

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

DIALOGUE AND PRAYER

As we gather today, bless us O Lord.

We are a church that belongs to Jesus Christ. We believe we are a part of God's unfolding promise. As we gather, we connect with believers everywhere and are drawn more deeply into God's saving story.

As we engage in discussion and discernment today, bless us O Lord.

We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ. We gather to discover, discern and boldly participate in what God is up to in our congregation, our community and the world.

As we live out our faith through decisions today, bless us O Lord.

We are a church that proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ and believes that through the gospel we are justified by God's grace through faith. We believe we are transformed through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and thus are always being made new.

As we are one body with many members, bless us O Lord.

As there are many parts to the body in Christ, help us to see how we are individually members one of another so that we are freed to serve and love our neighbor with a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:4-5

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

2015 ANNUAL REPORTS
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, Lena, IL
AGENDA
“LEADING ALL TO CHRIST”
Sunday, January 31st, 2016 – 10:45 AM

- I. Opening Prayer and Devotions – Pastor Art Stees
- II. Declaration of a Quorum
- III. Call to Order
- IV. Presentation of Agenda
- V. Presentation & Approval of 2015 Congregational Meeting Minutes p. 3
- VI. Treasurer Report
- VII. Endowment Fund Update
- VIII. Proposal and Vote
- IX. Elections
 - A. Council Member Nominations presented:
 - (3) For three 3-year terms—
Troy Keene, Kristy Patterson
 - (1) For one 2- year term: Colton Brinker
 - B. Trust Fund Board Member Nomination presented:
 - (2) For two 3-year terms: Dale Gullickson
 - C. Voting Delegates for NI Synod Assembly
 - (1) Male Delegate (nominations from floor)
 - (1) Female Delegate (nominations from floor)
 - (1) Youth/Young Adult Delegate (nominations from floor)
 - D. Election
- X. Presentation & Approval of 2015 Reports
 - A. Pastor's Report p. 4-6
 - B. Council President Report p. 7
 - C. Parish Record p. 8
 - D. Worship & Witness Committee p. 9
 - E. Learning / Youth Committee & Youth Ministry Account p. 10-12
 - F. Memorial Committee p. 13
 - G. Service Committee p. 13
 - H. Stewardship Committee p. 14
 - I. Finance Committee p. 14
 - J. Property p. 14
 - K. Scholarship Committee p. 15
 - L. Woman of the ELCA p. 16
 - M. Treasurer's Report of the WELCA p. 17
 - N. Friendship Club p.18
 - O. Audit Committee p. 18
 - P. Trust Fund Board p. 18
 - Q. Good Shepherd Building Trust “Asset Valuation Summary” p. 19
 - R. Treasurer's Report & Budget for 2015 p. 20-23
 - S. Annual Giving Report 2015 p. 24
- XI. Presentation & approval of 2016 Budget (Wayne Kurth and Jay Andrews)
- XII. Other Business – Fund Raising Proposals and Votes
- XIII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

January 25, 2015

Good Shepherd Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes.

Meeting opened at 1030 am by Wayne Kurth.

Opening prayer and devotions lead by Pastor Miranda Klosterboer. The opening hymn was sung. The agenda for 2015 meeting was approved.

Taylor Bastion made corrections to the 2014 annual meeting min as follows. Brianna Andrews was the Youth and Young Adult Rep. Taylor was the Female delegate. Troy Doubler made motion to accept the min as corrected. Dan Kurth seconded. The motion carried.

The year in review for 2014 video was played which highlighted the great and inspiring things the congregation was responsible for this past year.

1. Endowment fund update.

The current endowment fund policy and a history were read for the congregation.

A discussion was held about the ways we can and cannot use the trust fund.

Questions from the congregation were answered about the value of the endowment fund.

Chris Brinker made the motion to have the church council investigate the possibility of updating the endowment fund. Motion was seconded by Coralyn Hudik. Motion passed on voice vote.

Congregational survey was handed out to the congregation for their input.

Elections Motion made to close nominations to the council by Denny Luke. Motion was seconded and passed on Voice vote.

Bill Engel and Donna Gullickson were elected to the trust fund board.

Anna Patterson was elected to be the youth representative to the Synod meeting.

The Adult representatives were sent to the church council for selection.

The 2014 presentation and reports were approved.

The 2015 budget was presented and approved.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting made and passed. Pastor led us in Prayer and Closing.

Pastor's Report 2015

It was a wonderful year of ministry together in 2015! There is much to be thankful for! I am thankful for each of you and our ministry together! It was such a joy and an honor to serve as your pastor.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 1:3-6

During 2015 we engaged in planning for Mission and Ministry with Church Council and the Mutual Ministry Team. We listened to God in Scripture and prayer. We listened to you through your survey responses. And we listened to one another as we made goals and plans for the year. We are thankful for the responses of members of all ages from age 5 to age 95 that completed surveys. Your top six themes from a year ago were: Relationships (32), Children and Youth (18), Growth in Attendance (18), Service and Outreach (17), Like the Worship Experience (15), Hospitality (13).

The Church Council and Mutual Ministry Team met for a Mission and Ministry Planning and Goal Setting Retreat and 4 of the top areas of focus for the years ahead included:

1. Grow in worship attendance and church membership by becoming a more inviting, hospitable, welcoming, Christ-centered, and faith-sharing congregation.

