

**St James Lutheran Church**  
**49 Middle Highway Barrington, Rhode Island**  
**401-246-0227 <http://stjames-ri.org>**



**rooted      growing      serving**

**Annual Report of the Congregation**  
**2017**

**Agenda**  
**Sunday February 4, 2018 10 am**

**Opening Devotions**  
**Report of the Secretary**  
**Report of the Council President**  
**Report of the Pastor**  
**Report of the Treasurer**

**Team Reports**

**New Business**

- a. **Proposed Budget for 2018**
- b. **Approval of Revised Church Constitution**
- c. **Election of New Council Members**
- d. **Election of Delegates to Synod Assembly**
- e. **Election of Auditors**
- f. **Motion to Close Meeting**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Report of the Secretary**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**St. James Lutheran Church**  
**February 5, 2017**

**Report of the Secretary**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I Opening Devotion**

Pastor Simon opened the meeting at 10:20 with a prayer of devotion.

**II Report of the Secretary**

Report distributed to congregation via email. Gerry Caro made a motion to accept the report. Seconded by George Bowen and approved.

**III Report of the Pastor**

Report distributed to congregation via email.  
George Bowen made a motion to accept the report. Seconded by Mary Ferreira and approved.

#### **IV Report of the Treasurer**

Pastor Andrew presented several bar graphs demonstrating giving pattern within St. James. Beverly Russell reported that expenses were way down. She complimented the Property Team for lowering utilities expenses as well as Joanna, our church secretary for keeping office expenses down. Beverly reported that an \$18K anticipated deficit (projected 2016 budget) was reduced to under \$1K thanks to savings on expenses and improved giving. Mary Ferreira made a motion to accept the report. Seconded by the congregation and approved.

#### **V Reports of the Standing Committees**

Reports distributed to congregation via email.

#### **Cultivating Community in Christ**

Diane Quesnelle, Chair: Four main events during 2016, all well received and improved upon.

#### **Outreach Ministries**

Dawn DiFuscio, Chair: Over \$15K was raised for Outreach at St. James in 2016, \$3,700 more than in 2016.

#### **Property**

Chris Gillam, Chair: Boiler repairs, bathroom repairs, additional space provided for Loaves & Fishes, Lou's Closet expanded, Columbarium Bench installed were the major projects in 2016. Owen O'Rourke, a member, once again is providing snow removal free of charge.

#### **Worship & Music**

Cathy Fales, Chair: Flags installed in the sanctuary as part of the 500 Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation. A group led by Jill Bowen made new Worship banners for the sanctuary. The Creative Development Team meets once per quarter to create worship themes, decorations etc. all are invited to join this team. Pastor extended a special thank-you to Cathy Fales for filling the Worship & Music Chair position these past several years.

#### **Ministry with Youth**

Gail Feeney, Chair: The Family Faith Formation "Sunday School" program is going well. The format and material are similar of that used for VBS and the children are familiar with it and enjoy it. Pastor thanked parents and volunteers for helping.

#### **Thrivent**

George Bowen, Contact Person: A big thank-you to Thrivent Financial for providing \$8,200 in Thrivent Action Cards and over \$2,000 in Choice Dollars to St. James in 2016.

Pat Sousa made a motion to accept all committee reports. Seconded by Mary Ferreira and approved.

## **VI Appointment of Tellers**

George Bowen explained the Teller responsibilities John Rodehorst and Jack Zawislak were nominated. A motion to accept the nominations was made by George Bowen. The nomination was seconded by Betty Brito and approved.

## **VII Report of the Auditors**

Report distributed to congregation via email. George Bowen reported that everything is fine.

John Rodehorst, Gerry Caro and George Bowen did the audit.

Brigitte Palmer made a motion to accept the report. Seconded by Carol Fournier and approved.

### **A. Proposed Budget for 2017**

Proposed budget distributed to congregation via email. Pastor recommended one small change to the Professional Development line item. It was increased from \$200 to \$500 as required by the Minister of Music's contract. Brigitte Palmer asked about the line item for Clergy Supply which is budgeted at \$0. Pastor explained that there were just two pastors that had been available for Rhode Island. One has retired and the other moved to Florida. Clergy from outside of Rhode Island would be needed which is very expensive as we must pay the daily fee and mileage.

