

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

PHOTO BY  
FRANKLIN ISSHIDA



## A message from the presiding bishop



PHOTO BY MICHAEL WATSON

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is a church with a particular way of understanding the Jesus story. It is not a movement from unbridled freedom to submission, but a story of God redeeming us from sin, death and the devil. This redemption sets us free from our bondage to sin so that, liberated and alive, we may serve God by serving our neighbor. This service is not about our effort or goodness or hard work. It is about God's gracious will to be merciful.

As you review the work you have done this past year and make decisions for the year ahead, remember that we who were dead to sin have now been made alive to who we are: God's people. We engage in dialogue, discernment and action declaring God's work and bringing a clear voice to the public square. We respond to God's deep abiding love by making faithful choices about how to use the generous gifts of time, talent and financial resources entrusted to us.

Whenever you and your leaders engage in planning and decision-making, we are challenged to discern and model a different story from the one culture tells us. It is this much-needed story of love and faithfulness, forgiveness and joy, humility and resolve that shapes the ELCA's role in your community and the world.

Serving together in Christ's name,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Annual congregational meeting opening liturgy

### LITANY

The love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Brothers and sisters, God calls each of us by name.

**We are a church that belongs to Christ.**

Recognizing the diversity among us, we are grounded in God's love and forgiveness to live and serve here and now.

**We are a church whose unity is in Christ.**

Young and old together, our life in Christ compels and empowers us to be open and accessible within any community, within any context.

**We are a church that believes Jesus is God's "YES" to us.**

Recognizing each of us has unique gifts and a unique story, we are part of a larger body and a larger story. Together, we achieve things we could not do alone.

**We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.**

Skilled and unskilled, we do God's work together, restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm.

**We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.**

Recognizing the differences of perspectives, personalities and practice, we commit to being a force for connecting people, faiths and organizations. We respect the perspectives and strengths of others and share a common vision to uphold human dignity.

**We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder.**

Outspoken and soft-spoken, we continually strive for a deeper understanding of what the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ means in the world while being in the thick of life.

**We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life.**

Recognizing our roots are in Scripture, tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as the vibrant communities and rich history of our congregation, we are a church guided by the Holy Spirit that is both resilient and always being reformed.

**We are a church that is deeply rooted in the gospel – and always being made new.**

Let us pray: As we live into the church that we proclaim to be, fill us with hope as we engage in the work of serving you. Guide us that we may honor our missional heritage while opening our eyes to new ways of serving others. Steer our thoughts and words away from distraction and toward your will. In our deliberations keep us close to you and fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may serve you in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

# COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

### Table of Contents

Agenda	2
2015 Annual Meeting Minutes	3
Staff and Officers	6
Parish Report	7
Committee Roster	8
Statistics	10
Resolutions	11
Staff Reports	12
President's Report	20
Committee Reports	21
Bazaar	31
Trust Fund Report	34
St. Paul Area Synod—Bishop Lull's Letter	36
Como Park Living at Home Block Nurse Report	38
Treasurer's Report	Green Insert

**Como Park Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting Agenda  
Sunday, January 31, 2016**

- A. Call to order: Jonathan Lund, Council President
- B. Opening Devotions: Pastor Marty
- C. Approval of Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2015
- D. Approval of Agenda
- E. Nominating Committee Report
  - 1. Election of Council Members
  - 2. Conference and Synod Assembly Delegates & Representatives
  - 3. Nominating Committee
  - 4. Trust Fund Committee Election
- F. Election of Nominating Committee
- G. Financial Report: Paul Winghart, David Laden
- H. Trust Fund Report: Mary Loschy
- I. Budget Report: Paul Winghart, David Laden
- J. Staff and Committee Reports
- K. New Business
- L. Continuing Resolutions: Add Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
Partners
- M. Installation of Officers & Council
- N. Adjournment

**Como Park Lutheran Church  
Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, January 25, 2015**

Council President, Paula Latz, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

The meeting opened with devotions by Pastor Martin Ericson.

Approval of the agenda. MSA

Approval of the minutes of 2014 Congregational Annual Meeting. MSA

**Nominating Committee Report**

Election of Council members:

President: Jonathan Lund (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Vice president: Curt Loschy (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Secretary: Jonathan Nye (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Treasurer: Paul Winghart (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Kevin Johnson (2 year term – Property)  
Dick Young (2 year term – Social Mission)  
Melissa Popp-Hatch (filling 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2 year term –CYF)  
vacant (2 year term – Education)

Conference and Synod Assembly delegates:

The need for delegates was announced. Interested congregants can contact Jonathan Lund.

MSA to close nominations. Motion to approve the slate by acclamation MSA.

**Trust Fund Committee Election**

John Grafstrom (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Christine Tuft (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Paul McCreight (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Motion to approve the slate by acclamation, MSA.

**Election of the Nominating Committee**

Don Kelsey  
Ken Purdham  
Jake Popp  
Amy Hanson

Motion to approve the slate by acclamation, MSA.

## Financial Report

John Grafstrom presented the 2014 Treasurer's report. The report was approved as read. MSA

John noted the following:

- 1) A special gift of \$19,000 was received from an anonymous donor and designated for the general budget.
- 2) The mini=appeals brought in \$23, 77.20 of the \$30,000 budgeted.
- 3) Spending in all categories was above the budgeted amount. This is especially evident in the General and Administrative Expenses category due to an increase in the cost of insurance and several unanticipated maintenance expenses.

## Trust Fund Report

The committee recommends to the congregation the trust fund distribution of \$45,400, representing 34.212% of the trust fund balance as of September 30, 2014. MSA with two amendments:

- 1) The distribution to Luther Seminar is for a "General Scholarship", not a "General Sponsorship."
- 2) The allocation of the Luther Seminary internship support was \$750 to Katy Johnson and \$1,600 to Joel Nye.

A question regarding the use of Trust Fund monies by the congregation was answered by reference to the 2014 annual meeting vote on the issue.

## Budget Report

Jonathan Lund (chair of the Budget committee) introduced David Laden who presented the 2014 budget.

### Operating Revenue:

General Fund	\$ 497,550
Shine Mission Appeal	\$ 53,520
Gredvig Legacy Fund	\$ 6,585

### Operating Expenses:

	General Fund	Shine Mission Appeal	Gredvig Legacy Fund
Benevolence	\$ 38,300	0	0
Programmatic	\$ 41,555	\$13,700	\$5,100
Personnel	\$311,955	\$34,375	\$1,485
General/Admin.	\$105,745	\$ 4,445	0
TOTAL	\$497,550	\$52,520	\$6,585

David noted the following:

- 1) The revenue stream includes transfers from a variety of funds, including a carryover of 17,909.36 from 2014 and \$14,500.00 from the Trust Fund as approved as part of the Trust Fund distributions.
- 2) There are four mini-appeals planned for the year, the adjusted amount is due to last year's result.
- 3) There is a 2% increase for staff salaries and an increase in pension and benefits.
- 4) Spending plans have been prepared for the Shine Mission Appeal and Gredvig funds as recorded in the Budget Notes.

MSA, along with an acknowledgement of David Laden's work on the budget.

### **Staff and Committee Reports**

All reports are printed in the Annual Report. MSA

### **New Business**

#### **Constitutional and bylaws review for revisions**

MSA with additional corrections are listed on a separate sheet.

#### **Continuing Resolutions**

MSA, with corrections to the list of "those leaving their terms on Church Council" – should read "Jim DeLeo, Janice Kragness, Paula Latz, Jonathan Lund, Jonathan Nye, and David Osterhouse."

#### **Installation of Officers and Council**

#### **Other business**

As discussed at the Adult Forum on the Constitution, the Council will direct the Personnel Committee to review and update the Personnel Manual.

The closing prayer was led by Pastoral Intern Dan Schewe.

Adjournment was at 10:24 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Kragness

# COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor .....	Martin Ericson
Pastoral Intern .....	Lue Moua
Director of Music Ministry .....	Thomas Ferry
Director of Children, Youth & Family .....	Alex Benson
Visitation Coordinator .....	Amy Hanson
Bulletins & Volunteer & Evangelism Coordinator .....	Jonathan Nye
Administrative Assistant .....	Carole Joncas
Sunday School Superintendent .....	Jane Nelson
Kitchen Coordinator .....	Sue Brogger
Wedding Coordinator .....	Sue Brogger
Comptroller .....	David Laden
Property Manager .....	Mark Gagné
Sunday Custodian .....	Brian Molde
Joyful Ringers Director .....	Thomas Ferry
Children's Choir Director .....	Jane Nelson
Notes From Heaven Choir Director .....	Linda Johnson
Nursery Director .....	Kathryn Willprecht
Wednesday Evening Meals .....	Sue Brogger

## CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President, Jonathan Lund  
Vice President, Curt Loschy  
Treasurer, Paul Winghart  
Secretary, Jonathan Nye

## CHURCH COUNCIL

(Membership and terms of office)

### Term Expires January 2016

Dan Garvin  
Melissa Hatch-Popp  
Carol Kelsey  
Sara Peper

### Term Expires January 2017

Kevin Johnson



# PARISH REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 2015

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
<b>Membership as of January 1, 2015</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>457</b>

