



# CONGREGATIONAL Annual Report 2017



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## 2017 Annual General Report Saskatoon Saskatchewan

**Annual General Meeting: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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Opening devotions – 1:00 pm

Call to order

Approve agenda

Minutes of the February 12, 2017 annual meeting

Business arising from the minutes

Treasurer's report—2017 financial statement

Committee reports

- 1) Pastor's report
- 2) Natural Church Development
- 3) CMT
- 4) Stewardship report
- 5) Evangelism report/Refugee Committee
- 6) VBS
- 7) Sunday school
- 8) Education
- 9) Flock in faith
- 10) Youth
- 11) Confirmation
- 12) Worship
- 13) Music Ministry
- 14) Stephen Ministry
- 15) Altar Guild
- 16) Senior Bible Study
- 17) Committee on Human Sexuality
- 18) Lighthouse
- 19) Creative Coffee
- 20) Saskatchewan Synod

Motion to accept reports

2018 proposed budget approval—motion to accept

Nominations/CMT/committees

New business

- Vacation Bible School

- Volunteers for constitution committee
- Rejuvenate the memorial committee
- Summer mid-week worship
- Pastoral transition committee volunteers

Adjournment – 1:59 pm

Closing Prayer

New CMT to meet for scheduling of first meeting which will be Tuesday, February 13, 2018 following Shrove Tuesday pancake supper

## Good Shepherd Annual General Meeting Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting Agenda  
February 12, 2017

Opening devotions

Call to order

Approve agenda

Minutes of the February 7, 2016 annual meeting

Business arising from the minutes

Treasurer's report—2016 financial statement

Committee reports

- 21) Pastor's report
- 22) Natural Church Development
- 23) CMT
- 24) Stewardship report
- 25) Evangelism report/Refugee Committee
- 26) VBS
- 27) Sunday school
- 28) Education
- 29) Flock in faith
- 30) Youth

- 31) Confirmation
- 32) Worship
- 33) Music Ministry
- 34) Stephen Ministry
- 35) Altar Guild
- 36) Senior Bible Study
- 37) Committee on Human Sexuality
- 38) Lighthouse
- 39) Creative Coffee
- 40) Saskatchewan Synod

Motion to accept reports

2017 proposed budget approval—motion to accept

Nominations/CMT/committees

New business

- Long term planning for congregation date set
- Discussion on fundraising—should we have an e-mail survey?

Adjournment

New CMT to meet for scheduling of first meeting which will be Tuesday, February 15, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

## Pastor's Devotional

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### **“We Walk by Faith”**

*... for we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NRSVA)*

One of my favorite stories of prairie living was told to me by a friend who grew up in the Springside area of Saskatchewan. This senior recalled an experience of growing up and attending the country school in, west of Yorkton. Her memory included the amazing story of being sent home from school because of a winter storm. She recounted how she as young teenager, and her brother in grade two, had complete confidence to head home in the blizzard—even though they could not see- they simply bundled up in the sleigh, and the horse took them faithfully home. When the horse stopped, they looked out from their covers and knew they were safe at the farm.

Perhaps that is part of what it means to rely on ‘horse sense’, but the essential point of this story is that when we cannot see, Faith becomes the operative reality.

As we approach a new year, there is much that may prompt us to cover our heads. It is impossible to visualize the journey ahead. There is so much we cannot see. However, the Gospel message is that thru the grace of God, we need not fear. The gift of faith supersedes our physical or human insights.

He apostle Paul summarizes much of the Christian experience as he declares

***for we walk by faith, not by sight.*** 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NRSVA)

This simple verse carries a profound perspective for living. ‘Walking by Faith’ is be our perspectives in all the dimensions of life. In our relationships and our view for each opportunity and challenge of living. We walk by faith.

And to ensure that we need not stress as to having enough faith to make the journey- we have the promise that Faith is God’s gift to us:

Ephesians 2:8 ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—***

May the new year be filled with vision of hope and affirmation of faith. We can proceed thru any of the possible storms of life in the confidence that Jesus is the same yesterday and tomorrow.

Walk in Faith!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Harley



## **Pastor Harley Johnson’s Report**

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### **Highlights of the Past Year:**

#### **A. People of Reformation Praying for Transformation**

##### **1) Multi-Dimensional Ministry Continues-**

*Ministry Out:* Thank you to all who are supporting the Food Bank and also the impetus for the Lighthouse Ministries. The importance of Canadian Lutheran World Relief and our adjacent

ministries of Kinasio, LCBI, Seminary, National and Synod support are all part of the growing awareness of opportunities to serve beyond our walls and within our mission.