Worship and the discipleship training that happens during that time have continued to be a focus. We added a more interactive Wednesday night service during the summer as well. The service and outreach activities continue throughout our local community: Lena Living Center Hymn Sing, Food Pantry volunteers, the After School Program, Christmas Caroling, Lena Area Church Cooperative, Piece Corps Quilters, Bible Studies at the Lena Living Center, Vacation Bible School, Wild Wednesdays, "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday, Men's Group outreach, and more. We invited members to share their faith through our Discipleship Emphasis this fall of "First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude". Our Worship Committee continues to put together welcome bags for visitors to our church. This is a strength for Good Shepherd, but it is something that we can continue to grow towards in the years ahead.

2. Continue to strengthen outreach and service and visibility in the community and world in the name of Jesus Christ.

We made the decision to engage in "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday for a second year, with the Men's Group leading the way. The Men's Group expanded this mission through more service days, creating an application for service requests, creating signs for the work sites, and advertising about the day. The church sent out a Mission Trip Team to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and we invited the community to join us in the mission through donations of bicycles, diapers, gas cards, and more. The community was very generous in their donations, and we headed to South Dakota with a full trailer of bicycles for the children of Pine Ridge. Press releases were shared about the Mission Trip, "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday, and other mission and ministry events of the congregation. We expanded our ministry through the Hospitality Tent at the Fall Festival through offering Giant Jenga and showing a video that highlighted our ministries.

3. Strengthen our ministry to our youth and young adults through invitation, training, youth-centered activities and worship, and learning opportunities

We have focused on this through the development of a Safe Child policy and offering training on the Safe Child Policy, through offering intergenerational fun and fellowship times on Sundays during the summer, and through offering a youth-inspired mid-week evening worship service during the summer. The After School Program, Sunday School, Confirmation, and Wild Wednesday ministries continued strongly throughout the year.

4. Improve our facilities for hospitality and functionality by creating a long-range facilities plan and implementing it.

Based on maintenance needs, feedback from the congregation, and the desire for growth and improved hospitality; the Property Committee put together a proposed project list throughout the early part of the year. They offered Informational Meetings over the summer and listened to your feedback in order to make adjustments to the proposed project list. Throughout the fall, the Church Council has worked with the Property Committee in learning about and planning for a possible Capital Campaign. This included visiting Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Freeport to learn from them and inviting Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Kurt Nordby to a council meeting. He helped the council to better understand what was financially feasible and also recommended waiting until the beginning of 2016 for the Capital Campaign. The Church Council approved the Project Scope in December, there will be an information meeting on January 24th, and there are two resolutions that will be put before the congregation to see about moving forward with the important next steps in the process.

Throughout 2015, you continued to focus on Mission Local and Beyond, Vibrant Worship, Strengthening Leadership, Service and Stewardship for Mission, and Developing Community.

Mission:

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD. The amazing life-changing good news of salvation through Jesus is Christ is for you, for us, but it is also FOR THE WORLD. This is a congregation that lives this truth out in action, in generosity, in service, and in mission.

Meaningful Worship Services:

2015 was filled with meaningful worship services where we encourage one another through song and proclamation, where we hear God's Word, where Jesus comes to us in the bread and the wine, where we are reminded of the gift of Baptism, where we are reminded of the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives and the promises of God, where we learn together as we study Scripture and apply it to our lives, and where we are sent out together to be a part of God's work in our schools, communities, workplaces, friendships, and families.

Strengthening Leadership:

It was a joy to see many members of Good Shepherd step into new roles of leadership and service throughout the year.

Service and Stewardship of Gifts as Mission:

It was a joy to come alongside you, my amazing brothers and sisters in Christ. You have shared the gifts that God has given you! Continue to let the generosity of the Lord overflow in your lives!

Building Community:

It is a joy to see you reaching out to one another as you follow Jesus together. This happens informally and formally in so many ways. It takes intentionality to build and strengthen relationships and to reach out to new faces as well. Serving together, worshipping together, praying together, and playing together are great ways to grow deeper with fellow brothers and sisters

Learning and Discipleship:

It was an honor to preach and to study God's Word with you! Through many small and large group experiences people of all ages are growing in their relationship with God through studying God's Word and through sharing about their experiences of faith:

Know that I thank God for you!

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Miranda Klosterboer



Interim Pastor's Report

This is being written on only my 12th day with you and will probably be my briefest report!

It is good to be back where I recognize so many familiar faces which reminds me of my good experience at Good Shepherd for a year-and-a-half that began in 2010. It has taken me a couple of weeks to get organized and back in the swing of things – I have been “out of work” since May!

At the present I plan on being in the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at least in the mornings. If needs arrived I can certainly be there at other times that are convenient to you.

Please feel free to call me at home (815) 801-3434 or on my cell (815) 291-6085 with any questions or a request for pastoral services. I particularly appreciate being notified when there is a hospitalization or other critical event.

