 2016 Proposed Budget (see the attached PowerPoint slides.)
   a. Doug Mueller moved to accept the proposed budget.
   b. Steve Paul seconded the motion.
   c. Discussion on the proposed budget began.
      i. Comment - Dave Egertson stated the reduction in the Benevolence to the Synod is major concern to him and that it has never been done before.
         1. Rob Peglar said this issue was discussed at length in Council and was a difficult decision to make.
      ii. Comment and Question - Jim Greer stated he was also against reduction in our Benevolence giving and pointed out that Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) has $15000 in the proposed budget but since FMSC met all their needs in 2015 is this support from the Local Benevolence needed?
         1. Cindy Wright said FMSC received funding from our Local Benevolence in 2015 to help meet their financial needs and for 2016 we tried to cut across all areas of ministry benefited by our Benevolence giving and FMSC funding was reduced for 2016.
      iii. Question – Judy (?) the money going to Synod is $17,000 less than last year. Can we increase that if our 2016 income improves?
         1. Rob Peglar said if contributions are better we can bring a revised budget to the congregation at the Mid-Year meeting in June.
      iv. Question - Ed Deitzler asked what percentage increase was needed and how to do this through the automated giving to the church?
         1. Cindy Wright suggested an increase of 5% and to contact the church office to increase your automated giving.
      v. Comment - Paul Markovits commented on the Benevolence issue that we are a part of the greater body of the Church and we should continue to contribute as before and find the money to support our other needs.
      vi. Question - Jon Fatzinger said the Associate Pastor may not be here for the nine months budgeted for in 2016 so could some of the funds budgeted for that position be moved to Benevolence?
         1. Cindy Wright said that is possible (result being about $8000/month) but the real need is to increase our giving to meet our needs in 2016 and to remember we will have 12
months of this position's cost in the 2017 budget. We currently have a $200,000 surplus which helps with monthly cash flow and if we will take $48,000 from this reserve to meet the 2016 budget that will make meeting next year's budget even more critical.

vii. Question - Marv Meinz asked with budget increase stated in 2014 due to an increase in staff, who was added and are we staff heavy?
   1. Rob Peglar said we were down an Associate Pastor and Youth Director and those positions were filled. Also, all staff positions were reviewed and it was determined that all were necessary.
   2. Jim Anderson also commented that Council was very clear with the Call Committee that we need to get an Associate Pastor ASAP and we cannot delay this for 18 months just to reduce budget deficit.

viii. Comment - Frank Noble said it is important to keep supporting the Church (Synod and National) and proposed an amendment to restore the Benevolence to 8% if the budget is met and that all income over the $48,000 be sent to synod up to the 8%.
   1. Rob asked if the original mover and second agree to amend their motion and both said yes and discussion on the amendment occurred.
      a. Comment - Doug Mueller said he has served over 20 years on the Finance Committee and there have been good and bad times and this is on the bad side. No one on the Finance Committee wanted the Benevolence reduction but the Congregation should also realize that the staff does not get a raise in 2016 which also is not good. Health benefits are up and will continue to grow. Our problems are on the revenue side not the expense side.
      b. Comment - Glenn Kraft supports these comments. This congregation is capable of greater giving and should do so to support the full budget - staff raises, Benevolence, etc.
      c. Comment - Dave Zahller said Benevolence is not what we want to cut but it is easier to restore that rather than firing and rehiring staff.
d. Comment - Ken Wright said they were attracted to GSLC due to the service and outreach being done by the congregation.

e. Comment - Christine Saffold said we should look at the facts as time goes on and make decisions on the Benevolence issue later.

f. Comment - Steve Spoerle thanked the Council and Finance Committee and supports that we have a revenue issue. Steve supports restoring the Benevolence to the Synod, but does not support the amendment because it takes the power out of the hands of the Council.

g. Comment - Cathy Putz said all this information and discussion needs to be conveyed to members not here especially the younger members.

i. Rob pointed out that 50% of the congregation is 30 years of age or less.

2. Ken Wright called question.

a. Rob Peglar indicated the amendment needed a simple majority to pass.

b. The “yes” votes on the amendment totaled 37 which did not equal a majority of the 115 members in attendance therefore the amendment did not pass.

d. Marv Meinz called question to end discussion on the proposed 2016 Budget.

1. The Congregation voted unanimously to end discussion.

e. For the vote on the 2016 Budget, the Congregation agreed that a “voice” vote was acceptable.

i. Vote on the Proposed 2016 Budget: all but one member voted to approve the budget.

7. Rob Peglar acknowledged Cindy Wright for all the work she put into the 2016 Budget.

8. Pastor Wolf ended with prayer

9. Meeting adjourned 1:50 PM

Respectfully submitted, Larry Gustafson, Congregation Secretary
1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
   a. President Rob Peglar called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

2. Verification of Quorum
   a. Quorum was verified with 122 members present.
   b. Pastor Wolf opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Approval of Agenda and Congregational Meeting Minutes of 2/7/2016
   a. Pike Farr moved to approve the agenda and the 2/7/2016 Minutes.
   b. Clara Anderson seconded the motion.
   c. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Normal Business
   a. 2016 Mid-Year Operating Results – Cindy Wright, Treasurer
      i. Current status is “on target” with actual income as compared to the
         budgeted income.
      ii. Expenses are currently running under budget.
      iii. “Fill the Gap” giving to reduce the budgeted $65,000 income deficit stands at $28,000.
   b. Associate Pastor Call Committee Report – Jim Brooks
      i. Committee was introduced.
      ii. Have a candidate and are working on final interview/site visit.
      iii. Rob explained the remaining process including calling a Special
           Congregational Meeting.
   c. Election of Council, Endowment Fund and Nominating Committee
      Candidates
      i. Ballots were passed out, completed and collected for tabulation.
      ii. Results as follows:
          | For | Against | Abstain |
          |-----|---------|---------|
          | 121 | 1       | 0       |
      iii. Council Officers
           1. Vice Pres. – Joyce Candela
           2. Treasurer – Jim Brooks
      iv. Council Members at Large
           1. Susan Fickert
           2. Emily Horning
           3. Sue Kerber
      v. Endowment Fund Committee
           1. Julie Patthoff
d. Closing Remarks by outgoing President – Rob Peglar
   i. Feed My Starving Children video was shown.
   ii. Thank you was made to outgoing members of Council.
   iii. Recap of the past two years with our Senior Pastor accepting another call, our Associate Pastor leaving due to an illness and working with an Interim Senior Pastor until Pastor Wolf accepted the call as our new Senior Pastor. Rob also commented on the strength, endurance and patience of the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

e. Handoff to incoming President and Opening Remarks – Jim Anderson
   i. Progress is being made in the search for a new Associate Pastor.
   ii. Strategic Planning Task Force committee is analyzing the survey data and preparing a report.
   iii. The Congregation has to continue to move forward.
   iv. Rob Peglar has been asked to serve on the Stewardship Team

5. Specific Business
   a. GSLC Campaign for Growth
   b. There are capital needs that need to be addressed: the kitchen remodel, roof repairs, bathrooms remodeled and there are Mission needs also.
   c. A capital campaign is being discussed to handle these needs.

6. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
   a. Pike Farr moved to adjourn.
   b. Dave Zahller seconded.
   c. Motion approved unanimously.
   d. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Gustafson
Congregation Secretary
2016 Statistics
Beginning Membership January, 2016 = #1454 – Membership December 31 = #1417
Average weekly worship attendance in 2016 = #469

**Baptisms**
Aldridge, Henry Dale
Bretz, Olivia Jane
Cowart, Vivian Pearl
Davis, Vivian
Kleinfield, Rowan Marie
Keithly, Rebecca Lynn
Landelius, Lucas Ronald
Langan, Benjamin Lee
Leach, Delaney Rose
Mensie, Violet
Otto, Alexandra Ji
Riggin, Macie Eleanor
Stabbs, Khloe Elise
Stewart, Hope Noel
Walker-Simelton, Luci Marie
Grace
Webb, Ella Katherine
Wolfe, Carter Jackson
Wolfe, Trevor Wesley
Wolfe, Tyler Payton
Ziemann, Harper Elizabeth
Kelpe, Steve/Helferstay, Sue
Larson, Dan/Lowry, Kate
Ferree, Rob & Dawn
Foan, Carol
Hanson, Jason
Hellert, John & Christa
Grant
Herrboldt, Scott & Rose
Madison; Ryan
Hintz, Laurie
William; Emily; John
Holgast, Sheldon & Beth
Kayla; Ryan
Huffman (Kopp), Jennifer
Hughey, Joseph & Amy
Connor; Spencer; Ethan
Lomperis, Tim & Ana Maria
McEvoy, Bob & Carol
Napoli, Joe & Monica
Jared; Emily; Barret; Kalista
Osterbur, Chris & Lisa
Conner; Lucas
Roberts, Keith & Cindy
Kyle, Kevin
Rasmusussen, Dot & Dwight
Tauser, Justin & Kadie
Grace
Smith, Beverly
Catlett, Aaron
Steinkamp, Bob
Ashley
Suttie, Collin & Lisa
Lauren, Kara
Thiemann, Donald
Jeremy, Emily
Thoeloe, Rob & Barb
Braden; Brooke
Vaccaro, Dean & Kelly
Alexa; Reese; Danya
Vent, Mike & Cynthia
Vogel, Ken & Mary
McCabe, Desiree
Wells, Harold & Arlene
Wendt, Ron & Trayce
Eric; Ryan
Williams, Kevin & April
Cooper; Ava; Isabella
Wilson, Karen
Conlan; Spencer
Winter, Sybille
Sarah; John; Daniel; Margret

**Confirmations**
Aper, Alexandria Rose
Bles, Jackson
Boyd, Kristen Elizabeth
Brown, David Nelson
Buck, Christian John
Buck, Jeffrey Dennis
Campbell, Abigail Ann
DePerrett, Kyle Yates
Erickson, Grace Elisabeth
Fuss, Alexander Michael
Geurkink, Claire Elizabeth
Gibson, Julia May
Holmes, Laura
Karst, Connor Michael
Karst, Steven Raymond
King, Jessica Leigh
Larsen, Garrett Wayne
Legler, Keelyn Birkita
Matzdorf, Katelyn Irene
McMahon, Emma Catherine
Sawall, Aidan Christopher
Schumacher, Nicholas Edward
Spoerer, Alexa Grace
Steinkoetter, Samantha Jane
Toepke, Kathryn Nicole
Wright, Amber Lynn
Lachlan
Koehler, Jason & Pamela
Allison & Mark
Langan, Nick & Erin
Leveritt, John & Jewel
Ludwig Kathleen
Mall, Dennis & Ruth
Mathers, Cindi & John
Otto, Jackson & Hannah
Paap, David & Pat
Pingel, Christopher & Susan
Hailey
Pingel, Patricia
Reinking, Denise
Schwab, Scott & Dawn
Sidwell, Stefanie
Avery
Switzer, Grace

**Transferred In/Inactive to Active**
Baichly I, Robert
Baichly II, Bob
Barr, Mary Ann
Bretz, Drew & Lisa
Madison; Oliva
Breville, Walter
Brickey, Laurie
Hintz, Emily
Copeland, Morgan (Verseman)
Cates, Shawn & Kristen
Eric
Davis, Paul & Suzy
Fricks, Dennis & Michelle
Gilbert, Kathleen
Gillies, Susan
Lauren & Andrew
Harmon, Michael
Hines, Andrew
Huse, Tyler
Kelley, Michael & Edwina
Kennedy, Jason & Beth
Lachlan
Koehler, Jason & Pamela
Allison & Mark
Langan, Nick & Erin
Leveritt, John & Jewel
Ludwig Kathleen
Mall, Dennis & Ruth
Mathers, Cindi & John
Otto, Jackson & Hannah
Paap, David & Pat
Pingel, Christopher & Susan
Hailey
Pingel, Patricia
Reinking, Denise
Schwab, Scott & Dawn
Sidwell, Stefanie
Avery
Switzer, Grace

**Transferred Out/Inactive**
Blinkinsop, Eric & Lindsay
Landon; Gavin; Cecelia
Brown, Christina
Emilie; Carmen; Blair
Car, Suzanne
Chelsea; Molly
Carlton, John & Madigan, Martha
Anna
Delahanty, Shirley
Kyle; Ryan
Dieckmann, Brian & Dana
Ellis, Wyatt

**Weddings**
Copeland, Joshua/ Verseman, Morgan
Fatzinger, Kurt/Wright, Amy
Grice, Matthew/Sitton, Barbara

**Funerals**
Anderson, Roy
Holmes, Sandy
Irwin, Ruth
Ruprecht, Ruth
Teachout, Bill
Highlights for 2016

- Income was higher than budget by $31,600
- Expense was $66,979 less than budget due to timing on calling an Associate Pastor, favorability's in property and utilities, offset by an additional payment at year end to the Synod for $12,000.

- Cash Balances at year end:
  - Bank accounts $300,846
  - Endowment cash 45,023
  - General Fund Investments 171,216
  - Endowment Investments 692,715

- Loan Balance of $45,971

- General Fund Surplus increased by 33,226, driven by favorable results in the fund of $50,226 for the year, offset by a transfer of $17,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund. The General Fund year-end balance was $236,967.

Highlights of the 2017 Budget

- Full year for Associate Pastor.
- Pay increases for the staff averaging 3%.
- Benevolence payments consistent with 2016 for $71,702.
- Budget for part time maintenance support person of $15,000.
- Feed My Starving Children support of $15,000.
It has been a busy, productive, grace-filled year for me and for Good Shepherd. As I continually try to remind people, Good Shepherd is a unique church that God has equipped to do amazing ministry both within our congregation and out into the world. I sometimes call this a “unicorn church” – meaning that GSLC is one of a kind in the very best sense. We have gifted leadership and staff, an abundance of resources, and a warm inviting atmosphere that is coupled with a strong sense of mission and service. Many of you are personally invested in one or more of the ministries that take place at Good Shepherd. You generously share your talents and finances, and perhaps the most precious resources, your time and passion. Together we truly do make a difference in people’s lives both locally and around the world. God has richly blessed us.