## Members received during 2015:

By Baptism: Children (15 yrs. and younger)	9	0
By Baptism: Adults (16 yrs. and older)	0	0
By Affirmation of Faith	12	9
By Transfer from ELCA Congregation	2	2
From other Lutheran Congregations	2	2
From other denominations	5	2
<b>Total members received during 2015</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Baptized members confirmed during 2015</b>	<u><b>6</b></u>	<u><b>0</b></u>
	<b>634</b>	<b>476</b>

## Members removed during 2015:

By Death	13	13
By Inactivity	69	46
Removed by Request	20	15
Transfer	1	0
Unknown Address	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>
<b>Total membership Removed</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>81</b>

<b>Membership as of December 31, 2015</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>395</b>
---	------------	------------

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Average Weekly Attendance 2014:	197
Average Weekly Attendance 2015:	200

**MARRIAGES:** 0

**FUNERALS:** 16

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FALL 2015

Age 3—Grade 8	48
SS Staff	17

## NURSERY

Average Attendance	4
--------------------	---

## ADULT FORUM

Average Attendance	25
--------------------	----

# CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

## **SOCIAL MISSIONS**

Sue Brogger, Co-Chair  
Ruth Pechauer, Co-Chair  
Jim DeLeo, Council Rep  
Roy Muscatello  
Brad Peper  
Pastor Marty Ericson

## **WORSHIP**

Ken Purdham, Chair  
Dan Garvin, Council Rep  
Tom Ferry  
Cathy Gagné  
David Harris  
Val Negaard  
Sara Peper  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **SENIOR MINISTRY**

Carol Kelsey, Chair & Council Rep  
Joanne Cushman  
John Grafstrom  
Amy Hanson  
Elaine Ogren  
Louise Smith  
Elsie Trapp  
Janice Vance  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

Carol Kelsey, Council Rep  
Margo Chresand  
Shirley Connelly  
Ginger Fischer  
Paula Latz  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **YOUTH & FAMILY**

Doug Hagerman, Chair  
Mel Hatch-Popp, Council Rep  
Dan Duncan  
Mary Hagerman  
Alex Benson, CYF Minister  
Lue Moua, Pastoral Intern  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **FINANCE**

Paul Winghart, Chair & Council Rep  
David Laden  
Paula Latz  
Jonathan Lund  
Milan Rajacich  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **PROPERTY**

Kevin Johnson, Chair & Council Rep  
Mark Gagné  
Jim Johnson  
Brian Molde  
Bob Simon  
Karen Wennberg (God's Gardners)  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **EDUCATION**

Jane Nelson, Chair  
David Osterhouse, Council Rep  
Sadie Fischer  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Janice Kragness, Co-Chair  
Andrew Becker, Co-Chair  
Mark Bly  
John Grafstrom  
Al Hilgers  
David Laden  
Paula Latz  
Curt Loschy  
Jonathan Lund  
Paul Winghart  
Pastoral Intern Lue Moua  
Pastor Martin Ericson  
Tim Johnson, Kairos

## **ADULT EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Don Kelsey  
Vern Weckwerth  
Pastor Martin Ericson

# CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

## **TRUST FUND**

Mary Loschy, Chair  
John Grafstrom, Treasurer  
Paul McCreight  
Christine Tuft  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Jonathan Lund  
Curt Loschy  
Jonathan Nye  
Paul Winghart  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Jonathan Lund  
Curt Loschy  
Jonathan Nye  
Paul Winghart  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Jonathan Lund  
Curt Loschy  
Jonathan Nye  
Paul Winghart  
David Laden  
Paula Latz  
Milan Rajacich  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

John Grafstrom  
Roy Muscatello  
Milan Rajacich

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Dorothy Alshouse  
David Harris  
Jim Johnson  
Bruce Nelson  
Heather Quale  
Pastor Martin Ericson

## **PASTORAL INTERN COMMITTEE**

Ken Purdham, Chair  
Suzy Bergstrom  
Roy Muscatello  
David Osterhouse

## **CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY**

### **DELEGATES:**

Pastor Marty  
Pastoral Intern Lue Moua  
Jonathan Nye  
Carol Kelsey  
+ 2 more

# 2015 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

## BAPTISMS

Paisley Foster	05-03-15
Clark Fischer	06-14-15
Wyatt Whitney	06-28-15
Sam Schewe	08-21-15
Maxwell Pung	08-09-15
Hank Rupp	08-16-15
Nora Johnson	09-27-15
Lorelai McMorrow	10-11-15
Nora Lindall	11-29-15

## FUNERALS

Anne Husby Hanson	01-20-15
Mary Venne	01-27-15
Dorothy Melander	02-02-15
Francene Reiter	03-12-15
Betty Girod	04-25-15
Robert Ellingson	05-20-15
Irene Nichols	05-29-15
Leonard Johnson	06-29-15
Dorothy Reinarz	06-27-15
Marguerite Heldt	09-09-15
Betty Haugen	11-10-15
Esther Gredvig-Wolf	12-07-15
Stacey Hecht	12-09-15

## CONFIRMATION

Noa Carlson  
Ellen Ferry  
Emma Goff  
Will Johnson  
Noel Krum  
Jack Yozamp

## NON-MEMBER FUNERALS

George Hansler	04-26-15
Barbara Otto	06-20-15
Wendy Schultz	11-13-15

## NEW MEMBERS

James & Sheridan Anderson  
(Monica, Norah, Henry Malloy)  
Chad & Christina Fehn  
Jack & Laura Hamre  
David Ishida  
Luke & Maria Johnson  
(Maja, Carl, Nora)  
Shelly Britton & Ross Marker  
John & Kayla Todd  
(Brady, Brennan)

# The Continuing Resolutions of Como Park Lutheran Church

Be it resolved that:

1. The members of Como Park Lutheran Church give thanks to God for the many gifts of this community and all the blessings it has received and experienced this past year.
2. The members of Como Park Lutheran Church give thanks to its pastors, staff, lay leaders, those leaving their term on the Church Council (Dan Garvin, Melissa Hatch-Popp, Carol Kelsey, Sara Peper), the outgoing church staff (Dan Schewe, Mary Loschy, Lori Purdham) the outgoing committee members and all who labor for the mission of God within this place for all of the ministries in which we share.
3. That the members of Como Park Lutheran Church affirm their commitment to the mission of Como Park Lutheran Church as expressed in the mission statement: Como Park Lutheran Church, "Reaching Out in Christ to a Changing World" and to fulfill our vision statement to be "A Thriving Community of Renewal and Growth."
4. That the members of Como Park Lutheran Church affirm the partnership in ministry they share with the following bodies:
  - Chelsea Heights Elementary School
  - The ELCA World Hunger Appeal
  - The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA
  - Keystone Community Services
  - Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp
  - Luther Seminary
  - Lutheran Social Services of MN
  - Lyngblomsten Care Center
  - The Living-at-Home/Block Nurse Program
  - Our Partner Congregation in Itungi, Tanzania
  - Partner Congregation San Jose in Santa Amelia, Guatemala
  - Plymouth Christian Youth Center
  - The St. Paul Area Council of Churches
  - Wilderness Canoe Base
  - Lutheran Church of the Resurrection/Roseville



# SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

Happy Anniversary! This will be a recurring theme this year as we celebrate 90 years of ministry at Como Park Lutheran Church. Look for future news about a summer celebration worship service. And watch the monthly newsletters too for pieces from our past.

In 2015, the air conditioner for the sanctuary and fellowship hall gave out. People came to church anyway. In 2015, Adults and youth explored their faith together with the "I AM" Wednesday evening Bible study/Confirmation program. In 2015 we received our sixth Intern Pastor from Luther Seminary, Lue Moua, and former Intern Pastors: Amy Chalupnik, Mike Russert and Rufus Kudee all received calls to other congregations. In 2015 wine was served at a church social event, with Congregational Council consent. In 2015 we picked up a new social ministry partner: Falcon Heights UCC is now helping us bring weekend meals to children at Falcon Heights Elementary School. And in 2015 members committed more than a quarter of a million dollars to the Thrive! Mission Appeal for ongoing ministry and outreach over the next three years...and toward a new air conditioner, too. All of this doesn't begin to touch on the warmth, hospitality and welcome this congregation provides to visitors, or the many other opportunities for service and growth, worship and community building that you offer. Some of the other reports will flesh those things out farther.

Thank you, first of all, to all of those who have participated in worship, witness, learning, service, and support at Como Park Lutheran Church. And thank you to all who served on our Mission Appeal task force, as well as on our Church Council and Committees. Thank you, too, to all who serve so cheerfully and selflessly as paid staff. You are a true delight to work with. And Thank you to all who in life and faith bear witness to Christ in all the many places of our lives. You are truly a light to the world.

You'll notice a new emphasis this year on four core ministry areas as we talk about ministry in terms of Worshipping God, Growing in Faith, Serving Others, and Building Community. These ministry areas will begin to season our language about what we do: in property, staffing, finance, and new initiatives. You'll even find them shaping the navigational page on our new, more mobile-friendly website. If that page is not live by the Annual meeting, it will be shortly after.

