

January 2015

# SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Annual Congregational Report

### *From our Pastor...*

Each of us has a life journey and also a faith journey. Our life journeys vary with some people living long lives while others have their lives cut short by disease or accidents. Our faith journeys vary as well. Some people are baptized at two weeks of age and grow up in the church experiencing Sunday School, Confirmation, regular worship etc. Their faith sort of becomes a way of life because of these early experiences. Others come to faith later in life because the Holy Spirit works in wondrous ways. Some find the Lord later in life. The thief on the cross being crucified beside Jesus came to faith on his death bed. It is never too late.

First, as we experience our personal faith journey, it is important that we stay focused on God. Some communities have built their churches on the highest point in the community and they have put a lighted cross on the steeple of the church. The cross stands above everything else and becomes a visible symbol for the members of the community as they live their lives. Even at night it is a beacon of hope just as Jesus said that he would be the light of the world. If we lose our focus on Christ as the center of our lives we begin to stray in our personal living and sometimes depression or despair can set in. We need Christ as the center of our lives.

Secondly, we should realize that we need to have endurance as we walk our faith journey in life. If we were to diagram our faith journey I think the line would go up as in mountain tops and down as in valleys. Sometimes when we go through a valley in our faith journey we come up higher than we have ever been before, when we have met the challenge, but we need endurance. Think of King David in the Old Testament who was God's representative to his people. He experienced human weaknesses including committing adultery and premeditated murder, but he later repented, and wrote some of the Psalms asking God to wash him so that he would be whiter than snow. He grew through his valleys and so can we.

Thirdly, when we reach the end of our life journey and our faith journey we will be able to celebrate. We will have run the race and will receive our crown as we go to be near our Lord. The hope of the resurrection and eternal life with God is something to celebrate. It is the hope that I can offer as I conduct funerals. When you have stood by as many open graves as I have during my years of ministry you sometimes see life from a different perspective.

I would encourage all Christians to stay focused on Christ, plan to endure the valleys and mountain tops of life, and look forward to celebrating eternity with the Lord. We need to remember that the Holy Spirit came into the world to lead us to faith and help us to grow in our faith, whether we come to the Christian family as an infant or an adult. The Holy Spirit or the Comforter was sent to sustain us as we walk our faith journey.

*"We should meet people  
where they are  
and help them grow."*

*~ Pastor Schneider*

Sincerely,

*Pastor Schneider*

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
January 26, 2014

**OPENING:** Following the 8:00, 9:15 and preceding the 10:45 a.m. worship services, President Kyle Hobson convened the 2014 Annual Meeting of the congregation of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Pastor Schneider opened with a prayer.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the 2013 Annual Congregational Meeting were read and approved with one correction. The delegates going to the assembly are being appointed for the Northern Illinois Synod assembly.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Pastor Schneider presented the Treasurer's Report for the year 2013. He thanked the congregation for their faithful support and advised that the church ended the year meeting expenses due to their faithfulness. The church ended the year \$6,400 in the black due to the support and dedication of the congregation. The church has never ended the year in the red because of the contributions of the congregation. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2014:** Pastor Schneider proposed the year 2014 budget which was mailed to members in October. He advised that it was built on past performance as we do each year. He explained that it was an honest and achievable budget obtainable with the continued faithfulness of our members. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed 2014 budget. Motion carried.

**NOMINATIONS:** Nominations for Church Council were named by President Kyle Hobson:

Kevin Donlan – Property Committee  
Diane Doessel – Worship Committee  
Debbie Harr – Parish Education Committee  
Bob Preston – Treasurer  
Carie Tilling – Stewardship Committee  
Mike Moushey – Stewardship Committee  
Michele Barry – Communications Committee

No other nominations were made from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to accept and close nominations. Motion carried

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD ASSEMBLY:** A motion was made and passed to allow the Church Council to appoint delegates to attend the annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was reconvened following each worship service and adjourned at its conclusion at 10:55 a.m.