Most recently, we are blessed to have Pastor Josh Brecht join us as Associate Pastor. He is very talented and has many gifts to enhance our shared ministry. I look forward to getting to know him better and working together to move GSLC forward on a trajectory of growth both in size and the effectiveness of our mission of “Following Christ, Growing in Faith and Sharing God’s Love”. We also extend a warm welcome to Gail, Elijah, Miles and Evan. On a more personal level, Josh is already making it possible for me to focus more on projects and initiatives that, up until now, were beyond the restraints of my time and energy.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank the members of the Call Committee who worked faithfully and tirelessly to bring Pastor Josh to us: David Egertson and Andrew Leach (co-chairs), Julie Griffard, Steve Anderson, Jim Brooks, Kyra Christiansen and Katherine Franz. Well done!

We have superb educational programs for children and youth. Becky Howard, Pastor Amy Stewart, (and soon Pastor Josh) provide great staff leadership enabling us to offer programming of a size and quality that few other congregations can match. Sunday School, VBS, SOS, PREP and FLY are all well attended and blessed with strong parental support. This is clearly a strength that we need to build upon as we continue to grow reaching out to young families. The Building Blocks Preschool continues to grow under the able leadership of Kathy Rebholz. This year we established the preschool as a LLC in the effort to reduce administrative costs. Outside of the church office, no one will even notice the change and it will not affect the quality of the program.

Suzie Everingham and Julie Pathoff were able to visit Nicaragua to see how the Manna Packs that we assemble for “Feed My Starving Children” are used to change lives. Later, Suzie was also invited by “God’s Little Ones” to visit Madagascar to observe ongoing sustainable agriculture projects to alleviate hunger and poverty there. GSLC supports a large number of mission efforts both locally and around the world. Our Intergenerational Mission group made a clear difference in people’s lives
as they travelled to Wheelwright, Kentucky, a poverty-stricken area, rehabbing houses and working with local children.

Again, “Feed My Starving Children” was a huge hands-on success, assembling 728,784 meals. It was a monumental effort that literally saves lives! Many thanks to the leaders and literally thousands of participants who “pushed the envelope” enabling us to increase our production to a record-setting high.
The “Pumpkin Patch” again was a success benefitting the Native American Farmers in New Mexico as well as funding local mission opportunities here in the St. Louis area like “Be Like Jesus”—a camp style event for local ELCA Lutheran Middle School kids.

Last Spring we embarked on a journey of congregational discernment as we established a Strategic Planning Team lead by Glenn Kraft. The group gathered around 35 key leaders on a Saturday morning to do a “S.W.O.T. analysis” (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Later “Holy Cow Consultants” were engaged to offer a “CAT survey” (church assessment tool) to a large number of church members. The results were revealing. Of course, they highlighted our many obvious strengths but also pointed out critical areas for future improvement and goal setting. This was all summarized for the congregation as “W.H.I.R.L.” and led to the creation of task forces addressing five specific areas of concern: Worship, Healing, Involvement, Relationships and Leadership. Each group have established both short-term and longer-term goals that are measurable and effective. Our goal is to make a great congregation even greater!

In May, we began work on a “Campaign for Growth Strategy” recognizing the many facility related needs at GSLC. The kitchen remodel as well as improvements in sound and lighting in the sanctuary had been “on hold” for far too long. There are also other major projects that have been delayed but are necessary if the church campus can be a “launching pad” for future growth. These include roof repairs, updates to the restrooms, additional parking, to name only a few. In the Fall, we interviewed four different professional firms who could help us initiate a Capital Campaign. At this Congregational Meeting, we will be asking authorization to begin that campaign and to employ Walsh and Associates as our consultants. Things are starting to get exciting here!

In the Worship area, we lowered the First Communion age to 3rd Grade (and plan to lower it further in the next few years). On February 5th we will celebrate with the 40 children that have taken the required class! Attendance at Christmas Eve and Easter were outstanding. Throughout the year, we’ve made some modifications to the liturgical structure of several of the services. The goal is to make each of our four worship opportunities somewhat unique. I still have the idea of considering expanding to an additional service on Sunday evenings. Much more research and brainstorming are still needed. Stay tuned!
This year, the Endowment Committee made some structural and functional changes to the Fund. In the future, we intend to grow this avenue for long-term, powerful mission work. If you have not yet considered making the GSLC Endowment part of your estate planning, please do so.

Last year, some were concerned that our Benevolence commitment to the ELCA and the Central States Synod had been reduced. As 2016 came to a close the finances were strong enough to send an additional $12,000. For the year, that adds up to $72,000 which is much closer to our previous level of commitment. Even though our level of support may be much higher than most other congregations, it is still our goal to grow and excel in this aspect of our stewardship of the gifts with which God has so richly blessed us.

I could go on and on talking about what a wonderful church this is— and I wouldn't be exaggerating! Nevertheless, I hope this gives you a view of some of the highlights of 2016. We are a vital, growing congregation even while others on the religious landscape are in decline.

I should add, that being at full staff for the first time in several years, we are poised to really move forward in expanding our ministry. WHIRL is likely to develop a number of very positive outcomes. Pastor Josh’s addition to staff will enable us to be innovative and try some more new things. The Capital Campaign will help us pull together toward a common goal of better and increased ministry to our members and community. These are exciting times at Good Shepherd and I am blessed to be a part of this ministry!

Pastor Rich Wolf, Senior Pastor

Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. – Mark 1:17

It is a strange thing to write an annual report after being at Good Shepherd for only one month. Rather than sharing what I have done in these few weeks, I want to share what these fresh eyes have seen and the dreams I have for our future together.

My first impression of Good Shepherd was an incredible sense of hospitality and generosity. Our family was welcomed with much kindness, curiosity, and joy. I have seen the way this church welcomes both friends and strangers. I am thankful to be in a community of faith where both Gail and I can use our gifts and passions. I am thankful to be in a community of faith where our boys can thrive and grow up in Christ surrounded by opportunities to serve and learn, to worship and pray. I am truly blessed to serve alongside a fantastic staff. I was immediately in awe of the number deeply committed leaders at Good Shepherd. I have seen so many people with deep passions serving diligently in many different areas. From music and worship,
youth and children, to service and outreach, and so much more, I see people following the call of Jesus to make God’s mission a reality through Good Shepherd. This community is taking seriously our mission to “Follow Christ, Grow in Faith, and Share God’s Love.” As we continue to open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit and to seek God’s leadership I cannot wait to see what our Lord has in store for our lives here at Good Shepherd and in the world beyond.

