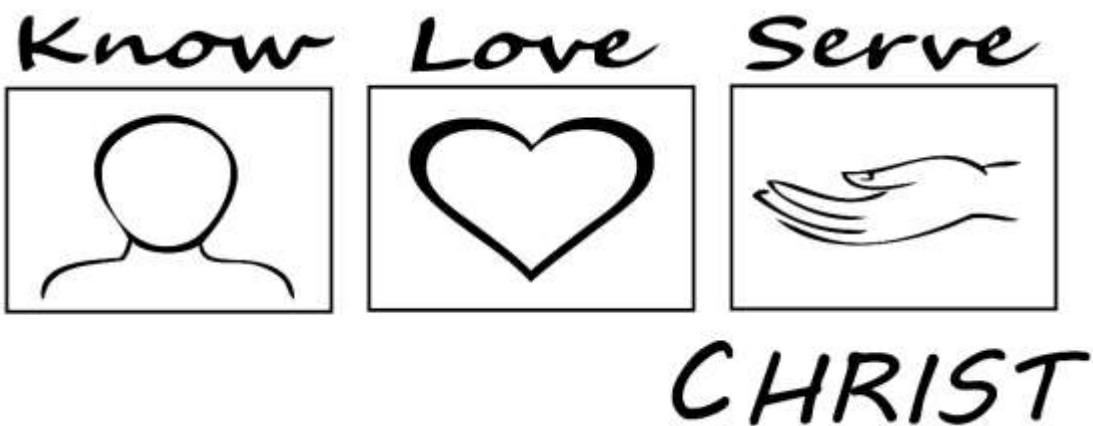




Annual Reports

Ministry Year 2017



ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**DEVON, PA
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

Welcome

Call to order

Adoption of the Agenda

Opening Devotions

Approval of Feb 2017 Minutes

Reception of 2017 Ministry Reports

Reception of 2017 Leadership Reports

Update on Capital Campaign & Visioning Process

Recognitions & Appreciation

New Business

Election of Councilors

Adjournment & Prayer

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St. Luke Congregational Meeting Minutes 2017

Annual Congregational Meeting—February 5, 2017

Opening music by 2 Copper Coins... Light lunch served

WELCOME and Call to Order: Bill Baver called the meeting to order at 11.52 am.

Adoption of the Meeting Agenda: Bill presented the Agenda, motion was raised, seconded and passed to adopt.

Opening Devotions: Dawn Heckert

Remarks from the President: Bill Baver presented our view of the plan for the coming year

Remarks from Lead Pastor: Pastor Sue reflected on actions in 2016 even while she was on Sabbatical, pointing to the shared ministry of our congregation and its willingness to take chances.

Approval of 2016 Minutes: No objection, accepted as printed

Discussion of Leadership Reports:

Nominating Committee Report:

Committee recommends these nominees to council for 2-year term expiring 2019

Councilor for Support:	Tom McCown
Councilor for Witness:	Meredith Moore
Secretary:	Anne Barnett
Treasurer:	David Webb

Current Council Members (terms ending 2018)

Councilor for Worship and Music:	Jodi Donohue
Councilor for Evangelism and Communications:	Julieanne Leighton
President:	Bill Baver
Councilor for Education and Faith Formation:	Jennifer Wright
Councilor for Congregational Life:	Lynne York

Ministry leader/Social Ministry: Joanne Sonn and David Satterfield replacing Thelma Jacks and Susan Saxer.

Support: Steve Miller provided context and explained changes: Beautiful Beginnings

Plan to move from existing facility on Swedesford Road February 17, and into St. Luke on February 18

Preparation is still in progress, but includes:

Outside: we have re-lined the parking lot, the new playground has been fenced and the Tot Lot upgraded with Turf (at expense of Beautiful Beginnings). The change has served as a catalyst to reorganize and clean up.

Inside: Modified old wiring, added an upstairs bathroom and laundry room, added access fobs and security doors.

The use of our education wing through the week will bring Revenue and People into the church.

Discussion and Questions:

Size of the Day care?	57 Children; licensed for up to 70
Ages of the children?	0 to 6 years
Hours of operation?	6 am to 6 pm

Acceptance of Leadership Reports: Following discussion, accepted as printed.

New Items:

1) Adoption of Changes to Constitution: Presented by Anne Barnett

ELCA pushed changes.

Proposed motion read to the Congregation.

Discussion:

The printout omitted the word “Lutheran” from the resolution; the congregation moved, seconded, passed the resolution to adopt the ELCA required language WITH the inclusion of the word “Lutheran”.

2) Election of Councilors: Presented by Dawn Heckert

Four expiring seats; two new councilors; two remaining

Remaining:

Anne Barnett—Secretary

David Webb- Treasurer

New:

Tom McCown—Councilor for Support

Meredith Moore—Councilor for Witness

Outgoing:

Steve Miller—Support

Dawn Heckert—Witness

The congregation Moved, Seconded and Approved the election of councilors as presented.

3) Financial Update/Adoption of Budget: Presented by Dave Webb

Financial Update

Dave provided an overview of the 2016 Financial Reports. 2016 was not memorable for revenue, though expenses were flat.

Notable expenses:

- one-time real estate professional expense (to locate and handle education wing tenant)
- health insurance for staff is more costly
- we met our 10% benevolence goal with three categories of giving: Synod/ELCA; Outreach; Seminary.

We are a tithing church. We fulfilled all commitments after realizing a surplus in 2016.

Loss of rental income from our Coptic congregation which has found its own building, while several other rental revenues are up.

We ended the year with a surplus of \$41,000 versus an \$11,000 deficit in 2015.
A motion was put to the floor that we accept the financial reports and seconded.
Discussion was opened with a member suggestion that benevolence should exceed 10%.
Dave gave historical context including cost of mortgage over the years, its current maturity and rate reset, and unlikely to be reset at this low rate in 5 years. This led to discussion of stewardship to lower the mortgage to allow greater benevolence.
Past councilor Ken Daly thanked Rod Olsen for his years of service and for running the financial reports and commented that additional benevolence can and does come from individuals.
A second motion to accept 2016 Financial Reports was raised, seconded and passed unanimously.

2017 Proposed Budget

Council passed a resolution changing budget year.
Changes to annual meeting with a Budget/Finance only meeting in July and an Annual Congregational/ Election meeting remaining in February.
Personal giving statements will continue to go out in December/January.
The current proposed budget is for 6 months, January through June.
Dave notes that 20-25% of giving is realized in December. This makes budgeting in November and December for January difficult.
Assumptions used in budgeting/forecasting:
2017 proposed six month budget is \$381,000
Staff is receiving 3% increase in salary
Pastors Sue and Matt are the only staff members receiving benefits; they will receive no pay raise but will realize a net 2% increase in net compensation as the Congregation is absorbing the full cost of increased cost of health insurance.
Increase in revenue from:
5 year lease to Beautiful Beginnings which will increase after the first year reduction to offset renovations;
Community Manager and improved communications reach
6 Month anticipated deficit: \$53,000
We propose using the \$41,000 surplus to fund it and use \$12,000 from the Deficit reserve fund, to be repaid.

Discussion: questions from the floor included those concerning staff insurance, Bill responded that we adopted the HR Committee and Synod's recommendations; whether the Sexton position should be full or part time (Bill responded that we will continue to visit this issue but since Beautiful Beginnings will clean the education wing HR recommended making the position part time). Giving beyond St. Luke by individual members of the Congregation was noted.

A motion to approve the budget was put forth and seconded; rescinded for additional discussion.

Discussion focused on Fiscal year change and concern over lack of December response now that it is not at the end of the fiscal year. Dave responded that council must manage and communicate the financial picture. He also spoke with other churches who adopted July to June fiscal years and none express regret. There are other reasons people give at year end

and we anticipate such giving will continue: year-end tax and retirement planning; timing of bonus compensation.

Another question: where did the deficit reduction come from in 2016? Pastor Sue responded that a total of 60 families responded with gifts between \$100 and \$7000 and ranging in age from just out of college to retired.

We are looking at new software with Melissa which will allow better reporting and better customization of our message to givers.

The Budget was again brought to vote: Moved, seconded and passed with one “Nay”, the rest in favor.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Matt

Meeting Adjourned by Bill Baver at 1:00 pm with a reminder of our TWO SERVICE PROJECTS:

- sign the large card from our congregation to the Islamic Society down the street, and
- Souper Bowl contributions to fund ‘Feeding Thousands’.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Barnett, Secretary

Report of the President of the Congregation

Greeting Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

St. Luke has truly lived out our mission to Know, Love and Serve Christ in so many ways in 2017. The energy and dedication of our congregation and staff is truly inspiring. I want to thank our entire staff, council, lay leaders and congregation for living out and through our mission in everything we do here at St. Luke.

