Deciding Together Faithfully

Guidelines for Decision Making at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church

“St. Luke’s strives to develop a Christian community that invites, values and involves all people, that nurtures growth with God and each other, and that encourages openness, acceptance, trust, and service to God and God’s community.”
(From St. Luke’s Vision Statement)

St. Luke’s Council, leaders, staff, and members seek to create a climate in which decisions are made in a manner that is faithful to the vision of “openness, acceptance, and trust.” Doing this, we live out who we are as a community of God’s people in our life together.

In pursuit of our goal to decide together faithfully, we are committed to the following guidelines for ourselves and others.

1. The decision-making process is open and transparent, rather than covert and manipulative. “Openness, acceptance, and trust” are nurtured when decisions are made in the context of meetings rather than outside of that process. Leaders help facilitate an open and transparent climate in the decision-making process.

2. This process is governed by St. Luke’s Constitution, By-Laws and Continuing Resolutions.

3. The ideas, opinions, and wisdom of all who wish to share them are respected. We commit ourselves to sharing and taking responsibility for our own opinions and ideas while listening to and learning from others, especially when we disagree. Opinions, ideas, and feelings are shared in a courteous, honest, and civil manner.

4. Honesty is practiced by all.

5. While keeping the larger picture of St. Luke’s ministry and mission in mind, we express our own opinions, advocating for them in the context of the community decision-making process.

6. When consensus is not possible, disagreements regarding decisions, opinions, or ideas are honored and respected. We commit ourselves to open and honest disagreement in the context of community.

7. Personal disagreements and conflicts are dealt with in a direct, open and respectful manner with the person(s) involved, and follow Constitutional procedures when appropriate.

8. Leaders recognize and affirm their role as those who help create and maintain a healthy congregational climate in which we decide together faithfully as God’s people.

DTF TT, edit3, May 2006
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*This is the meeting at which any topic may be brought for consideration by the congregation, however to help facilitate the meeting, if you would like anything added to the agenda, please provide that request in writing to Council President, Irene Jinks by Wednesday, January 23.*

*Proposed amendments to the 2013 Spending Plan are also requested in writing prior to the start of the meeting and preferably 24 hours in advance so they can be projected on the screen when they are being discussed.*
St. Luke’s is committed to knowing Christ and making Christ known. 
We strive to develop a Christian community that invites and values all people, that nurtures growth with God and each other, and that encourages openness, acceptance, trust and service to God and God’s community.

ST. LUKE’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 27, 2013
12:15 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Tellers
3. Determination of Quorum (10% of voting members)
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Reports of Congregation Council, Staff, Committees and Cabinets
   a) Congregation President
   b) Building Teams
      1) 1929 Building Repair
         (a) Report
         (b) Council Authorization
      2) Upper Level Build Out
   c) Financial Management Team (FMT)
      2) Financial Review Committee
      3) Recommendation of 2013 Spending Plan
   d) Nominating Committee
      1) Nominations from the Floor
      2) Election
   e) Call Committee
   f) Endowment Committee
   g) Comments/questions on reports
6. Appointment of St. Luke’s Voting Members to 2013 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly
7. Council Recommendations: Resolutions
8. New Business/Items from the Floor
9. Recognition of Staff, Retiring Council Members and Cabinet Coordinators
10. President’s Closing Remarks
11. Pastors’ Closing Comments and Prayer
12. Adjournment
In reviewing the past year, I am reminded of a colleague who was asked what the year ahead would look like. Her response was that her crystal ball had been out for repairs and she did not know when it would be returned to her in working order. Even if we had a crystal ball, I still don’t think anyone could have predicted the events of the past year at St. Luke’s.

I remain grateful that the year began for me with a two month sabbatical which began the day after Christmas and extended until to the day before Ash Wednesday. I recognize that was possible only because of the commitment of many people who planned ahead, assisted with many volunteer roles, and found new ways to make ministry work well. It also was possible because Sunday preaching responsibilities were shared by many St. Luke’s members who are pastors: Kathie Bender Schwich, Don McCoid, Mac Minnick, Steve Nelson, Dan Schwick, and Paul Stone in addition to Interim Lead Pastor George Koch and because Interim Associate Pastor Patty Hewitt led Confirmation classes and shared member care responsibilities with Pastor Koch. The sabbatical time to refocus and renew led to a deeper exploration of who lives in the communities around St. Luke’s. Later in the year, it led to work with the Next 300 Team who reviewed the area demographics with me and developed an outline for how St. Luke’s can effectively reach out to invite people to participate in the mission and ministry of St. Luke’s.

The Lent and Easter seasons overlapped with an in-depth review of all staff positions which led to a recommendation from the Human Resources Committee and Council for a restructuring of the administrative support positions. These changes were made not only to match financial resources to personnel expenses, but also to match responsibilities to the changing needs of the more complex building system that we moved into in October 2010. In 2012, St. Luke’s moved from a paper-based calendar to an electronic calendar for all building use scheduling; we completed the move from an all paper Messenger to sending approximately one-third of our monthly newsletters in electronic format only; and we completed the move to allow members to access and change their own electronic giving through our website. Adding 15 dedicated hours of time per week to building coordination will allow us to manage the energy efficiency features of our heating and cooling systems more effectively, be proactive with our maintenance schedule for the varied building systems, and respond to items that need repairs with a timely assessment of what can be done by volunteers, what repairs are covered by current maintenance contracts, and what requires an additional specialized service call. In 2012, we also began a review of our copier contract in anticipation of negotiating a new contract in 2013 at a significant monthly savings. Many thanks are due to Jeanne Rice who served as St. Luke’s Parish Coordinator from 1995 until May 2012 and to Annette Kern – Office Administrator, Susan Pinto – Administrative Assistant, and Jim Schrop – Building Coordinator who provide the administrative support that keeps the day to day ministry operations running smoothly.

As the summer began, the Call Committee recommended a candidate to the Council and we anticipated of the arrival of a new Lead Pastor. When that candidate withdrew from the call process, we entered an unexpected time of reviewing the process and communication between the Call Committee and the Council. The review led to clarification of expectations and the Call Committee met with Bishop Miller to receive new names of candidates in September. Thank you to John Timmer, Barbara Swartling, and Marianne Griebler for serving on the Call Committee for its first year; to Kara Clark, Claranne English, Jim Pearson, and Jessie Weber for continuing to serve into the second year; and to Kathie Bender Schwich, Janet Hoiberg, and Heather McCune O’Reilly for joining the Call Committee as the second year began.

The summer also included the departure of Jeannine Oakes - Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, who resigned in order to accept a pastoral residency in Philadelphia as part of her process
toward ordination in the Presbyterian Church USA. Her resignation led to an opportunity for the restructuring of education staff positions. Thanks are due to Melinda Hoiland for adding children’s education to her children’s music responsibilities. By connecting these two dimensions of St. Luke’s ministry with children and families, we are able to explore new ways of providing formative faith experiences for our youngest members. We continue our search for a part-time Director of Youth Education Ministries and look forward to hiring someone early in 2013.

The most unexpected change of 2012 came with the news that Interim Lead Pastor George Koch needed emergency bypass surgery following a heart attack on September 30. As of mid-January, he continues his recovery and is looking ahead to being able to return to St. Luke’s following his disability leave. Thank you to the Council for their confidence in naming me as Acting Lead Pastor until Pastor Koch returns or until a new Lead Pastor is called and to Interim Associate Pastor David Hulse who joined the staff as our “relief pitcher” on December 1.

My report would be incomplete without thanking Anne Krentz Organ for her partnership in ministry and her ability to draw people closer to God through the gift of music. Especially in this year when the unexpected often felt like the norm, Anne’s ability to keep our attention directed toward God in worship is a blessing I appreciate deeply.