I was so moved by my first experience with “Our Neighbors, Our City,” and I am thrilled to continue this conversation. It is such a gift to have people together on this journey to remove walls, build bridges, and celebrate the gift of diversity God has given us. I look forward to forging new relationships and partnerships so the community we create in Christ will look less and less like the divided world around us, and more and more like the inclusive kingdom of God. I have seen just a brief glimpse of all the ways in which Good Shepherd reaches out to serve and give to people in need. It is clear that at the heart of this church, there is a deep desire to serve the least of these, to share what God has given so that all may have life. I continue to be blown away by the outpouring of time, money, and gifts, that flow out through all the various ministries supported by Good Shepherd.

One of my deep passions is to see people grow in discipleship, and I’m excited to explore ways we can deepen our discipleship here. To be a disciple and follow Jesus is to be attuned to God’s speaking in our lives, and then to do something about it. We seek to hear and obey so that our lives might look more and more like Jesus. When our lives begin to sync up with God’s purpose, we see incredible fruitfulness. When the mission of our church begins to beat in sync with the rhythm of God’s mission, we will accomplish phenomenal ministry in Jesus’ name. May we seek God’s leading in all that we do so our lives will be God’s life, our work will be God’s work, and our church will be Christ’s church.

Peace in Christ, Josh

God’s love flowed through our congregation to the world this year. I had the blessed opportunity to see God’s love in action in my trips to Nicaragua, Madagascar and the ongoing work of this community of faith.

Nicaragua is the second largest recipient of food for Feed My Starving Children. They received 34 million meals in 2016. The country is in extreme drought . . . they don’t have crops to be able to feed the children. We travelled to areas in the country on dirt roads to get to small schools that cooked the food in a kettle over a fire. The children receive one meal a day . . . they naturally line up – having the youngest children go first. After the children have gone through the line – the adults line up to receive what is left. The children and their parents are so warm and loving and thankful for the gift of food. This gift started with many hands packing food for Feed My Starving Children at Good Shepherd.
In 2016 our congregation with the help of 2,683 volunteers (comprised of: 11 businesses, 24 churches, 12 schools and 22 other various groups) packed 728,784 meals – providing **1,997 children** meals for a year. It is our hope and prayer “stretch goal” to increase those children fed in 2017 to **2,017 children** who receive a meal for a year.

I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Madagascar in June with “With God’s Little Ones” group. It was winter in Madagascar and it was in the 50’s when we visited many schools and communities that “With God’s Little Ones” work with to support the community. 90% of the population in Madagascar survives on $2.00 a day or less. Good Shepherd via The Pumpkin Patch provided funds for several “farms” for Madagascar. These “farms” comprised pigs, chickens, ducks, cattle, etc. that families raised to support the family and the community. Further, we saw gardens and fish “farms” that provided food and support for the community. We, at Good Shepherd, had a “fish fry” that raised a couple thousand dollars for “fish farms” in Madagascar. To see for yourself the amazing work that this group supports sharing God’s love around the world go to [www.wglo.org](http://www.wglo.org).

Further, I have found that you don’t have to travel far to see the many ways that God’s love is shared by this community of faith. Last year we provided: 195 Christmas Child boxes; Christmas gifts to Circle of Concern families and First Step Back Home families (along with laundry baskets filled with supplies); on God’s Work our Hands Sunday - 1,600 sandwiches and over 100 hygiene kits for Trinity Lutheran--Soulard, and dog toys to the Humane Society; 39 prayer shawls were lovingly made and given out; the Mission Sewing Group blessed those in need with 315 dresses (52 dresses were sent to Madagascar), 56 pants, 62 tote bags, and 35 sleeping mats; the Good Shepherd Garden group gave away over 800 pounds of produce; 13 girls’ lives were saved by Magdalene House; the “Scrappy Ladies” of Project Boomerang lovingly made 8,782 cards they provided for those in military service; Thanksgiving meals to 150 families; $2,000 from Thanksgiving Offering to Wartburg Seminary Students with medical needs; unloaded 2,945 pumpkins – and received over $6,000 shared with: Be Like Jesus, With God’s Little Ones and Cree Nation Mission Trip; 61 sheep for Heifer International; bags of mittens, gloves and scarves given to Humanitri for children with incarcerated parents; 5 organizations were supported with our “reverse offering” items; and about 50 organizations received support via Local Benevolence funds. I am sure that I have not even listed everything – but I pray you can see God’s love in action.

Also, The Welcome Team has lovingly worked to enlist help to greet all of us, each week, as we enter the building. The warmth of God’s love pours through each greeting. And, God blessed this community with 26 new families in 2016.

2016 has been an amazing year – surrounded by God’s love... that we have been blessed to be embraced by and blessed to share. It is my prayer that you see the gift you are as a Child of God. I hope your eyes and heart remain open for the many
opportunities that God gives you to sow those seeds of love in your interactions as members of Good Shepherd and as God’s ambassadors in the world.

Joyfully in Christ – Chaplain Suzie

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

PASTOR AMY STEWART

What a year! 2016 was a time of adjustment for me, as I learned the need for a delicate balance between being a mom and a youth pastor (among many other identities!), and making sure that all my roles get the time they need to be done well. The first half of the year was mostly carry-over ministry from previous years; sort of maintaining what we’ve been doing. I spent some time in late summer in conversation with several youth and adults, brainstorming new ministry opportunities, and ways to build relationship with and among the high school students, and I’m excited about what I implemented in the Fall, and will continue rolling out this Spring. Below is a summary of our ministry together in 2016, and where we are headed in 2017.

Fellowship of Lutheran Youth (FLY)

- Thanks to Keith Repko and his guest teachers, FLY Sunday school has continued to help students to study the Bible and apply to it to their daily lives.
- Thanks to Jill Farmer and Angie Franz, Julie Griffard, Nancy Stelmachowicz for providing leadership for the C+ Harmony Praise Band, to Andrew Leach for running their sound, and to Kim Deitzler for coordinating dinners. Because of this faithful leadership, and the commitment of our young people, C+ helped to lead worship in March, May, and November.
- Venture Crew continued this year, under the new leadership of Ed Deitzler. He has done a wonderful job of helping the youth to take leadership of this group, and they have carried out several planned activities over the year.
- Thanks to our faithful young adult leaders, who often give of their time to help with Sunday evening fellowship, fun, and faith conversation: Stacey Anderson, Amy Kallansrud, Andrew and Sarah Leach, and Jory Ridenhour. Sunday night FLY was held almost every week of the year. We spent roughly half of our time in fellowship, playing games and building relationships, and the other half of our time in faith development with life topics and Bible studies.
- A handful of events also brought parents and families together for fellowship, study, and service.
- I shared a daily devotional, on social media, for the seasons of Advent and Lent, and offered FLY families an at-home devotional to use during Advent.
- I attempt to attend events, games, concerts, etc. that youth were a part of and invited me to.
- Beginning in the Fall, my goal has been to reach out to each student in FLY for a 1:1 conversation, as a way to deepen my relationship with them, and better know how to pray for the things going on in their lives. In 3 months, I was able to meet with 14 of them. I am continuing this practice in the new year.
Fundraisers and Trips