It has been an honor to act as president of our congregation this past year. While society as a whole continues to define what a church is in life today, we at St. Luke are not waiting for that definition, but we are writing our own story as to what this means. We have more to do as we continue to move forward, but we continue to move, which is very exciting. I also feel a tremendous level of responsibility. I hope I have continued to earn your respect as a congregation in how we have worked together— as a team. I continue to welcome your inputs and guidance, and our open communication as we continue forward in the work of our God.

Each year the Lord provides us with many blessings to celebrate and this past year was no exception. In 2017:

- He blessed us with a wonderful church council. I am thankful for their competence and their steadfast commitment to the ministry at St. Luke. Every single member focuses on our St. Luke vision as we shape our church for the world of today, and all are truly amazing.
- He blessed us with our amazing Pastoral team – Sue, Matt and Mary and an excellent and evolving staff who work together to handle the many operational activities that keep us going.
- He blessed us with increased understanding of church communications as we move forward. We have more to do, but given inputs from outside our walls, I truly feel we are seeing rewards and leading a movement of how churches should embrace communication in the current day.
- He blessed us with our continued outreach of Feast Incarnate, the ASP trip, Mikanjuni relationship, and many other interactions with our local and immediate community, our national community, and our global community.
- He blessed us with a new partner in using our facility, Beautiful Beginnings, and supported the continued giving of our congregation to help us meet and exceed our financial obligations. So far with our new fiscal year approach, we are on target for giving – but we have to continue. We even are looking at how we can utilize the resources of our congregation and beyond to support a capital campaign to help us further focus on the ministries supported by St. Luke – not just the facility we worship within.

I continue to be truly thankful that he blessed me with the opportunity to be your congregational president. I am constantly in awe of the wonderful things we do as a family in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and I am both very honored and grateful to be a part of what is happening now at St. Luke. I know that as we move forward we will continue to find new and exciting ways to keep our true mission at the center of all we do - "To Know, Love and Serve Christ".

Yours in Christ,

Bill Baver President, St. Luke Church

Report of the Lead Pastor

Pastor Susan Ericsson

To know, love and serve Christ.....

2017 marked my 11th year at St. Luke, and my 35th year of ordained ministry. Chase and I became empty nesters! I enjoyed one last sabbatical trip to Western Ireland in September. My days are busy supporting leaders, visiting and counseling, teaching, planning worship and sermons, being active in the community, praying for our ministry, staying current with ministry trends, administration and supervision of staff. I'm deeply grateful to God and to the people of St. Luke for this extraordinary opportunity to serve God and God's people in and through this faith community. I am grateful for:

Leadership of our Congregation Council: we are blessed with an extraordinary group of leaders who go above and beyond in their serving. Each meeting starts with team building and devotions, keeping the work Christ centered. President Bill Bayer is a mensch!

Reformation 500: Thanks to the Harmons, John Rea and our Worship team for planning great events. Having Father Donohue with us was a coup!

Moving forward with a capital campaign: it's time to pay off the mortgage and free up funds to make an increasingly bigger difference in the lives of God's people. Pray for this new adventure!

The innovation and energy of the Connector Team: charged with helping St. Luke be an inviting and welcoming place, this ministry team never rests on its laurels. Videos, a variety of social media posts, the fabulous Program Guides, *Morning Drive* sermon podcast, Kidtoberfest, a presence at various community events are a few of their accomplishments. You can help by inviting others to St. Luke!

Flexibility and patience of Sunday School teachers: 2017 saw our team needing to make many adjustments as Beautiful Beginnings Day Care opened for business in the education wing. We also changed curriculum, added a music component and tried an intergenerational Sunday morning event that was a huge success. Through it all our teachers have been energized and welcoming. Please take a moment and thank them, whether you have a kid in SS or not. Visit the ed wing one Sunday!

Dynamic Duo of Tom McCown and Robby Gilbert: Our Councilor for Support and our Sexton have put in many long hours with necessary maintenance and the transitions related to Beautiful Beginnings. **Steve Miller** continues to play a key role as a liaison with BB. Give them a high five!

Young Adult Ministry: a core group in their 20's and 30's is meeting to build relationships and explore being the change they want to see in the world. Keep them and their ministry in prayer.

Tanzania: incredible joy in seeing a larger group go to Tanzania and deepen our relationship with Mikanjuni parish. The playground became a reality! Team leader **Nancy Shaw** is now known as "Madame Secretary" for her diplomacy and leadership.

Increase in Adult Ed learning and faith formation opportunities: monthly forums are extremely popular, Table Talk continues and new Bible studies and pop up classes increase.

Best. Staff. Ever. Every single member is a gem. Big shout out to Allen Benner-Smith celebrating 15 years of service at St. Luke! What would we do without him? Please send him a card or note.

Looking ahead: this is the year we need to switch to new parish software. We will be coming to all of you for updated information. Please be patient with the changeover process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Susan Ericsson

Report of the Pastor for Youth, Family & Service

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near" [Mark 1:15]

God is at work in the world today and we are invited (and challenged) to be a part of a new reality as it takes shape. It has been a privilege and a joy to continue the challenging yet invigorating work I was called to during my sixth year with Saint Luke. God moves as we gather for worship every week. God moves as we equip and support parents to nurture faith in their homes. God moves as students explore their faith and put it into action. God moves as we pray together and for one another. God moves as we care for one another during times of struggle and pain. God moves as we study scripture together and trust it to be the norm for our lives. God moves as we serve our neighbor, lead our community, and shape the world into God's new reality through word and deed.

The ministry reports in this booklet tell a robust story of how God has moved this year. Looking back, my highlights include:

- Saint Luke led a community-wide effort to address hunger. Together, we packaged over 70,000 meals in one day! Building on this approach, I believe we can accomplish 100,000 meals in 2018.
- Saint Luke's relationship with Mikanjuni Lutheran Parish in Tanzania is experiencing incredible growth because of the group that visited Mikanjuni in July. My family has been transformed by the experience and I pray that we will find amazing ways to expand our global mission.
- 34 people spent a week in North Carolina for Appalachia Service Project. In our fifth summer it became clear that a new generation of youth are excited to continue this profound ministry of service to the poor.
- High School students continue to embrace service as a vital expression of our faith in Jesus. Trips to Silver Springs Martin Luther School and The Salvation Army have become fixtures of Spark Student Ministries.
- Saint Luke continues to share good news and a lot of love with the children of our community. Vacation Bible School continued to thrive and was further energized by the EGGstravaganza and Kidtoberfest events.
- Sunday School is taking steps to engage and support parents and foster faith formation in the home. The first intergenerational faith event, Thankful Hearts, was an inspiration.

Looking ahead, we must remember that every single follower of Jesus is called into the work of transforming this world into God's new reality. Worshipping together every week matters. Praying together matters. Reading scripture together matters. Generosity matters. Spending time together matters. Taking risks in order to change the world matters. Serving others matters. And you have everything you need to participate in God's new reality, because **you matter**...to God and to Saint Luke!

Submitted with gratitude,

Pastor Matt Staniz

Pastor for Youth, Family & Service

Report of the Visitation Pastor

"The Visitation Pastor works part-time (20-30 hrs per month) visiting those who are in need of comfort, prayer, communion and counseling. The ideal candidate should have previous experience in providing this type of support to an ELCA congregation, demonstrate good listening skills as well as empathy, and provide a deep commitment to Christ's example to serve and "tend his flock." The candidate must be a people person who can connect with a variety of congregants, their families and the larger community. The Visitation Pastor reports directly to the Lead Pastor."

St. Luke continues to be blessed by a cadre of people who provide visitation ministry as we fulfill our congregation's mission "to know, love and serve Christ." Along with Pastors Ericsson and Staniz, the Stephen Ministers, the Care Giving Team, and other lay visitors, I have regularly shared conversation, prayer and Holy Communion with homebound members in their residences or nursing homes, made hospital calls (as requested by either Pr Ericsson or Pr Staniz), met with those grieving the loss of loved ones and made a number of 'check-in' phone calls.

During the summer, I was essentially 'benched' for a month after hip replacement surgery.