*Ministry In:* I give thanks for the ongoing work of committees, Church Management Team (CMT), ladies groups, Sunday School, Youth, Confirmation, Seniors Ministry, Altar Guild, money counters, Stephen ministry, tech support and on and on!! New programs will always need to be addressed. Established service areas from communion assistants to ushers and greeters and teachers are still a basis of recognized support within our community.

*Ministry Up:* The joy of ongoing worship, weekly communion, committed lay involvement, prayer leaders, strength of music, gifts of bands, junior and senior choir, hand bells and other instrumentation, all demonstrate a wonderful tribute to the commitment of so many of you to ensure that our worship life is vital and vibrant.

As a congregation we have provided: 100 worship services\*, every Sunday Communion, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, Choral festivals, Remembrance Day emphasis, Candlelight ministry! Plus 9 baptisms, 5 funerals and 3 weddings, all very wonderful occasions of grace and ministry!! \*includes Sept to May 9:30 and 11am, and June to August, 10 am, as well as July -August midweek service

*Musical Transforming--* What a joy to see multigenerational and inspirational musical being rehearsed and produced. The theme of God's call is a universal commissioning for all believers. The arrangement of talents and commitment of so many coming together was exceptional. Thanks to Anna Scott for the vision and the commitment to bring the diversity of talent into this rich experience. The excellence of music and drama and staging were wonderful to be part of whether as a participant or observer. - See music report!

## **2) Vacation Bible School**

Thanks to the host of volunteers who make this program unfold with so much enthusiasm and efficiency. What an amazing team rose to the task of coordinating the 50 plus registered with the 25 additional helpers involved. Amazing work by all the leaders: décor, food, music, crafts and yard games. We are so blessed to have this program. The dates were altered this year to try to accommodate scheduling and other churches, so we await the wisdom of the core planners to determine best timing for 2018.

## **3) Exterior and Chancel Renovations**

Don Meyer & Don Slind had proceeded with a masterful renovation for our chancel area in 2015. The steps have been equalized and the upper area has been extended to create more room for the bands and also maintain the integrity and centrality of our altar. Good Shepherd has a unique expression of worship with our continued emphasis to embrace our established heritage and order of service with weekly communion, plus incorporate some of the best of historical and newer music. The renovations scheduled to include a much-needed re-carpeting and painting of the sanctuary, in the spring of 2015, have been delayed in order to plan a broader vision of what needs to be accommodated within the building and our needs.

Thus 2016 became the year to focus on replacement of new siding- Well done! Huge thanks to Ray Steinke for ongoing electrical work, and lighting upkeep as well. \*\* With thanksgiving please see the good work of Property Management/Stewardship reports.

**4) Sunday School Programming and absolute Joy of Christmas Pageant!! \*\*See SS report!**

**5) Summer after worship fellowship**

Thanks to all who assisted in faithful service of preparing refreshments for the 10 am services as part of our summer scheduling!!

**6) Other behind the scenes**

Thanks to Darlene and Bob Taylor for your faithful updates to our 4x8 announcement Board on the west side of our church! Throughout the seasons the service times, special events and announcements have all been posted. Thank you for your consistent and creative work!

**7) Blessings to Ole Schenk**

Ole formally served in an International Lutheran Church Academy in Bratislava, Slovakia through the joint ministry of Evangelical Lutheran in America, Global Church sponsorship. Congratulations on the seminary placement in the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Thanks for leading us in worship for a Sunday in August!

**8) Kinasao Bible Camp**

Good Shepherd continues to be blessed by this amazing ministry at Christopher Lake. We are privileged to host the AGM this March. Please visit website: [www.kinasao.ca](http://www.kinasao.ca)

## **B. New Year of God's Presence and Potential**

**1) Updating Records**

'Shepherd's Staff' is our computer software and we have ongoing updates. Pictorial Board and New Photo Directory being finalized is great gift. Thanks for Gary Johnson and Karen Harilstad for coordinating. Also, Angela Friggstad for Photo board reorganization! If you have changes in your family, please submit photos to Ang. Looking forward to new members updates as well.

**2) Confirmation**

The ideal celebration of the Affirmation of Baptism seems to follow the Reformation /All Saints festival., thus mid November. The scheduling of the service is in line with other churches that have seen the benefits of moving to a fall schedule rather than a spring time service. Confirming

youth into a church summer mode has contributed to a sense of recess or graduation away from activity. The celebration of faith being centred in midst of an active program is a much better model of engagement in ministry. In addition, the youth will then be in Grade 9 and have the opportunity to have September/October classes which focus on the maturity and significance of this important step of faith. ++See Confirmation report.