- Thanks to the leadership of Kim Deitzler (Trivia Night), Cindy Thierry, Emily Hintz, Laura Holmes (Grocery card/Amazon Smile video and accounting), Dominick Misuraca (Super bowl pizza purchases), Becky Howard (garage sale), and countless other volunteers, our fundraisers, also including cookie sales, were a huge success. In the Fall, we tried an "Odd Jobs" fundraiser, in which youth cleaned up yards for freewill offerings. Thank you to the congregation for supporting all of these efforts!!
- In February, 9 youth and adults attended the YRU (Youth ReUnion) Retreat, in Illinois, for worship, fellowship, and service with other area Coalition youth.
- Because of such generous contributions to our fundraising efforts, 27 youth and adults participated in a Youth Works trip to Pawhuska, OK, in June, where they served in the community, fellowshipped with their neighbors, other youth, and each other, and grew in their relationships with God. A huge thanks to Joe Griffard, Jenn Fisher, Gretchen Gackstatter, and Laura Neuwirth for chaperoning that trip.
- 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, trip reporters, Communion servers, ushers, greeters, and musicians.
- They mentored and taught younger students through God’s Work, Our Hands, Vacation Bible School, Music Camp, Be Like Jesus, Confircamp, and Youth Quake.
- They served through Souper Bowl of Caring, pumpkin unloading, Dresses for Mission, Feed My Starving Children, Youth Works, Humanitri, college outreach care packages, and as Rally Day helpers.
- FLY visited the Islamic Foundation of St. Louis, and learned more about the faith practices of our Muslim brothers and sisters.

College Outreach

- We continued with our monthly mailings to help our students stay connected to their church family.
- We sent finals care packages in May and December, and enjoyed a catered college/FLY Christmas dinner together over the break.
- I texted students who were away and met with several 1:1 while they were in town for school breaks.
- A huge thanks to the parents who helped with this ministry: Stacy Christiansen, Brenda DeBolt, Becky Howard, Kim Sherwood, Kim Deitzler, Val Swain, Jill Farmer, and Roberta Curtis.
Other Pastoral Ministry

Being ordained has allowed me to serve this congregation in other ways:

- Over the course of the past year, I have preached and presided regularly, officiated at weddings, shared in pastoral care and counseling, helped to plan weekly worship, taught 8th grade Confirmation, taught occasional Sunday school classes, including the Buddies Together in Worship Sunday school class, and led morning chapel services for our Building Blocks Preschool. I also wrote most of my curriculum for Sunday night FLY lessons.
- As a part of my leadership, call toward the wider Church, and need for continuing education, I have participated in the Metro St. Louis Coalition gatherings, Lutheran Leaders in Mission gatherings, synodical gatherings, interfaith conversations, and race relation conversations. I attended a mindfulness mediation in the Spring, “Lutherans Restoring Creation” workshop in the summer, and the “Why Christian?” conference in the Fall.
- I participated in, and shared leadership of, the “Our Neighbors, Our City” dialogues.
- I attended new member meetings each quarter.
- I attended the WHIRL workshop.
- I began, and continue to write, the “Lutherans Caring for God’s Creation” column for the newsletter.

New Ministries

- In the Fall, I started a new ministry called “Fresh Start” which rotates to different locations each Wednesday morning of the month. FLY students from nearby schools can attend the one closest to them, where we gather from 6-7:15am for breakfast, check in, and a short devotional.
- In the Spring, new ministries will also include an “Upper Retreat” for 11th/12th graders; three “8/9/10 Gatherings” that will help 9th/10th graders get to know 8th graders before they transition into FLY; and a twice-a-month “Digging Deeper” Bible study for students who requested something more in-depth than our Sunday night studies.

I am still so grateful to be called to Good Shepherd! I have appreciated working with Pastor Rich, as well as our other wonderful staff, and look forward to serving with Pastor Josh too. I am excited about the new ministries ahead of our FLY and Good Shepherd families!

In Christ, Pastor Amy Stewart

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

BECKY HOWARD, DIRECTOR

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
2016 was an exciting year in Children & Family Ministry. Not only did we welcome Pastor Josh and his family late in the year, but we have seen an increased number of new families joining our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening programming. Among the highlights of our year in ministry:

- 15 fourth graders received their First Communion in February 2016. We were so blessed to have Jill Farmer again lend her voice, energy and sense of fun learning to these instruction classes. In February 2017, we will have a combined 3rd AND 4th grade class of 40 First Communicants.
- Additional faith milestones in 2016 included Little Lambs First Bible presentation; 1st Grade Small Catechism study, 3rd Grade Family Bible Study and presentation as well as our 6th grade welcome into confirmation study.
- 28 youth in grades 3 through 8, along with ten high school junior guides and 25 adult volunteers were part of the 2016 Be Like Jesus ELCA St. Louis Coalition Service lock-in, hosted here at Good Shepherd for the second time. In total, we had close to 160 youth, junior guides and adults from area churches involved in this event focused on serving others. Good Shepherd is looking forward to hosting this regional 23-hour youth event again over the March 31-April 1 weekend in 2017! Many thanks to our volunteers and to those who worked at the Pumpkin Patch last fall – a portion of those proceeds will go toward support of this wonderful opportunity for our young people!
- We celebrated as 26 of our 8th graders affirmed their baptism as they were confirmed in April.
- 21 current 7th & 8th graders attended Confircamp at Camp Wartburg in June.
- Life in the Middle (middle school ministry) went well with new events added to our calendar – including three overnight events throughout 2016.
- Vacation Bible School 2016 - 108 children and close to 80 volunteers were part of the VBS week fun. Many thanks to this “village” of volunteers – including many of our middle school and FLY youth - who made Surf Shack a meaningful experience for our kids. Many thanks to Gene and Viki Longfield for their partnership!
- Our September God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday is always a highlight for our youth and families. Hands of all ages and sizes, from Little Lambs to adult ed groups, came together to serve others during our Sunday morning programming.
- Family Fellowship events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat saw attendance larger than in past years. It was great to meet so many new folks from the surrounding community – some who came returned for other ministry events and have begun attending Sunday School here.
- The Sunday School Christmas presentation of Angels Aware was a real gift to all involved. I am continually surprised by the talent and giving hearts of our young people. Many thanks to Clara Anderson, Karen Kallansrud and Dianne Unverfehrt for leading this presentation.
- Our Christmas Eve family services were full (in more ways than one) of excitement. From the overflowing crowd to our animal guests plus the youth involved in worship leadership, it was a true Christmas gift.
Our ongoing programs including: Sunday School; Youth Club for 2nd – 8th grade; Monthly Parenting Group Meetings; twice-yearly Parents Night Out events; Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study and Topical Discussion Groups; 2nd Sunday Monthly Family Fellowship; yearly regional ministry events for middle school youth with YouthQuake in January and Confircamp in June are made possible because of the great group of volunteers we are blessed with. We currently have 35 volunteer leaders involved in our Sunday morning Children’s Ministry program, and 18 volunteer leaders for our Wednesday evening Youth Club program just to name a few. I am forever blessed by the leadership, partnership and friendship of these volunteers along with folks like Kim Deitzler, Emily Horning, Patty Geurkink, Diane Gibson, Tiffany Anderson, Pam Brown, Dianne Unverfehrt, Thao Spoerle, Viki and Gene Longfield who have taken leadership positions in Children’s Ministry this year as well as Steve Spoerle and Dale Naas who do such a terrific job in leading our Sunday morning adult study groups.