What I'd like to mention today is change — not the almost century of change behind us, but the decade ahead of us as you who are Como Park Lutheran Church, begin to position yourselves for faith and ministry in the next century. What does it mean to be a vital, missional community of faith in a new day, when churches will need to be lean in structure and nimble in ministry? What will it take to create efficiencies and economies of scale that allow ministry to thrive in the next century? How will we empower families and individuals to live out their faith-lives outside of the church walls? How and where and when will we connect with one another to worship and serve God and community, to grow in faith and be the church together? We are together in these conversations already. The journey to become the Church in a new age will be — it already is — both challenging and exciting.

Between here and there however, we have some more immediate wants and needs. Will you help drive the Church bus on Sunday mornings? We'll gladly help you get the class B license required, if you'd be willing to help bring senior citizens and others to worship here on Sundays. It's a ministry we cherish and would hate to make less frequent. Talk to me

or Lowell Lundy or Tom Spivey to become a part of this ministry. Secondly, do you love to visit? We have homebound seniors and others in homes and apartments and nursing homes who would love more regular contact than just the pastors can provide. We're eager to train and equip people for a ministry of caring: in some cases a tolerance for coffee and cookies is required. Talk to me, Lue or Carol Kelsey if you're interested. We always need more voices in the choirs, more readers for the worship services, more individuals and families willing to usher, greet and serve coffee. Jonathan Nye, our Membership Engagement Coordinator is the go-to guy. Talk to him or call the church office and let Carole know. We're waiting to set you up for all of these roles. And do you love children or young adults? We have opportunities for people who do, in Sunday School, Confirmation, Children's, Youth and Family ministries. Talk to Alex, Lue, Me, Tom or Jane, or the person in the pew next to you. Almost anyone can help you connect with these ministries. Sign up. Bring a friend. Do you like to cook and or serve food? Are you willing to do a few dishes? Can you help with a church clean-up day once or twice a year? Talk to Sue and or Mark. And how do you find all these people whose names I've just mentioned? Call the church office, or look at the staff list on the back of the church bulletin, we're all waiting for your calls.

Did I say that participation matters? I'm glad you're here at CPLC. I'm glad my family and I are here too. Your participation in Worshipping God, Growing in Faith, Building Community, and Serving Others makes us who we are as a thriving community of faith. Your presence gives others courage and strength, comfort and cheer. Whether you are hands in the kitchen, a voice on the Church Council, a mentor in our Sunday School, or a C&E worshipper, we are grateful for your presence amongst us, and for the gifts and warmth you share.

Throughout this report you will find notices and updates on a large number of ministries. Let me close by expressing my appreciation to our current Intern Pastor Lue Moua, and to our last Intern Pastor Dan Schewe, to our current Youth Director Alex Benson and to our last Youth Director Anna Morris, to Lori Purdham for her ongoing help and leadership with our Children's Music, now as a volunteer, and to Jane Nelson for her ever evolving involvement with music and educational ministries here at CPLC, Tim Johnson, our consultant from Kairos and Associates for his role in strategic planning and fund raising, and last but not least, Jonathan Nye and Mary Loschy whom he followed as Publications Secretary and Membership Engagement Coordinator. All of these transitions in staffing and ministry continue the legacy of good and vital ministry that you as a congregation embody.

Thanks to all, for all.  
God's Peace and Blessings,  
And once again, Happy Anniversary!



Pastor Martin Ericson

# PASTORAL INTERN'S REPORT

Greetings Como Park Lutheran Church,

It has been a pleasure to serve Como Park Lutheran as Intern Pastor. I have appreciated the warm welcome by the whole congregation and my family and I would like to thank Como Park for your gracious invitation into your community. Your welcoming spirit makes our family feel like we have been with you for many years. I have learned a lot from Pastor Marty and Como Park Lutheran since my first day, and I look forward to more learning and sharing with all of you for the rest of my time at Como Park Lutheran

## Worship

Worship plays a big role in our lives as God's children and that is especially true for Como Park Lutheran. Every service, Pastor Marty, Tom, and I prepare and strive for a seamless and meaningful worship experience that invites congregation members to open their hearts to God's grace and presence. Since the start of my internship, I have enjoyed presiding, leading and preaching here at Como Park Lutheran. I've also enjoyed our monthly services at Eagle Crest and Rose Pointe. These services help get me out of the office to spend time with our seniors and also helps inform my future ministry. It means a lot to me that the services mean so much to the residents and also, getting to know them and seeing their smiles are priceless. Another aspect of worship here at Como Park Lutheran is the Como Evening Prayer services. I feel fortunate to be able to participate in the many facets of worship at Como Park Lutheran and all that I have learned.

## Visitation

I have had the privilege to meet and spend time with a number of our members in their homes because they are unable to attend worship at Como Park Lutheran. I enjoy giving them communion and praying for them and the conversations we share. It is a delight to hear their stories.

## Groups

It has been a pleasure to begin my week with Lutherans and Lattes every Tuesday morning at the Underground Music Cafe. It is a respectful and engaging conversation group in which we talk about current event topics and discern God's call for us during these events. Our topics have been mostly about the presidential candidates, marriage equality, the Syrian refugee crisis and Islamophobia. I am grateful for the wisdom of our Lutherans and Lattes' participants and look forward to more engaging conversations in the coming year.

Theology on Tap meets on the first Tuesday of every month at Ol' Mexico and it has been a joy to be in conversation with this group. Our conversations are centered around events and topics that relate to our lives in the present time and how we deal with the world around us. Using Christ as our example, we have not yet solved the world's problems but nevertheless, we respectfully engage and challenge each other.

The Men's Bible Study at Perkins meets every Thursday morning and I always have a great time when I come. Reading the scriptures for the coming week and conversing with the men in the group is truly a privilege. Most of the time, we stay on topic discussing the Bible verse and what it means within our lives as well as what to make of it. When we do get off topic, it has always been pleasant to learn from the experiences and wisdom gained from these men.

#### Children, Youth & Family

This year, Pastor Marty, Alex and I are being more intentional about our children, youth and family. We have seen limited participation within church activities and would like to know more about why. In the coming new year, the three of us will begin interviewing families with children in order that we may better understand the families and meet their needs.

#### Confirmation

Pastor Marty and I finished the "I AM" series based upon scriptures in the New Testament. The themes for the series are: I am God's, I am loved, I am a sinner, I am saved, I am called/I am sent, I am gathered, I am a steward/I am light, and I am a child of the resurrection. I enjoy teaching our children about God and I am always delighted when they ask questions about their faith.

For this coming year, our confirmation class will cover Martin Luther and Lutheranism. This is an opportunity for our confirmation kids to understand what makes Lutherans unique from others. Also, our confirmation classes have planned to help serve food at the Family Place, an organization that helps homeless families. Again, this is an opportunity for our children to not only learn about God but actually participate in God's work.

#### Vacation Bible School

I am currently working on VBS for the summer of 2016. This is something new and something that I have not done before but, I look forward to the challenge. We have planned VBS for July 25th through July 29th. I'm excited to make this upcoming VBS a fun and engaging experience for all the children involved.

#### Committees

I am fortunate to be involved in the different committees at Como Park Lutheran. These committees have informed me greatly of how a church operates and what needs to be done. These committees include the Executive Committee, the Worship Committee, the Social Missions Committee, and the Children, Youth and Family Committee. These committees play an important role in the function and growth of the congregation and is invaluable for me as I discern my call and ministry.

I feel fortunate and honored to be part of the community here at Como Park Lutheran. I have learned so much and look forward to learning and growing with you all.

Peace, Intern Pastor Lue Moua

# DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

*Oh, that I had a thousand voices to praise  
my God with thousand tongues!  
My hear, which in the Lord rejoices,  
would then proclaim in grateful songs  
To all, wherever O might be,  
what great things God has done form me!*

Johann Mentzer ELW833

Although we might not be a thousand voices at any one time, we have praised God, and petitioned God, and thanked God in song this year with a cumulative count of many thousands of voices. For everyone who has lifted their voice in song, I give thanks.

My thanks for all the dedication and hard work of Joyful Ringers, the adult bells choir, and CPLChoir who provide musical leadership in worship. New members are always welcome. If you like to sing, or can count to four you too could be part of one of these wonderful groups.

The children's music program provided many opportunities for learning and leadership in the past year. Notes From Heaven, the youth bell choir, rehearsed on Wednesday evenings during the 5pm hour and rang once a month in worship. Many thanks to Linda Johnson for leading this group. Vocal music for our youngest children met as part of Sunday School with Jane Nelson, leading and Lori Purdham accompanying. Thanks to both for their work with the children.

The Worship Team provided leadership at one service each month. It has been a year of changes for the Worship Team. We sadly said goodbye to Anna Morris as she took a new job, but wish her success in her future ministries. She was a wonderful vocal and guitar leader in the worship team, as well as Youth Director. New members of the Worship Team stepped into roles that Anna had filled. ELW setting 6, a jazz/gospel liturgy became the framework for the worship team service. The bulletin format changed to 8 ½ by 11" to accommodate printing all music. We learned new ways to use the new sound system to more effectively support both the worship team and the congregation. The worship team service continues to be uniquely CPLC: designed for congregational involvement, with a wide variety of music, but with less formal language than our other services.