In Christ's service,
Arthur R Stees

Council President's Report 2015

The calendar year 2015 has been a busy and eventful year here at Good Shepherd. Once again we worked with the Lena United Methodist Church in operation of the after school program at the Hangout to provide after school assistance as well as spiritual guidance for the communities young people. In early spring the church council met for a mission and ministry planning retreat. Two major proposals came out of this meeting. One to work on intergenerational community building by having youth and young adults help in planning events and two to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ by encouraging and equipping members through prayer and study of scripture in their homes and wider communities. In May for the first time in recent years we had a Sunday service totally done by our youth. During the summer months we once again had mid week evening services. The wild Wednesday program was once again well received and attended by our youth. Your church council decided on a policy change once again allowing fund raisers within or sponsored by church groups however only with close council guidance. In June the Good Shepherd Lutheran Men in Mission group hosted an all church cookout for the congregation. The annual canoe trip on the Pecatonica River was once again well attended. For the third straight year Good Shepherd sponsored a mission team on a weeklong trip to labor and help build relationships outside our community and geographic area. The Fall Festival parade float and hospitality booth were once again enjoyed by many. "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday once again saw great participation as we reached out to serve members of our community. October brought our Pastor appreciation Sunday as well as the men's group's attempt at spreading Halloween cheer. On November 19 Good Shepherd hosted the Northern Illinois Synod discipleship gathering. With the significant growth of the Good Shepherd endowment fund in recent years the council chose to work on adopting a new format in order to expand on the endowment fund's possibilities. As we once again prepared to welcome the Baby Jesus we learned of Pastor Miranda's new call to serve in Iowa. We sadly accept the reality that times change and pastors move on. We wish God's richest blessings on Pastor Miranda and Jesse in their new endeavors.

Council President
Wayne A. Kurth

Parish Record for 2015

Our average Sunday worship attendance the past 11 years is:

Year	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15
Ave.	115	103	97	89	80	73	75	75	85	79	72	67

Baptisms -9

Logan Andrew Fahr	03/15/15
Penelop Sue Price	04/12/15
Bailey Marie Schoehard	05.10/15
Brian Schoehard	05/10/15
Sienna Jean Rose Coldiron	05/10/15
Karl E. Schoenhard	05/10/15
Christopher Schoenhard	05/10/15
Luke Schoenhard	05/10/15
William Robert Heilman	05/10/15

Funerals - 8

	<u>(date of death / funeral)</u>	
*Marjorie A. Swain	01/18/15	01/22/15
*Esther L. Bergman	03/19/15	03/12/15
Pat K. Meyers	06/23/15	06/27/15
*Eugene W. Becker	07/16/15	07/20/15
Russell W. Hintz	08/31/15	09/15/15
*Lloyd L. Ferris	09/26/15	09/30/15
*Hazel C. Chapin	09/28/15	Private Service
*Alice L. Price	10/28/15	11/07/15

*denotes members of congregation

Weddings – 1

Jacqueline Lynn Lobdell and Tony Richard Jordan 08/22/2015

Affirmation of Baptism: Confirmation - 0**Affirmation of Baptism: New Members- 0****First Communions – 2**

Madilyn Diddens	03/01/15
Ethan Fye	03/01/15

Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena as of:	12-31-12	12-31-13	12/31/14	12/31/15
Baptized	313	310	309	312
Confirmed	250	249	245	245

Worship and Witness Committee

Members: Dennis Luke, Chairperson, Sue Diddens, Vivian Hesselbacher, Tena Rackow, Karen Niemeier, Colton Brinker.

Church Musicians: Organist: Karen Niemeier

Pianists: Tena Rackow, Sarah Baker, Marion Fahr

Instrumental Ensemble: Wayne Kurth, Dan Kurth, Brianna Andrews, Jesse Klosterboer

Choir Director: Janis Kurth

The Committee and Pastor Miranda are responsible for coordinating services throughout the year and have worked together very hard to keep worship services meaningful and enlightening.

Yearly events and activities:

Pastor continues to do the Wednesday Hangout Activities

Mission trip to South Dakota

Vacation Bible School

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Wonderful Easter Services.

Northern Illinois Synod Assembly at Augustana, June 12&13

Outdoor Worship at Dodd's Park on August 2nd.

Welcomed New Members

Bibles Studies during the year

Hospitality Tent at the Lena Fall Festival

Karen Niemeier continues to play the organ for services and Tena Rackow & Sarah Baker continue to play piano for services.

Janis Kurth continues to direct the choir with Marion Fahr playing the piano. The chime choir which provides inspirational music is directed by Janis Kurth too.

Meaningful Christmas Eve services.

Visitor Bags to give to guests that worship with us are still given out.

Thanks to all Committee Members and Pastor Miranda during this year.

Respectfully submitted, Dennis Luke

Learning Committee/Youth Committee

Learning Committee Mission: To nurture the Christian education of the Church and community and to teach the Word of God to young and old.

Children's and Youth Ministry Mission: To team with families in the growth of their child's faith by providing a fun, loving, and safe community where children can meet, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Children's and Youth Ministry values: Christ-centered, Kid-targeted, Fun and creative, Safe, Growing in faith, Relational through small groups

The Youth and Learning Committee would like to thank all of the Children's and Youth Volunteers that have worked hard and invested in the lives of our youth throughout this last year A special thank you to our Sunday School teachers and volunteers, to our After School Program volunteers, and to those who have headed up ministries this year. Thank you for your hard work week after week as you teach and share the good news of Jesus. A big thanks to the many hands who joined together to help with Vacation Bible School, the Christmas Program, and the Easter Breakfast. **We would also like to thank the Good Shepherd Congregation for supporting our many ministries of education to our children, youth, and adults.**