In addition to the Children & Family Ministry fun, I was blessed to be part of the 2016 Intergenerational Mission Trip to Wheelwright, Kentucky in July. It was such a joy to share the experience with other folks from Good Shepherd. I am part of the planning and participation group for the summer 2017 trip to Cree Nation in Fisher River, Canada!

I continue to give thanks for the opportunity to be in partnership with the caring community at Good Shepherd and for all who so freely share their talent, heart and spirit of fun in learning (not to mention minimal discretionary time) with our children and family ministry programs.

In Christ, Becky Howard

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY  JAMIE DE GEER, DIRECTOR

Thanks to all of the music staff, leaders and volunteers who so tirelessly give of their time to help make our worship more meaningful throughout the year: Karen Kallansrud (Special Music Accompianist & 5:30 Pianist), Keith Kolander (Organist & 5:30 Pianist), Marcus De Geer (5:30 Pianist & Praise Team Pianist), Dianne Unverfehrt (Praise Team Pianist/Leader, Tone Chime Director), Phil Gomez (Praise Team Pianist), Kelly Witt (Hand Bell Director), Carter Pederson (Celebration Chorus Coordinator), Pike Farr (TOTO Leader), Larry Gustafson (Four Crossmen Leader), Katherine Van Horn & Andrew Leach (A/V Team Leaders), Julie Griffard (Music Camp Coordinator).

2016 Music Ministry Highlights:
- Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services were held at 11:30 am and 7pm with services about equal in attendance. Thanks to all the audio/visual and music volunteers for their leadership.
The Bethany College Choir presented a concert in March. Thanks to the VanBuren family, whose daughter Kelsey sings in the choir, for their leadership with coordination of set-up, the meal and housing assignments.

We had an awesome week at Music Camp in June with a great group of campers, leaders and volunteers. Thanks to camp administrative director, Julie Griffard, for all her hard work that makes the week run so smoothly.

Thanks to Andrew Leach, Tiffany Anderson and Laura Ewald for their participation in an 11:00 Worship Service Music Selection Team which met in September to select songs to introduce over the next 12 months.

There were 3 extra pianos around the building that were sold this fall with proceeds going into the music ministry fund for future needs.

Through a coordinated effort of Music Ministry, Education Ministry, Youth Ministry and Building Blocks – orchestrated by Julie Deay – we were able to purchase new risers which are safer and easier to store and set-up. Thanks to all involved for squeezing their budgets to make this purchase possible.

Participation by Joint Choirs on All Saint's Sunday, November 6th was a huge success with over 90% participation by choir members.

The Bells & Brats Event (Gateway Ringers Concert & Sausage Supper) on All Saint's Sunday had record attendance with over 175 at the concert and 125 at the dinner. Thanks to Jon and Karen Fatzinger and Carol Ziemann for their 2nd year of amazing leadership of the Sausage Supper.

The Annual Christmas Cantata was a huge success with over 70 participants in the choir, orchestra and support positions. We were especially excited to have 7 new singers join us this year, many whom have never participated in music at GSLC prior to this. Presentations at Meramec Bluffs on December 6th and Good Shepherd on December 10th and 11th were well received.

The bi-annual Children’s Christmas Musical was presented on December 18th and 19th led by Clara Anderson and Dianne Unverfehrt accompanied by Karen Kallansrud and Gary Nelson. Thanks to everyone involved.

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

Facts about Building Blocks Preschool

- Building Blocks is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
- Building Blocks serves children from 12 months old thru 5 years-old
- Teachers enjoy providing rich educational and spiritual experiences and remain on staff year after year.
- Staff attends early childhood workshops to maintain and learn up-to-date teaching methods and strategies; monthly staff meetings take place as well.
- A small, loving community with low teacher to student ratios
- Director is a member of the West County Director's Group that meets monthly for discussion groups and plan an annual Curriculum Conference
- There are 15 degreed staff members; four teachers with Master’s and Bachelor’s Degrees in Education, specialty certificates and Early Childhood Certifications; three teachers are church members

Highlights of 2016
- A new logo was developed in July of 2016 by Building Block’s parent and Good Shepherd church member Brandon Wade.
- Walkie-Talkies were purchased as a safety precaution and to aide in better communication among teachers.
- The playground was resurfaced in October of 2016.
- Enrollment remains healthy with an FTE at an all-time high of 45.6. (Our annual goal is 43.)
- Our community outreach touches 64 children in our area
- A new lunch bunch system was implemented and five new staff members were hired.

Strengths that Differentiate Building Blocks from other Programs:

**Classroom Curriculum:**
The integrated curriculum is designed to encourage the development of the whole child, spiritually, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically. The teachers use the children's interests as a focus for developing hands-on activities and creative experiences, such as well-planned learning centers, science experiments, and art projects.

**Spiritual:** Through daily Bible lessons, songs, activities, and prayers, a 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, Operation Christmas Child, Teddy Bear Drive

Welcome Team

Your Welcome Ministry Team supports Good Shepherd’s mission, traditions, and successes by promoting a friendly, inclusive and supportive atmosphere for members and visitors. The Team works with the GSLC staff to develop information and educational opportunities for prospective members. We also communicate with the congregation about its shared, church-wide welcoming ministry. We provide front door greeters (9:30 and 11 AM services) and parking attendants for the largest worship services.
**Who We Are**

Team members are Karen and Jon Fatzinger, Jennifer Fisher, Vicki and Elliott Haugen, Verill Johnson, Sandy and Mike King, Carter Pederson, and Linda and John Webb (they joined the team in 2016); Suzie Everingham represents the GSLC staff. Thanks to Jennifer Wade for her past team work. We meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday and interested persons are invited to attend. In addition, Good Shepherd is blessed by the active role members play in welcoming and including members, non-members and visitors.