Pastor reported that we are very blessed to have several lay leaders who have been able to lead worship during his absence, but during those weeks, there will be no communion. Council has decided to draw on this talent for 2017. Glenn Jaeger asked why envelop receipts were projected in 2017 at \$135K, \$2K less than 2016. Beverly Russell explained that there were five fewer giving units in 2017 and the Finance Committee chose to be conservative with its projection. Kathy Fales made a motion to accept the report. Seconded by Betty Brito and approved.

### **B. Election of New Council Members**

Seven council members have been nominated,

Nominated are...

Karen Farina – Treasurer

Gerry Caro - Finance

Diane Quesnelle - Cultivating Community in Christ

Ben Yergey – Ministry with Youth

Jill Bowen – Financial Secretary

Betty Brito - At Large

Pat Erickson - At Large

Pastor Andrew explained that at the March Council meeting a President and Vice President will be chosen.

Pastor Andrew advised that any open committee chair position can be appointed by the Council. This will give the Council time to prayerfully consider individuals they would like to recruit.

George Bowen made a motion to elect the slate as presented. Seconded by Mary Ferreira and approved.

**C. Election of Delegates for Synod Assembly**

Pastor Andrew advised that St. James may send two lay people plus clergy to the Synod Assembly. Pat Sousa and Steve Dumas will represent us at Synod.

Betty Brito made a motion to elect the slate as presented. Seconded by Cathy Fales and approved.

**D. Election of Auditors**

George reported that we need three auditors. John Rodehorst, Ellen Zawislak and Gerry Caro were nominated as auditors with Chris Gillam as an alternate. Mary Ferreira made a motion to accept the slate of auditors. It was seconded by Carol Fournier and accepted.

Pastor Andrew asked if anyone had any questions.

Cathy Fales reported to Chris Gillam that the light in the Sacristy bathroom was not working properly. Chris is aware of the situation and will get the repair done.

Barbara Moore asked about the Yard Sale Planning Team. Pastor responded that planning needed to begin earlier and that opportunities are there to improve and make the event one for sharing what St. James is all about. Mary Ferreira mentioned that she had worked the book table and felt there was a need for increased publicity.

Brigitte Palmer commented that it is the same group of volunteers year after year, and it would be good to recruit some new helpers.

Cathy Fales thanked everyone on the Council for all of their hard work and dedication.

Pat Erickson offered a “Shout Out” to Rob McBride, Director of Music, for his tremendous efforts with the music ministry, Family Faith Formation, Vacation Bible School, and the Creative Development Team. Rob is a true gift to our congregation.

**VIII Motion to close the meeting**

Betty Brito made a motion to close the meeting, the motion was seconded by Gerry Caro, motion approved.

**IX Lord’s Prayer**

The meeting closed at 11:05 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill K. Bowen, Recording Secretary

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## 2017 Annual President's Report

2017 was a great year at St James!

We are totally blessed with the best congregation: we have the most loving, caring, and generous members. Our congregation is a church family whose members exhibit care and concern for one another every day. That care and concern continually spills out beyond our walls as seen through all of our outreach. As a congregation we are passionate and strong in that outreach, as seen in Loaves and Fishes, We Share Hope, the Park Place Soup Kitchen, Lou's Closet, Bags of Hope and all of the Missions of the Month. **And**, thanks to the continued generosity of our congregation we are ending the year with a surplus for the first time in several years!

Our congregation is also truly blessed with many young families who bring with them vibrancy and lots of energetic kids! The children bring such freshness and life - they are the future of St James!

This year the council has been making an effort to be more proactive than reactive. In our meetings we quickly move through old business for lessons learned and try to focus more on new business, making our meetings efficient, shorter, productive and overall very positive.

Some of our accomplishments from 2017 include:

- With recommendation from property and finance, the employment agreement for the sexton was restructured creating a considerable savings.
- We reviewed the Synod's new model constitution, compared it to our existing constitution, merged, modified, and finalized the draft constitution put before you for approval today.
- We have assembled a team to review the needs of the property. They will compile a list of any necessary maintenance as well as potential improvements to put before you for consideration and deliberation.
- Thanks to Rob's expertise, hard work, and professional connections, the sound system was upgraded and we realized a huge improvement in the quality of the sound in the sanctuary!
- Thanks to Sheri, 8 of our teens completed their Journey Into Faith classes and commitments and were confirmed in June. The rest is up to them!
- Thanks to Diane and the Congregational Life team we enjoyed a very successful Easter Brunch, Annual BBQ, and Children's Christmas party again this year.