As we look ahead to 2013, I am again reminded that our crystal ball is out for repairs and that even if it were here, there is much which lies ahead that we would not be able to predict. Like the disciples who locked themselves in a room on Easter evening because they were afraid, when we are tempted to let fear of an unknown future stop us, we find that Jesus comes to us and says, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” [John 20:21] We may not know where we are being led or how Jesus will send us there, but we know that the Holy Spirit will guide us every step of the way.

- Thank you to the many volunteers who carry out the daily mission and ministries of St. Luke’s.
- Thank you to Cabinet Coordinators in 2012 Jo Ellen Krantz and Aleli Scerba (Education & Learning), Barbara Gartner and Todd Raeder (Member Care), John English (Outreach and Community Service), Kim Hendee (Congregational Life), Joel Kwasigroch (Operations and Management), Kim Schaeffer (Worship and Music), Paula Zawojski (Human Resources Chair), Pastor Mac Minnick (Financial Management Team), and Irene Jinks (Council President). Their leadership is a gift that blesses us all.
- Thank you to Mark Kogut, Becky Weber, Amanda Cassarella, and Iris Henderson. Their presence in keeping the building clean and the children in the nursery safe is an often unseen but important part of our ministry.
- Thank you to Annette Kern, Susan Pinto, Jim Schrop, Jeanne Rice, Melinda Hoiland, Anne Krentz Organ, Jeannine Oakes, Interim Lead Pastor George Koch, Pastor Emeritus Mac Minnick, Interim Associate Pastor Patty Hewitt, and Interim Associate Pastor David Hulse. Working on this staff team has been and continues to be a blessing.

In Peace,

Rev. Kristina C. Weber
2012 Council Recap

2012 was a year of transition and change at St. Luke's. Going into 2012 the church faced a number of challenges to St. Luke's strong ministry and mission.

As the year began, the cabinets and ministries were asked to do more with less as the projected budget for the year was down from 2011. The Church Council also knew that it faced a possible budget shortfall in the area of personnel that would need to be closed by year end. The 1929 building was in need of costly repairs. And the search for a lead pastor continued.

The Council confronted each of these issues during 2012 and is pleased to report that as a result of the tough and difficult decisions that were made, the church is not only financially stronger heading into 2013, it is well positioned to manage through changes and future challenges.

This report highlights the most significant issues that came before Council in 2012. Further detail regarding these issues and other issues that came before the Council that are not reported here are contained within the Minutes of Council and the Council recaps in the Messenger.

Administrative Staffing Changes

During 2012, the administrative staff of St. Luke's underwent significant change. The Council, with the guidance, leadership and assistance of the HR Committee, made the difficult but necessary determination that changes to existing staff and structure had to be made in order to ensure that (a) the church’s commitment to ministry and mission remained strong and (b) that the church’s future financial health was ensured. These staffing changes included: personnel, job descriptions and pay and salary structure.

The Council eliminated the position of Parish Coordinator. A new position called the Administrative Assistant was created and we hired Susan Pinto to assume this role. Financial considerations were certainly a part of this restructure, but they weren't the only consideration. Council recognized that the church administrative needs had changed over time. The ability to effectively leverage technology to reduce future cost and to position the church for a future where technology is vital to the church's survival also factored heavily in the Council's decision. Changes to the Church's website reflect the increased reliance on technology to perform our mission. Through much prayer and deliberation, Council feels certain that the front office reorganization was necessary for the church’s success.

The position of Building Coordinator to manage the ongoing needs of the physical building structure was also created. We were thankfully able to hire Jim Schrop to fill this position so that he could seamlessly continue to provide the excellent support and care for the building that he has provided in the past. This position, too, represents cost savings while still providing the necessary level of building support to preserve and protect the facilities.
With Jeannine Oakes’ departure last summer, the Council divided the directorship of the Children and Youth Ministries into two separate director level positions. First, we created the position of Director of Children’s Music and Education Ministries and gratefully hired Melinda Hoiland. The title reflects that Melinda will be able to perform her new educational responsibilities for the children while still performing her important role in the music ministry. Going into 2013, the Council knows that the children are well cared for and Melinda will do great things for our children’s education program.

Our search for the new Director of Youth Ministries to direct the youth program is continuing. Through the generous help of volunteers from the congregation, we have been able to fill the need so far. Filling this position on a permanent basis, however, remains a priority for 2013.

In addition to the administrative staff changes, Interim Pastor Koch’s unfortunate and unexpected health issues forced the Council to unexpectedly make budget adjustments and develop strategies to ensure that the mission and ministry did not suffer in his absence. Pastor Kristi Weber ably filled in and assumed a much greater role than should have been asked of her and she has now been given the title of Interim Lead Pastor. Fortunately, our financial management enabled Council to make some financial accommodation for Pastor Kristi’s increased role and we recently hired David Hulse as the Interim Associate Pastor, who provided much needed help for Pastor Kristi in December. With David’s hiring we are nearly fully staffed and expect greater and much welcome stability regarding personnel in 2013.

**Lead Pastor Search**
Council spent significant time this year with the Call Committee as the search for the new lead pastor continues. Both groups had some learning experiences in 2012. We realized that we needed to ensure that good communication existed between the two groups. Last summer, Council and the Call Committee developed a procedure and protocol setting forth a formal process by which Council would ratify any candidate selection the Call Committee makes. By developing this protocol, there will be no doubt that once Council has recommended a new lead pastor to the congregation, the Council believes that the proposed pastor is the right choice to lead St. Luke’s.

**Financial Matters**
The Financial Management Team again provided another year of outstanding service to the church and Council and, as expected, much of Council’s time during this past year was devoted to the Church’s financial health and well-being.

Last fall, Pastor Mac Minnick facilitated the refinance of the mortgage on the new building with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. This mortgage reduction will result in cost savings to the church of approximately $4000.00 per month for the next three years.

$425,969.54 from the Kenealy Trust was approved for the 1929 Building Repair project, which along with additional generous gifts from other members of the congregation will
enable us to commence the repairs. In fact, the first phase of the building repair project has been approved by Council and will be presented to the entire congregation for ratification at the Annual Meeting so that these needed repairs may begin.

Plans to begin upper level completion of the music rehearsal room, office and pantry are underway and a projected budget shortfall for the upper level was closed by a generous gift from Seidel family so that construction may commence.

Council is pleased to report that we were able to positively manage through a tough financial landscape in 2012. Due to various cost reductions, including reductions due to personnel changes, and the Cabinets and Ministries collectively tightening their belts and underspending their budgets for 2012, the church has an improved financial health and Council fully expects 2013 to be fiscally stronger as reflected in the financial reports.

Council approved the 2013 Spending Plan which will be presented to the full Congregation for approval at the January 27, 2012 Annual Meeting. It is a blessing that the church will be increasing ELCA mission support and staff pay in the upcoming year. So, already 2013 is brighter. Council wishes to express its gratitude for everyone that assisted with financial management this year.

**2014 100 Year Celebration**

In 2013 we will look ahead to 2014, St. Luke's 100th Anniversary. Kyle Cartwright has undertaken the task of coordinating the celebratory activities. The Council has begun making plans and we will be asking for the congregation's assistance in 2013 to help make 2014 a spectacular year.

**Special Thanks**

The Council wants to express its thanks and gratitude to all volunteers in our Cabinets, Ministries and Committees who fulfill St. Luke's mission and ministry every day.

Council wishes to thank our President, Irene Jinks for her leadership and time and our thanks and appreciation to Treasurer, Jerry Gudukas, and Council members Lynda Minnick and Kyle Cartwright, Debbie Roman, and Paul Schroeder who served on Council or are concluding their Council Terms. You will all be missed.

Prayerfully, Council is looking forward to 2013 with a renewed sense of spirit and vision and we appreciate all of your prayers and support.