Outreach to the community included, but was not limited to, the Messiah Sing Along and the organ concert series. The Messiah this year attracted the largest number of participants yet. Over one hundred and fifteen people showed up on a Sunday afternoon to sing this great work. As in years past, we had many returning singers. New this year was a google ad that reached numerous new participants and enabled this event to be more easily found with a web search. The next Messiah Sing Along has already been scheduled for December 18, 2016. The Organ Concert Series again attracted a loyal following in 2015. Thomas Ferry, David Feinen, Jayson Enquist, and Marilyn Schempp played four diverse concerts and entertained over 150 people. 2016 concerts feature Dr. Chad Winterfelt, Nils Halker, James Hild, Dr. Dean Billmeyer.

*Savior what can be said, what can be sung  
As a praise of Your name, for the things You have done  
Oh my words could not tell, not even in part  
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.*  
Matt Redman

*Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Ferry  
Director of Music Ministries*

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT

The youth have had another busy and fun year at CPLC! 2015 was filled with fellowship, faith formation, service and adventures in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. We gathered together for worship and prayer, pizza and lock-in games, holiday celebrations, and faith conversations.

Youth group and confirmation were back in full swing in January, after a break for Advent and Christmas. January also brought movie marathons, snow tubing, and the finalization of the summer trip location: Sky Ranch in Colorado!

February started with a bang as youth jumped into Lenten soup suppers, a junior high lock-in, and a trip to Zero Gravity, and March was filled with Easter breakfast preparations, a paintball war, and a senior high lock-in.

As spring rolled around, the youth moved into high gear for the Easter breakfast and preparations for Sky Ranch, and in the blink of an eye, May arrived! Before summer break was upon us, the youth led a Talent Extravaganza, attended Spring Con, and put on a garage sale fundraiser.

Summertime was busy with VBS and the senior high trip to Sky Ranch! I've heard lots of fun stories about adventures in the Rockies, time spent with Sky Ranch counselors, and meaningful worship and service experiences on this trip. The youth seem eager to have a similar experience this summer as well!

September brought new faces and new adventures as I jumped in as the new CYF director. We hit the ground running with the start of youth group and confirmation, as well as several "Meet & Greet" sessions as we prepared to start the year together.

October was a busy month filled with fellowship opportunities: a confirmation & senior high bonfire at Pastor Marty's, a middle school Minute-to-Win-It Game Night, and a middle school and senior high Halloween Party, complete with a photo booth, gourd bowling, and mummy races—and lots of candy of course!

November brought two lock-ins: one for the middle school and one for the senior high. Both groups enjoyed lots of night games, midnight pizza parties, and gaga ball. The senior high also enjoyed an intense 4-square tournament, and the middle school students turned the fellowship hall into a Nerf war zone. We incorporated a faith-formation/reflection activity into each of the lock-ins as well. November also included the Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social, which seemed to

run smoothly (with more than enough pie for everyone!) and a fantastic turnout. The Littles & Middles Carnival and potluck was on November 15, which was a huge success this year! The new photo booth was especially a hit. In November, we also picked a location for our 2016 summer trip: Wilderness Canoe Base in the Boundary Waters!

Finally, we wrapped up the year in December with the Christmas program produced by the Branson family! The kids had a blast sharing the Christmas story with the congregation. Our final youth group event was a middle school and senior high Christmas party on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The youth spent the evening racing to find items and Nativity story characters around the church for a Christmas photo scavenger hunt and then reconvened for cookie decorating and a marshmallow snowball fight in the youth room.

It's been a fantastic year of new adventures and relationship building. I'm eager to see what 2016 has in store!

In peace,  
Alex Benson  
CYF Director

# CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*"To know and to serve God, of course, is why we're here, a clear truth that, like the nose on your face, is near at hand and easily discernible but can make you dizzy if you try to focus on it hard. Gentleness is everywhere in daily life, a sign that faith rules through ordinary things... Even in a time of elephantine vanity and greed, one never has to look far to see the campfires of gentle people. Lacking any other purpose in life, it would be good enough to live for their sake."*

Garrison Keillor, *We Are Still Married* (1989)

Dear friends,

You are the gentle people at your campfires. And by "you" I mean "We". The wealth of our congregation is without a doubt the talent and generosity of our members. If my first term as President has been successful it is because of the talent and generosity that surrounds me on council, staff, in committees and in the pews. Three years ago I had no concept of the how a church works. Week to week things seem more or less the same; the lights are on in the sanctuary when you show up on Sunday, the coffee is hot, the organ and choir sound great, Pastor Marty delivers a thought-provoking sermon, a talented intern leads discussion over another cup of coffee, we collect the kids from Sunday School and all go home. But things are always changing. This year our home grown talent, guest musicians and Messiah singers have all had the advantage of our new sound system, the culmination of years of generous donations and planning. As Tom Ferry reminds me, "If you can't tell it's there, that means its working perfectly." This year we renewed old partnerships and discovered new ones such as Family Place and the Backpack Meal Program. This year our mission as a congregation is clearer than ever because of Holy Cow! and the Thrive! Appeal.

Thank you to everyone who made 2015 successful. Looking forward to 2016 (our 90<sup>th</sup> year!). If you have never been involved in leadership, get involved! I promise there is a place for you! The same goes for our many ministries and fellowship programs. I would love to see you all at Theology on Tap and on the softball diamond! All of these have been and continue to be rewarding experiences for me.

With Respect and Thanks,  
Jonathan Lund

# REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has three areas of responsibility:

- Planning worship services for the current liturgical year.
- Decorating the church and narthex to complement and enhance the worship experience.
- Maintaining the physical elements of worship, such as communion supplies and paraments.

The Worship Committee provides guidance and ideas to Pastor Marty and to Director of Music Ministry, Tom Ferry regarding service planning. The work of the Worship Committee combines planning the annual cycle of worship with discussions regarding potential changes or innovations in our worship life. Every year, the committee reviews upcoming worship events and practices, deciding whether to maintain the status quo or consider changes.

The members of the Worship Committee are Committee Chair, Ken Purdham; Director of Music Ministry, Tom Ferry; Dan Garvin, Val Negaard, Sara Peper, Craig Canada and Cathy Gagné.

Craig Canada and Cathy Gagné both joined the committee in 2015 and we are thankful for their service. I would also like to thank Kim Beecham for her help with poinsettias and Easter flowers and Karen Wennberg for her help with Christmas wreaths again this year. You are appreciated! Most importantly, thank you to all of the volunteers who serve coffee, lector, usher, serve communion and the many other helpful things you do to help keep CPLC moving forward!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Purdham  
Worship Committee Chair



# SOCIAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Many members of CPLC are involved in areas that impact our neighborhood, community and the world. Monetary support and volunteer hours support a variety of projects:

CPLC continues to be one of the faith communities' leading contributors to the Keystone Community Food Shelf.

Our new local outreach The Family Place, a day center for homeless families with children, located at 244 10<sup>th</sup> Street E in St. Paul, has started to gain traction with their new volunteers in place. Meals are served family style, and groups can volunteer for either lunch (10 – 1) or dinner (3 – 6) on Saturdays or Sundays. Time includes orientation, cooking, setting tables, eating with the families and clean-up. A number of CPLC volunteers recently served a meal, and CPLC has donated \$5,000 of Shine Appeal funds to cover costs of their 'Going Home' transitional housing program and their Montessori School Floor.

The 15th annual Mission Auction took place April 18th with an 'Up North' theme. We raised \$12,551 after expenses. Local missions received \$5,140, regional missions \$1,000, and global missions \$4,500. Remaining amounts are reserved for urgent social needs and 2016 auction up-front expenses.

<b><u>Designee</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Guatemala	- Annual Support	\$1,000
	- Leadership/Supplies	\$1,000
Tanzania	- Annual Support	\$1,000
	- Fertilizer/Seed	\$1,500
Plymouth Christian Youth Center	- Scholarships	\$1,000
Block Nurse Program	- Program Support	\$1,000
Chelsea Heights Elementary	- Multicultural Books	\$1,140
Roseville Area High School	- Food Shelf Support	\$1,000
Keystone Food Shelf	- Hunger	\$1,000
Meals On Wheels	- Hunger	\$1,000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:		\$10,640

CPLC delivers Meals on Wheels to 125 senior shut-ins in the Roseville School District every third Thursday on 9 routes. There are nine dedicated CPLC families that provide this service on a regular basis, and eight families that fill in as needed.

At Chelsea Heights & Falcon Heights Elementary Schools, we volunteered in the schools' reading programs. RAHS included, we also collected school supplies and donated winter clothing. From the Shine Appeal, the RAHS Food Shelf received an additional \$2,000; Como Park High School received \$2,000 for their 'Random Acts of Kindness' program; Chelsea Heights Elementary School received a \$2,000 match for their Holiday Food Drive program; and Falcon Heights Elementary School received

\$2,997.30 for their weekend Backpack Meal Program. Due to the high need for this program and costs that go beyond CPLC's allocated amount, Falcon Heights UCC has been recruited to help in 2016. The Sheridan Story organization partners in this program by purchasing, packing and delivering the food to the school. CPLC supplements the food with breakfast items. The Sheridan Story is also another avenue for volunteering via their Packing Events and Packing Prep work.