- Thanks to Rob and Pastor, we held another very successful year of VBC. So much energy, so much fun, and per usual, the hottest week of the summer!
- Thanks to Joanna and Pastor the web site has been updated to be more user friendly and easier to maintain.
- We determined that the yard sale has perhaps reached its end at St James. Due to lack of interest and support, we did cancel it this year. We will revisit in the future.
- We are working on coming into the 21st century by getting a credit card for church office use as well as the possibility of setting us up with the ability to accept credit cards for donations, pledges, and more.
- Thanks to too many to mention, we held a very successful Advent workshop. Truly an all congregation event where there was some decorating of the church, some crafts for children, a large service project to fill gift bags for children (some for LFRI some for Tap In) and of course, lots of food!
- Thanks to our Property team who seamlessly and invisibly keep the property in good shape and working order - cutting, trimming, raking, painting, and much much more.
- Thanks to a successful stewardship campaign spearheaded by Bob McBride and Pastor, along with the Finance team, for putting together the budget presented to you for approval today, which allows us to approach 2018 in a better position than recent years.
- Thanks to the Worship and Music team (and creative development team) for organizing and arranging meaningful services in beautiful settings throughout the year.
- Thanks also to Worship and Music for organizing and arranging a wonderful 500th Reformation service followed by an awesome celebration for us!
- Thanks to Ben and Melissa for taking over Youth and Families. They're doing a great job ramping up - they held a fun and successful fall event in October, with more to come!
- Lastly, thanks to Pastor and Rob, our "Sunday School", aka Family Faith Formation, is strong and growing. It's a huge success. Pastor and Rob **ARE** Family Faith Formation. They give it context. Bring it meaning and life. Encouraging families to come together to hear the lessons is such a win/win. First, it's a wonderful gift for parents and children to experience together. Second, it reinforces what parents already know or may have forgotten and equips them to bring it home to live or to discuss further. For children, they see that their parents are interested and invested, emulating how God wants us to live.

I'm looking forward to seeing where 2018 brings us!

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Feeney, Council President

## **2017 Annual Pastor's Report**

While the big news of 2017 has been our first financial surplus in many, many years, I believe this is just one symptom of our growth and health as a community of faith. God is good...in so many ways.

Recently, I had a conversation with a member of St. James with three small children. She told the story of her oldest son, waking up on a Sunday morning and asking if there was going to be Sunday school that day. When she told him there was, he said something like this: "Yes! I love it when we have Sunday school because it means we get to spend all morning at church!" On a Sunday morning in Advent, as I stood up to begin the service, I looked at the back of the church to see a child standing there with her mother. I could tell just by looking at her what she was up to-she was ready to light the candles on the Advent wreath. All I had to do was nod and she came up to the front and lit them. In visiting with a member of St. James who had been hospitalized, she showed me a book that another member had lent to her and bookmark that someone from St. James had made especially for her. These are amazing stories that give us a glimpse of what God is up to here.

There are so many more:

People applying for Thrivent action cards. Even if it takes a little nudge from George Bowen, it makes a huge difference, not only for St. James, but for the many people we serve beyond our walls.

Loaves and Fishes Runs with special gifts for children-backpacks and Christmas gifts, and an abundance of sweatshirts, hats, socks, coats, and clothing.

Continued partnership with We Share Hope-providing an abundance of rescued resources for us to share with those in need in our community.

Children who come running up the aisle to offer enthusiastic responses to questions during the children's time.

Newcomers who are greeted and invited to sit and share a cup of coffee following church.

People sharing joyful occasions like weddings and baptisms. People offering care and support when loved ones die. Faithful worshippers singing and praying and praising God together.

All of this speaks to the joy and the health that St. James is experiencing because of you. Your contributions-making pots of coffee and providing refreshments after worship, thinking carefully about planning for our worship and decorating our space, creating new things-banners for our sanctuary and Family Faith Formation lessons for our children. Planning pageants and special events. Offering your time, your gifts of financial contributions, and your talent are what make St. James such a vibrant and relevant community of faith.

Our church is growing-in God's love, but we are also growing in our faith that church is a place where all are welcome, where children are nourished and supported, and where we can grow to serve others in our community.

I know that we are in a good place, and I believe that this is just the beginning. God is up to something here, and God's goodness can be felt and seen in so many ways.

Thank you for your contributions to our congregation-whether they are gifts of time, energy, positivity, presence, finance, or any of the many others ways you give-we are blessed by all of them!