**What Was Accomplished in 2016**

- Promoted a welcoming environment for members and visitors by being present in the Narthex and by encouraging members to share their love, support and caring with each other and others. Visitor attendance is tracked and calls made by team members and GSLC staff to frequent visitors. Names and contact information are collected from the red registration books and personal interactions.
- Conducted three new member orientation programs for interested persons and those wishing to join Good Shepherd. A follow-up, feedback session was held for the spring joining group.
- Welcomed 54 new members in 2016, including those in April, September and December; (in 2015 42 joined.) We are excited about how many of these new members are already involved at GSLC.
- Communicated with the congregation, via Bulletin announcements and monthly “Wink” articles in the Newsletter, regarding the importance of being a welcoming and inviting church for members, visitors and those who attend infrequently. A nametag replacement effort was undertaken.
- Created a new “Children Welcome” pew insert to inform members and visitors about ways that Good Shepherd welcomes and values children attending its worship services.
- Emphasized “Invite Someone to Church” during the month of May; announcements were made and publicized and a plant given to first-time visitors. Ceramic “Come Share the Spirit” cups were also distributed throughout the year.
- Continued an outreach, educational and invitational focus with hangtags for Fall events, e.g., Pumpkin Patch, Fall Festival, FMSC. They have information about worship times, youth-focused programs and community-oriented events. Team members promoted welcoming at activities.
- Encouraged Welcome team member involvement in GSLC planning, e.g., participation in the strategic planning task force, planning survey, listening/visioning workshops and WHIRL sessions. Provided planning suggestions to the Facilities Management and Planning Committee (FMPC) for welcome-related improvements, e.g., handicapped accommodations (canopy, power door openers) and signage. Welcomed members of the Leadership
Development task force to discuss identifying, encouraging and equipping new members to think about taking on GSLC leadership opportunities.

**Our Goals for 2017**

- Schedule and promote regular multi-session, new member orientations
- Create a short informational video for use at new member orientation sessions
- Follow-up with recent new members about their involvement and ask for feedback about GSLC
- Encourage team members and others to be welcomers at Pumpkin Patch, Bells/Brats, FMSC, etc.
- Seek new Welcome Ministry Team members and solicit welcoming ideas from members and staff
- Identify ways to help support WHIRL strategic planning teams and goals

**SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM**

**JUDY LEACH, TEAM LEADER**

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

The Service team is comprised of a group of committed and enthusiastic members who meet monthly to help coordinate church-wide outreach activities throughout the year and to make decisions about the disbursement of Local Benevolence funds to various charitable organizations which serve populations of needy people both locally and internationally. The congregation at Good Shepherd is both generous and caring. Last year (2015), the Team received $27,000, or 3% of general fund revenue, and sent out over $29,000 (there were some reserve funds carried over from 2014). In 2016, the Council and congregation voted to allocate a flat $25,000 to Local Benevolence. Of that amount, $5000 was given to Habitat for Humanity to maintain the same level of support as in past years. The remainder was used to support various non-profit agencies which are listed at the end of this report. The Team uses monthly themes to provide for a diversity of needs:

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

The Service Team also responds to unforeseen crises and needs in both the local and global community so the themes are a guide, not a directive. Before any money is approved for any agency, the Team researches the mission and financial integrity of that agency using annual reports and internet sites such as Charity Navigator and GuideStar to investigate each charity's use of funds to ensure that our contributions will be put to good use. Each member of the Team also has personal contact with one
or more of the St. Louis based charities we help support. Many of those organizations send representatives to Good Shepherd to speak to the Team, the adult Sunday School topical class and even the congregation via temple talks before the weekend services. A goal of the Team has been to establish personal relationships as much as possible with the organizations we support on behalf of the congregation.

Throughout the Sundays of Lent, the team continued the tradition of Reverse Plate offerings which resulted in donations of many needed items to Circle of Concern, Fisher House, Nurses for Newborns, Project Backpack and St. Patrick’s Center. The groups receiving donations (either cash or goods) from Good Shepherd through Local Benevolence in 2016 include:

| 100 Neediest Cases | Meds and Food for kids |
| ARC | Micro-financing in Africa |
| Beyond Housing | Nurses for Newborns |
| CHAMP Assistance Dogs | Operation Christmas Child |
| Circle of Concern | Our Lady’s Inn |
| Crudem Foundation | Paraquad |
| ELCA Disaster Relief | Project Backpack |
| ELCA Missions Papua New Guinea | Project Peanut Butter |
| ELCA Special Needs Retirement | Santa’s Helpers |
| First Step Back Home | St Louis Crisis Nursery |
| Fisher House | St. Patrick’s Center |
| Gateway 180 | St. Peter & Paul Community Center |
| Habitat for Humanity St. Louis | Suit Project |
| House of Hope | Trinity Soulard |
| Humanitri | USO of Missouri |
| International Crisis Aid | Village of Hope |
| International Institute | VOYCE |
| Lafayette Industries | Wings of Hope |
| Lutheran Family & Children Services | With God’s Little Ones |
| Magdalene St. Louis | World Servants |
| Meals on Wheels | Worth Industries |

The team meets on the first Tuesday of every month. Members in 2016 were: Norma Anderson, Suzie Everingham, David Franz, Dave Hawkins, Vicki Haugen, Melissa Huse, Gary Kallansrud, Karen Kallansrud, Jean Krammer, Judy Leach, Julie Patthoff, Dennis Mall, Barb Rouse, and Janie Wolfangel. New members are welcome at any time!

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Leach, Chair
Major topics worked and discussed this past year:

**Audio Improvements**
- New sanctuary speakers and mikes are in the works and should be in place early 2017.

**Liturgical Improvements**
- As we have progressed through 2016, changes were made to our worship services to create distinction between them in ways that are responsive to the suggestions and feedback we’ve received from members who regularly attend a particular service. Some of the changes are as follows:
  - Informal/Casual 5:30: The sung liturgy has been omitted and use of screens added;
  - Traditional 8:00: Now using settings from the Green Hymnal;
  - Traditional 9:30: Assisting ministers are now robing and acolytes have returned;
  - Contemporary 11:00: Addition of new songs into the music rotation.
- A highlight of the year – Live Nativity and Christmas weekend over 1300 in attendance.
- The WHIRL survey challenged us to provide an “Exceptional Worship Service” with Transformational change.
- We have concluded that ‘Exceptional’ in this instance will be “to conduct each service to best of our abilities.” The survey results stated the desire for a better worship experience and we will continue to pursue this goal in all aspects of the worship environment. A part of reaching this goal is as a church we should encourage all groups and individuals in all areas of the church, not just worship, with the “Desire to Improve.”
- Transformational change, based on what we gleaned from the survey, means that if changes are to be made to a service they should be sooner rather than later, but what sort of changes these might be, well that is a conversation being carried over to 2017.
- Quarterly Worship surveys will be used to assess several areas of the worship service and work to improve as needed.
- We welcome the addition of Pastor Brecht to our church and worship team.
- Worship attendance versus Pastor Brecht attendance has been an ongoing topic of discussion. We will continue the discussion this coming year. We are seeking ways to encourage both Sunday school and worship attendance for our members.

I am very grateful for this team and their leadership efforts in the following areas: recruiting ushers; Altar Guild’s handling of communion setup; A/V; and all the other logistical aspects of our worship that seem to just automatically happen. Also, thanks to the office staff for their efforts in recruiting greeters, readers and communion servers. Thank you to all who volunteer as ushers, greeters, readers, video operators, sound operators, singers, worship leaders, instrumentalists, etc.!