Como Perk Café is run on occasional Sundays throughout the year. The purpose of the café is to offer fellowship, increase awareness and raise funds for various missions of the church. This year's proceeds went to benefit The Family Place twice, and the Backpack Program at Falcon Heights Elementary School once.

The CPLC men sponsored a meat loaf dinner in the fellowship hall on October 10, and \$996 was raised and donated to the Block Nurse program.

Tanzanian Mission: Tanzanian women gave a micro-finance program presentation. A Tanzania festival was held in November. For the scholarship drive, 33 were funded for a total of \$13,200. The Kemp Foundation, for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row, is funding another nursing education scholarship. CPLC is planning on another trip for 2017.

Guatemala Mission: Partnership with the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (LCR) is helping stretch raised funds. CPLC now pays half of the annual support of \$1,000, so was able to contribute the other half for part of Juan Carlos' education. The Trust Fund was used to fund the remaining part (\$500) of his education. In May, Brad Peper's father Phillip crafted a beautiful baptismal font that will be presented in person to ILA Cristo Luz del Mundo (formerly San Jose) at their anniversary on September 26, 2016. They currently have 2 pastors that visit twice a month: Pastors Gaspar and Salvador. Pastor Salvador speaks Kekchi, the local language. CPLC is planning on a trip from September 24 – October 2, 2016. In addition to the \$2,000 provided from the Mission Auction for Education and Leadership/Supplies/Laptop, another \$200 was donated for new hymnals in Kekchi. Another \$500 was designated for a new kitchen, but a disgruntled (and wealthy) parishioner stripped the church of its doors, fence, and all items made and donated in previous years. To address their more immediate concerns for doors and a fence, the \$500 for the kitchen was re-directed on December 21 to cover these costs. Please continue to pray for the members of ILA-CLdM as they struggle to strengthen the faith of their congregants in a difficult environment.

Finally, we said goodbye to Dick Young as he and Zarida moved to be closer to family, but also welcomed Tom Black, Heidi Thorstenson, John Grafstrom, Don Kelsey as members and Ann Ericson as liaison to our committee.

Respectfully submitted  
Sue Brogger and Ruth Pechauer, Co-Chairs

# PROPERTY COMMITTEE

First, we thank the congregation for your monetary support to keep the building we all use, “up and operating” — functional as well as beautiful. We couldn’t do this without all of you.

We thank our Property Manager Mark Gagné and his assistant Brian Molde who take care of the day-to-day needs of cleaning, maintenance and coordinating the many vendors who are required for specific tasks such as snow removal, fire extinguisher service, boiler maintenance and air conditioning to name just a few.

Also, we thank the volunteers who “keep up” the landscape and exterior grounds: Co-Coordinator of God’s Gardeners Karen Wennberg, Brian Monson, Sue Kretsch, Kevin Johnson, and crew Kim Beecham and Jenny Larsen.

Lastly, thanks to members Bruce Nelson and Jim Johnson who give extra time volunteering with small projects. We thank you!

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

- the Boy Scout room has been painted and cleaned out
- the Paraments are hung neatly on racks in the Boy Scout Room
- LED lights have been installed in the sanctuary
- the bearings in the air handler have been fixed
- quilts items have been moved to the bride’s room after big clean out
- new Air Conditioner set for this spring (about \$55,000 to \$65,000)
- leaking pipe on stage wall fixed
- and many small projects done

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kevin Johnson, Chair

# SENIOR FELLOWSHIP & SENIOR MINISTRY

The Senior Ministry Committee meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday to discuss visitation needs and activities for our senior members. We host coffee parties at Rose Pointe and Eagle Crest senior apartment buildings once a year. The parties were started as a gathering for CPLC members living in these places, but have evolved to include everyone who attends worship services led by Pastor Marty or one of our intern pastors.

At luncheons held October through May, Como Park members are joined by friends and neighbors from other local congregations and senior buildings for lunch and entertainment. Entertainers this calendar year were musicians Bill Cagley, North Suburban Chorus, Trudy Harper and Jim Berner; storyteller Jack Pearson; author Kristin Eggerling, dance group Satin Dolls and speaker Jeena Garung.

In June, fifteen people visited the Science Museum. We viewed an Omni Theater presentation "Journey to Space," and toured the special exhibit on the space program. In September we took a boat ride on the Mississippi to view the fall colors.

Tuesday morning workshops provide a time for conversation and service. Quilters crafted more than 95 blankets this year that were donated to Bridging in Roseville. Before they were donated, the quilts decorated the sanctuary for Thanksgiving Eve service giving members of the congregation a chance to see all the beautiful work.

Thank you to the many people who help make our luncheons run smoothly: Sue Brogger and the many kitchen helpers; Dorleen Hagerman for making monthly phone calls. Carole Joncas for making beautiful fliers to advertise the luncheon, Lowell Lundy and Tom Spivey, our ever-faithful bus drivers. John Grafstrom for keeping track of our budget, and Carol Kelsey, Ginger Fischer and Elsie Trapp for jumping in to do whatever is needed. We also appreciate the support of Pastor Marty and Pastoral Intern Lue, who give parish updates, devotions and lead us in prayer each month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Hanson  
Senior Fellowship Chairperson,  
Visitation Coordinator,  
Senior Ministry Committee Secretary

# YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE

(Last report for 2014 left off at the end of Nov)

**DECEMBER:** On Dec 20, Anna had a "Ugly Sweater" Christmas Party for Jr/Sr High Youth. Unfortunately only 2 youth showed up. (Probably due to being a 'busy' time of year), but they had fun & watched a movie.

**JANUARY:** In January, 3 events were planned. Jan 10 was a Jr/Sr High 'Movie Marathon'; a Marvel comic book theme of movies were watched by Emerson & Nolan Winghart. (Again low turnout probably due to the time of year & winter vacation time; schools were off). Fun & bonding experience was still made. On Jan 14, Anna Morris, (CYF Director), & Dan Schewe, (Intern Pastor), led a Sr High Adventure Trip meeting for the coming summer. Ten-twelve kids = parents attended & went well. Four from the get go were interested. We didn't have a summer trip last year due to lack of interest so Dan was getting them motivated & interested in this and the probable fundraising events that need to take place. One '*new idea*' was having the kids sell 'stock' to members of the church, & others for the trip & after the trip they would have a 'shareholders' meeting/party & talk & show pictures of the trip. Jan 18 there was a Jr/Sr High snow tubing event planned at Green Acres but I believe due to lack of snow that didn't happen. (I think they just hung out in the Youth room at CPLC & watched movies).

**FEBRUARY:** In February we had a joint committee meeting with the Education committee to discuss VBS; which was planned for upcoming July 27-31st week from 9am-12 Noon. The "Everest" program curriculum was picked, & again having WAPO counselors come in & lead the VBS program again & staying at Luther Seminary's dorm rooms. Also discussed was trying to get more volunteers from our church involved and to move with the kids at the 'stations' to have more inter-generational involvement. On Sun Feb 8, 7-8 youth attended "Zero Gravity", in Blaine. Feb 11, the summer trip meeting was held. *Sky Ranch* is the destination w/11 kids committed and 9 paid so far! Feb 27-28, 7pm-7am the ever popular 'Lock in ' was held. Eight-ten Jr High youth attended this fun filled event. Three of the Lenten Soup suppers were led by the youth: Ash Wednesday Feb 18, Feb 25, and Mar 4. \$996 was netted, \$ 200 spent, so a **\$796 profit** was made.! NICE!

**MARCH:** In March, another joint committee meeting was held w/Education to plan for VBS. Easter Breakfast (Sun, April 5th, 8:30-11am), planning took place. Doing 'Continental Breakfast' style was decided; less 'Youth Power' needed to staff this type of breakfast due to declining numbers of youth participation in the past. Fred Halberg agreed to get us yummy Cinnamon rolls for this event, Anna got Egg Quiche; plus fruit/yogurt. On Mar 20-21, it was the Sr High turn for a 'Lock-In'. A total of 13-14 youth attended w/CPLC youth bringing more friends from outside the church to attend this event. CPLC Littles & Middles Annual Sock Toss plus new this year; pillow donation) on Sun Mar 29 from Noon-2:30pm went very well!

**STATS:** \* 54 people participated. \* 270 pairs of socks were donated to the Simpson House. \* 74 pillows were donated to "Bridging" \* 50 of these were purchased w/extra funds + donations. \* \$197 in Free will donations were brought in (\$100 was used to purchase more pillows and \$97 to defer costs of lunch. Walmart gave a \$50 gift card, so \$150 was spent on 50 additional pillows). *It was the most successful year by dollar & donation numbers ever. About double from 2014. Way to go Mel Popp!*

**APRIL:** On April 11th, a Splatball-Paintball event was held w/ 6 youth participating. April 5th was the **Easter Breakfast**, served 'Continental Style' & we netted \$775. **The final profit was \$543.28** for this youth fundraising event. **130 plates/people were served.** So by the end of April, in addition to the above mentioned fundraisers; the youth **also raised \$231 thru hosting 'Como Perk' Cafe & \$612.50 thru the 'Stock Certificates' for the summer "Sky Ranch" trip.** Yea!!