2015 Activity Summary:

Winter, Spring, & Fall:	Sunday School for Preschool-6 th grade: Sunday School Opening, Small Group learning, service and sharing music in worship
Winter, Spring, & Fall:	After School Program for 4 th -8 th grades at the Hangout Wed 3:30-5pm (Worship, Play, Homework Help, Christian Message, Snack)
Winter and Spring	Confirmation Classes on Tuesday from 3:30-5:00pm
Fall	Confirmation Classes on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm
January 4	Sunday School resumes
February 1 through February 22	First Communion Classes
February 8.	"Souper" Bowl Sunday-youth took up a collection for Food Pantry.
March 1	Service of First Communion
March 15	Super Sunday Family Skate Day
March 29	Kids sing (Palm Sunday)
April 4	Help prepare and set up for Easter Breakfast
April 5	Easter Sunday Kids and families assist with cooking and serving No Sunday School
April 24-25	30 Hour Famine Youth Learning and Retreat with Lena UMC
April 26	Youth Led Worship for Youth Sunday
May 10	Mother's Day Kids sing
May 17	Sunday School Teacher Recognition
May 24	Graduate Recognition
June 8	SS Planning Meeting
June 10	Wild Wednesday Overnight
July 11	Canoe Trip
July 15	Wild Wednesday for children K-8 th grade Fishing and Hiking
July 20	VBS Volunteer Training
July 26-30	Vacation Bible School
July 30	VBS Swim Party
August 2	VBS Children and Adult Sing for Outdoor Service at Dodd's Park
August 5	Wild Wednesday Mini Golf and Movies

August 7 – August 15	Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation
August 16	Mission Sunday & Blessing of Backpacks
August 23	Rally Sunday/Teacher Meeting
September 11 & 12	Fall Festival Parade & Hospitality
September 16	Confirmation Kick-Off with Parents & Youth
September 20	Bible Sunday for third graders and older
September 27	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday: Kids served alongside adults
September	Youth sponsored a canned food drive as a rally day kickoff
October 7	Confirmation Youth package and deliver food to Food Pantry
October 9 –10	Junior High Night Owls Retreat at LOMC
October 11	Kids sing for Worship/Service Project during SS (Began paper ornaments)
October 18–December 13	Practice music for Children's Program
November	Teacher Meeting
November 15	Safe Child Training
December 6	Service Day (Deliver ornaments to Lena Living Center)
December 13	Caroling
December 16	Confirmation/Youth Christmas Party
December 19	Program Practice
December 20	Christmas Program during Worship

Adult Education Opportunities:

Mission Trip (spring and summer)
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study (winter)
 Sunday Morning Bible Study Giving in Gratitude (fall)
 Sunday Morning Bible Study (summer)
 Midweek Lenten Worship Services with Stories of Faith (Lent)
 Men's Group on Saturday nights (Service, meals, fellowship, and Bible Study)
 Hannah Circle Bible Study through WELCA (Service, fellowship, and Bible Study)
 Faith Circle Bible Study at the Lena Living Center through WELCA (Fellowship & Bible Study)

Learning/Youth Committee Members:

Chairperson- Marybeth Brinker, Members: Kristy Patterson, Beth Martin, Michelle Andrews, Troy Keene, Cara Schriener, Pastor Miranda

Fall 2015 Sunday School Staff:

Sunday School Superintendents: Cara Schriener and Kristy Patterson
 Pre-School/Kindergarten— Sheila Keene, Angie Brinker, Kelly Geiseman
 1st – 6th Grade—Cara Schriener, Kristy Patterson, Billie Jo Runkle
 Music: Tena Rackow, Sue Diddens, Pastor Miranda, Taylor B, Krista K, Kayla R

Additional 2015 Ministry Leaders:

Christmas Program: Kristy Patterson and Cara Schriener
 Vacation Bible School: Billie Jo Runkle and Angie Brinker
 Easter Breakfast: Beth Martin & Angie Brinker
 Super Sunday Family Skate Day: Kelly Geiseman
 Confirmation Ministry: Pastor Miranda, Taylor Bastian, and Jesse Klosterboer
 Wild Wednesdays: Pastor Miranda, Cindy Doubler, Jesse Klosterboer, Marybeth Brinker, Taylor Bastian, and Troy Doubler
 After School Program: Karen Niemeier, Pastor Miranda, and Troy Doubler

2015 Sunday school offering went towards the Lena Area Food Pantry and God's Global Barnyard, which is a part of ELCA World Hunger. Many families in need were able to benefit from the children's offerings given to God out of what God had first given them!

Respectfully Submitted,
Marybeth Brinker
Pastor Miranda

Good Shepherd Youth Ministry Checking Account 2015 01/01/2015 through 12/31/2015

Balance 12/31/2014: \$ 1,899.26

INCOME

2/12	“Souper” Bowl for Caring Offering	131.00
4/5	Easter Breakfast Offering	465.00

TOTAL INFLOWS

596.00

EXPENSES

2/12	ELCA World Disaster Relief	78.00
2/12	Le-Win Food Pantry	53.00
3/30	Coach's Easter Breakfast Supplies	180.01
8/21	Rally Day	126.59
10/7	Pastor Miranda reimburse for Ewalu Retreat	375.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS

812.60

TOTAL Checking Youth Ministry 12/31/15 Balance: \$1,682.66

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee would like to thank all the families who remembered Good Shepherd Church this past year with a memorial gift in memory of a loved one. We are currently working with the Church Council to compile a new Memorial List to help with suggestions of possible use of memorial gifts. This list will be coming out some time in February. If you would like to see this list, contact the Memorial Committee, Pastor, or the Church Office. Thank you again for thinking of Good Shepherd at such a difficult time for your families.