Respectfully submitted,

J. David Duffy
Secretary
REPORT FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

In 2012, the Human Resources Committee worked closely with pastoral leadership and Council to (1) clarify its role in church governance, (2) realign certain staff positions, (3) create two new staff positions (Administrative Assistant and Building Coordinator), and (4) help fill these new positions as well as the new role of Director of Children’s Music and Education Ministry.

Submitted by Lee Schafer

The Nominating Committee of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church presents the following nominations for open positions to the congregation. These will be voted on at the congregation’s annual meeting in January 2013.

**Nominating Committee**
Tim McCurry, term expires January 2015
Cindy Spiegel, term expires January 2015

**Endowment Fund Trustee**
Lara Miller, term expires January 2016

**Financial Review Committee**
Leah Cannon, second term expiring January 2016
Janet Skoglund – to replace Tom Anderson, term expires January 2015

**Congregation Treasurer**
Tom Anderson, term expires January 2014

**Congregation Council**
Cindy Nommensen, term expires January 2015
Craig Moen, term expires January 2015
Dennis Diana, term expires January 2016
Joe Pomilia, term expires January 2016
Claire English, term expires January 2016
Jill Ponsi, term expires January 2016

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Paula Besler, Jason Burrows, Kyle Cartright (Council representative), Vicki Loise, Tom Lynch, Lynda Minnick (Council representative). A special thanks to Paula Besler, Tom Lynch and Lynda Minnick as their terms on the committee end. Your commitment and hard work are appreciated.

**Council and Committee Members Continuing to Serve (Incumbents):**

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<th>Council:</th>
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<td>David Duffy (first term)</td>
<td>Jeff Bork (first term)</td>
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<td>Irene Jinks (second term)</td>
<td>Laure Mullaney (first term see above)</td>
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<td>Todd Raeder (first term)</td>
<td>Cindy Nommensen (first term see above)</td>
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<td>Janet Wasilewski (first term)</td>
<td>Craig Moen (first term)</td>
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Youth Members: Term traditionally coincides with the school year

| Jenny Calahan |
| Megan Boyce |

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<th>Financial Review Committee:</th>
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<td>Phil Miller</td>
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<th>Endowment Fund Trustee:</th>
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<td>Janet Holberg</td>
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The worship and music cabinet at St. Luke’s is responsible for overseeing the worship and music and visual arts life at St. Luke’s. We work together with the pastors and music ministers to plan and implement Sunday worship, as well as special services and events throughout the year. We meet the second Thursday of every month at 6:15 and would welcome new members! Current members include: Kim Schaeffer (chair), Melinda Hoiland, Kim Garber Lifton, Anne Organ, Janet Wasilewski (council), Dee Dee Kohlindorfer (altar guild) and Karen Nystrom. We thank Beth Ann Lynch and Pr. George Koch for their work and time on the cabinet this past year.

Special services this past year included a Healing Service, Longest Night Service, Camp Allegro closing program and Candlelight Lessons and Carols. We meet monthly to look ahead and review Sunday morning worship liturgies and special services such as Easter, Pentecost, Reformation, All Saints, Epiphany and Christmas, as well as seasonally Advent and Lent. This past year we worked with members of the Outreach Cabinet to think of ways to make worship more welcoming and visitor friendly.

Special thanks to members of the altar guild who work tirelessly to make sure that everything is in place for every worship service at St. Luke’s.

In 2013 we will work to complete a Worship Manual detailing all the different ‘jobs’ that help make worship happen such as Assisting Ministers, Acolytes, Lectors, altar guild and ushers. Many thanks to Beth Ann Lynch for the work begun on this project, a major undertaking.

Looking ahead to 2013 we look forward to the upper level build out and funding for new choir robes. We welcome Pr. David Hulse into our midst.

We welcome every member of St. Luke’s to become involved in our worship life. There are many areas you could serve: on the cabinet, helping lead Sunday morning worship, being involved in one of the many musical groups, being present in worship. We welcome feedback and ideas!

Kim Schaeffer
I am grateful for the opportunity to have served another year as the Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke's, where worship and music play a vital role in the life of the congregation. We have a large pool of talented musicians who make up our many choral and instrumental groups. Amid the changes in pastoral leadership during the past year, and as we await the call of a new lead pastor, the music ministry holds steady with weekly rehearsals and services. I am excited about the plans for completion of the Music Office and the upstairs corner rehearsal room for the Handbell Choir, Orff Ensemble, and other instrumental groups. I look forward to another year of singing and praying together with this congregation in 2013.

Regularly scheduled choirs included the following during 2011:

- **The Youth Choir** (7th-12th gr.) is comprised of 13 young men and women who practice each Wed. from 7:00-8:00 pm, and lead worship twice per month, alternating between the 8:30 and 11:00 am services.
- **The Chancel Choir** (adults) includes 20 singers who practice every Thurs. from 7:45-9:00 pm, and lead worship most Sundays at the 11:00 am service.
- **The Sanctuary Choir** (adults) numbers 18 singers who lead worship twice per month at the 8:30 am service, and practice from 9:45-10:30 am on the Sundays that they sing.
- **The Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs** combined their talents to sing for special festival occasions: Ash Wed., Feb. 22; Easter Sun., April 8; Candlelight Service, Dec. 2; Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
- **The Celebration Ringers** (adults) numbers 13 handbell players. They practice on Wednesdays from 8:00-9:00 pm and play for worship on average once per month.

All of the choirs plus orchestra participated in the 73rd annual **Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 2, at 4:00 p.m.

Additional musical ensembles have enhanced our worship services during the past year. See report by the Director of Children's Music, Melinda Hoiland, for further listings:

- **The Requiem Choir** provides choral leadership for funeral and memorial services at St. Luke's. This choir provides an important ministry to bereaved families and those who attend the services. I am thankful for the singers who generously and graciously devote their time and talents.
- St. Luke's own **Dixieland Band** provided alternative worship on Sun., Aug. 26. Led by pianist Lee Burswold, the group included Dave Ruth, trumpet; Burt Olsson, banjo; Michael Delaney, clarinet; and Dave Heim, percussion.
- **St. Luke's Orchestra** played on Easter Sunday, Reformation Sunday, the Candlelight service, and for Christmas Eve. Instrumentalists included: Lisa Ramsey, Lydia Ramsey, Paul Organ, Britta Hoiland, Kiersten Hoiland, violin; Daniel Hoiland, Greta Ramsey, Soren Ramsey viola; Barbara Burswold, cello; Eric Greve, bass; Melinda Hoiland, Caity Lynch, Csilla Megyeri, Karen Nystrom, flute; Amanda Cassarella, Lynda Minnick, clarinet; Christine Phillips, oboe; Tim Anderson, Scott Grau, Abby Hayden, Dave Ruth, trumpet; Emily Barbarigos, horn; Tom Anderson, Andrew Organ, Paul Phillips, trombone; Suzanne George, harp; Tim Clark, Dave Heim, percussion.

**Working together:**

- St. Luke's hosted three concerts by the **Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players** on Jan. 15, March 18, and Nov. 18
- Presented an **Adult Forum** on psalm singing on February 12
- Hosted the **ALCM Composer’s Colloquium**, Feb. 3-4
• Composer Ben Wedge, affiliated with the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra, came to Youth Choir rehearsal Feb. 1 to hear his choral arrangement of Amazing Grace. Wonderful interaction between the choir and composer. Ben attended worship on Feb. 5 to hear the choir sing his piece.
• Spoke to the Men’s Breakfast on March 6: toured the unfinished rehearsal room, shared the plans for finishing it. Got all the guys to ring handbells by teaching them some change ringing patterns. Fun!
• Accompanied Camp Allegro’s musical “Elijah” July 12 at St. Luke’s, July 13 at St. Matthew’s
• Hosted the Augsburg Fortress Worship and Music Clinic, including a Hymn Festival led by Michael Bedford and Bradley Ellingboe, August 1-2
• Convened the Liturgical Arts Team who engaged artist John Buscemi to create torch stands to complement the processional cross. The torches were blessed in worship on Sunday, Dec. 2.
• Completed acolyte training with the Confirmation Classes in September
• Spoke to each New Member Class about the worship/music ministry at St. Luke’s
• Children's Music Director Melinda Hoiland and I work together to coordinate our multi-generational offerings of choirs and instrumental ensembles.