**MAY:** In May we reviewed the new 'Kids Klub' on Wednesday nights, 5:45-6:15pm. Anna says it is worth continuing, averaging 5-6 kids per night, mainly elementary age. Sunday mornings are a different group from Wed nights; a small group of High school age, averaging 3-4 kids in the morn. Sun May 3 @ Noon, we had our 1st *"Gifts & Talents Extravaganza"* put on by Intern Pastor Dan Schewe. For a 1st run we had 8 kids & a decent turnout for 'spectators' from the congregation. We agreed we need to do more one-on-one invitations to get more participation from the kids. Sat May 16th we had **community garage sale fundraiser for the 'Sky Ranch' summer trip**. (I believe there was a \$15 charge for people to put up a table at the sale). (It sounds like we **made just above \$220**). Then that Sun, May 17, Anna took 4 Jr High youth to 'Spring-Con' in the Grandstands @ the Fair (it is like a comic book costume dress-up event/sale event). Anna's last lock-in with both Jr/Sr High youth happened on May 22-23; 6 youth attended. May 31st, Sun was Anna's last day as Youth Dir.--She was with us 3 years and she was well loved. She had compiled 2 manuals in three-ring binders of her job duties, activities, helpful hints, etc; 1 for the new Youth Dir, & 1 for the Youth Committee. She is a *"Rock Star."*

**JULY:** In July, the Sky Ranch summer trip was a success. 10 youth; 5 boys & 5 girls & chaperoned by Intern Pastor Dan Schewe & CPLC member Sara Brovold. VBS had 50 kids this year w/adult helpers Jane Nelson, Becky Neumanville, Meg & Dan Duncan, David Harris and David Laden. WAPO was scheduled for Aug 2-7 but no one signed up for it, so 'no go.' Wed July 15 was the *'Sky Ranch' youth "Stock Holder" appreciation* pizza meal for all people that donated to the fundraiser. And then on Sun Aug 16 was Dan Schewe last day.

**AUGUST:** On Aug 18th meeting, we welcomed new committee member David Harris to the group, as well as our new Intern Pastor Lue Moua. On Aug 27th we interviewed Alexandra Benson and then hired her that evening for the Youth Dir. position. Yea!!

**SEPTEMBER:** The Sept 24th meeting we welcomed Alex and new committee members Angela Branson and her daughter Taylor. Sept 9th and 16th Alex had 'meet & greets' with 7 adults, 2 Sr High youth, and 1 Jr High youth respectively. Unfortunately, on Sept 23rd, she had only 2 Sr high youth for the 1st confirmation group meeting of the season.

**OCTOBER:** Luckily the next event, Oct 14, a bonfire for the confirmation group at Pastor Marty's had 10-12 kids!! And on Sun, Oct 28, some youth joined the Sunday Schools kids to assemble 40 Homeless Kits; 8-10 youth along w/Alex & David Osterhouse. Alex's 'Minute to Win it' game night had a small number but the Youth Group Halloween Party on Oct 28 had a good crowd of 13 youth!

**NOVEMBER:** In November we welcomed Amy-Schneider-Purdy and Nick Branson,(Angela's son) to the committee, Yea! Nov 6th, Alex had Sr High *Lock-In* where 6-10 youth (boys) attended!. Mel Popp's CPLC Littles & Middles Carnival Potluck on the 15th and had 85+ people & netted \$209; "gobs" of volunteers helped out. We also talked about improved communication between kids, parents, youth, Sunday School kids & teachers & parents, and ways to facilitate this to increase participation in events. Fri, Nov 20, 9 Jr High youth (6 girls, 3 boys) attended the first Jr High *Lock-in* w/ Alex. Our **PCYC fundraising/donation** mitten making event **raised \$636 this year** with 1 matching donor. And finally rounding out November, was the **Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social** on the 25th, put on by the Youth: **about \$300 was raised!**

Report submitted by,  
Doug Hagerman, Youth & Family Committee Chair.

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee supports programs for all ages to be lifelong learners in our community of faith. Our congregation's educational pursuits include a wide variety of adult education offerings, Confirmation instruction, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, early childhood education, our library, and a new project, Children's Worship Teams.

Intern Pastor Lue Moua is continuing the Lutherans and Lattes and Theology on Tap groups for members and friends. The groups discuss contemporary issues in Christianity. Adult forums continue during the Sunday education hour, offering the opportunity to explore the intersection of faith and daily life. Also, a women's Bible study, Women of the Word, meets monthly and has been studying The Psalms of Accent.

The seventh and eighth grade Confirmation classes are led by Pastor Martin Ericson and Pastoral Intern Lue Moua on Wednesday evenings. In addition, students are involved in small group study. Ninth grade students choose an adult faith mentor with whom they will work throughout the year and are confirmed in the spring.

"Littles and Middles," Como parents of little and elementary age children, continues to increase and encourage fellowship among families with children in the congregation, led by Melissa Hatch Popp. Its efforts offer opportunities for outreach such as the Sock Toss in the winter which collected socks for those in need. This fall, Littles and Middles hosted a Carnival, with games, food, and fellowship for the whole congregation. They also make special bibs to be presented to the newly baptized.

Under the direction of Jane Nelson and assisted by Elizabeth Weber, the Sunday school has continued to place emphasis on knowing Jesus through Word, worship, prayer and sacrament, and shining His light through stewardship, and outreach. Each SCS child is provided with offering envelopes. We have been working to involve the entire congregation in some way with our Sunday School to heighten awareness of our work and to better incorporate all generations in the study and living of God's Word. The Sunday School outreach projects involving cross generations include a family advent activity, our Christmas pageant, assembling hygiene kits for the homeless in Minneapolis, May flowers for Lyngblomsten and for Seniors and CPLChildren Helping Hands (wooden church banks) which raised over \$700 for Feed My Starving Children, and supported a Tanzanian student, The Malaria Project, and projects in Guatemala. Sunday school families assembled 50+ hygiene kits and provided a generous supply of additional assorted hygiene items to local homeless. This fall marked the twelfth year of using the Sunday school's curricula: Godly Play for the preschoolers, and Seasons of the Spirit for grades K-12 with materials to enrich the adult congregation,

through a component entitled Fusion. To offer a more balanced classroom for elementary age students, grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 have been combined. We conduct teacher e-meetings, as well as an orientation and teacher workshop/Bible study to begin the Sunday School year. We have also established an e-announcement program to SCS families.

A new project in Sunday School this year is Children's Worship Teams. We have incorporated our youngest children's choirs which formerly met on Wednesday evenings into our Sunday school hour and include all Sunday school children k-4. Each Sunday School hour begins with Worship/Music time under the direction of Jane Nelson and Lori Purdham which gives children the opportunity to hear the Gospel in music as it relates to their lessons and lives, to develop skills and discover talents to express faith through music, and to lead others in a worship experience. The Sunday School music session is grouped as Worship Team k-4 in order to present music appropriate for their age and development. Experiences include singing, and using instruments/props as means of prayer and praise. It is our goal that, as part of Sunday School, once each month the Children's Worship Team will assist in a worship service alternating between 8:30 and 10:45.

Vacation Bible School was held at CPLC by staff from Camp Wapo, and Pastoral Intern Dan Schewe with volunteer support from CPLC. About fifty children attended, and about half were not members of CPLC. Camp Wapo counselors were housed at Luther Northwestern Seminary.

The Nursery at Como Park Lutheran Church serves 1-8 children per Sunday, averaging approximately 4 children per Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Nelson, Chair



## **LEAF—Lutheran Educational Aid Fund**

Scholarships awarded in 2015:

**Astri Duncan**, Concordia College, St. Paul

**Peder Ericson**, St. Olaf College

**Siri Ericson**, St. Olaf College

**David Pellegrini**, St. Olaf College

**Stella Quale**, St. Olaf College

**David Zalk**, Luther College



## HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Health and Wellness Committee met as needed in 2015. The Committee has also decided to continue as a committee versus combining with another committee.

The continuing emphasis was:

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Monthly Blood Pressure Screening  
Maintaining the AED in collaboration with the office support staff  
Wooden Church Banks, collecting money for Children Helping Hands in support of the Sunday School.

Other activity:

1. The American Red Cross Blood Drive was held Monday, September 21st in Fellowship Hall. Shirley Connelly donated gift cards to be sent to winners of the drawing and provided coffee and food. This is a thank you to those who contribute. The committee will continue to determine the best timing for this Drive as there are others in the area during this time.
2. Participated in the Rally Day Committee poster event.
3. Collaborated with Pastor Marty Ericson for the Spirituality/Wellness Adult Forums.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Kelsey, Chair

## USHERS

Our thanks go to the ushers to the families who usher at the 8:30am children's/family service for a job well done. Jonathan Nye provides the ushering schedules.

If you are interested in ushering at any service, please contact the church office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Gall, Chair

# BAZAAR

The CPLC Bazaar was once again held in October in conjunction with the annual Block Nurse Fundraising meatloaf dinner event. The Fall Bazaar had some exciting changes this year! The CPLC Bazaar committee and volunteers concentrated on Kitchen Krafts, baked breads, lefse, cookies, other sugary sweets , jams, jellies and pickled produce. New for 2015 was renting tables out by community crafters to bring in their own wears for sale. While we attracted our regular clientele and Meatloaf dinner attendees, the community crafters attracted their regular customers into our church.