Service: Barnabas/Health and Wellness Committee

Service: Barnabas / Health and Wellness Report, 2015

Constitution for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. C.13.06E03 Service

This committee shall:

1. Inspire our congregation to live by faith that is active in love.
2. Motivate congregants to support, equip, and encourage church members to visit those who are sick, infirm, and imprisoned.
3. Advocate that we all minister to the poor and distressed so that we may serve with Christian charity in all institutions and structures of society.
4. Advance and foster individual and corporate justice, seek to overcome oppression, help to alleviate suffering, and care for the earth.
5. Encourage the congregation's cooperation with the synod and the church wide-agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, other Christian churches, and various groups in society.
6. Promote a strengthened and stimulated call to service.

Members: Darlene Aurand, Nick Baker (co-chair), Suzie Gordon, Ellen Kyles, Mary Lloyd (co-chair), and Karen Niemeier.

The Service committee had its annual meeting in 2014. Our mission is directed but is not limited to the following groups and initiative: Friendship Club, Piece Core Quilters, Parkinson Support Group, Food Pantry Volunteers, Rides to Church, Various activities at the Lena Living Center, Prayer Chain, Poetry, Visiting the sick and shut-ins, sending cards, educational tutoring at the Afterschool program, Mission Trip and Lena Area Church Cooperative. Lena Area Church Cooperative projects, including Thanksgiving Baskets, Cookies for Operation Good Fellow, and Angel Tree.

On behalf of our fine committee, I extend heartfelt appreciation to all its members for their faithful service and to the congregation for its generous stewardship. We have much to celebrate and be thankful for. Good Shepherd is a family that shows its faith and love in action!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lloyd, co-chair

Stewardship Committee

Committee: No Chair, Shirley Fox, Jon Hudik, Marion Fahr, and Cora Hudik

Stewardship/ discipleship is how we live in the context of God's grace each moment of each day.

The team started the three year stewardship with themes of Grace in 2014, Gratitude in 2015 and in 2016 it is Generosity

As part of each year there is the Commitment Sunday as the congregation shares an expression of gratitude for God's Blessings.

This year the team chose to have the Gratitude Tree. Thanks to all who participated.

Faith Talks by members of the congregation were heartfelt and inspiring.

Time and Ability Commitment by members is another way of serving as stewards and disciples of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

The Stewardship Team is preparing for the 2016 theme of Generosity.

Thanks for all the support, members of Good Shepherd showed through ministry to members and the community alike as they shared gratitude.

Finance Committee

As another year comes to a close I would like to thank the congregation for their generous support. I also would encourage anyone making estate plans to check with new options added to our endowment policy. Thank you again.

Finance Chair
Wayne A Kurth

Property Committee

Thank You to all of the members of the property committee for your good and faithful service this year with many nights of meetings and work nights. I hope and pray we have a very fruitful and productive year this year, as the committee has some exciting projects up for consideration.

Projects for 2015 included:

- ✓ Boiler Cleaning/Tune-Up
- ✓ Replacement of several electrical outlets and switches around the church
- ✓ Installation and removal of air conditioners and storm windows
- ✓ An incredible leaf clean up this fall and window cleanings
- ✓ Repair to railing in front

We will now hopefully be starting a Capital Campaign in the near Future! For the repairs and window updates that are needed. Thank You, for your support to keep God's House inviting, safe and efficient. I look forward to working with the Capital Campaign Committee.

We want your input. Please let me know, in writing if possible, if there are any concerns that the property committee needs to be aware of.

Thank you for letting me serve as your property committee chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Brinker

Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Committee: Marybeth Brinker - Chairperson, Mike Geiseman and Shirley Fox

Mission Statement

The Committee, with the help of God, shall:

1. Offer the members of our congregation the opportunity to apply for and to receive Scholarship funds.
2. Review applications and award scholarships made possible by a memorial gift from the Cora Diestelmeier Estate and a portion of the sale of the Good Shepherd parsonage.
3. Provide criteria of eligibility and other pertinent information on a cover letter attached to each application.

The criteria for eligibility are as follows:

1. Participating member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.
2. Graduating senior presently enrolled in college, or a returning college student.
3. Full time student with a minimum of 12 credit hours.
4. Student entering an Associate or Bachelor degree program.
5. Thorough completion and timely return of application.
6. Adult student returning for courses toward certification, associates or bachelor degree.

Recipients may not reapply for additional scholarships.

Amount of scholarship is not to exceed \$750, and may be less than this amount as demand requires. Also offered is a \$200 award for adults returning for class work.

No Good Shepherd scholarships were awarded in 2015. No youth or adults applied.

Since 1997, sixty-seven scholarships have been awarded. Applications for 2016 scholarships will be available April 1, 2016 at the church office. They must be returned to the church office by April 30, 2016.

Thank you for your interest and support of this program.

Respectfully submitted,
Marybeth Brinker
Chairperson

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

As Women of the ELCA, we strive to fulfill our calling to discipleship by using our time, talents, and treasure, in actively taking part and supporting the many ministries of our church and community. We have two Circle Groups: Faith Circle meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm at the Lena Living Center. Hannah Circle meets the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 am (except in July & August). The main emphasis of circle meetings is fellowship and sharing the Word and Love of God through Bible Study. All women of the church and guests are welcome at all of our activities.