Steven Anderson
Worship Ministry Team Chairman

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Good Shepherd – In 2016 the Stewardship Team was reinvigorated to become a year-round group focusing not only on the need for financial support, but also on the volunteer and participation opportunities that exist throughout our church.

One of the largest areas of focus for the team was the Support the Core campaign which raised money to go into the General Fund. Donations to Support the Core totaled $20,665 in additional giving. Thank you to everyone who either made a one-time donation or increased their weekly giving as part of this effort. Because of these contributions, we could reach our income goal for the 2016 budget.

Your stewardship, in conjunction with Good Shepherd’s mission statement of “Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Sharing God’s Love” makes a difference in people’s lives both inside and outside the walls of our church. In 2017, we will be encouraging all members to support activities, volunteer and provide resources for events, as well as financially support Good Shepherd’s general budget and special project needs.

For those who returned your 2017 pledge cards, thank you. If you didn’t fill yours out, you still can! See a staff member for a new card. These pledges help us project and set accurate budgets for the coming year.

The Stewardship Team’s focus this year will be on continued communication to the congregation with quarterly letters included with your statements, newsletter articles that highlight upcoming events that need volunteers or participants, and maintaining the time and talents information of our members, along with various other initiatives.

Thank you to each of you for your continued contributions of time, treasure, and talents to Good Shepherd. Each of these gifts to the church and community reflects God’s love at work through our hands.

Together in Christ,
The Stewardship Team
The following major items were completed under the planning and supervision of the FMPC, whose membership consists of Jim Brooks, Julie Deay, Rod Hollenbeck, Dave Johnson (co-chair), Paul Proefrock and Lyle Ziemann (co-chair). The church steeple was temporarily removed and the roof underneath repaired to eliminate rain leakage into the center of the Sanctuary. Another project was repair of the 11-year old synthetic playground surface that was sinking as the gravel under it settled, compacted and washed out over time. This included increasing the length of the concrete retaining wall along the west driveway to control wash out. A Boy Scout Eagle project by member Jeff Buck was endorsed and guided. That project replaced the rotted, wood privacy screen and unsightly shrubs next to the north Narthex entrance with a new synthetic fence, ground cover and shrubs. Jeff planned and supervised the work and raised the funds to pay for materials. Another upgrade in this area is a planned replacement of the rotting wood siding in the playground area, which will resolve the problem of paint chips around the little people. Planning, funding and a contract are in place for work to be done when weather is suitable.

Upgrading security for our people and our facilities has been a major emphasis. Working with Building Blocks, a number of commercial-grade, portable two-way radios were purchased and licensed for emergency communication between and among the Building Blocks Director, Teaching Staff and Office Staff. The system will also serve as a storm warning system as the need arises. To reduce the risk of someone randomly entering the building, all exterior door locks have been replaced with a keying system that prevents making duplicate keys without written authorization, and an access-card reader was installed at the north Narthex entrance to supplement the existing card reader by the kitchen door on the lower level. Also, a doorbell and closed circuit TV camera were installed at the north entrance. Exterior doors will now be kept locked during normal business hours, with the doorbell and camera allowing verification of persons wanting to enter the building without an access card. Office staff can unlock the door remotely, but it will relock immediately. Additional security measures will be reviewed and implemented as necessary.

The FMPC has recently been heavily involved in providing the Congregation Council with a list of major maintenance items and upgrades for the property in anticipation of a capital campaign to be announced in early 2017. Plans are nearing completion for renovation of our kitchen so that construction can begin as soon as possible when funds are available.

An Information Technology (IT) Team was formed in late 2015 as a sub-committee of the FMPC. The Team was charged with responsibility to help provide direction and guidance for the development and use of technologies that support GSLC’s mission and ministries. It was asked to develop plans and recommendations, help implement solutions, and follow-up on technology integration, support and training. The overall goal is to have a more effective, efficient and appropriate process for introducing and using technologies that complement and enrich activities (i.e., worship, education,
operations, and communications) without diminishing interpersonal relationships, interactions, and information sharing.

The IT Team consists of Elliott Haugen (lead), Andrew Leach, Steven Paul and Marques Stewart. During 2016 Elliott completed an inventory of existing technologies, met with all the staff, and wrote a review of the existing IT environment and draft recommendations. The IT Team has begun to review and prioritize the recommendations (to be completed in early 2017) for the FMPC and Council. Additionally, remote controls and adaptors used for multi-media presentations in Room 205 were organized and new instructions with photos were created.

As stated previously, we continually need individuals who are able and willing to devote volunteer hours to complete minor maintenance tasks in and around our facilities. If you can spare a couple of hours a month and are willing to help, please let Julie Deay in the church office know.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

LEE NAAS, CHAIR

The Committee looked closely this year at the Endowment Fund’s history, structure, grant procedures and investments. After consulting with legal and accounting experts, as well as parishioners with historical knowledge of the Fund and past donors’ giving intentions, we recommended to Council and they approved a significant restructuring.

That restructuring resulted in the creation of two related funds; one for donations given specifically to the Endowment Fund and the other for gifts not specifically given to the Endowment Fund, but which Council decided were intended to be for GSLC’s use in perpetuity. Five percent of the preceding December 31 value of each fund will now be used to make grants throughout the year.

The Committee’s goals for 2017 are to institute a more efficient grant process, to align the Endowment’s investments more closely to its long-term goals and to promote increased awareness of the Endowment to potential contributors and grant recipients alike.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Naas, Chair
2016 was another successful year for the CG’s. It’s always encouraging to know that we have welcomed several new people who joined us for the first time at our events. I think anyone who has been with us for any of the activities over the years will agree that the CG’s has filled a very important role in the lives of GSLC seniors. We look forward to many more years of fellowship and fun and special events that will be planned.

The CG’s meet each month (Usually the 3rd Thursday) for a planned outing or an event at church. Also, a Bible Study/Discussion group, is sponsored by the CG’s, and meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 10 a.m. in Room 205. You are invited to join this group for any or all sessions.

2015 Activities included:
January – Pot Luck lunch at church.
February – Steeplechase Horse Race event at church.
March – St. Pat’s Day Corned Beef & Cabbage catered lunch at church.
April – World’s Fair video at church & lunch at Mimi’s.
May – Lunch at the Blue Owl, Kimmswick.
June – Tour of Holocaust Museum, lunch at Granite City Café, Creve Coeur.
July – Music by Scott Laytham Duo, lunch at Hunan Peking, Manchester.
August – Bus trip to Arrowrock for lunch, play at Lyceum Theatre, dinner at Isle of Capri Casino in Booneville.
September – Tour of newly renovated St. Louis Public Library, lunch at Favazza’s, St. Louis.
October – Annual trip for lunch at the Hawthorne Inn, Labadie, MO.
November – Speaker, Bev Schuetz, and lunch at Hunan Peking, Manchester.
December – Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Holiday Inn, Six Flags.