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is the gift of our children. Just last week, as we were gathered at the font, to share in filling it up with water, one of our children shouted "We did this last year!" This is amazing-it is amazing because it shows us that he is paying attention to what we do at St. James-he is invested in it, and he is loving it! Earlier this year, when I returned to church after a Sunday off, another child greeted me when she came to church, saying "Where were you last time?" She is paying attention, too! We are so fortunate, in a time when fewer people in our world are connected to a community of faith, to have families with small children making St. James their spiritual home. What a gift!

I am looking forward to another great year working together in this great community of faith-another year of being rooted in God's love, growing in God's grace, and serving the people of God!

God is Good...All the Time!

Peace,  
Pastor Andrew

# **St. James Lutheran Church - 2017 Pastoral Acts**

## **Baptism**

1/29/2017-Hannahlise Leonor Pacheco  
7/2/2017-Giuliana Ann Micheletti  
7/20/2017-Hannah McBride  
7/20/2017-Caleb McBride  
7/20/2017-Samuel McBride  
7/20/2017- Grace McBride

## **First Communion**

4/23/2017-Connor Gillam, Colin McDermott, Jacob Simon

## **Confirmation**

6/4/2017- Catherine Bergstrand, Robert Davis, Alicia Feeney, Brian McDermott, Summer O'Rourke, Catie Quesnelle, Leah Tanner, and Katherine Whitaker

## **Marriage**

6/30/2017-Wendy Faria and Jenn Sousa  
8/26/2017-Abhi Sawarkar and Matthew Tattar  
11/4/2017-Alissa Cafferky and Christopher Halacy

## **Funeral**

1/12/2017-Laura Marie Wagoner  
1/20/2017-Jean Stallard  
5/15/2017-Raymond A. Peck  
6/20/2017-Michael J. Kean  
12/2/2017 –Barbara F. Gaboury

## \*\*\*\*2017 Team Annual Reports\*\*\*\*

### Youth and Family Ministry

- Family Faith Formation: 6-12 kids each week for songs, lesson craft and sometimes activity
- First Communion: 3
- Vacation Bible Camp: ~20 kids from ages 2-10 and ~10 teenage and adult helpers/staff
- Calumet: We made 2 trips with youth to Calumet this year. In March, 4 adults took the 9 confirmands to the winter fling for youth as their retreat. In April, 3 adults took 4 Sunday School age children up for the Sunday School retreat. Both trips were cold and snowy, but fun was had by all.
- Family pumpkin picking and pizza event. More info here: <https://tinyurl.com/2fcpre6>
- Confirmation (from Sheri): In May, we had the largest class for Confirmation; there were 8 confirmed. This September is quite different with just one awesome 8th grader, Will Young. I taught both of his siblings as with the rest of this year's 7th graders (4 total); the babies of the family have arrived. This is my 10th year teaching Confirmation, but the years just fly by because I love teaching the teens about the Bible, Small Catechism, Lutheranism and other religions. Our curriculum has changed this year with no longer having a retreat, but adding two additional service projects, totaling four service projects; 2- Loaves & Fishes runs as a group and 2-service projects of their choice. Our decision to add the retreat back into the curriculum will be revisited with Pastor, Gail, and myself on an annual basis, but not working for our current Confirmands. We need to be flexible with our thinking of our Confirmation program as Generation Z has arrived; it is important to listen to our young members and compromise with our curriculum, so they can become confirmed adults in our congregation. After all, this is our goal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Yergey, Youth and Family Ministry Team Leader

### Worship and Music Team

The role of the Worship and Music Team is to provide for the worship life of the congregants of St. James Lutheran Church so that Word and Sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the Word of God and the practices of the Evangelical Church in America. This requires monthly meetings with the Pastor and the Director of Music Ministry to support their preliminary planning for all of the worship seasons. This team met 11 times this year.

The support by the Worship Team members includes providing an overview of ways in which the worship may richly reflect the liturgical seasons, festivals and commemorations of the church year. A group within the Worship Team, the Creative Development Team, comes together at least

four times a year to reflect on the upcoming season, study the scripture readings, and brainstorm ways to tie the Chancel, Nave and Baptistry décor, as well as the structure of the services and the children's messages, to the overall themes of the season. These meetings are open to all. In 2017, the Creative Development team focused on the year long celebration of the Reformation. From October 2016 through October 2017, pew banners reflected the key teachings and themes of the ministry of Martin Luther. On Reformation Sunday, the color RED was present in the ribbon banners hanging from each of the sanctuary lights, the window decorations, the ribbons radiating from behind the Altar, and the decorations in the Baptistry. This team provided the organizational structure for the year-long celebration including:

- Movie Sunday on February 12<sup>th</sup> with the airing of Rick Steve's documentary, "This Changed Everything" for adults and "Torch lighters" for children.
- The Lenten theme of "Free Indeed" based on Luther's Small Catechism.
- Lenten Bible Study led by Bob McBride and based on the *40 Day Journey*
- The Reformation bookstore which provided resources at a discounted rate.
- The Reformation Luncheon on October 29<sup>th</sup> which, supported by Thrivent, donations from members, and Carol Fournier's donation of all proceeds from the sale of homemade jams, brought together about 75 people for a spirited celebration.