The Piece Corps Quilt Group:

This past year Piece Corps made over 575 quilts for distribution here in our community and by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) overseas. 15 quilts were taken to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation by the Mission Trip Team. We are thankful for all our volunteers and the many donations of fabric, batting, thread and money. They welcome all volunteers and supplies. Piece Corps meet every Wednesday morning, from 8:00 am to 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

We also helped support the following, both financially and by volunteering our time and talents and taking part in their activities.

Northern IL Synodical Women's Organization

Women of the ELCA - Thankofferings

Church Heating Bill

Lena After-school Program "The Hangout"

NIU - Grace Place Campus Ministry, DeKalb

Mady's Pantry/Ronald McDonald House, Madison

Lutheran World Relief

Lena Food Pantry

Le/Win Ministerial Association - Thanksgiving Program

Lena Area Church Cooperative - Angel Tree Program

We hosted one of the Lena Community Lenten Soup/Sandwich Lunches and Service.

Lena Living Center - Hosted December Birthday Party with a program, gifts and treats.

Funeral lunches - Thank you to all that have organized the lunches, brought food and helped to serve.

We have hosted our Mother/Daughter Sister/Friends Spring Supper for the women of our church, and have also participated in the NISWO Synod Convention, Retreats, and NW Conference functions.

Officers for 2015:

President: Rene' Johnson

Vice President: Ellen Kyles

Secretary: Joyce Tessendorf

Treasurer: Sheila Keene

Respectfully submitted by Rene' Johnson

Women of the ELCA & PIECE CORPS Treasurer Report 2015
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INCOME:

Regular Monthly Offerings	226.00
Spring Banquet	151.00
Lenten Lunch	125.00
Thank Offerings	125.13
Funerals	720.00
Fellowship Offerings	176.25
Piece Corp Gift	10.00
	1533.38

EXPENDITURES:

Kitchen Supplies	217.96
Spring Banquet	52.27
Offering to NIS WELCA	130.00
NIS WELCA Convention	135.00
NIS WELCA Thank Offering	125.00
Lena Living Center Birthday Party Gifts	33.35
Grace Place Donation	50.00
Mady's Pantry Donation	50.00
Lena Hangout After School Program Donation	200.00
Good Shepherd Heating Donation	200.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	105.82
Piece Corp Expenses	70.00
	1369.40

Balance on Hand 1/1/2015	629.57
2015 Income	+ 1533.38
	2162.95
2015 Expenditures	- 1369.40
	793.55
Balance on Hand 12/31/2015	795.42
Piece Corp Balance	- 326.05
WELCA Balance	469.37

2015 Donated Supplies Received Valued at Approximately \$205

The Friendship Club

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Friendship Club held its first meeting on October 21, 1959 with fourteen people present. It was organized through the approval of the church council of Amity Lutheran Church and with assistance of Lutheran Social Services and Pastor Armin Weng.

The club is non-denominational and invites all senior men and women for a potluck program on the second Thursday of each month. A free-will offering is taken at each meeting to defray expenses.

Audit Committee

Treasurer's records for 20134 were examined. Supporting information for deposits and expenditures were available for inspection and found to be in order. The audit committee is a resource to help in maintaining accurate financial records for Good Shepherd.

Respectfully submitted by the Audit Committee

Mutual Ministry

The purpose of the Mutual Ministry team is listening on behalf of the congregation as well listening to Pastor so that as a group we move forward together. Meetings are held every few months. Current members are Leland Wenzel, Sue Kraft, Jean Engel, Gene Hesselbacher, Miranda Klosterboer, Sheila Keene and Tena Rackow and. Respectfully submitted by Sheila Keene, Chairperson

Trust Fund Board

The Trust Fund Board is responsible for overseeing the Good Shepherd Building Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund is administered by Citizen's State Bank of Lena.

The Trust Board consists of the following members:

Jay Andrews, Chairperson (term expires January 2016)

Bill Engel (term expires January 2018)

Lynn Lyvers, Recording Secretary (term expires January 2016)

Ellen Kyles (term expires January 2017)

Donna Gullickson (term expires January 2018)

Portfolio value was \$797,089.09 on 12/31/2014

Portfolio value was \$844,109.21 on 12/31/2015

Portfolio value increase of \$47020.12

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Andrews

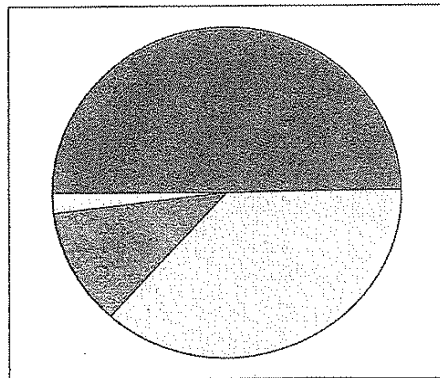
Asset Valuation – Summary

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Good Shepherd Building Trust