# Committee Reports

## Evangelism Committee

Our motto, "A Church That Cares!", is more than a slogan, it is a way of life. We regularly reach out to needy people through our local benevolence program giving food, medicine, and assistance for heat or lights. Our congregation provides food on a consistent basis for the PADS program for the homeless. Our congregation is known in that program for the quantity and variety of food that we provide each time. Our Mission Board outlines various areas to give support including our foreign missionaries. At Thanksgiving and Christmas our congregation members give one hundred food baskets, as well as toys for over three hundred children at Christmas. The Prayer Shawl Ministry gives comforting blankets to those who are going through a crisis in their lives, and the Grief Support group ministers to many people from the community as well as the church.

We were pleased to welcome twenty new families into the fellowship of our congregation this past year. We are known in the community as an open and accepting church that meets people wherever they are in their faith journey and helps them to grow. We have had many fellowship opportunities this year including the programs of the First Wednesday Fellowship Group, the women's pre-advent and pre-lenten dinners and programs, a fall scavenger hunt, women's noon luncheon meetings etc. The coffee and food times after each worship service also provide an opportunity for fellowship and sharing. George and Cindy Spyrnal provided new coffee pots for the church to assist us with all of our fellowship gatherings.

**Jennifer Grams and Mark Ponga - Co-Chairpersons**



## Worship Committee

We can think of what the early Christians went through to have an opportunity to worship. When they would be chased by the Roman soldiers because of their faith they would run into the catacombs or tunnels under Rome where they would be safe. The Roman soldiers were superstitious and would not follow them into the catacombs. The early Christians worshipped in that setting and even buried their dead, especially their children, in the same surrounding. Today we have the privilege of freely worshipping our Lord without thought of persecution.

A basic reason to worship is to glorify our Lord. Other reasons include the fact that the third commandment commands us to worship, the New Testament assumes Christians will want to worship regularly, and many times when people come to worship they are down and are picked up by worshipping with other Christian people. It is through the gift of baptism that we come into the Christian family and it is through the gift of Holy Communion that we experience forgiveness of our sins and a strengthening of our faith.

The various gifts of the body of Christ are seen very clearly as we think of all of the hundreds of different people who participate in preparing and leading our meaningful worship services. Numbers really add up when we try to count the ushers, communion servers, liturgists, altar guild members, acolytes, choir members and directors, organists, offering counters, greeters, coffee makers, nursery attendants etc. There is a place for each of us to find an opportunity to serve the Lord and express our faith in the life and the ministry of the church. We exist to glorify God and serve one another. Make regular worship a part of your life.

**Terri Franklin and Diane Doessel - Co-Chairpersons**

## Parish Education Committee

Christian education has been a foundation stone of the Lutheran Church for centuries. It is through the study of God's Word that we are strengthened in our faith and grow in our faith journey. Our Sunday School children experience traditional Bible lessons taught in small groups every Sunday which gives the children in the parish a chance to explore their faith and learn about God in age appropriate ways. In a three year program our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students study the five parts to Luther's Catechism including the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and the Sacrament of The Altar. They also get an overview of the Old and New Testaments during the three year confirmation program. Our confirmation program makes a strong effort to share with students how they can apply the teachings of the church to everyday life. We are very thankful for our strong and dedicated group of Sunday School and Confirmation teachers.

Our Monday Night Ministries youth groups provide an opportunity for youth to grow in their faith, enjoy fun and fellowship, and get involved in service projects in the church and the community. Our youth become involved in many service projects such as collecting coats for needy persons, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, collecting food for food pantries, folding bulletins for worship etc. Our youth programs are built around three legs including recreation, personal growth, and service to the community. Our Senior High students have done some significant fund raising through such events as The Sleep Out for Shelter which raises funds for the homeless.

Our youth are involved in many different highlights throughout the year such as First Communion Sunday where the attendance overflowed our church, Confirmation Sunday, two retreats at Lutherdale Bible Camp where we sent forty or more youth to attend each time, Augustana College Leadership Lab training, and Youth Sunday. We go from one event to the next in our youth program. Chad Mihevc has done an excellent job of coordinating our youth programs and planning and carrying out many of the events.