The oversight for the selection of music for both the Traditional (Rob McBride and Loretta Lavoie) and Contemporary (Rob McBride and Betty Brito) services falls to this team as well. Rob continues to provide appropriate music for a shrinking choir...not an easy task.

A major accomplishment this year was the upgrade to the sound system. Rob McBride used some professional development time to research equipment that would meet the space needs of our Sanctuary. The final product came in under projected cost and ahead of schedule. The results are a vast improvement! Also repaired this year were the Carillon and the Hearing Assisted System.

The Altar Guild continues to assume responsibility for the set-up of the tools for worship for both services. They are responsible for changing the linens on the Altar to match the season, and for providing a sign-up chart for weekly dedication of flowers. This group also oversees the dedication of special flowers for Christmas and Easter.

Items that the Worship and Music Team will be looking at in 2018 include ways to deal with our light summer worship attendance, and the training of Acolytes for both services.

Our thanks to the dedicated members of this team who worked very hard during this busy year. Thank you to Cathy Fales, Jen Kirby, Shelley Zimmerman, Mary Ferreira, Karen Karlsson, Ellen Zawislak, Rob McBride, and Pastor Andrew for all of their energy and leadership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Brito and Loretta Lavoie, Acting Worship & Music Co-Chairs

## **Director of Music Ministry**

Greetings,

Thank you all for your support of our music ministry this past year. Whether you were front and center singing or playing an instrument with our Contemporary Worship Band and/or Traditional Choir, behind the scenes planning of our themes, services, and music, or just participating in our worship services on Sunday mornings, you all had a role in glorifying God and blessing others through song.

Some highlights of this past year include:

- (1) Our chorus of children who, after the Christmas pageant and with a full Contemporary Worship Band, helped sing and play percussion instruments during the sending song—Joy to the World;
- (2) Our Traditional Choir, with a guest vocalist, closing our traditional service for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation by singing a special arrangement of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” before a full audience consisting of attendees from both services;
- (3) The generous donation of funds from the Stallards and Feeneys, which allowed us to purchase an array of sound equipment that enhanced our weekly services and Family Faith Formation, enabled us to produce quality recordings of the confirmands’ testimonies and the children’s Christmas pageant, and allowed to fix our hearing assistance devices and to use more media for our Vacation Bible Camp. Additionally, the purchase of the sound equipment inspired a clean-up of our audio-visual equipment that helped restore the use of St. James’ bell-chimes.

As we begin 2018, I want to reiterate that it is a blessing to serve this congregation. I look forward to how God will continue to use the various facets of St. James’ music ministry during 2018 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Rob McBride, Director of St. James’ Music Ministry

## **Finance Team**

During 2017 the Finance Team projects included:

- Prepared the 2018 Budget including estimating Revenues based on historical data and pledges and Expenses based on input from each Team.
- Provided budget metrics to Council: 49 returned pledge cards; 77 giving units; 25 pledges increased, 8 pledges decreased, 24 pledges unchanged.

- Led and participated in the Performance Appraisal Process for Pastor, the Minister of Music and Office Administrator.
- Revised the contract with the Sextons to reduce hours and cost with minimal reduction in service.
- Along with the Council reviewed the copier contract to prepare for lower cost alternative implementation in early 2019 with contract notices and specific return preparations to be executed on time during 2018.
- Reviewed Credit Card payment options and recommended a process with responsible persons be set prior to purchasing hardware and software. Credit card potentials: Yard Sale, Superbowl sales, Pasta dinner, special events like baptisms.
- Worked with Music Director on new music sound board, mikes and iPad control to improve sound in Sanctuary. Approved optimal proposal from several options.
- Reduced number of envelope boxes from 140 to 100 to reflect electronic giving to generate a cost savings.
- Investigated if Thrivent would benefit by St James banking; learned it would not.
- Reviewed, revised and approved all finance related clauses in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- Reviewed what is necessary to become compliant with Synod Accounting Guidelines requiring much larger people resources than we have at St James. Areas being given attention (second check signatures, non-financial auditors, credit card guidelines).
- Started investigation other finance software, like Quick Books to replace Church Windows.
- Began planning for replacement of several church computers (music room, Pastor's and Office) during 2018. Preparing an escrow type account to cover replacement computer expenses in the future.
- Started the process to evaluate funds such as the Eldercare Fund and the Rooted Growing Serving Fund to optimize and potentially expand the ministry reach of these accounts.