Thanks to email, texting, phone calls and voicemail, and meetings, communication among all of us involved in providing pastoral care and visitation ministry continues to be excellent. In addition to making pastoral visits, I have regularly attended worship and conducted worship/ preached at special services such as Lenten worship, attended/ participated at funerals, memorial, and/or committal services and conducted and preached at them when asked or needed.

Throughout the year, I met regularly with the Care Giving Team, faithfully coordinated by Sue Hirsh. In addition, I participated in the Stephen Ministry meetings skillfully led by Susan Saxer along with Steve Ross and Robby Gilbert as well as the Connectors Team dinner and Newcomers Brunch.

Visits:**101**; Contacts:**140**; Staff Mtgs:**28**; Bible Studies (Thurs mornings): **3**

Stephen Ministry Mtgs & Leaders Mtgs: **9**

Care Giving Team Mtgs & Leader Mtgs: **7**

It continues to be a blessing to be part of the vibrant and vital ministry at St. Luke and I look forward to continuing to share the presence and love of Christ through the ministry of visitation.

Respectfully submitted, in Christ

Pr. Mary J. Konopka

Visitation Pastor

215-285-9106

pastormary0527@gmail.com

Secretary's Summary of 2017 Council Minutes

- January:** Several notes of thanks for holiday contributions (Gifts of Hope); Pastor reports on use of Discretionary fund; Beautiful Beginnings move planned for weekend of February 17. Annual meeting – all reports due into BOX by Sunday January 15. Nominating team looking for replacements for Lynne, Carol, Steve. Bylaw/constitution changes required by ELCA. Fiscal year change to July 1. Finance update: 2016 closed with a surplus; \$8011 to Synod and Seminary will meet our stated commitments, the balance to be used to reduce anticipated deficit for first 6 months of 2017 and Council approved the proposed 6-month budget. All passed by motion. Julie reports on Facebook 'Morning Drive' feature using podcast including a snippet of sermon.
- February:** Council welcomes new members following January election; introduction to BOX (shared space for council documents); Steve Miller took council on a tour of Beautiful Beginnings space. St Luke received a note of thanks for hosting a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. The Confirmation class received thanks for its contribution to the Foundation for Juvenile Stroke. Morning Drive devotions now available in podcast format. Pastor Sue seeks a replacement for Lynne York as Councilor on Congregational Life. Discussion on maintaining a single Sunday Service as we do in summer months. Councilors will email preferences to Bill for further consideration. Financial update: Current giving is up since 2015 but participation in Consecration Sunday/pledges are down. New software is desired to help focus our message and tie to stewardship. Synod contribution in January was made from year end giving. Position of 'Steward of Schlack Hall' discussed. Feeding thousands event planned for March 25.
- March:** Several members attended "Sunday School Re-Boot" program with positive feedback; Feeding Thousands event will create 70,000 meals. Meredith reports on possible creation of a 'Legacy Society' comprised of those who include St. Luke in estate planning in any amount in addition to normal stewardship. A plaque will be created to honor participants. Outreach to former/retired members who have relocated will be considered. Capital campaign – goal to reduce mortgage and create more funds for mission, likely a 2018 initiative will require bringing in a consultant. Software –move from ACS—will require a transition team. Users will need to be polled for requirements to ensure it meets all needs. Stakeholders include Stewardship, Finance, Audit teams, Melissa. Planning Center is proposed 'community' database. Target is end of fiscal year. We need, for example, permanent records of Legacy giving society; residency fund; members in Columbarium wall. Position: Steward of Schlack hall discussed to oversee use of Schlack Hall by internal and outside groups. Finance update: We are up in revenue over 2016 and current on Synod giving. We have our lowest deficit in 3 years.
- April:** Note received thanking St Luke for its welcome of small children (pray ground, inclusion in service on Palm Sunday); General consensus that Sunday School/ Beautiful Beginnings communications and sharing are going well.

Meredith will be working on Legacy giving; councilors are encouraged to lead by example. Tom raised Steward of Schlack Hall position— After discussion, council moved and passed appointing Liz Harmon as Steward of Schlack Hall, and approved changes in the job description (attached) making the position ONE year and inserting language calling for this person to be a welcoming ambassador of St Luke.

Tracking of employee hours was discussed.

Julie reports on the need for a technology team to transition to new software by talking through current technology and needs then planning to implement.

Melissa has created a set of Logos for various St. Luke missions all with a circle containing “SL” color coded by mission. Council approved these logos. Melissa’s progress toward various goals includes creating handouts, updating the web site, creating branding; we have increased attendance on Christmas eve and on average weekly. Facebook reach has increased as have special events.

Finance update: Deficit is trending down compared with 2016 and is much lower than 2015.

Meredith raises potential for meaningful Capital campaign (i.e. ‘Mission not mortgage’), will require a strategy, including generosity forums, legacy giving, leadership and mission to engage the congregation to make a capital campaign successful. We will consider a consultant to assist with a consistent theme and message, and consider this as a potential topic for a Council retreat, or make this the focus of one meeting.

May: Presentation by HR Committee: TJ reports on three issues recently addressed by the HR Team in order to ensure consistent practices: Vacation, carry over, standardization of non-clergy hiring practices, after which council voted to approve HR hiring practices SOP and an exception this year to vacation carry over. Paid holidays for full and part time employees are standardized in a document created by HR; absent concerns after review, the policy will be deemed adopted. Update on Legacy giving; Melissa created a logo, we will need a team to work on the proposal. Capital campaign: Meredith has interviewed and received proposals from 2 consultants, Kirby-Smith and Hewett, information is posted in BOX. We will also consider Cairos as many other churches have used them. Next steps include narrowing to 2 or 3 choices, team to meet with all consultants and report on recommendation to council. Council was presented with proposal for a Sign (facing street) to announce worship signs, brochure for rental of space, generally positive feedback. Finance/budget update: reduction in mortgage due to reset of interest rate and increase in NON GIVING income from rental has had a positive impact on overall standing. Beautiful Beginnings will begin full rental payments March 2018; Upcoming expenditures will include \$4822 to meet budgeted benevolence giving, Outreach to Tanzania mission. Councilors are reminded to complete budgets for fiscal year end 7-1. Tom reports some tree maintenance will be needed at cost ~\$15,000.

June: Timing of Consecration Sunday was discussed.

Drive for new software due to need to break down demographics and provide better data.

Vendors to lead capital campaign are being interviewed including Hewett, Cairos –Meredith will report back once all bids are in with recommendation.

Teacher brunch was well attended; feedback includes need to be flexible with space, consider needs for curriculum, declining attendance. Discussion of grant specific to Sunday School mission.

Summer worship speakers for Wednesday services are lined up. Fun and family centered worship.

Pastor raised Youth on Council, will research how other churches make this position feasible.

Financial update: we have made up benevolence gifts to Seminary, Synod.

Deficit through May is \$17,000 with lower expenses, higher revenue; Major Maintenance fund \$42,000 will be replenished by carry over from 2016 excess. This will cover new boiler, tree

maintenance together \$46,000. Budget will be finalized with receipt of final report. We await HR team input on salary, benefits.

Council voted on 2 signs prepared by Melissa for the Valley Forge Road entrance, opted for the more colorful of the two.

July: Connectors team presented ideas to reinvent bulletin boards, getting to original purpose of having a board for each ministry area. Melissa Diaz will assist with ideas. Councilor input on ways to volunteer to be in by August 15.

Council reviewed and approved the revised budget for submission to congregation at financial annual meeting. Quorum requirements were discussed. Council discussed, moved and passed a resolution to proceed with feasibility study for a capital campaign with projected 1-2018 launch. Clearing out of Carriage house and next steps was discussed along with incorporating faith messages into the weekly bulletin and Look. NO MEETING IN AUGUST.

September: Reflections on 9-11, Paul's reminder to hold to faith in all times.

Councilors are reminded to check mailboxes, submit invoices timely for payment.

Software update: Julie and Melissa have sent a user survey and while the finance team likes the program we have, other users prefer the database management utility of other systems. The accounting needs can be met by plugging to an accounting program such as QuickBooks or Peachtree—CMS can be used with several financial programs. Melissa's research shows we can use both for lower fees than we are currently paying for one system. We are still looking for a team to integrate and migrate existing data. One option raised by Jen is Drexel's "Solutions Center" which pairs students in need of a project with entities in need of project management. Jen will make connection.

Capital Campaign Update-- Meredith reports our contract for Capital Campaign is signed. Richie and Rachel Musser have been to St. Luke, have been introduced to several members as being contracted to work on Vision and Mission. We will place a very general introduction of this role in the Look and via email/weekly update.