Continuing Education:
• February 3-4 hosted and attended the ALCM Composers Colloquium
• April 16-18 attended the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University
• July 26-27 attended the ALCM Region 3 conference at Grace Lutheran, River Forest, IL, played flute for the opening hymn festival
• August 1-2 hosted and attended the Augsburg Fortress Worship and Music Clinic at St. Luke’s and accompanied all of the choral sessions
• August 22 Attended a GIA choral reading session at St. Edmund’s in Oak Park

Additional Professional Activity:
• Continued a 2-year stint as “President-elect” of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) which began in October of 2011. I will assume the role of president in October of 2013, and the role of past-president in October of 2016. My service will end in October of 2017.
• Took part in the ALCM Executive Director Search Team
• Continued to co-chair the ALCM 2013 Worship Planning Team in preparation for next summer’s biennial conference at Valparaiso University, June 30-July 3, 2013
• Played in the St. Luke’s Bottle Band for benefit concerts on Feb. 24 and March 3
• Played for the Metro-Chicago Synod Assembly Eucharist service on Saturday, June 2, at the Tinley Park Convention Center
• Played at the ELCA Headquarters for mid-week Eucharist services on June 6 &13, July 18, Aug. 20 & 22, and Oct. 17
• Accepted a commission from Valparaiso University to compose a handbell piece for their Advent/Christmas Vespers service which was held December 7, 2012
• Composed choral and instrumental music, including voluntaries for piano and anthems for choir which have been used in worship at St. Luke’s and have been published by Augsburg Fortress, Concordia Publishing House and MorningStar Music Publishers

Looking ahead to the coming year, we continue to think imaginatively about how to accommodate peoples’ musical gifts and talents into our worship life. We have a solid base for our music ministry with our choirs and instrumental ensembles. It is important to affirm these groups, and to continue to support them, both financially and with prayer. We also want to offer new avenues of participation that will bring more people into the music ministry at St. Luke’s. Seasonal choir commitments and other short term musical commitments will present new opportunities for involvement.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Krentz Organ
This year has seen changes and shifts in our staff, including my responsibilities at St. Luke’s. On August 1, I was privileged to take on the Children’s Education component of the Children, Youth and Family position, as a result of Jeannine Oakes’ departure. Since that time, it’s been a whirlwind of activity and planning, getting to know more children and parents and realizing the gifts of so many members of our congregation. Combining music and education has been a natural for me as all that I am doing focuses toward encouraging faith development and community for our children and families at St. Luke’s.

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC**

**Cherub and Junior Choirs** This fall we have had 10 Cherub Choir singers (K – 2nd) and about 7 Junior Choir singers (3rd-6th) meeting weekly to prepare anthems, hymns and liturgies in preparation for leading worship every 3-4 weeks. Highlights include leading the Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve services, singing and playing in the Candlelight service and performing for the residents at The Summit of Park Ridge in May (including a stop at Ruth Trautman’s porch for a singing visit on our walk back!) and St. Matthew Center for Health in December.

**Orff Ensemble** has about 10 children (3rd-6th) who prepare music to enhance worship, learn how to play together in an ensemble, explore and learn about various aspects of music and share their own creativity by improvising and composing their own pieces. I have continued to arrange much of the music we play, and the children often help in creating and arranging the pieces as well.

**Recorder Consort** involves 8-10 adults of various ages and plays for worship periodically.

**Flute Choir** is an intergenerational group that plays for worship periodically through the year and involves around 15 youth and adults.

This summer’s **Camp Allegro**, from July 9-13, involved 37 children and 30 youth and adult helpers as we presented the musical, **Elijah, God’s Faithful Prophet**. Highlights included:

- Visits from a magician and a Klezmer Band, who played lively music that we enjoyed and danced to
- Making our own hummus with Brett Parker, along with enjoying lots of delicious snacks
- Painting and designing our own sets and props as well as other fun crafts
- Water Day, of course! This was the last of many years for our water slide, donated by the Cassarella family a number of years ago. We will need to purchase a new one this summer.

The children led music for the Thursday evening worship service as well as at St. Matthew’s Center for Health on Friday morning. We collected a carload of canned goods for **Elijah’s Pantry** and contributed **$600 to the ECLA Malaria Campaign**, We also contributed **$400 toward the music space build-out and have about $100 carryover** for next year. This program continues to involve a wonderful mix of neighborhood children, about half members and non-members, and is a great outreach for our congregation.

**Thursday evening worship services** – The Worship and Music Cabinet decided to have two services -- Camp Allegro on July 13 and a healing service on August 9.

**Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players** concert series. The group presented wonderful concerts on January 15 and March 18, as well as November 18. As of this fall, Anne Krentz Organ will be handling the logistics for the series so that I can focus on my expanded responsibilities. Future concerts include January 20 and April 14.
CHILDREN’S EDUCATION

Sunday School – During the fall of 2012 we have had 66 PK3 - 6th graders registered. Special thanks to Kelly Kohlindorfer and Sue Yee for their help and creativity, as well as to all the many volunteer teachers and shepherds who give of their time and energy each week to help encourage and enrich our children’s faith development. Our theme this year is “God Will Provide.” Together with the children’s fall offerings and a contribution in thankful appreciation for teachers and shepherds, we are able to give $600 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. In September, Aleli Scerba, Lee Schafer and Tim Timmons led a three-week session for 1st-6th graders (and will follow up with one in January) educating the children about the Malaria Campaign. We continue to use the Augsburg Fortress Spark classroom curriculum for PK-1st grade and the Spark rotation curriculum for 2nd-5th graders.

Special Events – Sunday, October 7 was our 2nd annual Animal Blessing outside during the Sunday School hour. It was well attended; however, we may consider doing it at a different time in the future as to not take a full Sunday School session. Friday Fun Night on Nov. 9 was a great success, making ornaments and bringing donations to Bethel New Life Christmas store. All the children were involved in our Sunday School Christmas Pageant on Dec. 16, which was a huge success. We have also started an informal parent discussion group called Faith and Family, which meets each Sunday during the education hour.

Vacation Bible School was combined with First United Methodist Church and St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Park Ridge. This next summer we will work to combine the program again to involve more children.

Other Programs and Activities:

Lefse making – Dec. 8 – about a dozen folks of all ages gathered to learn the art of making lefse in our upstairs kitchen.

A Christmas Carol, Dec. 9 – about 75 people attended this fabulous event, given by Frank Babbitt. $342 was raised for the Maine Township Food Pantry, and at least 7 bags of food were collected.

Continuing Education – I am in the process of researching a Children’s Christian Education conference to attend in 2013.

Looking forward:
The E and L Cabinet is planning another Friday Fun Night on Feb. 1 for all ages.
I plan to meet with other Children’s Education directors in the area to share ideas.
Camp Allegro will be during a week in June, 2013. We will need to purchase a new water slide.
Frank Babbitt would like to return in December for another presentation of A Christmas Carol.
Our team this year consisted of Janice Bennett, Barbara Burswold, Elsie Duncan, Janice Jordan, Gail Larson, Saundra McCoid, and Christine Simpson.

Memorial funds were used to purchase new chairs, and a “new” used lateral file. We are currently looking toward replacing a small bookcase for picture books for young children with a vertical display unit that would make the books more visible and more accessible. New track lighting was installed in the hallway to illuminate the bulletin board and signage. Thank you to Carolynn Joesten, Gary Cartwright, and Norm Maske for assistance with obtaining and installing these items.