ACCOUNT 6210031 AS OF 12/31/2015

Asset Allocation as of 12/31/2015



Market Value Reconciliation

Market Value Reconciliation	
Portfolio Value on 09/30/2015	825,881.01
Additions	0.00
Withdrawals	0.00
Realized Gains since Market Value of 09/30/2015	14,581.81
Unrealized Gains since Market Value of 09/30/2015	860.16
Dividends Received	3,055.19
Interest Received	408.16
Other Income Received	0.00
Management Fees	-677.12
Portfolio Value on 12/31/2015	844,109.21

Asset Class	Market Value	Tax Cost	Est. Annual Income	Current Yield
Equities	419,554.97	361,959.78	5,717.91	1.36
Miscellaneous	312,886.08	7,548.00	0.00	0.00
Cash & Equivalents	96,041.51	96,041.51	1,434.42	1.48
Fixed Income	15,626.65	17,845.33	1,063.73	6.81
Total	844,109.21	483,394.62	8,216.06	0.97

Treasurer's Report 2015

GOOD SHEPHERD

Income

Loose Offering Total	\$3,794.64
Regular Weekly Offering Total	\$114,136.13
Seasonal Offerings Total	\$2,781.00
Non Budget Total	\$10,138.27
Non Operating Total	\$3,990.61
Bldg/Maint & Improv Total	\$2,032.00
Other Operating Receipts Total	<u>\$24,397.17</u>
Income Total	\$161,269.82

Expense

Mission Support Total	\$6,796.34
Administration Total	\$15,369.57
Christian Education Total	\$2,394.29
Evangelism Total	\$2,281.95
Pastoral Ministry Total	\$78,709.77
Property Total	\$17,287.08
Worship & Music Total	\$5,350.64
Bldg/Maint/Improv Total	\$3,350.73
Non Budget Total	\$9,746.39
Non Operating Total	<u>\$4,043.52</u>
Expense Total	\$145,330.28

Accounts: Citizens Bank

Current	-\$100.09
Mission Support	\$0.00
Bldg/Maint/Improv	\$1,539.56
Non-Budget	\$1,780.65
Non-Operating	<u>\$1,889.37</u>
Ending Balance	\$5,109.49

Accounts: Community Bank

Anniversary Fund	\$0.00
BMI Fund	\$6,674.88
Good Samaritan Fund	\$2,444.27
Interest Fund	\$1,148.60
Memorial Fund	\$7,695.21
Revolving Cash Fund	\$8,000.00
Bequest Fund	<u>\$60,000.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$85,962.96

Accounts: SF Trust-Citizens

SF Trust BMI Int	\$4,460.07
SF Trust Scholarship Int	\$7,261.96
SF Trust Bequest Int	\$2,611.49
SF Trust Endowment Int	<u>\$12,030.12</u>
Ending Balance	\$26,363.64

SPECIAL FUNDS

Income

Bequest Rec.Total	\$4,228.56
BMI Rec.Total	\$2,129.49
Scholarship Rec.Total	\$1,072.27
Endowment Rec Total	\$14,280.12
Interest Fund Rec.Total	\$369.46
Memorial Fund Rec.Total	<u>\$3,030.25</u>
Income Total	\$25,110.15

Expense

Bequest Int. Expend. Total	\$2,500.00
Scholarship Expend. Total	\$3,000.00
BMI Expend. Total	\$0.00
Endowment Expend. Total	\$2,250.00
Memorial Fund Expend. Total	<u>\$2,341.40</u>
Expense Total	\$10,091.40

SF Trust Balance 12/31/2015 \$311,439.93

SF Trust Balance 12/31/2015 \$337,647.23

Good Shepherd Budget 2016

	Budget Jan 2015 Dec 2015	Actual Jan 2015 Dec 2015	Budget Jan 2016 Dec 2016
Income			
Loose Offering			
Loose Offering	\$3,500.00	\$3,713.10	\$3,550.00
Sunday School	<u>\$50.00</u>	<u>\$81.54</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Loose Offering Total	\$3,550.00	\$3,794.64	\$3,550.00
Regular Weekly Offering			
Weekly Offering	\$90,000.00	\$84,973.13	\$88,500.00
Mission Support Only	\$1,000.00	\$1,010.00	\$1,000.00
Current Only	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$28,153.00</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>
Regular Weekly Offering Total	\$116,000.00	\$114,136.13	\$117,500.00
Seasonal Offerings			
Initial	\$250.00	\$197.00	\$250.00
Ash Wednesday	\$150.00	\$97.00	\$150.00
Christmas	\$2,100.00	\$1,321.00	\$1,900.00
Easter	\$700.00	\$665.00	\$700.00
Good Friday	\$150.00	\$15.00	\$100.00
Holy Thursday	\$150.00	\$125.00	\$150.00
Lenten	<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>\$361.00</u>	<u>\$350.00</u>
Seasonal Offerings Total	\$3,750.00	\$2,781.00	\$3,600.00
Bldg/Maint & Improv			
Bldg/Maint & Improv Offering	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,032.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Bldg/Maint & Improv Total	\$2,000.00	\$2,032.00	\$2,000.00
Other Operating Receipts			
Other Misc. Operating Receipts	\$2,000.00	\$2,351.73	\$2,350.00
OthOp from Special Funds	\$10,736.00	\$21,710.44	\$8,552.00
OthOp/Use of Building	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$335.00</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
Other Operating Receipts Total	\$13,136.00	\$24,397.17	\$11,302.00
Income Total	\$138,436.00	\$147,140.94	\$137,952.00
Expense			
Mission Support			
Mission Support	<u>\$6,823.00</u>	<u>\$6,796.34</u>	<u>\$6,739.00</u>
Mission Support Total	\$6,823.00	\$6,796.34	\$6,739.00
Administration			
Delegate Expense	\$400.00	\$357.00	\$600.00
Fin Sec-Gross Wage	\$840.00	\$839.16	\$840.00
Par Sec-Gross Wage	\$8,880.00	\$7,483.32	\$8,880.00