Dave provided a brief financial update; August shows a surplus but synod giving has not been provided yet. Deficit is down overall, and we have a very small surplus under \$4000.

October: HR Committee reported to council on proposed employee review date change to coincide with fiscal year. Council MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED for this transition year to make any 'cost of living' adjustment effective January 1, while moving the overall performance process to July. Any merit raises will become effective July 1. Cost of Living projected increase is 2%. Council MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED maintaining current level of benefits and contribution.

Meredith Moore reports on Capital Campaign meetings kicking off this month as 'visioning' process. Richie will prepare an agenda for each meeting; we will Define Vision; Define Ministry, Define Needs; determine whether current ministries meet needs, create a vision document, feasibility survey and interview questions. ACTION: Council will ask Allen to change permissions to BOX to allow sharing of council minutes and reports but maintain security for executive team, for purposes of visioning

Youth on council may require a bylaw change or amendment to Constitution—congregation will vote on the change at the February meeting, council may then appoint the councilor.

Software selection process update—likely 2 systems will be needed: Financial and Community. Next steps will be to get information on getting Drexel program management student project proposal to assist with implementation and data migration.

Education wing floor discussion—some wear/tear of flooring tiles at hallway and stairway led tenant to attempt repair; Tom will work with Allen on developing a Maintenance Request Form for use by tenant(s) to ensure we are notified and take action.

Current giving is up over both prior Septembers!! Overall deficit year to date only \$5000.

Bell refurbishment cost will be covered by a Memorial fund. Lorraine introduced a 'Kindness Project' which will involve rocks painted with short sayings for people to take with them and return. There is a process to maintain paint and wording given exposure to elements. The location will be outside near entrances.

November: Approaching year end, council discussed year end message, focus on matching prior generosity in financial giving and increase in volunteerism. We continue to discuss the role of a youth position on Council and will propose at Annual meeting.

Financial Software update was discussed at a pre-meeting; ACS has a new add-on, need to investigate cost, utility to determine whether it meets our needs. Jen to follow with Drexel engineering to consider this as a student project (implementation); Identify any members/lay people to assist.

Sunday School changeover by Beautiful Beginnings is time consuming; created an extra closet for use outside 2's classroom.

Seminary would like to place a field work ministerial leadership student with St. Luke for 10-12 weeks, 7-10 hours per week. This individual would teach, preach and shadow pastors. Cost to us is solely to cover gas. Suggested person is from Trinity Lansdale lives in Creamery, PA. Council voted to accept a student in this role.

Dave reports October saw a \$12,000 surplus with giving up \$5000 over 2016. We sent \$9000 to Synod and \$1000 to seminary to catch up our giving. Sexton hours increased to 29 per week. We will consider increase in Schlack Hall rental fee to cover cost to us of cleaning and carpet cleaning and wear/tear after some user groups have left the Kitchen in disarray.

December: After a presentation by Richie Musser on the visioning stage of our planned Capital Campaign, Council moved and voted to endorse the vision statement draft, to be worked and finalized, and timeline.

Following a suggestion from a member about updating the Church library, council will engage the adult education team in study/review and to develop a plan.

Synod reached out to St Luke regarding its plan for Bishop Burkat's farewell and request for potential contribution for this and installation of new Bishop, council voted to consider a special offering for the installation/farewell process and invite additional support from the congregation, looking to contribute \$3500 in total.

Financial Software update—considering purchase of ACS financial update to existing software which will allow much better reporting and allow existing data to remain. This leaves open consideration of planning/membership data system, and Melissa will research Realm/Planning Center further.

Overall deficit year to date is ~\$16,000, down from prior years, need a strong December, planned Temple talk for Sunday—Chris Binner and Dave. Year end giving message will celebrate our tradition of generosity in December and seek its continuation.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Barnett, Secretary

Report of the Mutual Ministry Team

The Mutual Ministry Team: (Stephanie Funk, Sparky Lok, Bob Mitchell, Joanne Sonn and Chris Lewis).

2017 Highlights:

- 1) Conducted our regular annual meetings with Pastor Mary, Pastor Matt and each member of the paid staff. Scheduling issues precluded an interview with Pastor Sue. The purpose of these meetings is to check in with these folks, hear what they are happy or not happy about, any concerns they may have and extending a helping and supportive hand when necessary.
- 2) Celebrated Pastor Sue's birthday July 24th with cake.
- 3) Celebrated Pastor Sue's and Pastor Mary's 30th anniversary of ordination with cake and recognition.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Funk

Mutual Ministry Team Leader

Learning and Faith Formation Report

Jennifer Wright

Thank you to all our wonderful and dedicated volunteers! Please say thank you to our education volunteers as they provide so much for our church family.

As we welcome Beautiful Beginnings to the St. Luke community a huge **thank you** must be extended to our wonderful Sunday school teachers in our elementary education program. Without their cooperation, flexibility, and kindness we would not have been able to smoothly transition the childcare center. The center allows our resources to be extended to the community while also helping to maintain the property overall. The elementary education group (2 year-olds through grade 6) has seen a decline in enrollment. Extending our facilities to Beautiful Beginnings will allow St. Luke to extend an invitation to those families that may be searching for a church home for their family.

The Adult Christian Education Committee, in addition to the weekly Table Talk, various Adult Forums, and Bible Studies throughout the year, hosted a book club this summer. As a congregation we read "Hidden Inheritance: Family, Secrets, Memory and Faith" by Lutheran pastor, Heidi Neumark. The book prompted us to explore our own identity, vocation, and theology in discussions led by many members of St. Luke and a presentation from the author. **Thanks to all for supporting this program** and our second congregational book will start in February 2018 with the book, "Just Mercy".

The Appalachia Service Project and the Bi-Annual ELCA Youth Conference continues to be an opportunity for youth to connect and serve. This trip and the fundraising events allow opportunities for youth to work together and share their faith. These opportunities provide a strong foundation for our confirmation program. Our confirmation program confirmed 12

young adults and we currently have 51 participating in the program in grades 7 through 9. The **evangelism** of the youth and their leaders is truly inspiring to all of us in the St. Luke family.

Vacation Bible School continues to be one of the strongest welcoming opportunities for the community and is always a success. Thanks to **ALL** our volunteers!! Students enjoyed a fun-filled week of activities and learning this past summer.

Melissa Diaz continues to provide wonderful sources of outreach for our community. Program guides for spring and fall, community events, blogs and “morning drives” are some of the media sources we can use to invite others to share in the joy of God’s love. Have you shared these resources with anyone? I strongly encourage you to think of one person who may enjoy any one of these sources.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for supporting my tenure on Church Council. Serving on council has provided me with opportunities to work with you, learn about your passions, and overall grow in my faith. A heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Wright, Councilor

Spark Student Ministries Report

During 2017, Saint Luke continued our commitment to youth ministry and the formation of a generation of young people that **know, love and serve** Christ as they become richly connected to God, one another, and the Church. Key highlights from this year include:

- 12 students completed confirmation ministry and shared their faith statements.
- 2 Copper Coins led worship at Saint Luke and provided leadership at SEPA synod events.
- Grew participation in visits to Silver Springs Martin Luther School.
- Increased interest in service led to regular trips to serve meals at Salvation Army.
- 34 people traveled to Avery County, NC for Appalachia Service Project. It became clear that a new generation of youth participants has embraced this experience.
- A youth member was included on the Tanzania travel team.
- 24 students and 8 adults from Saint Luke attended and/or led the SEPA Synod Junior Youth Gathering.
- 17 students and 6 adults registered for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX.

The youth ministry team continues to encourage and intentionally seek participation and feedback from students, parents, and everyone as we continue to prayerfully join God in nurturing faith in the lives of young people and their families.

Submitted with thanks,

Sherri Moir & Madison Miller, co-leaders

Pastor Matt Staniz

Youth Ministry Team

Worship and Music Annual Report

Jodi Donohue, Councilor

Reformation themes were abounding in 2017 in Worship. While the 500th commemoration of the Reformation was a time to look backward, and reflect on how those events shaped our church today, we are the Reformed church, and cannot help to look forward, even as Martin Luther did in his day, because we are a church that values and encourages diverse voices and lively dialogue in our faith and in our life.

Our Lenten theme, Foundations of Faith, had us look back to Luther's small catechism where our lay preachers shared with us their thoughts on Communion, Baptism, The Ten Commandments, The Creed and The Lord's Prayer.