A new shelf list was generated, and after completing an inventory in June, missing books were determined and a list of those items was produced and posted. No missing items were located, and it is hoped that members will continue to check for books that may have been taken without signing them out. Many overdue items were located and returned.

The Bible Experience on 79 CDs was organized so that members can check out individual books of the Bible, or a few CDs at a time. Other special collections, such as grief, parenting, etc., are now identified with colored stickers.

An Open House/Adult Forum was held April 20, and included a trivia quiz, explanation of services, a “tour” of collections, and demonstration of the reader services on our website. Thanks to Claire Buettner for including updated information on St. Luke’s website.

Gail Larson attended the NCLA-Chicago chapter workshop in April, with sessions on organizing and displaying books. Although the NCLA itself is dissolving as of Dec. 31, 2012, the Chicagoland chapter will continue and recommend other resources for our church library.

Special initiatives for this year included extending hours so that the library door is open whenever the church office is open, to allow greater access for members during the week. The Atrium bookcart has successfully encouraged members to browse and check out items featured in the Messenger and the weekly parish notes. We began a “Reader’s Choice” file for members to recommend books to others. Chosen books have a Readers Choice sticker on the spine. Library Greeters hosted the library space between services. We will continue recruiting folks to be official greeters to welcome those who come in. We have made an effort to connect with specific groups and personally invite them to use the library resources. This effort will continue into 2013, including encouraging members to consider the library as a small group meeting space. The Spiritual Practices team used the library space for meetings on Saturdays each month from May through August. Sunday school teachers were invited to learn about the resources available, and it is hoped that those teachers who can find the time within their curriculums will visit with their classes for a story and “checkout” time.

We received several donated books which were processed and entered into our system. We continue to welcome these donations when they fulfill our acceptance policy. Our biennial Adopt-a-book sale will be held in March to enlarge and refresh our collection.

Bulletin board themes this year included “What are you taking up for Lent?”, “Look What They Found at St. Luke’s Library” “A World of Stories” and “’Tis the Season to Read, Reflect, Rejoice”.

Two of our members have moved away and left the library team. We are currently actively seeking new members to bolster our numbers and invite any and all interested members to join us as we do library ministry. You are most welcome!

Respectfully submitted, Gail Larson
In 2012, St. Luke’s offered many adult educational opportunities:

1. **Sunday Morning Adult Forums**
   Presentations by St. Luke’s members and guests included:

2. **Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Studies**
   Topical studies presented in a series and facilitated by St. Luke’s members included:

3. **Thursday Morning Adult Bible Studies**
   Bible Study led by Pastor Kristina Weber, Pastor George Koch, and Pastor David Hulse.

4. **Saturday Morning Bible Studies**
   Men’s Bible study led by Pastor George Koch and St. Luke’s members.

5. **Summer Activities**
   Viewing of the movie, “Trouble the Water” and a visit from Cynthia Glensgard of Global Handmade Hope, for a discussion of fair trade.

Participants in Adult Education deal with topics within a one to eight-part series, allowing in-depth treatment of issues. On Sunday mornings we sometimes invite outside speakers, though we primarily draw on the expertise of our own members. For Wednesday night events, we have welcomed several facilitators, all members of our congregation.

We would like to thank members of our congregation who have led or facilitated Adult Education sessions: Claire Buettner, Pastor George Koch, Pastor Steve Nelson, Dr. Tim McCurry, Melinda Holland, Pastor Paul Stone, Pastor Kristina Weber, Anne Krentz Organ, Kimberly Kohlindorfer, Irene Jinks, Karl and Glenna Pearson, Jill Crooker, Ken Schoy, Dr. Pam Boyce, Gail Larson, Pastor Lee Joesten, Sue Weber, Jim Pearson and Janet Hoiberg.

Also, we thank Christopher Figler for his expert AV assistance!

We welcome your participation in 2013. Any suggestions are always welcomed.

The Adult Education Committee:
Claire Buettner, Rita Hoffer, Mary Jane Jaffe and Pastor Kristina Weber
Member Care Cabinet

Annual Report - 2012

In 2012, many St. Luke’s member volunteers participated in the various ministries of Member Care. There were many changes with Member Care this year, with the lack of a full time Member Care staff member and several changes of the Member Care Cabinet Committee Chairman position and we started meeting only 4 times per year. We depend on the time and talents of many members of the congregation to carry out our ministries. Those who served on the Member Care Cabinet this year were Clare English, Brenna Huovie, Barb Gartner, Pastor George Koch, Tim McCurry, Pastor Mac Minnick, Todd Raeder (council liaison), Mary Rhoton, and Pastor Kristi Weber. We sincerely thank all who serve in the ministries of Member Care, though it's not possible to name everyone in this brief outline.

All Ages Support Programs
Many programs are coordinated by Member Care, throughout the year, which serve the needs of members of all ages.

- Blood Pressure Team - coordinated by Cindy Nommensen
- Card Ministry – many members participate in creating handmade cards to be sent to members who are sick or grieving. Amy Burrows helps to coordinate this ministry
- Care-giving Support – Adult Children of Aging Parents – coordinated by Clare English
- Career Transition – led by Jeff Bork, Pastor Mac Minnick, and Paul Sheehan – The Career Transition program has continued to expand, and supports members of St. Luke’s as well as reaching out to more than 35 other congregations, forming a network of support for many. In addition to seminars, the team provides support through “members helping members”.
- CD Recording Ministry for Homebound members – coordinated by Mary Rhoton
- E-mail & Telephone Trees - coordinated by Dorothy Hendee and Mary Lou Sandvik
- Flower Delivery Team - coordinated by Iris Henderson
- Home Visitors - volunteers visit homebound members to deliver communion and devotional materials – programs coordinated by Mary Rhoton.
- Meals for Members Program – coordinated by Clare English.
- Prayer Chain - coordinated by Beth Ann Lynch
- Prayer Shawl Ministry - coordinated by Beth Ann Lynch. Prayer shawls were given to members who were homebound, hospitalized, grieving, those newly baptized, as well as seniors graduating from high school.
- Worship Greeters - The Worship Greeter program has been moved to the Outreach Cabinet for 2012.
**Spiritual Development**
As in past years, devotional resources are made available to the congregation through Member Care. We continue with the *Splash!* monthly newsletter mailings to parents of children up to three years old, which provide helpful guidance on child and faith development; Thank you to Ruth Schroeder who has handled the coordination of the mailings for this program for several years. A new Splash coordinator is needed. Thank you to Debbie McCurry who has helped during this transition.

**Bereavement Support Programs**
Clare English coordinated the events of Giving Sorrow Words and Widow and Widowers Luncheons, held in 2012. The Giving Sorrow Words program was held in May for those who have lost a loved one. The Widows and Widowers Luncheon was held in November, for members grieving the loss of a spouse. Special thanks to Diane Barounis, who assisted with both programs, including creating and leading the program for the Widow and Widowers luncheon.

**Stewardship**
The Member Care Cabinet would like to thank the 2012 Stewardship Team: Tim Freedlund, Barbara Gartner, Scott Grau, Annette Parker, Paul Schroeder, Bob Trownsell, Sue Laursen-Yee, and Pastor Kristi Weber for all of their work. The Stewardship Team has the responsibility to assist all members of the congregation to understand *Stewardship* as the response of the Christian person to the gifts from God and the responsible use of them in all areas of life. The main focus was the stewardship program conducted in the fall, under the theme of “Where do You see Jesus” The Stewardship team provided materials to members on St. Luke’s programming planned for 2013.