Through this reciprocal relationship this year we raised slightly over \$2200.

We will continue to donate scholarships for students in Tanzania, purchase goods for the Mission Auction, and are providing funds for future Women's Retreats for those who need assistance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg Duncan & Cathy Gagné  
CPLC Bazaar Committee

# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*Finally, beloved, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.*

*Philippians 4:9*

The charge for the 2015 Stewardship committee was quite ambitious:

- Help reimagine and celebrate the life and mission of the congregation for the next decade.
- Reshape the different income streams of the congregation to better fulfill our mission and callings.
- Develop a narrative approach to our budget and finances that lifts up our mission and ties together our many income streams in a clear and compelling way.
- Work with Kairos and Associates and the congregation to shape and implement a three-year appeal that is coordinated with our annual stewardship and other resources to fulfill our mission in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

In February, members took part in the online Congregational Assessment Tool survey (aka Holy Cow). 436 persons were invited to participate; of these, 163 persons responded. Within the abundance of information received, four top goals emerged:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.
- Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.

The committee then proceeded to determine the goals of the stewardship campaign. The campaign is entitled Thrive! as the focus of our work is to enable the continuation and growth of CPLC's key strengths and ministries: worshipping God, growing in faith, building community, and serving others. A great deal of work went into discussing and writing the case statement for the three-year campaign which ultimately set a goal of \$350,000 to fund the replacement of the air-conditioning system and for growth in programming, particularly through the continued support of both an Intern Pastor and a Youth Director.

Many individuals were involved throughout the year in planning and leading stewardship activities. Members of the Stewardship Committee included Andy Becker, Mark Bly, John Grafstrom, Al Hilgers, Paula Latz, and both intern pastors, Dan Schewe and Lue Moua. Pastor Ericson, David Laden, Paul Winghart provided a great deal of information, support and advice. Tim Johnson from Kairos and Associates was our consultant.

The Communications group (Carole Joncas, Jonathan Nye, Lori Purdham and myself) developed the promotional materials for the Thrive appeal campaign and planned the associated events. As always, Carole put in countless hours and great amounts of creativity into supporting this campaign. Sue Brogger provided wonderful atmosphere and gorgeous meals for the special events.

The Narrative Budget group (Andy Becker, John Grafstrom, Al Hilgers, David Laden, and Paul Winghart) developed an alternate view of the proposed 2016 budget based on our core ministries. The work that went into translating our standard budget into a narrative one was daunting, but provides a new level of clarity regarding the connections between our giving and CPLC's programming.

The 2015 Thrive! campaign culminated on Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 22 with the collection of commitment and Time & Talent cards. The most recent estimate of the commitments for giving for the 2016 budget is \$284,425, and \$243,610 for the 3 year campaign. Your generous financial support helps to strengthen and continue our legacy both at home and far away.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Kragness

# CPLC TRUST FUND

The CPLC Trust was established in 1987. It was initially funded by a significant bequest from a member of the church and over the years it has grown through additional gifts and fund earnings. In keeping with the donor's intent, the purpose of the Trust Fund is to receive and invest gifts, and to generate income to maintain the fund's principal so that it serves as a perpetual source of funds for outreach and special expenditures approved by the congregation outside of normal operations. In support of this mission, the committee's principal activities during 2015 included regular review of the Trust Fund's asset allocation, monitoring the performance of the Fund's investment portfolio, and reviewing gift requests.

In 2015 the Trust Fund Committee approved the continued management of the Trust Fund assets by Compass Capital Management, Inc. As of September 30, 2015, the end of the Trust Fund's fiscal year, the total market value of the Fund was \$988,534, which represented a decrease of \$89,214 from the balance of \$1,077,748, reported as of September 30, 2014, the end of the Trust Fund's last fiscal year. This decrease is due in large part to the down market in the last quarter of the Fund's fiscal year. It should be noted that the September 30, 2015 balance reflected \$45,400 in distributions, which was the total amount of gifts approved by the congregation at the 2015 annual meeting.

In developing a recommendation for distributions from the fund, the committee is guided by the fund's governing documents, which indicate a total annual distribution in the range of 3 to 5% of fund balance, provided there is sufficient income to maintain and /or grow the principal in keeping with the perpetual nature of the fund. This limitation helps ensure continued distributions of a meaningful amount without depleting the fund's principal balance, so that it can continue to grow and support the congregation's giving in perpetuity.

A historical practice of the committee has been to distribute approximately 1/3 within the congregation and 2/3 outreach beyond the congregation, although this is not a policy contained within the Trust Fund Resolution. As modified at the January 2013 annual congregational meeting, the Trust Fund Resolution provides that "the purpose of the Trust Fund is to enhance the work of CPLC in a manner which generally is additional to and apart from the general operation of the congregation, and the usual and ordinary expenses incurred in connection therewith, but that, upon considered request of the CPLC Finance Committee and a showing of extraordinary need and/or extenuating circumstances, the Trust Fund Committee may recommend to the membership of CPLC that a percentage of the annual distribution, if any, be allocated to the recognized ministries of the congregation, such percentage not to exceed 50% of the annual distribution except as otherwise approved by the membership of CPLC."

To support CPLC's needs and avoid unnecessary budget stress with its affiliated consequences on programming and staffing, the committee recommends the allocation of \$14,000 to the CPLC budget, to be distributed only in the event the CPLC Finance Committee makes a request based on extraordinary need and/or extenuating circumstances. In the absence of such a request, the funds would remain allocated to

CPLC, but would remain in the Trust Fund until such a request would be made, thus building up a congregational reserve. Considering the above, considering the reasonable growth of the Trust Fund in the last few years, and considering the needs presented to the committee, the Trust Fund Committee respectfully recommends to the congregation the following Trust Fund distribution, representing 3.439% of the Trust Fund balance as of September 30, 2015:

<b>Proposed Recipients</b>	<b>2016</b>
Augsburg College (3 year sponsorship) (year 2)	\$2,000
"Gathering" program run through Lyngblomsten. Structured activity program held twice a month for people with cognitive disorders. Side benefit is to provide respite care for caregivers.	\$400
Lutheran Social Services, fund raising dinner at \$1,000/table for 9-10 people, plus \$250 donation. (year 3 of 3 year commitment) To connect with/learn what LSS does. To promote giving from CPLC individuals.	\$1,250
Keystone Community Services – Basic needs program provides food and other necessities	\$1,000
Divinity student sponsorship – Tumaini University, Iringa, Tanzania	\$2,300
Roseville Meals on Wheels – Gift provides around 238 meals per year	\$1000
Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp (WAPO)	\$750
Hiawatha (Voyageur Ministries) (2 camps)	\$750
Good Samaritan Lutheran Church (startup Hmong church)	\$1,000
Tanzania Mission	\$1,000
Guatemala Mission	\$1,000
LEAF Scholarships	\$3,000
CPLC Music Program	\$1,000
CPLC Youth Program	\$2,000
CPLC Congregation Support*	\$14,000
Ad hoc distribution, to be reserved and used if an important and urgent interim request is made, to be voted upon by the Trust Fund Committee	\$1,550
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>

\*Available upon CPLC Church Council disbursement request, but held in trust for investment return until such Council disbursement request.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Loschy, Chair  
January 7, 2016

## SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD ANNUAL REPORT

### January 2016

Dear Partners in Ministry,

2015 was a year of new relationships and new ventures for us in the Saint Paul Area Synod. Much like the transitions and innovations in your own congregation, as a synod comprised of 112 congregations, mission starts, Lutheran agencies and institutions, we too said farewell and Godspeed to familiar leaders and welcomed the talent and leadership gifts of others.

In March, we gave thanks for the work of the Rev. Roger Hardy and the Rev. Dick Magnus, who completed six months of service in the shared role of Interim Director of Evangelical Mission. Two months later, we said farewell to Cyndi Berg, who had served as Office Manager for eight years. Like all who serve on the synod staff, these three colleagues helped us in our common work with efficiency and joy.

In May, we welcomed the Rev. Sharon Kelly to the synod staff in the brand-new role of Advisor to the Bishop on the Well Being of Children and Youth. Sharon connected school superintendents from the multiple districts in Chisago, Washington, Ramsey, and Dakota Counties to our conference deans and rostered leaders. Although she moved to Baltimore in late August to serve as the interim pastor of a city church, Sharon's work continues to influence the way we encourage congregations to interface with the needs of their neighborhood schools. Through tutoring partnerships, homework help, weekend food provision, after-school activities and more, we ELCA Lutherans are making a needed impact on the lives of all our children.

The Rev. Justin Grimm also joined the synod staff in May as the Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for Next Generation Ministries. With ten years as a mission developer in Lake Ann, Michigan, Justin brings insight, courage, and supervisory skills to his work with our eight existing mission starts. In 2015, we also received approval to launch an outreach to the Oromo community in Saint Paul, an endeavor we pray will be well underway in 2016.

In August, Alicia Hillar assumed the role of Office Manager. With Spanish language skills honed during a year with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission in Mexico, she shares her bilingual gifts when they are needed. She joins the Rev. Justin Grimm, Julie Keefe, Chloe Ahlf, Greg Triplett, the Rev. Peter Harrits, the Rev. Lamont Koerner, Sister Noreen Stevens and Anna Grunner, as the staff serving with me in the synod office. In the fall of 2015, we welcomed Julia Hubbard as a two-year volunteer serving on behalf of the synod and ELCA Global Mission in Iringa, Tanzania.