John Rea, our Director of Music Ministry, has just completed his first year with us. In that time, he has shown us the variety of his talents, whether leading the choir in Handel's Hallelujah chorus, or Turning Point in a blues-inspired hymn. Especially memorable was John's leadership in writing and directing The Passion, where professional actors, intertwined with choral music and sound effects to bring the final hours of Jesus' time on earth to life in our sanctuary.

One of the highlights of the year for me was our Wednesday night summer worship services with our Reformation Inspired theme, "Grace Happens". In between our wonderful lay preachers giving us their Grace reflections, we had some summer fun with group coloring, beer & root beer and hymns, ice cream sundaes, and a camp fire complete with s'mores.

Our service to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on October 29th, took on great meaning with guest preacher Reverend Peter Donohue. Father Donohue is a Catholic priest, president of Villanova University and an Augustinian friar (as Martin Luther was until his excommunication). Rev. Donohue spoke on working towards binding the church together, as we have more in common than we have differences. An appropriate theme for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, "Freed and Renewed in Christ". The choir marked the event wearing their new red robes.

The Christmas rush took on new meaning with 6 services all within 24 hours. Advent 4, 4 Christmas Eve services and then Christmas morning left us tired, but joyous.

I would like us ALL to extend our thanks to....

Our acolytes, altar guild members, assisting ministers, band members, choir & bell choir members, communion assistants, greeters, instrumentalists, lectors, and ushers. We are blessed with leaders for all of these groups, who recruit, mentor, schedule and train.

Thanks also goes to the various team members of the Worship and Music teams. These teams plan for the year's themes, activities, performances, decorations and worship experiences.

Thanks to all of our congregation members who continue to volunteer their musical talents to enrich our worship experience and our lay preachers for Wednesday evening worship whose unique and fresh perspectives inspire us.

And thanks to our Pastors, for leading us, and walking beside us in our Christian faith journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Donohue

Councilor for Worship & Music

Councilor for Support Report

Tom McCown, Councilor

After my first year serving as the councilor of support, I can say that taking the reins over from Steve Miller is a big pair of shoes to fill. Many people have been extremely helpful as I learn the workings of the church, but I still have a lot to learn.

As many know we've had some major improvements in the church over the past year including;

- New flooring in the choir room which was mostly covered by insurance.
- New hot water boilers for the church wing.
- New LED lighting in the Sanctuary.
- Landscaping clean-up and updates in the Memorial garden courtyard including cleaning and sealing of the travertine tiles.
- New carpet tiles in the vestibule and new flooring in the education wing.
- Many more small projects and upgrades have been completed in the past year too numerous to mention.

This is a large facility with many facets of maintenance and upkeep and I continue to be mindful of the budget as we work through the many needs of the buildings and grounds.

Robby Gilbert has done a fantastic job this past year getting and keeping the facility in great shape. I thoroughly enjoy working with him.

Allen Benner-Smith has guided me through much of the day to day workings of the church. His help has been invaluable.

I am honored to have been asked to fill this role and look forward to another great year as councilor of support.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McCown

Councilor for Support

Report for Witness

Meredith Moore, Councilor

After my first year serving as the councilor for Witness I continue to be struck by the wonderful opportunity to work with both the stewardship and social ministry committees. They are a perfect pairing! On one hand we work on how we can best share our time, talents and treasures with Saint Luke and the wider community. Then I get to join Dave, Joanne and Pastor Matt to see all of the amazing generosity of Saint Luke in action. I look forward to all of the exciting things planned to expand our opportunity to make an impact both within and outside the walls of Saint Luke, by both committees, throughout 2018!

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Moore

Stewardship Annual Report

Chris Binner (Team Leader) with Meredith Moore, Dave Webb, Pastor Sue Ericsson

Overview – The primary activity in 2017 was to identify new leaders for the Stewardship team, and in conjunction with Treasurer Dave Webb, work in tandem to:

- a) Foster a culture of stewardship and generosity to meet the needs of St. Luke
- b) Think innovatively about ways to address Saint Luke's debt and operating expenditures and focus on growing our mission and ensuring our future.

In consideration that 25% of Saint Luke's annual giving typically comes during the month of December, the decision was made at the 2017 annual meeting to change the fiscal year to July to June to reduce large deficits towards the end of the calendar year. Nevertheless, December remains a critical giving month for St. Luke, and despite the shift in fiscal year, 2017 was no different. However, given that Saint Luke is no longer facing a year end deficit in December, the message was focused on a message of gratitude for all the ministries of Saint Luke rather than concerns about meeting the budget. Some key points about December giving:

- Working with the communications team, stewardship and other church leaders built a communications plan around "recognizing, growing, and building" the many different and unique ministries of St. Luke.
- This communication's campaign included targeted email, letters, Facebook announcements, Temple Talks, and Simply Giving.
- Total giving in December was estimated to be \$133,900, meeting and surpassing our December goal.

The stewardship team and Council devoted time this year to brainstorming ways to alleviate the ~\$85,000 per year spent on the mortgage, and devote those dollars to our mission to know, love and serve Christ. The team worked through several ideas one of which being a potential capital campaign. To better understand the potential for Saint Luke to take on a capital campaign for debt reduction, council interviewed several stewardship & financial consultants. As a result of this search, Council hired Kirby Smith Associates with Richie and Rachel Musser as outside consultants. The process Kirby Smith set forth has been to establish a vision for Saint Luke's future, engage in a broad conversation about this vision with the congregation to better understand the thoughts of the community, and then pending the outcome of these discussions, launch a campaign to reduce St. Luke's overall debt structure and identify areas for investment in Saint Luke's mission.

- During the Fall, a team was formed and worked through all the different positives of St. Luke, the different issues facing the church and our community, an overview of all the different ministries, and ultimately a vision for St. Luke.
- As of this writing, Kirby Smith is conducting a feasibility study amongst the congregation to continue to glean important feedback on the vision and to gain an understanding of how much capital could be raised in support of this vision.
- Consecration Sunday has previously been held in November for the past two years. Given the evaluation underway for a potential capital campaign, the decision was made to postpone Consecration Sunday until later in 2018. Postponing Consecration Sunday will allow the Stewardship team to consider the congregation's feedback on the vision process and the path forward prior to a renewed discussion about annual giving.

Stewardship Team

Chris Binner (Stewardship Team Leader) is working to add at least two more members to assist in executing the church's goals.

Social Ministry Annual Report

Dave Satterfield & Joanne Sonn – co-leaders, Meredith Moore, Nancy Shaw, Pastor Matt Staniz

The goal of the social ministry team is to provide strong, focused social ministry programs locally, nationally, and globally and to encourage all members to utilize their time and talents to actively support these social ministries. Our prayer is that our efforts will lead to improved lives for all, particularly for those in greatest need or at greatest risk.

In 1 Peter 4:10 we are encouraged to share our gifts with others, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” Indeed, the members of St. Luke have given generously in terms of time, heart, and money to fulfill this instruction. Social Ministry and the Pastors thank everyone for contributing time, talent, money, goods and services by doing God’s work through our hands. Our collective outreach to others in our community, our country, and indeed across the globe, has been received with sincere thanks and gratitude. The report highlights some of the St. Luke initiatives and donations during 2017.

- Social Ministry and the congregation of Saint Luke supported 8 travelers visiting our companion congregation, Mikanjuni Lutheran Parish, in Tanga, Tanzania. Participants in the two-week visit were Anne Barnett, Charles Ferguson, Maureen Lok, Nancy Shaw, Sara Shaw, Pastor Matthew Staniz, Monica Staniz, and Amber Staniz.
- Pastor Matthew Staniz preached at Mikanjuni’s worship service on July 16 with Pr. Ngoda presiding, as well as translating Pr. Staniz’s sermon for the congregation. In a joint “hands-on” project, the companions worked together to clear and level the ground that will become the Mikanjuni playground. As of January 2018, the new playground equipment was installed. The two-week visit also included visits to NED organizations, such as SEKOMU University, the Rainbow School, Irente School for the Blind, Irente Children’s Home, and Mwangaza Partnership for Education.
- Through the year we held several campaigns to collect non-perishable items for the Great Valley Food Cupboard. Contributions were raised during special food drives for Easter, June, Rally Day and Thanksgiving and came to \$3400 of in kind value from hundreds of bags of groceries.
- “Souper Bowl of Caring” raised \$1,444.00
- In March, we held a “Feeding Thousand events” at which over 300 people packed 70,000+ meals in partnership with groups across the community, including:



- Main Line Unitarian Church
- Frazer Mennonite Church
- St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church & Scout Troop
- Villanova Academy for Honor Students
- Tredyffrin Township Democrats
- Tredyffrin Township Republican Committee
- Turpin Landscaping
- Conestoga HS Boys Soccer Team
- Junior League of Philadelphia
- Berwyn United Methodist Church
- Arc Intermedia

- The packaged meals were sent to various food banks across the greater Philadelphia community (Chester County Food Bank, Great Valley Food Cupboard and Bebash Food Center).
- During Lent, we assembled 100 personal care kits that were distributed through SEPA Synod ELCA to the homeless in Philadelphia. The in-kinds value of the backpacks was \$1000.
- Easter Flower collections enabled Saint Luke to send \$718.20 to St. Mary's Refugee Resettlement Committee in Wayne PA.
- \$3000 of in kind value for 100 quilts sewn by St. Luke members who met almost every Monday throughout the year. This amount adds to 500,000 quilts sewn nationwide by Lutherans to support neighbors globally through Lutheran World Relief.
- In June we collected \$135 for "Kids Bites" for Philabundance. This program provides access to nutritious food in low-income areas for children and their families.
- \$258 raised from Ernie's Corner was sent to the Great Valley Food Cupboard. This is a long standing ministry of St Luke.
- On September 10th, members of St Luke participated in the ELCA "God's Work, Our Hands" by assembling kits. These items were placed in cinch bags and delivered to Lutheran World Relief and distributed around the world to places in need. During the hour, we assembled:
 - 110 personal care kits
 - 110 school backpacks
 - The total of all assembled items was valued at ~\$2200
- Vacation Bible school collected ~\$955. Additional monies and personal care kit items were collected from the congregation. These funds went towards the cost of the personal care and backpack kits (kit items and shipping cost).
- Remaining supplies from the personal care kits were donated to the Phoenixville Women's Shelter.
- After paying for shipping and handling costs, the additional money raised for "God's Work, Our Hands" project was given to Great Valley Food Cupboard with a check in the amount of \$350 to support area families for Thanksgiving dinners.
- In October collected \$55 for St Francisvale Shelter for Smaller Animals. Funds were collected during Blessing of the Pets services.
- This year we witnessed tremendous devastation and suffering due to hurricanes in the US mainland and territories. Out of the generosity and compassion of the people of St Luke, together we contributed over \$7500 to Lutheran Disaster Response. The total of \$7566.31 will go towards extended long-term recovery work of disaster case management, emotional and spiritual care, volunteer coordination and construction management. Thanks be to God!
- Members collected can flip tops which provide fund raising for Navajo Mission and Ronald McDonald's House.
- St Luke again supported the Lutheran Settlement House' Adopt a Family program to fulfill wished for gifts for families. We supported 7 families enabling them to have a merrier Christmas! The families were supported by The Men's Breakfast Group, Nifty Fifty and individual St Luke members. The total donations exceeded \$950. Maureen Lok is the lead for this ministry.

- The Giving Tree has become a St. Luke Tradition. It was originally an outreach project organized by The Christian Education Committee aimed at the children in the Sunday School. The main objective was not just to collect things for children in need but also to help our children imagine what it might be like to be without warm clothes on cold winter days. The “kick off” of The Giving Tree is always the first Sunday in Advent. 3 year olds through Grade 6 gather around the tree in the Narthex for a brief program. The objectives of this gathering are as follows:
 - To explain the season of Advent.
 - To discuss what we need to stay warm outside in cold weather.
 - To discuss the needs of less fortunate children.
 - To explain and discuss what is a homeless shelter.
 - To be reminded of God’s gift to us- Jesus, born as a baby in a manger.
 - To encourage giving to others in need by “decorating” The Giving Tree with warm hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks.

We “stuffed” 7 boxes (2 large, 5 medium sized) with hats, gloves, mittens, hat/mitten “sets”, socks, scarves, and new pajamas for children infant through teen sizes to take to the Jane Addams Place, an emergency homeless shelter for women and children located in Philadelphia. Currently there are 115 residents living in the shelter, 34 women and 81 children. The Jane Addams Place is run by The Lutheran Settlement.

- Donations from Gifts of Hope tallied over \$29,000 this year. The Gifts of Hope program helps countless people in our region during the Christmas season and offers members an alternative approach to gift giving. The funds were distributed according to the donor designations as follows:

African Education Program	\$420
Appalachia Service Project (ASP)	\$1,090
Covenant House	\$300
ELCA Disaster Response	\$670
Feast Incarnate	\$900
Great Valley Food Cupboard (GVFC)	\$1,590
Jewish Family Services	\$200
Lutheran Settlement House (LSH)	\$890
Martin Luther Silver Springs School (MLSSS)	\$1,830
Meals on Wheels	\$630
Mikanjuni Nursery School	\$690
Other	\$40
Planned Parenthood (Special Request)	\$450
SEKOMU	\$50
T&E Care	\$730
The Logan Schweiter Fund	\$300
The Simple Way	\$350
The Welcome Church	\$820
Anonymous donation	\$17,500
TOTAL	\$29,450

- Donations from Social Ministry Account
 - Donated \$850 towards costs of “Feeding Thousands” meals.
 - Donated \$1000 to Lutheran Settlement House to help domestic violence and homeless victims and family members find shelter, safety and training to complete high school and find employment.
 - Donated \$300 from Social Ministry funds to the Tredyffrin Police Department.
 - \$200 to the Berwyn Fire Company to equip them to protect and serve our community.
 - \$100 to The Welcome Church in Philadelphia - this “church without walls” is an ELCA congregation proclaiming the hope and love of a gracious God to all people and especially to people experiencing homelessness.
 - Provided \$1500 in funding for the Tanzania trip in July.
 - Donated \$1950 to Martin Luther Silver Springs School (MLSSS) for Chef’s Dinner event. Martin Luther School Silver Springs helps young people have a safe environment in which to heal and learn.
 - Donated \$1200 to support the Mikanjuni parish events as part of our on-going partnership
 - \$600 to FLITE from Social Ministry to help children, homeless individuals and those struggling with illness in our community.
- The time and effort of many members of the Social Ministry Team, E Teams, Care Giving Team and Stephen Ministers of St. Luke as well as other volunteer members who practice knowing, loving and serving Christ through the generosity of their time and faith to those in need of a gentle hand, kind heart and comforting prayer. Maintaining an informative set of bulletin boards that tell the story of St. Luke hands doing God’s work.
- And, through each of the many ways in which the members of St. Luke serve, our church story is told to the recipient organizations and individuals, all of whom have blessed us with genuine thanks and gratitude, and told us how important our contributions are to serve the needy at home and around the globe.

Thank you to all the members of St. Luke for enabling the social ministry initiatives to be executed with love and success. The tables on the next page summarize your outstanding contributions in terms of distribution and categories of need.

\$ Distribution:	Members	In Kind Goods Value	SM Budget	Total	% Total
Lutheran	\$30,426	\$3,200	\$5,750	\$39,376	69%
Other faith-based	\$5,621	\$3,650	\$0	\$9,271	16%
Secular	\$6,185	\$0	\$1,950	\$8,135	14%
Total	\$42,232	\$6,850	\$7,700	\$56,782	100%

Category of Need	Members	In Kind Goods Value	SM Budget	Total All	% Total
Hunger & homelessness	\$12,906	\$6,850	\$950	\$20,706	36%
Global mission	\$4,805	\$0	\$2,700	\$7,505	13%
Children-in-need	\$7,615	\$0	\$1,950	\$9,565	17%
Community & disaster response	\$9,166	\$0	\$1,100	\$10,266	18%
Urban ministry	\$7,740	\$0	\$1,000	\$8,740	15%
Total	\$42,232	\$6,850	\$7,700	\$56,782	100%

If you would like to know more about the various St Luke social ministry initiatives or if you would like to become a part of the social ministry team, please contact Dave Satterfield at (davesats@comcast.net) or Joanne Sonn (jsonn@verizon.net).

Congregational Life Report

Lorraine Miller, Councilor

The Councilor for Congregational Life works with ministries of caring and hospitality.

Hospitality welcomes and serves our Saint Luke Community, friends and visitors throughout the year. Fellowship comes from the Greek word Koinonia which means to share in common. Christian fellowship is more than attending church – it is assimilating into the body of believers, becoming one in worshipping, loving, caring, and sharing.

Thank you to Lynne York for her years of service as Councilor for congregational life, including the first half of 2017.