The Member Care Cabinet looks forward to continuing its ministry to the members of St. Luke’s in 2013. We welcome all members who are interested in serving the needs of St. Luke’s through these ministries, and also look for new ideas for additional programs to serve the needs of our members. Finally, we thank all members who have shared their time and talents through their service to the programs of Member Care during 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Raeder
Member Care Cabinet Coordinator
This past year has been one of planning for future repairs and maintaining our current building and operations. Our congregation is blessed with the many volunteers that keep the building operations running smoothly. We are also working with the new Building Coordinator position that has been established this year. Jim Schrop has coordinated many of the activities related to the building operations since his start. This was the first full year of operations for the building addition. We have a full year’s worth of financial information related to this part of our building. While the building addition is new, there are many expenses related to the inspection and maintenance of building mechanicals.

We have tried our best to reduce spending through the year in light of the lower cash flow. There were 2 changes made to assist with reducing costs. A new landscaping/snow removal contractor was selected and a change was made in the source of our electrical supplier.

Now that funding has been attained for the second floor completion, this is a project that will start to take shape in 2013. Jaeger, Nickola- Architecture Construction & Engineering LLC has been selected to assist in finding the right contractors to complete the work. Planning continues for this project.

Funding is being established for the 1929 building repairs. An engineering firm, STR-SEG, has been selected to detail the work effort so that bids for contractors can be sent out. This firm will also oversee this work to ensure that the repairs are performed properly. Currently, the costs of repairs exceed the amount of funding, so the work will be prioritized in order of importance. This work will start in 2013 pending proper congregational approval.
While the building project was deemed “completed” during 2011 and the original building committee was disbanded, there were a number of items that remained uncompleted and significant progress on some of the items on this list was made during 2012. Much more visible progress will be seen in 2013.

Projects completed during 2012: Special thanks should go to Norm Maske for many of the accomplishments of the past year. He has contributed his carpentry talents, his tools and a lot of his time to working on some of the projects that were left undone once the contractors completed their work. Although much of his work took place behind the scenes, you will see several examples as you walk around the building, including the reuse of cabinets salvaged from the 1971 building in various classrooms and storage rooms, installation of a new handrail in the north stairwell, installation of new track lighting for the library bulletin board in the north hallway, installation of exterior lanterns salvaged from the 1971 addition flanking the east entry door and the installation of a new drinking fountain adjacent to the sanctuary.

Other uncompleted items: The two largest and most conspicuous uncompleted items from the building project are the unfinished rooms on the upper level of the new addition and the unfinished space on the lower level that is intended to house four new classrooms/meeting rooms and two new restrooms. Also several parts of the fellowship hall plan remain unfinished, such as the replacement of two doors, the repair of some defective plaster, the installation of acoustic panels, a room divider, a ceiling mounted projection screen and athletic carpeting. Several parts of the kitchen design remain uncompleted, as does the remodeling of the narthex restroom and coatroom. And on the outside, only one of the four phases of the landscape lighting has been completed. None of these projects were included in the original project budget and all require new funding before they can be completed.

Upper level progress: During 2011 substantial memorial funds were donated with the objective of completing the unfinished space on the upper level of the new building. This space is designed to house a new rehearsal room/multipurpose room, a secure instrument storage room, an office for the music staff and the main kitchen’s pantry. Early in 2012 we retained our original architectural firm to complete the design of this space and to prepare construction drawings. Upon completion of their work, our general contractor obtained cost estimates from a number of potential subcontractors and prepared an initial construction budget. This budget indicated that additional funds would be required to complete the project and additional contributions were received for the project late in the year. As 2012 draws to a close, the project is being organized and the work should be completed in the first half of 2013. A special team, consisting of Gary Cartwright, Kevin Goll, Jim Henderson, Norm Maske, Anne Organ and Phil Stavrides, has been formed to manage this project for the congregation. Craig Moen has agreed to manage transition logistics for this project.

Masonry restoration and boiler replacement: In 2011, during the construction project, we became aware of significant problems with the exterior masonry construction of the 1929 building. And late in 2012, one of our two1980’s era boilers failed and was taken out of service. A separate team has been established to deal with these two issues and will be making a recommendation to the congregation early in 2013. These repairs will be funded separately from the building project.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Henderson, Chair
Art and Design Team
Annual Report for 2012

The Art and Design Team has been given the responsibility, by our Congregation Council, to oversee the ways and means by which our church building and grounds are maintained in a condition to bear witness to God, enhance the appearance, and preserve the design and decorum of the place we gather to worship, learn and interact.

We use the Art and Design Policy to preserve the physical and aesthetic integrity of the building and using the facilities in various ways to serve as a resource for the mission and ministry of our church.

Following are projects the Team, and Team individuals, have taken part in this year.

**Youth Lounge**
Supported youth and youth leaders as they chose furnishings to create a new and comfortable space. The room has flexibility for conversation and watching movies. A flat screen television (wall mounted) and sound system, have been purchased and are in place. Thanks to Joel Kwasigroch and Charles Melidosian for the installation, and the Hoilands for a ping-pong table.

**Handrails and Bulletin Boards**
Thank you to Norm Maske for installing hand rails in the north stairwell and for mounting bulletin boards and white boards in Sunday School classrooms.

**Gary Cartwright…**
Continues to paint rooms and halls, and stain wood where needed. He has also volunteered to paint the second floor build-out. He also installed a bulletin board in the hallway opposite Pr. Weber’s office.

**Carolynn Joesten…**
Assisted Library Team in purchasing a file cabinet and two accent chairs for the Library.

**Parking Lot Planters**
Thank you to those who anonymously planted flowers in the planters around the property.

**Narthex Restroom and Lounge**
Updating this restroom is a work in progress. Thanks to Jim Schrop for repairing the toilet and scrubbing down the floor. Thank you to Norm Maske for installing grab bars. Replacing the countertop, installing wall hung coat rack, new toilet, and painting are yet to come.

The team thanks the congregation for following policy in using blue tack for posting items and for using bulletin boards and easels for your events and information. Our thanks, also, to anyone we may have missed in helping us complete projects and maintain our buildings' aesthetics.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Cartwright, Carolynn Joesten, Jim Henderson and Debbie Roman    1/3/2013
OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
Annual Report – 2012

Cabinet Mission Statement: Inspire and motivate our members to share their stories of God’s love with others and serve human needs here and around the world.

The members of the Outreach and Community Service Cabinet serving during 2012 were Clare Buettner, Lynda Minnick, Nancy Harding, Pastor George Koch, Carolynn Joesten, Pastor Kristi Weber and John English.

Outreach Remains a Priority. We continue to focus on further developing within our congregation a culture of invitation and hospitality as outreach. We continue to motivate our members to invite neighbors, friends and family to events at St. Luke’s because most people attend a church for the first time because someone with whom they relate has invited them.

Enhanced Greeters Program. As part of enhancing our culture of hospitality, we enhanced our greeters program. Greeters welcome you every Sunday morning. We now have greeters at the entrance to the atrium as well as at the entrance to the sanctuary. We conducted a training session for our greeters. We invite you to be a greeter so you can talk to your friends, meet other members and welcome visitors.

Hands On Relationship with LSSI. We are blessed by having relationships with other Lutheran organizations, such as Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. LSSI approached St. Luke’s looking for more intentional engagement between our congregation and LSSI. At our request, Sue MacDonald visited two LSSI programs, Artesian House and Kenmore House. Artesian House serves 8 mentally challenged men. Kenmore House provides a detox program for 20 women at a time. We are considering how to engage with these programs and will report in a forthcoming Messenger. We thank Sue MacDonald for her service in this project.

Importance of Mission Support. Another priority is to increase the level of St. Luke’s support for the Synod and Churchwide. Cabinet member, Claire Buettner, produced short articles as part of a series entitled “We are called . . .” The articles demonstrate how St. Luke’s support of the Synod and Churchwide extends our mission beyond our walls and how St. Luke’s directly benefits from our contributions to Mission Support.