As a synod, we gathered three times this past year. Conference Assemblies were held at Christ the King in New Brighton on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We sang and prayed together, and elected persons to serve in conference-level roles and as voting members of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. We also worked on a communal art project, creating the artwork used at the Synod Assembly.

The Synod Assembly was held April 24-25<sup>th</sup> at Prince of Peace in Burnsville. There we deliberated on several memorials and elected additional persons to synod-wide offices and as voting members for the



upcoming Churchwide Assembly. The theme – *We Are Church: Here and Now* – came alive as we worshipped and were inspired by our keynote presenter, the Rev. Heidi Neumark from Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan. Throughout the two days we were called in fresh ways to the important work God is doing in and through us.

On six evenings in July and August, 150 members of the synod came together to help discern where and how God is calling us to be more deeply present in our world. Trinity, Lindstrom; Redeemer, White Bear Lake; Augustana, West Saint Paul; St. James, Burnsville; Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Roseville; and Arlington Hills, Saint Paul served as the hosts for those times of prayer, scripture study, singing, and faithful conversations about God's intended future for our common work. The convictions lifted up in that visioning process are shaping our synodical work and budget in 2016 and 2017.

As a synod we welcomed seven new rostered leaders, who were ordained and welcomed into their first calls in the Saint Paul Area Synod in 2015. They included the Rev. Caroline Harthun, the Rev. Jill Rode, the Rev. Julie Wright, the Rev. Brandon Newton, the Rev. Jennifer Collins, and the Rev. Elizabeth Flomo. The Rev. Horacio Castillo was welcomed into the ELCA from the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala.

Financial mission support from your congregation allows us to work with congregations in transition, support those in the candidacy process, and directly fund the work of Luther Seminary, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran Advocacy – Minnesota, the Minnesota Council of Churches, and Agora. By sharing 47.5% of that financial support with the ELCA, our congregations and synod are invested more broadly in our church's work in global mission, in starting new congregations and renewing existing congregations, and in disaster relief. Among those benefitting from that support are six members of our synod, serving with Young Adults in Global Mission. They include Ryan Berkas and Jessica Moes (Cambodia), Renee Labat (Argentina), Maridith Lewellyn (United Kingdom), Sarah Olson (South Africa), and Brynn Wiessner (Madagascar). Gloria Bengsten is also serving as a global mission volunteer in Bratislava.

During 2015, this synod contributed \$6,793 to the ELCA's Malaria Campaign (with total synod contributions to date of \$25,342), \$44,071 to ELCA World Hunger Appeal and another \$24,827 to Disaster Relief through the ELCA. Through special offerings for the current mission starts in this synod, \$31,505 was received in additional support for outreach efforts within the synod.

During our summer visioning conversations, we read the story in Luke 5:1-11 of Jesus calling Peter to go out into the deep water. The weary fisherman is reluctant to return to his nets after a night of fruitless labor but he says, "Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."

Time after time in 2015, we have found ways to step forward with similar faith. Thank you for being a faithful part of this church – here and now.

Yours in God's service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patricia J. Lull". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" and last name "Lull" clearly distinguishable.

Patricia J. Lull, Bishop



# Living at Home Block Nurse Program

Dear Neighbor,

Season Greetings! *Como Park-Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program* is your local non-profit organization with the mission to help seniors remain safe in the home and community they love through volunteer and staff support. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" is a core value that enhances our work and strengthens this vibrant community. Most likely you have a senior living near you who could use some extra support but you might not know how to go about starting the conversation with them. Because of generous donations like yours, we are able to staff a nurse who can provide home visits at no cost to seniors and coordinate the care they need to remain safe in their home.



"I am so grateful for the help and support your staff and volunteers gave me when my husband's memory loss was getting too difficult for me to take care of him by myself."

-Mary, Como Park senior

Four part-time staff and more than **60 committed volunteers** provide the crucial support, care, and resources seniors need within a humble annual budget of \$115,000. Each month more than 150 seniors access our services. We provide direct care that is focused on improving the quality of life for seniors and their loved ones. *We invite you to support this important work with a financial gift today.*

## Impact of your contribution

- \$30 provides one home safety check
- \$75 provides an initial nurse health assessment and coordination of needed services
- \$150 provides four community blood pressure clinics for residents
- \$300 provides the training and supervision for a friendly volunteer visitor for one year
- \$1,000 provides the background screening for 40 new volunteer applicants

Your donation will enable us to continue offering the services your neighborhood seniors need to be safe in their home in a cost-effective and caring manner. *Please consider making a financial contribution today.* Tax-deductible donations are accepted by check made out to "Como Park LAHBNP" or through a secure donation on our website at [www.comobnp.org](http://www.comobnp.org) — remember to check and see if your employer will match your donation. Your name will be listed as a donor on our website, our Facebook page, and our annual newsletter unless directed otherwise by you. On behalf of the seniors who benefit from our services and your generosity, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

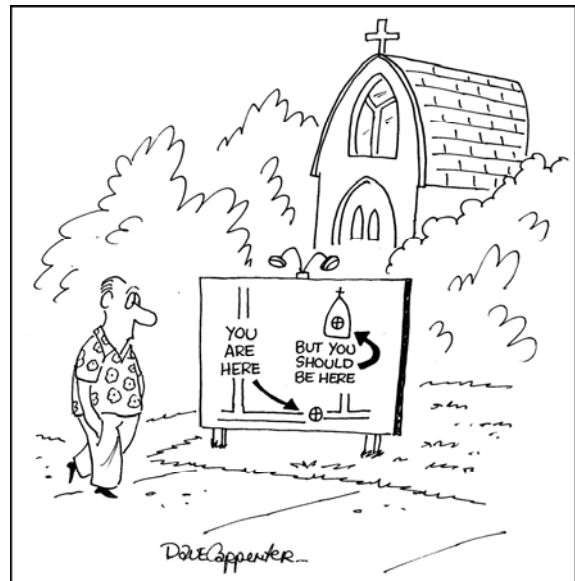
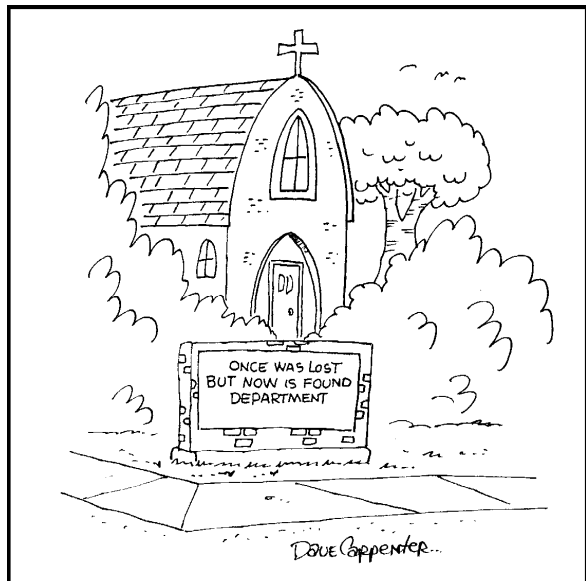


Jody McCardle  
Executive Director

## 2015 Highlights \* provided at no-cost to seniors \*

- 4,000+ Volunteer hours visiting with seniors
- 32 Blood Pressure Community Clinics
- 30 Home Health Assessments provided by staff nurse
- 180 Community exercise classes
- 200+ Rides to medical and dental appointments
- 2,000+ Volunteer hours offering chore support

# JUST FOR FUN :)



notes



# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

## *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



### Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1919  
 Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

Do not be conformed to this world, be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 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.

Romans 12:2-5



## Why participation in the ELCA makes a difference

- We believe we are among God's chosen people – called to make disciples and do God's work. Through this calling we find lives of meaning and purpose. As part of the body of Christ, we discover there are many ways we do this work better together than alone.
- We understand ourselves to have first received from God, and then respond to God. The practice of responding freely is based on recognizing God's grace and our freedom to participate in God's generosity to others.
- We share a living daring confidence in God's grace. We believe our faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.
- We embrace the development of people who are faithful, wise and courageous. Understanding the perspectives of abundance, grace, gratitude and generosity, we express our support for God's work through the sharing of the time, talents and resources entrusted to us.

## How our missional partnership makes a difference

- We grow the ELCA in the United States – 350+ new starts in progress.
- We grow the Lutheran church around the world – 220+ missionaries in more than 40 countries.
- We develop current and future leaders – eight seminaries plus 26 colleges and universities.
- We coordinate and support synod and churchwide ministries – strive to connect and collaborate with 3.7 million people within the ELCA.
- We strengthen our Lutheran identity – publications and communications within and beyond our church.
- We provide leadership – organize and coordinate 10,000+ leaders across the church.
- We work for justice – support social ministry organizations reaching 1 in 50 Americans.
- We grow financial resources – promote stewardship education, financial literacy and mission interpretation in 10,000+ locations.
- We engage in research and strategic planning – analyze trends and monitor innovative ministries in a changing world.
- We sustain ecumenical and interfaith relationships – seek unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.