Gerry Caro, Finance Team Leader

### **Property Team**

In addition to the general maintenance done regularly around the church, the following items were worked on throughout 2017:

Replacement of floor in entry hallway

The church bell has been repaired

The leak in the ceiling under the church bell

New lights were installed around the Middle Highway St. James sign

Two clean up days were spent increasing the beds around the church by using recyclable yard waste.

Church sound board was replaced

Dehumidifiers in basement were replaced

Bathroom behind sanctuary had electrical fixture replacement

Thanks to all parishioners for all the hard work in keeping our church beautiful. A special thanks to the following:

Owen O'Rourke for plowing  
Steve Dumas for general contracting  
Jack Zawislak for general maintenance  
David Erickson for mowing

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Gillam, Property Chair

### **Cultivating Communities in Christ (CCC)**

The St. James Lutheran Church CCC, year of 2017 events brought fellowship through shared meals, activities and fun within our church community.

#### **Easter Brunch**

This brunch is an annual tradition. Preparation of this brunch begins with a pot luck signup sheet in the community room. The congregation comes together to present a spectacular brunch fest. The community room is transformed into a beautiful spring Easter theme that was exciting for all ages. The children at this event also participate in an Easter egg hunt on the front lawn of the church.

#### **Church BBQ Picnic**

This picnic brings the congregation together with great group effort. Sign up for this event is not just for food, but for grills, games, music and other needs for a fun filled day. This event took place at the church this year, and the park across the street is signed out to St. James for the day. Attendance ranged in all ages. After bellies were full, a kick ball game was played by most. Other activities were on hand as well.

#### **Advent Workshop**

The advent workshop is a time for the congregation to come together to prep for the Christmas season. The church is decorated and many workshop areas are set up to begin putting together gifts to be given out to children and adults for the Christmas Loaves and Fishes run. CCC provides a lunch for everyone before they start working on Christmas projects. This is a very rewarding event because it sets the giving back spirit of Christmas and reflects upon the love we have for our community.

### Congregation Christmas Party

Every year the Kids Club hosts a Christmas Pageant. This is a very well attended church service with a congregation in the highest level of Christmas spirit. It was decided by the CCC that a party needed to happen after the pageant. Two weeks prior a food sign up was placed in the community room and our congregation came together with a fantastic host of party treats. Gifts and crafts are given to the children and this sets the tone for a magical Christmas week ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Quesnelle, Cultivating Community in Christ Team Leader

### **Outreach Team**

#### Monthly Missions Offering 2017

This year our monthly missions offering raised \$8,381.51 compared to \$7,693.46 in the prior year. In addition to the monthly missions offering, St. James supports the N.E. Synod. We also received over \$8,000 from Thrivent for Outreach projects and initiatives.

Money raised was distributed as follows:

Pastor's Discretionary	\$117.50
We Share Hope	\$2,003.25
Church Beyond Walls	\$365.15
New England Synod	\$234.46
Ascentria Care Alliance	\$81.15
Vacation Bible School	\$214.63
St. Jude's Hospital	\$54.96
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$490.00
Camp Calumet	\$207.52
Bags of Hope	\$4,407.00
RI Free Clinic	\$205.89
<b>Total Monthly Missions</b>	<b>\$8,381.51</b>
Synod Support	\$8,000.00
Thrivent (Outreach)	\$8,240.00
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$24,621.51</b> <b>(equivalent to 15% of 2017 budget)</b>

## **Stewardship Team**

Bob McBride and Pastor Andrew worked together this year to design and implement a Fall Stewardship emphasis. This included sharing profiles of St. James giving and Finances, individual thank-you notes to contributors, a pledge card, and foundations for the spirituality of stewardship shared in print and in worship services.

I am grateful for Bob's insight into stewardship and his willingness to help with this. In 2018, we plan to recruit additional members to the Stewardship Team and work toward creating a year-round Stewardship emphasis at St. James.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Andrew Simon