The Lutheran Magazine. The Spending Plan generally allocated money to pay a portion of the cost to subscribe to The Lutheran for each family in the Congregation. The remaining portion of this cost was paid by special gifts from our members. We were required to renew our subscription by November 30 to continue our subscription uninterrupted. However, on November 30, we had no assurance that the Congregation would approve any expenditure from the Spending Plan for the 2013 subscription. For this reason, we allowed the Congregation’s subscription to lapse. If sufficient money becomes available through the Spending Plan and special gifts, we will resume our subscription effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Future subscriptions also will run from July 1 through June 30. This change will enable us to renew our subscription (or not) based on an approved Spending Plan.
Community Service Teams. The Outreach and Community Service Cabinet also works with several Community Service Teams.

- **The Outreach Visitor Team** is designed to approach people who have visited St. Luke’s. On a rotating basis, congregation members call on first-time visitors, bringing a gift of bread to make a first contact with the congregation more meaningful. Five coordinators oversee this team: Carolynn Joesten, Todd and Kathy Raeder, Lynda Minnick and Dee Dee Kohlndorfer.

- **The Social Ministry Team** is one of our ministries to our neighbors. It sponsors the Christmas Card Tree project, a blood drive, 40 items for Lent for Elijah’s Pantry, a quilt drive and the Crop Walk, turkey drive, among other opportunities for local giving. Monthly efforts continue with First Sunday food contributions and second Sunday white socks for the Night Ministry. The Social Ministry Committee currently is guided by Ken Schoy.

- **The Global Links Team**, coordinated by Sue Weber, fosters awareness of and participation in God’s global mission, at home and around the world. See their report that follows this report for details.


- **Sunday Night Suppers** continue to be a strong tradition in Park Ridge. St. Luke’s continues to work with local churches to provide Sunday evening meals on a weekly basis. We thank Kim Hendee for coordinating this effort.

- **Mission Support and Education**, including Mission Interpreters, is responsible to help the congregation understand the importance of the larger church in the life of the congregation. The congregation is one level of church membership, with the congregation belonging to and supporting a synod at a state or regional level and a churchwide effort on a national level. Mission Interpreters are trained and commissioned to help their congregations understand how the money they donate is used for the greater good. This training and commissioning is done on a synodical level.

- **Human Needs Assistance** is another of St. Luke’s responses to needs of individuals and organizations in our community. The economy and the city’s decision to change their procedures for giving out funds, as well as cuts to human service agencies have resulted in greater need for response from our church. We regularly gave vouchers for food and gas to individuals who came to our doors.
2012 ANNUAL REPORT SOCIAL MINISTRY

Mission: Social Ministry initiates and/or evaluates requests for social action, recommends appropriate action for St. Luke's and coordinates these activities.

Committee Members: Diane Erickson, Jean Igoe, Todd Raeder, Cheryl Ryback, Ken Schoy and Lois Shaw.

First Sunday, Food Sunday: On a monthly basis, non-perishable food items are donated by the congregation and delivered to Maine Township Pantry in Park Ridge or Elijah's Pantry in Logan Square.

2nd Sunday, Sock Sunday: On a monthly basis, fresh white socks donated by the congregation are delivered to the Night Ministry which in turn gives them to street people in Chicagoland.

Blood Drive: The Blood Drive took place on March 29. There were 27 people who tried to give blood and 20 were accepted. This could make a vital difference in people's lives. Thank you.

Forty-Something For Lent: Two SUVs and two cars all completely jammed with food were required to bring the food to Elijah's Pantry in Chicago on Palm Sunday, April 1. Also $790 was given.

Lutheran World Relief Drive: This activity gives quilts made by people at St. Luke's for distribution in the world. This year we had 9 boxes with 27 quilts that were taken to Messiah Lutheran and LWR then distributed them to places in need throughout the world. Alice Kolar and Angie Krause and the quilt team create these beautiful quilts. This occurred October 6.

Fundraiser for Elijah's Pantry: The October 6 Elijah's Pantry fundraiser at Edgebrook Lutheran in Chicago had about 35 people attending from several sponsoring churches and earned about $1,400. Beth Ann Lynch was among the performers.

Niles/Park Ridge Crop Walk: The Niles/Park Ridge Crop walk took place on October 21 with Redeemer Lutheran in Park Ridge as the host church. We had 214 people walk from several churches earning around $31,000. St. Luke's had 23 walkers and $2,629. 75% goes to world hunger and 25% stays local.

Thanksgiving Turkey Drive: On November 18, we collected and purchased 90 turkeys and delivered it all to Elijah's Pantry. Unfortunately, we missed 100 turkeys and had no tailgating party.

Christmas Activities: Some attended an Elijah Pantry Christmas party in Logan Square for the neighborhood children on December 8 and helped them coordinate the party.

Christmas Card Tree: This is a project where the congregation gives one card and money to church to put on the Christmas tree. This year the money will again go to the St. Luke's food voucher program to help hungry people who come to the door. $1,925 was collected.

Thanks to the congregation of St. Luke's for their generosity in supporting all our programs in 2012 and in past years. These ministries help many people.

submitted by Ken Schoy
GLOBAL LINKS TEAM
From Education to Participation in God’s Global Mission

The year began with a **Winter Farmers’ Market** under the auspices of Faith in Place, an environmental non-profit group providing small local farm producers with additional sales venues beyond the growing season. Vendors featured cheese, meat, soap, honey, wool, vinegars, sauces, and preserves. Publicity through the media and flyers delivered to local businesses brought more than 300 attendees. It was an ideal opportunity to welcome the community into our new space and showcase local products.

March featured **Global COW**, a Wednesday evening international meal (African, Middle Eastern, Indian, Mexican, Surinamese foods) prepared and served by the Global Links Team. Monies received through meal ticket sales was given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

A July “**Sunday in Suriname**” with Pr. Kevin Jacobson highlighted St. Luke’s participation in the support of ELCA missionaries. Pr. Kevin preached at both services and later shared stories and pictures of the ministry of the Lutheran Church in Suriname while listeners tasted Surinamese treats. He has extended an invitation to us to visit Suriname in 2013. We continue to communicate with the family of Carol and Randy Stubbs, developing the music department at the church university in Tanzania. They will visit us in 2013.

**St. Luke’s launched the ELCA Malaria Campaign** in the Sunday School in September. (Over three years, ELCA churches hope to raise $15 million to assist partner churches in Africa in their efforts to reduce the incidence of the disease.) Using ELCA resources, teachers prepared an outstanding two-Sunday curriculum in which children learned how malaria is spread and how it can be prevented. Their offerings were given for the campaign. An Adult Forum included stories of St. Luke’s members who have experienced the disease and its devastating effects. October 14 was designated as St. Luke’s Malaria Day. Nearly $3,000 has been contributed.

We continue the **sale of Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate** on the second Sunday of the month excepting July and August. Sales are brisk!

We participate in **Bread for the World**, a collective Christian voice that urges our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. We do so through **Bread for the World’s Offering of Letters**, this year writing to our legislators to form a “Circle of Protection” around programs that help poor and hungry people. Global Links members receive legislative updates regarding relevant policies and have visited the office of Senator Dick Durbin, noting our concerns.

Throughout the year, we emphasize the importance of generous giving to the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**. The colorful December **Good Gifts Fair** presents a final opportunity to do so by honoring loved ones through the purchase of an animal in “God’s Global Barnyard” or a mosquito net. St. Luke’s 2012 World Hunger total is $20,484, far short of our 2011 total of $28,000, but deeply appreciated.

Global Links is sponsoring an **international journey to Greece and Turkey**, the “Footsteps of Paul,” October 6-15, 2013, led by the Rev. Lee Joesten. Pre-trip preparation will include four group meetings to study Paul’s journeys and writings. Space is still available.
THE SAINT LUKE’S BOTTLE BAND

Report for 2012

The Saint Luke’s Bottle Band performed two benefit concerts for outside groups during 2012. Net proceeds from these concerts were $1,894.87.

During 2012, the Bottle Band contributed $15,100 towards the build out of the St. Luke’s Music Suite, $1,000 to ELCA Disaster Relief and $1,250 for other concerns.