The Coffee Hour Team led by Liz Harmon, prepares and serves coffee and snacks on Sunday mornings for the Congregation to enjoy as we gather and connect with one another. During Advent we look forward to Christmas cookies during the coffee hour.

Our Congregation shared several events, receptions and celebrations this year! We have been so blessed with the generosity of many Saint Luke members who volunteered their time, talent and culinary treats to make this possible.

We have enjoyed our congregational picnics to start off the Sunday School year in the fall and also at our annual June outdoor worship service.

We gathered to send care packages to college students for finals week along with an encouraging note from their St Luke family.

We enjoyed caroling at Devereux and enjoyed showing God's love to the residents. We gathered for a reception afterwards to enjoy our time together.

We come together as a congregation to share a simple meal before the Wednesday evening service during Lent. We welcome each other during our annual Easter morning pancake breakfast.

Breadcrumbs is a group of St Lukans and friends who meet for dinner twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at a local restaurant. All are welcome to come and meet new people and to share a meal and conversation.

Women's Book Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at St Luke at 7:30pm in the conference room.

Men's Breakfast meets the first Saturday morning to enjoy food, fellowship and to hear from a speaker.

The Caregiving Team led by Sue Hirsh, lovingly and thoughtfully provides support to others in need. They meet monthly to discuss congregational needs.

This amazing team of ladies sends cards, arranges meals for those who need it, provides rides for those who need them and graciously hosts funeral receptions. They are truly angels among us! They embody the word caregiving!

Stephen Ministry led by Robby Gilbert, Susan Saxer, and Steve Ross. **Pastor Sue and Pastor Mary provide Pastoral Leadership.** This Ministry exists to help fellow Christians deal with a loss, tragedy or downturn in their life; to gain hope, peace and joy through strengthening their Faith in God through Christ to resolve their hurts and fears. It is a very personal, one on one, confidential, gender matched relationship which may last for weeks or months. The hurting person (Care

Receiver) agrees to this relationship and a trained Stephen Minister is assigned, usually by Pastor Sue.

The Leaders and Ministers gather monthly for Supervision and an Education session to confidentially review Minister – Care Receiver relationships and to generally build our Stephen Ministry strengths.

Congregational life is about all of us. Please come to events, get involved and give of your time and talents. We are the body of Christ and spending time together at worship and outside of worship makes our bonds so much greater. Please contact Lorraine Miller with your ideas and to help with events.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Miller
Lsm4good@gmail.com

Evangelism and Communications Report

Julie Leighton, Councilor

This has been a pivotal year for both Connectors and Communications at Saint Luke. We have a new look/brand, a re-aligned CONNECTors team and are actively developing a real presence in our community that people are starting to notice and remember.

This year, we updated our brand (logo, imagery, colors, etc.) to be more easily recognizable in the community, and streamlined all of our communication channels (signage, website, social media, print materials, program guides, event banners, promotional materials, etc.) to consistently carry that look and message. And, it's working! People are starting to recognize Saint Luke through our social media updates, podcasts and website, and associate it with what we're doing in the community. Speaking of community efforts...

This year, we kicked off our Spring and Fall community event days – EggStravaganza and Kidtoberfest. Both events draw young families to Saint Luke, helping us build relationships and allowing us to promote Sunday School, VBS, and other St. Luke events throughout the year with ongoing email campaigns. We've also put CONNECTors teams in action with new St. Luke branded banners, program guides and give-aways at community events like T/E Party in the Park and Area Churches Day at Eastern University. At both events, the community started to recognize St. Luke and prompted visits in the Sundays that followed.

What about reaching older families/adults? In addition to our weekly adult podcast (thousands of downloads in 2017!), we've started supporting our Adult Forums with blogs that address hot topics, needs and concerns across our community – written by professionals within and beyond St. Luke. Our blogs provide a wealth of information on Adult Forum topics, and help us advertise these educational events and invite the community through social media. Think about sharing our next blog and inviting someone you know!

Once those visitors are in our doors, our CONNECTors are diligently welcoming and engaging new members. We've kicked off a "Roving St. Lukan" at each service to recognize visitors and ensure that they feel welcomed and supported. We also streamlined our visitor follow up procedures in 2017 and are now closely tracking our visitor outreach and progress in turning those visitors into new members.

The New Members brunch, hosted by the CONNECTors on January 20th, really highlighted the progress we've made in 2017. So many new families with young children have joined our community – we've never seen so many babies at a Newcomers Brunch!

What's next for 2018? Our focus this year is a big one – we want to clean up and streamline the information that we have on both members and prospects in order to better communicate and automate our outreach efforts. We've been exploring new systems, and we're looking to build a team that can help with both data entry and systems migration. (Can you help? If so, please contact Julie (Herbster) Leighton or Bill Baver.)

I'm so proud of what these teams have been able to accomplish this year, and even more excited about the work we'll do in 2018!

Mission Endowment Fund Report

The Endowment Fund Committee currently consists of: Chairman: John DeVol, and members: Bev Dotter, Wil Sandvik, Steve Ross, and Lynn Spangler.

The Mission Endowment Fund was established 25 years ago and has grown in size to over \$200,000 from contributions and investment growth. The Fund is invested with Vanguard's Life Strategy Moderate growth portfolio of stocks, and fixed income.

Income from the Fund is meant to support projects to enhance the mission and ministry of St. Luke in one or more of the following areas: benevolence spending for mission and outreach beyond our own walls; funding for special projects, such as innovative programs or capital improvements; spending to support special operating needs.

The Committee and Council approved one new grant for 2017. We approved \$5,000 towards travel to Tanzania. We also made a \$3,000 distribution to account for the approval in April 2015 to finance the travel of Pastor Peter Zacharia and a lay member from Mikanjuni to our shores.

Our fund's investments have done exceptionally well during the year of 2017. Please consider making a legacy gift to the St. Luke Endowment Fund as part of your personal estate planning. Your gift to the Fund will make a difference in the life-transforming mission and ministry of the church for generations to come. Please see one of the Pastors or any member of the Endowment Fund Committee if you would like to know more about legacy gift opportunities.

We are open to review Mustard Seed Grants for 2018.

Below is a statement of the financial condition of the fund that is current held in Vanguard's Life Strategy Moderate Growth Fund?

Balance as of 12/31/2016	\$231,939
Contributions	0
Distributions	\$8,000
Income & Appreciation	\$33,964
Balance as of 12/31/2017	\$257,903

Respectfully Submitted

John DeVol, Chair

Nominating Committee Report

Submitted by Jennifer Wright, Chairperson

Council Nominees

For two years, term ending 2020

Councilor for Worship and Music: Jodi Donohue

610-408-8093 jodi@donohueracing.com



Jodi has been a member of Saint Luke since 1994, with her husband, David and children, Mark and Anna. At Saint Luke Jodi has served in a variety of roles including: Councilor for Congregational Life, Confirmation teacher, Youth Councilor as well as serving on hospitality, youth, children's church, nursery, communication and ushering teams over the years. Jodi works as a Product Manager for Wedgewood Pharmacy and serves on the Board of the Silver Springs Martin Luther School where she is the Development Chair.

Councilor for Evangelism and Communications: Julieanne Leighton

610-470-3857 juliannehl@yahoo.com



Julie Leighton (Herbster) has been a parishioner at St Luke since childhood, participating in the children's choir and regularly attending service with her father (David Herbster). As an adult, Julie returned to St. Luke with her family (Mia – 13 and David – 11) and became members in 2007, along with her mother (Kathleen Herbster). Julie has served the congregation since 2007 as a VBS Volunteer and Teacher, 3rd Grade Sunday School Teacher, and organizer of the congregation's Children's Church services.

Outside of St. Luke, Julie is currently the Vice President of Digital Strategy at Quattro (a local advertising agency), a position she has held since 2013. In the 1990's, Julie was an original member of the Senior Management Team to build

LendingTree.com. Prior to joining Quattro, Julie ran her own Digital and Corporate Strategy consulting firm. She's a Penn State Alumni, single mother of two and avid DIYer.

President: Bill Baver

610-687-4509 William.Baver@Keane.com



Bill and his family joined St. Luke in 1996. He has been involved in the Christian Education program at St. Luke since his boys started attending Sunday school with the 2-year-old program. He has been a teacher in the education program since 1994. Bill has been involved in the Confirmation ministry since 2003 and has been a lead teacher in the program since 2007. Bill works in the computer industry. He has a love of education and in helping everyone at St. Luke expand in understanding the teachings of our

Lord Jesus Christ.