Good Shepherd Budget 2016

Treasurer-Gross Wage	\$1,680.00	\$1,680.00	\$1,680.00
Soc/Sec Tax Ch Share	\$1,146.00	\$1,041.57	\$1,146.00
Soc/Sec Tax Ch Share Medicare	\$268.00	\$243.60	\$268.00
Office Supplies	\$1,400.00	\$801.39	\$1,000.00
Offering Envelopes	\$250.00	\$251.12	\$250.00
Postage	\$1,200.00	\$1,061.78	\$1,200.00
Misc Administrative	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Copier Maintenance	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,560.63</u>	<u>\$1,600.00</u>
Administration Total	\$17,664.00	\$15,369.57	\$17,514.00
Christian Education			
Christian Education	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$2,394.29</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
Christian Education Total	\$2,500.00	\$2,394.29	\$2,500.00
Evangelism			
Devotional Materials	\$300.00	\$255.84	\$300.00
Evangelism Materials	\$150.00	\$13.94	\$150.00
Stewardship Materials	\$100.00	\$98.00	\$100.00
Website/Publicity	<u>\$1,820.00</u>	<u>\$1,914.17</u>	<u>\$1,820.00</u>
Evangelism Total	\$2,370.00	\$2,281.95	\$2,370.00
Pastoral Ministry			
Pastor Salary/Gross Wage	\$38,325.00	\$40,286.27	\$38,325.00
Pastor-FICA	\$3,850.00	\$4,020.43	\$3,850.00
Pastor-Pension/Benefit (Synod)	\$19,178.00	\$17,140.16	\$19,178.00
Pastor-Housing/Utilities	\$12,000.00	\$12,266.67	\$12,000.00
Pastor-Prof/Mileage/Cont Ed	<u>\$5,500.00</u>	<u>\$4,996.24</u>	<u>\$5,500.00</u>
Pastoral Ministry Total	\$78,853.00	\$78,709.77	\$78,853.00
Property			
Church Electric	\$2,400.00	\$2,366.17	\$2,400.00
Church Heat/Gas	\$8,000.00	\$4,520.51	\$7,000.00
Church Telephone/Internet	\$1,000.00	\$907.33	\$1,000.00
Church Water/Sewer/Trash	\$500.00	\$494.70	\$500.00
Church Lawn/Snow	\$800.00	\$600.00	\$800.00
Janitorial-Gross Wage	\$3,200.00	\$2,625.00	\$3,200.00
Janitorial Supplies	\$400.00	\$390.37	\$450.00
Property Insurance	<u>\$5,200.00</u>	<u>\$5,383.00</u>	<u>\$5,600.00</u>
Property Total	\$21,500.00	\$17,287.08	\$20,950.00
Worship & Music			
Choir/Music/Supplies	\$300.00	\$221.70	\$300.00
Director-Gross Wage	\$760.00	\$722.00	\$760.00
Organist/Pianist-Gross Wages	\$2,356.00	\$2,128.00	\$2,356.00
Pianist/Choir Acc-Gross Wages	\$760.00	\$722.00	\$760.00
PianoOrg/Chime/Tuning & Repair	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Supply Pastors	\$800.00	\$346.58	\$800.00

Good Shepherd Budget 2016

Worship Supplies	\$500.00	\$691.36	\$800.00
License Fees	<u>\$650.00</u>	<u>\$519.00</u>	<u>\$650.00</u>
Worship & Music Total	\$6,726.00	\$5,350.64	\$7,026.00
Bldg/Maint/Improv			
BMI-Church	\$750.00	\$740.27	\$750.00
BMI-Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$2,421.39	\$1,000.00
BMI/No ID	<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>\$189.07</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
Bldg/Maint/Improv Total	\$2,000.00	\$3,350.73	\$2,000.00
Expense Total	\$138,436.00	\$131,540.37	\$137,952.00
Net Income	0.00	\$15,600.57	0.00

Annual Giving Report 2015

After School Program	GSLC/LMC Coop	\$1,152.94
ELCA Disaster Relief		\$1,203.00
ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission		\$1,000.00
ELCA Global Missionary Sponsorship	Stubbs Family	\$1,500.00
ELCA Good Gifts	God's Global Barnyard	\$40.00
ELCA Vision for Mission		\$1,000.00
ELCA World Hunger Appeal		\$3,340.00
Grace Place Campus Ministry		\$260.00
Lena Area Church Cooperative		\$450.00
Lena Food Pantry		\$1,350.00
Luthern Outdoor Ministry Center		\$1,500.00
Luthern Social Services of Illinois		\$1,000.00
Malaria Campaign		\$25.00
Pine Ridge Retreat Center		\$175.45
Mission Support		\$7,296.34
South Dakota Mission Trip	Mission Trip/Service Work	<u>\$3,040.02</u>
Total Giving for 2015		\$24,332.75
Total Giving for 2014		\$24,905.43
Total Decrease from 2014		(\$572.68)