Our congregation is known for its excellent Daily Vacation Bible Schools and this year was no exception. We had over one hundred adults and high school youth working with a church full of children ages three through fifth grade and the roof on the church went up and down with the energy the group had. Another highlight for the younger children was the Christmas program which told the meaning of Christmas in a special way. It was a great program again this year. A special "Thank You" to our Parish Education Director Jenny LaRose who has a big heart for children and carries out the parish education program in a responsible and organized way. Her dedication to her work does not go unnoticed by members of the congregation. It is truly important that all families in the congregation have their children enrolled in the Sunday School and Confirmation program of the church because children absorb so much more than for what we give them credit, and truths taught children at an early age stay with them for life. We sincerely thank the parents for their partnership in the Christian Education ministry to their children.

**Carie Tilling - Chairperson Parish Education Director**

## Communications Committee

This past year we moved toward streamlining our communication process in the parish. Over three hundred families are now receiving their Scroll Mailings and other mailings by e-mail. Many of the families are receiving their financial statements by e-mail as well. This has reduced our mailing costs as well as cut down on labor time. Our church has a Facebook page and we are attempting to keep our Website updated on a regular basis. News releases are being sent to the local newspaper as well. Youth groups, women's organizations, music groups, etc. have their own communication trees set up to have information sent quickly and efficiently. However, in selling the church program or reaching out to those outside of the church, the best way to communicate is by word of mouth. This means that if each member of the church shared with other people the good things that are happening at Shepherd of the Hills we would have more fine people join our fellowship as well. Please plan to do your part in communicating with others you know. Be an ambassador for our church.

**Michele Barry - Communications Chairpersons**

## Property Committee

This has been a busy year for the property committee and a great deal has been accomplished. Three major improvements to our church building were made during the course of the year. A new roof was put on the church sanctuary to replace the thirty four year old roof that had started to leak. The two large air conditioners that serviced the two levels of the education unit wore out after twenty seven years of service and had to be replaced. New LED lights were installed throughout the building.

Church member Manny Lin sold the materials to the church at cost and council member Mike Moushey coordinated the installation. As we approached this project we asked for volunteers and thirty men from the congregation stepped forward to help. They worked in teams of about ten people and started work on Saturday morning at six o'clock and Sunday afternoon at one o'clock. In a period of about three weeks the volunteers replaced approximately one thousand lights in the building. The cost of the material for this project was approximately \$15,000 and ComEd gave the church a rebate of approximately \$12,400 for the bulbs that were replaced. In reality, this project cost the church about \$3,000. Because of the better efficiency of the lighting, it will lower the church's energy cost in the future. Bob Fluger and Lee Hartwig removed all of the dead bushes at the entrance to the church. Bruce Preston and Alan Holm fixed the grease pit in the commercial kitchen in Luther Hall and Alan Holm also sealed the sump pump area for the church. Three new trees have been planted on our church property that were donated by Diane Doessel, Raymond Bishop, Chad and Jenny Mihevc, and Bill and Becky Atkinson. Kevin Harrington fixed the lights on the north side of the education unit so the area is well lit at night. Bob Fluger volunteers almost daily at the church to work on various projects around the building and property. Dozens of people have volunteered to mow lawns and shovel snow at the church and this is deeply appreciated. Our congregation saves so much in labor costs thanks to our members stepping up to the plate to do the repairs or projects that need to be accomplished. We offer a sincere "Thank You" to everyone who has worked so diligently this year in the area of property.



**Andrew Winkleman and Kevin Donlan - Property Co-Chairpersons**

## Stewardship Committee

Our congregation has had a pattern of success in its programs because of the faithful support and concern for the church exhibited by our membership. We successfully completed four expansion programs over the years and then concentrated on growing internal programs in the life of the church. Scriptures share that "Where your treasure is your heart will be also." Over the years our members have not been afraid to share their treasures with the church to do the work of the Lord. God has blessed our work together. When we are found faithful, God blesses us in our individual lives as well.