Councilor for Education and Faith Formation: Fred Schultz



Fred and his family have been members of St. Luke for two years. They moved to the area from Florida, but grew up in Minnesota; going from extreme cold to blistering heat to the Goldilocks “just right” zone here in Pennsylvania. Fred works at Aetna where he is Vice President of Medicare Service Operations. In those brief moments away from work, Fred enjoys traveling with his family, meeting new people and experiencing new cultures firsthand. The entire Schulz family makes volunteering and giving back a priority, as his wife, Cindy, is president of the kid’s school association and a leader in their daughter’s girl scout troop, and both of their kids are active in Scouts doing service projects in the community.

Councilor for Congregational Life, Lorraine Miller



Lorraine and her family joined St Luke in 1994. She has been involved in coffee hospitality, the nursery, VBS, was a confirmation leader and ran a small group for high schoolers.

She and her husband Steve have 4 children; Morgan, Madison, Miranda, and Mason.

Lorraine is a nurse and works at Villanova University. In her spare time, Lorraine enjoys walking, cooking, spending time with her family and watching many soccer games.

Current Council Members

Councilor for Support: Tom McCown



610-296-018 tommicks@hotmail.com

Tom and his wife Lynn are relative newcomers to Saint Luke. They have been attending Saint Luke regularly since early 2015 and became members in 2016. Tom grew up in Berwyn, graduating from Conestoga High School in 1971. Tom has always been a thoughtful and service-minded individual. In his youth he was a member of the Paoli One Boy Scout Troop. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1968, and served as Scoutmaster for several years in the early 1980's. More recently, Tom has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, building houses for people who could not otherwise afford a home. Professionally, Tom has been a self-employed carpenter/contractor since 1980.

Tom found his real niche at Saint Luke with the Appalachia Service Project, which he has participated in since the summer of 2015. He looks forward to using his professional expertise in serving Saint Luke as Councilor for Support.

Councilor for Witness: Meredith Moore

610-644-4267 hansmoore@verizon.net



Meredith is a native New Yorker, a life-long Lutheran and has been coming to Saint Luke since 2010. She currently resides in Malvern with her husband Wesley, two kids Caroline and Henry, and golden retriever Pixie. In recent years she has been involved with Saint Luke's Feeding Thousands meal packaging events and has joined the choir. Professionally, she has worked for Johnson & Johnson in research & development for the last 12 years. In her (semi non-existent) free time she can be found at the gym (very early in the morning), enjoys reading, and spending time with friends.

Secretary: Anne Barnett

610-889-0446 abarnett79@verizon.net



Anne has been a member of Saint Luke since 1975, when she moved here as a teen with her family. Her parents, Don and Roberta Barnett, and one of her sisters, Dona Redmond, are also active and long-time members. Anne is the proud mom of two young adults, Jackson and Jenn Smith who are in the slow process of leaving the nest. Anne has taught Pre-K Sunday School for more years than she cares to admit. Professionally, Anne has spent her career in the Insurance industry, and works at Philadelphia Insurance Companies in the Claims Management team, supporting its Professional/D&O division. In her spare time, Anne enjoys running, reading, meals with friends and family, and serving as President of her community Homeowners association.

Treasurer: David Webb

610-688-0358 DWebb@janney.com



Raised in Berwyn, confirmed at St. Luke in late 1970's, David moved from the Main Line after graduating from Conestoga in 1981. He graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1985 and George Washington Law School in 1991. After living in Connecticut, Virginia and New Hampshire, he returned to the area in 1993. He lives in St. Davids with his wife, Annie and their 3 children, Jamie, Tommy and Meredith, who attend Radnor Township Schools. For the last 22 years, he's worked as a Financial Advisor for Janney Montgomery Scott in Radnor. David enjoys golf, paddle tennis, travel and being with family.

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

Treasurer's Report "Year of Operational Transition"

2017 Financial Highlights-

- Thanks to all who have given generously with their time, talents and treasures in 2017
- In February 2017, the congregation approved the change of our Fiscal year from a Calendar year (Jan-Dec) to a new Fiscal year (July-June). The reasons for this change were:
 - To better monitor our financial performance during the year. Moving our largest giving month (December) from our 12th mo. to 6th mo. of operation, we can better monitor seasonal deficits and provide appropriate Stewardship messages as needed.
 - Provide more time for Council to contemplate revenue trends when proposing our annual expense Budget.
 - Align the end of our fiscal year with our Christian Education/School year and our seasonal worship schedule.
- In this report, I will: share our previously reported 6 mo. (Jan-June 2017) Results, provide a summary of the first 6 mo. (July-Dec 2017) of performance in our new Fiscal year, and project where I think we are positioned for our last 6 mo. of our Fiscal year end (Jan-June 2018).

Performance of Transitional 6 mo. period (Jan-June 2017)

- **Revenues**
 - **Total Revenues = \$340,422** (up 7.4% from 2016 \$316,937),
 - **Current giving = \$284,122** (up 3% from 2016 \$275,811),
 - **Comment-** *Beautiful Beginnings revenue very helpful; nice to see growth in current giving (more people are using Simply Giving for automatic giving)*
- **Expenses**
 - **Total Expenses = \$372,144** (down -2.5% from 2016 \$792,555)
 - **Comment-** *lower mortgage expense thanks to lower interest rate; Utilities/Maintenance Expense lower.*
- **Deficit**
 - **6 mo. deficit (Jan-June) = -\$31,721** (58% smaller deficit vs. 2016 - \$75,618)
 - **Comment-** *better operational performance for first 6 months thanks to higher giving and more revenue, plus lower expenses.*

Performance of first 6 mos. of '17-'18 Fiscal Year 6 mos. (July-Dec 2017)

- **Revenues**
 - **Total Revenues = \$442,717** (down 10% from 2016 \$493,266),
 - **Current giving = \$382,631** (down 15% from 2016 \$452,885),
 - **Comment-** *Year end deficit appeal of December 2016 created a record giving amount that month (\$55K more than any previous Dec). 2017 giving drop reflects the unique Dec 2016 appeal to cover a big Nov 2016 deficit.*
- **Expenses**
 - **Total Expenses = \$379,421** (flat from 2016 \$376,863)
 - **Comment-** *lower mortgage expense thanks to lower interest rate; Utilities/Maintenance Expense lower.*
- **Surplus**
 - **6 mo. surplus (July-Dec) = +\$63,296** (46% smaller surplus vs. 2016 +\$116,403)
 - **Comment-** *Surplus well positioned for Jan-June '18 anticipated expenses*

Review of our Budget and where I think we will end up at Fiscal Year End:

Our balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 was for Revenues and Spending to be \$786,960. I think we are currently trending well toward that budget. We have a \$63K surplus in Jan 2018 going into last 6 months of the new Fiscal year. We operated with a \$31K deficit for the first 6 months of 2017. Thus, assuming no big surprises on the revenue or expense side, we should be in good shape as we approach our last 6 months of our fiscal year come June 2018.

- **Revenues** - Actual Jan-Dec Revenues were \$442K + I estimate our Jan-Jun estimated Revenues to be \$340K (what we received in Jan-Jun 2017) = \$782K for year. Beautiful Beginnings rental increase starting in February should add \$5K more Rental revenue which should pull us to \$787K.
- **Expenses** - Actual Jan-Dec Expenses were \$379K + I estimate Jan-Jun Expenses to be about \$400K (we spent \$372k in Jan-Jun 2017, but we had medical insurance and salary increases and additional maintenance expenses so I will this us round up) = est. \$779K for year.

In summary, I thought the transition from Calendar year to Fiscal year went well. I thank all who helped make this happen. We saw operational improvement thanks to the combination of enhanced rental revenue, increases in "simply giving" participation and lower mortgage interest expense (our rate was lowered in Nov 2016) and lower Sexton expenses (no longer paying medical benefits). As we have discussed Seasonal Giving in December is critical for us to meet our annual Budget. I think we have adequate surplus after Year End/December giving as we go into the winter months (where deficits can creep up) due to increased facility operation expenses such that we should finish the new Fiscal Year 2017-18 well. Finally, I want to thank

my Finance Team of Rod Olsen, Dona Redmond, Ron Harmon and Dave York who diligently volunteer their time and commitment to serve our congregation so well.

A special shout out to Rod Olsen who will be transitioning away from weekly tasks on the Team in 2018 as Assistant Treasurer for Receipts after his decades of service and stewardship to Saint Luke. His dedication to this important role for our Church often goes unnoticed. We will look forward to future guidance and input from Rod during this transition period.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Webb, Treasurer