The members of the Bottle Band look forward to another year of entertaining audiences with their unique blend of music and comedy.
**CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR 2012**

**PASTORAL ACTS FOR 2012**

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1. **Membership end of 2011**
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<td>*924</td>
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   *Statistical adjustment per 2011 ELCA congregational report*

2. **Members received during 2012**
   a. By baptism/children  | 15 | 0 |
   b. By adult baptism     | 1  | 1 |
   c. By affirmation of faith | 11 | 9 |
   d. By transfer from ELCA churches | 0 | 0 |
   e. By transfer from Lutheran Church Missouri Synod | 0 | 0 |
   f. By transfer from Wisconsin Synod | 0 | 0 |
   g. By transfer from other denominations | 0 | 0 |
   h. From other sources/statistical adjustment | 0 | 0 |
   i. Associate members    | 0  | 0 |
   j. Reinstated into active member status | 0 | 0 |
   k. **Total members received this year** | **27** | **10** |

3. **Baptized members who were confirmed in 2012**
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5. **Members removed during 2012**
   a. By death  | 7 | 7 |
   b. By transfer | 21 | 18 |
   d. For other reasons/statistical adjustment | 57 | 7 |
   e. Dropped per own request | 3 | 3 |
   f. Placed on inactive status per Council | 0 | 0 |
   g. **Total members removed this year** | **88** | **35** |

6. **Membership, end of December, 2012**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
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<td><strong>1120</strong></td>
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7. **Communing members:**
   a. Confirmed - 918
   b. Unconfirmed - 82

8. **Voting Members:**
   a. Communed and Contributed Confirmed - 715
ST. LUKE’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Meeting - January 27, 2013

Be it Resolved:

1. That we express our thanks and praise to our loving God for the countless blessings that have been bestowed upon us during 2012, for granting our Congregation the ability and resources to do God’s work with our hands.

2. That we pray to our loving God for the strength and commitment to continue the Lord’s work in 2013 and to identify where we see Jesus.

3. That we thank each person who served our Congregation this past year as a member of our staff, namely; Interim Pastor George Koch, Pastor Kristina Weber, Interim Associate Pastor Patricia Hewitt, Interim Associate Pastor David Hulse, Pastor Emeritus Mac Minnick, Anne Krentz Organ, Melinda Hoiland, Jeannine Oakes, Jeanne Rice, Annette Kern, Susan Pinto, Jim Schrop, Becky Weber and Amanda Cassarella.

4. That we thank each person who served our Congregation this past year as a volunteer during 2012, including the members of the Congregation Council, Congregation Officers, Cabinets, Committees, Working Teams and Task Teams related to Church Leadership, Worship and Music, Education and Learning, Member Care, Outreach and Community Service, Operations and Management, and Congregational Life.

5. That we thank our members who have served the Congregation as members of the Congregation Council and who have served in other positions of leadership during 2012. We particularly note: Kyle Cartwright, Dennis Diana, Lynda Minnick, Joe Pomilia, Debbie Roman, and Paul Schroeder, who ended their terms from the Congregation Council in 2012; We also thank the officers of our Congregation, namely: Irene Jinks, President; Kyle Cartwright, Vice President; David Duffy, Secretary; Jerry Gudukas, Treasurer; Betty Weber, Assistant-Treasurer; Kathy Raeder, Treasurer in Training; Don Nelson, Financial Secretary; Art Johnson, Recording Financial Secretary.


7. That we offer our thanks to God for those persons who have made their First Communion during 2012, namely Samantha Meredith Boch, Kurt Thomas Carvis, Niamh Linn Duffy, Conner Michael Erskine, Emily Rose Keller, Mary Elizabeth Keller, Chloe Ryann Knieling, Jake Braeden Knieling, Aidan Elizabeth Lawrence, Reese Kealan Lawrence, Peter Messina, Greta Meinheit Miller, Joseph Michael Paxhia, Kendall Jane Rink, Samantha Beth Schafer, Alexander William Speigel, and Grace Dorothy Trifunovich.

8. That we offer our thanks to God for those youth who affirmed their baptism, namely the 2012 Confirmation Class: Megan Catherine Besler, Julia Ann Marie Bork, Declan James
Cannon, Kate Lynn Carvis, Ashley Kathleen Clark, Mia Elizabeth Dolson, Leigh Meta Friedman, Ryan Patrick Golbeck, Christopher Loren Grau, Abigail Rose Krischke*, Dominic Kurt Loise, Claire Ellen Melidosian, Sophie Meinheit Miller, Cara Anne Nastali, Claire Victoria Parker, Nicholas Anthony Porto, Olivia Marie Post, Kristyn Anne Tarpey, Heather Rose Wind, and Abigail Ann Wolters. *Confirmed at St. Luke’s on behalf of Edison Park Lutheran Church, Chicago

9. That we offer our thanks to God for the lives of those members who passed from this life during 2012, namely: Raymond Epp, Russell E Gustafson, David Lloyd Heim, Shirley Frances Larson, Theodora Aileen Nelson, Frederick Drake Ratcliff, and Edwin Delroy Stutzman.

10. That we offer our thanks to God for those persons who joined our Congregation during 2012, namely: Joseph Jr., Kelley, Sophia and Joseph III, Alioto; Thomas, Amy, Kate and Kurt Carvis; Roger and Dawn Christiansen; Louise Lombardi; Terri Lucas; and Adam and Jennifer (Leeds) Radochonski.

12. That we commend the following members to other ELCA congregations per their request: Gary and Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl; Paul and Sue Edison-Swift; Terrance and Faith Fretheim; Richard and Woodyce Hibbler; Michael, Karen and Emma Luehr; Donald and Saundra McCoid; Ken and Arlene Patterson; Steve and Myrna Sheie; and Matthew, Anne Braden and Reese Thompson.

13. That we commend the following members be removed from active membership status per their own request: Jeannie Grender Rice, Jack Rice, and Samantha Rice.

14. That we recognize that the following members be removed from active membership status to inactive membership status: no recommendations made for 2012. A statistical adjustment has been made in the annual report to the ELCA to ensure that the number of active members reported matches the number of names for active members in St. Luke’s Shepherd’s Staff database.

15. That the Congregation Secretary is authorized to make typographic, spelling and grammatical corrections to the minutes of this Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

16. That the Congregation Council is authorized to review and approve the minutes of this Annual Meeting of the Congregation at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
Mission Statement (adopted 1982)

We, the members of St. Luke’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, are a congregation of people who believe in Jesus Christ. We are committed to glorifying God through worship and acting as His disciples by learning about our role in His kingdom on earth.

We are committed to changing lives through the Holy Spirit by the witness we make to those we meet in our daily lives and the service we render to the oppressed people of the world. We support and strengthen one another through Christian fellowship and by sharing the Good News that Jesus Christ is our personal Savior.


St. Luke’s is committed to knowing Christ and making Christ known. We strive to develop a Christian community that invites and values all people, that nurtures growth with God and each other, and that encourages openness, acceptance, trust, and service to God and God’s community.

Statement of Welcome (adopted 2004)

St. Luke’s, as a community of the people of God, affirms its intention to openly welcome and value every person who comes to our church regardless of race, national and ethnic origin, age, physical, mental and emotional condition or capacity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, economic situation or addiction.

We affirm that we are all unique individuals created by God, in need of God’s forgiveness, and worthy of God’s love and mercy. All persons named and unnamed above are welcome within the membership of our congregation upon making the same affirmation of faith that all other members make.

Strategic Goals (adopted 2009)

IGNITE a passion for worship, ministry and mission at St. Luke’s
INVITE members and newcomers to connect through ministries, social and service opportunities
IDENTIFY and mentor leaders
INSPIRE the congregation to move forward with St. Luke’s Building Plan
IMPLEMENT