Without even thinking about it, we are participating in stewardship in our lives on a daily basis. How we treat our family members, do our work, manage our finances, plan for the future, etc. are all part of our daily stewardship. Today, society is becoming more aware of preserving and caring for the world through an emphasis on ecology and an awareness of how poor management of God's good creation can lead to a disastrous end. We also need to leave future generations a wonderful world in which to live. When we think of our stewardship in relation to our support of the Lord's kingdom, and his work here on earth, there are many teachings from Jesus. He suggested that we should set aside our "First Fruits" and that our offering to God should be the first portion we set aside, not what remains. Some people give by proportion, or so many dollars each week, while others set aside a percentage of their income. However, you choose to support the Lord's work, we sincerely appreciate your partnership in the ministry of our church.

**Debbie Harr and Mike Moushey - Stewardship Co-Chairpersons**

# Council Nominee Profiles

## **RON JONES**

I sincerely look forward to serving on the Property Committee at Shepherd Of The Hills Church. I have worked within the trades for many years. I have operated my own business as a Licensed Building Inspector while acting as a General Contractor building residential homes. I have also acted as a representative for Generac Generators being involved with Industrial/Commercial building projects installing Emergency Generators for six years. At this time I am working for CBRE Reality in the Property Management Division serving a number of First Midwest Banks within our area. With all of that being said, I would be honored to be able to help out in any way that I can. I have the highest regards and compassion for Shepherd of the Hills and of course for our Pastor Schneider who married my lovely wife Yvonne and I twenty two years ago.

## **MIKE MOUSHEY**

Born and raised in Columbus Ohio (Avid Buckeye Fan), where I met my wife Kim who majored in theatre and teaches at the local Mar Ray dance studio. Our son Thomas is finishing his master's degree and pursuing a career in clinical Psychology, he enjoys medieval culture and music. Being transferred from Columbus 25 years ago with Abbott Laboratories, I currently support the Nutrition division in global distribution - logistics arena. I'm currently on the Pioneer Center board of directors and enjoy autocross racing, learning guitar, genealogy and general fitness.

## **MARK PONGA**

Mark Ponga was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI. He moved to Illinois in 1986 and began his career with Motorola, where he met his future wife, Margaret. He has an Associate's Degree in Electronic Technology from the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Roosevelt University. Throughout Mark's career, he's held various positions, such as Repair Technician, Consultant, Software Engineer and System Engineering. Currently, he is a Senior Instructor with Motorola's technical training organization. Mark and Margaret were married in June of 1996, and were soon joined by son Luke, and daughters Elizabeth and Christine. Mark keeps himself busy by playing guitar, working on his old cars, various electronic projects, camping and wrestling with his dogs, Harley, Deuce and Dash.

## **BERT DENLEY**

Roberta (Bert) Denley and her family were members of Shepherd of the Hills back in 1983 until 1986 when they moved to Lake Zurich to be closer to her husband, Bob's, work. There they became charter members of Peace Lutheran Church in Lake Zurich. Bert and Bob have 3 sons, David, Peter and Matthew. When the boys got older Bert started working in their elementary school as the part-time secretary. Later she moved into the library aide position and has been at the school, Isaac Fox Elementary, for the past 17 years. Last year, with all the boys out of the nest, Bert and Bob decided to sell their Lake Zurich home after 27 years and move back to the beautiful Fox River Valley. They moved onto the river in Johnsburg, rejoined Shepherd of the Hills, and are thrilled to begin this new journey, full-circle, back to the area.

# Endowment Fund Report

The Endowment Fund established a number of years ago in our congregation provides a special ministry. The proceeds from the Endowment Fund are used for special ministries such as scholarships to Lutheran colleges, Bible Camp scholarships, leadership training for our youth, scholarships for seminary students, assistance to needy families in the area, as well as many outreach ministries such as world disasters and missions. The Endowment funds are not used for the general expenses of the church which are actually covered by the annual church budget. The Endowment Fund provides for the "extras" which could not be accomplished without its support.

It is hoped that individuals or families might consider a gift to the Endowment Fund through a memorial gift, charitable remainder annuity trust, stock certificates, a donation of property, or remembering the Endowment Fund in a will. The Endowment Fund provides an opportunity for people to continue supporting the ongoing ministry of the Lord even after their death. The Endowment Fund holds up youth work and caring for the needy as special ministries. Members of the Endowment Fund Committee stand ready to visit with anyone who might be interested in contributing to this important ministry.

An Endowment Committee meets quarterly to review investments and budgets and to discuss ways to share with others how they may also make gifts to this special fund. The committee members include Chairperson Kathy Marinangel, Nancy Tunberg, Harold Kivley, Tammy Schnurr, Lee Hartwig, Mel Prust, and Pastor Schneider. If you would like more information about the Endowment Fund and its ministry, you may contact any member of the committee or the church office. The committee makes recommendations to the Church Council, which in turn gives final approval to the programs. Special gifts to the Endowment Fund greatly enhance the ministry and outreach of the church.

## The following programs were provided by the Endowment Fund during 2014

Caring Fund	\$12,000
Youth Retreats	\$5,445
Triennial Youth Gathering	\$6,000
Sunday School & Confirmation Bibles	\$2,000
Youth Leadership Training	\$600
Splash Program	\$3,000
Lutheran College Scholarships	\$4,000
Father's Day Program	\$400
Lutherdale Bible Camp	\$250
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries	\$250
Big Brothers and Big Sisters	\$250
Home of the Sparrow	\$250
World Hunger	\$250
International Disaster	\$250
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	\$250
Lutheran World Relief	\$250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,445</b>

## 2014 Statement of Receipts and Expenses

### SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

<i>Envelope, Loose &amp; Sun. School Offering</i>	\$623,641
<i>Space Usage</i>	37,099
<i>Bazaar/Auction</i>	17,898
<i>Memorials</i>	4,985
<i>Preschool/Before &amp; After School Care</i>	218,574
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$902,197</b>

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### SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

<i>Missions (Worldwide &amp; Local)</i>	\$77,590
<i>Worship</i>	26,612
<i>Parish Education</i>	15,128
<i>Stewardship</i>	4,748
<i>Evangelism</i>	11,143
<i>Parish Ministries</i>	321,812
<i>Office &amp; Administration</i>	26,618
<i>Bazaar/Auction</i>	5,086
<i>Non-Budget Dedicated Expenses</i>	17,147
<i>Preschool/Before &amp; After School Care</i>	182,942
<i>Church Home:</i>	
<i>Utilities</i>	29,721
<i>Maintenance &amp; Custodial</i>	44,979
<i>Equipment &amp; Insurance</i>	99,665
<i>Property Fund</i>	32,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$895,191</b>
<b>INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7,006</b>

# Annual Congregational Report

## SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

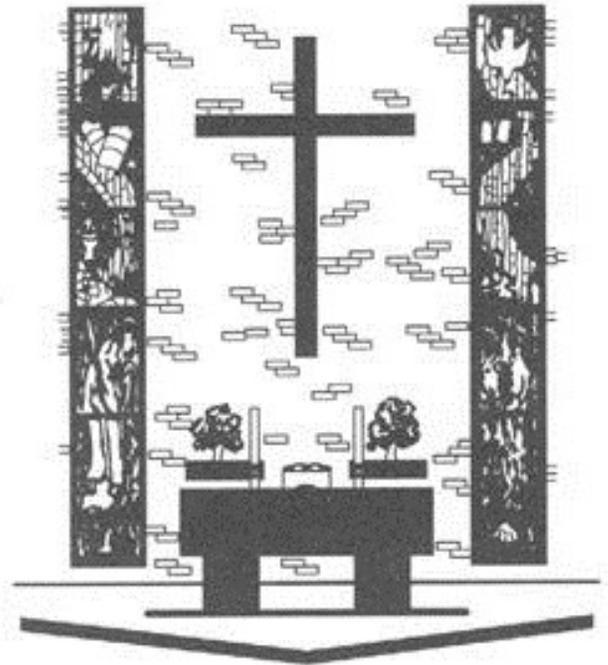
### LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2015

### AGENDA

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Approval of Annual Budget

Election of Church Council

Election of Synod Convention Delegates

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

Kyle Hobson, President

Rev. Roger W. Schneider

Bob Preston, Treasurer