### **3) Youth Budget**

CMT is committed to enable in the budget line for the promotion of youth work. One of the approaches being pursued is a shared city-wide youth worker. Thanks Karena Berggren for willingness to serve. \*see Youth Report

### **4) COHS- Committee on Human Sexuality**

Thanks to Doris Slind for your willingness to chair, and also the entire committee for your thoughtful approach. I look forward to see how we might follow-through in this educational and ministry process. History of this committee includes the 2011 National Convention conversations, discussion in CMT thru 2012-2013, Sunday afternoon seminar in Oct.2014, led by Margareth Pederson was very well received by the dozen folk who could attend. Three Sundays in succession, in 2015 beginning April 19<sup>th</sup>, were dedicated to this discussion and were well received. Presenters were very insightful and respectful, and showed the range of Biblical interpretation. Having an open microphone for questions and responses demonstrated a great amount of trust within our community. The 2016 and 2017 seminars have demonstrated a witness the sensitivity and gentle care which our congregation provided each other. \*\* see report.

### **5) Inter-Lutheran**

I continue to assist in the schedule for the Lenten exchange. There is still an expressed desire for a shared rotation for each congregation of the city. I also served on a planning committee for a regional commemoration of 500th anniversary of Lutheran Reformation. This included the sat night Banquet at WDM. 400 plus people attended this LUMINHOS sponsored event. I also was privileged to assist the Synod and work with Joan Meyer on the Citywide Reformation Sunday Commemoration which was held at The Holy Family Catholic Cathedral. The feature of both Bishops sharing the preaching duties exemplified a spirit of unity for the nearly 600 who attended. Please note that Good Shepherd hosted the initial planning and the concluding follow up evaluation meetings!

### **6) Ecumenical**

I have served on the Roman Catholic/Evangelical dialogue these past 2 years. This has been a formative process as we seek to assist a more unified witness of the church across the city. RC Bishop Don Bolan has been an integral part of this group. Our faith community congratulates Don in his new position as Archbishop of Diocese of Regina. Week of prayer for Christian Unity, usually last week of January includes 7 am devotional and light breakfasts scheduled for those would gather to pray for the city.

## 7) Synod Convention

Regina Luther College will host this June event this year – June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

## C. Communications

Thanks to Angela and all the office management including the every Friday e-mailing of “This Week”, plus bulletin and announcements online, plus talk mail are generated from the church office. Newsletter has been e-mailed to members. We welcome submissions from all members and committees to this communication opportunity. The calendar with birthdates and anniversaries has been well received, Thanks Anna Scott.

### 1) YouTube Taping and Website

Thanks Marty Willick for the website management, plus setup, and also the ongoing taping of our services! Visit [www.goodshepherdsaskatoon.ca](http://www.goodshepherdsaskatoon.ca) We also burn CD's on request for festive services such as baptisms weddings etc. Plus, for those shut-ins who may want to view Sunday Services, and do not access to YouTube, Contact Angela!

### 2) Eternity for Today

The devotional from our National Office had been provided as a gift from the congregation for the past year. To better steward the use of this resource, it has been determined that we will only order copies for those homes who have expressed interest in having this service continue. Subscription costs are \$8.95/ year per household when ordered in bulk. The **Canada Lutheran** monthly magazine has continued to provide important Synod and National articles; I encourage others to sign on for the bulk subscription available as well.

## D. Staff Thanksgivings

What a privilege to thank the great frontline ministry of our staff.

Thanks to **Angela Friggstad** who has graciously served as our interim secretary, and now has agreed to lead as part-time secretary. Angela has responded and represented us well in all the many front office administrative duties. We appreciate your awareness and knowledge of the congregation and willingness to serve in this important public ministry. The impact of a friendly and efficient presence for first impressions and ongoing relations is of enormous positive significance. The details of consistent creative communication, multiple requests, rentals and parking is a huge and ongoing responsibility: well done! Thanks for your willingness to serve as recording secretary as well.

**Anna Scott** continues to amaze, marshal and encourage our music and worship life. You have a gift of details but also a wonderful way of enlisting and inspiring others to join in the fun and also the work of ongoing worship and musical preparations and delivery. Going beyond the job description and engaging creative programming such as hand bells, Sunday school support, junior choir and musicals are all very much appreciated.

Thanksgiving to **Kara and Chris Tucker** in their role as janitors for our church. CMT was pleased to have the application of a congregational family willing to fulfill this important and usually behind the scenes role. Painting bathroom reno's, details, and extra touches including the freshly waxed floors, accommodating all the rental groups...are a sign of committed servants! Great work

**Victoria Skelton**- It was a delight to have you serve as our summer student office coordinator. Thanks for your frontline work and adding the many entries into the Shepherd Staff software system!

## **E. Volunteers**

**Our Church Management Team** deserves great Thanks!

**Thanks Eric Micheels for enthusiastic chair, Karen Harilstad for Faithful secretary duties, Gary Johnson for Vice position, Ed Miller, Dan Tooth, Darren and Cole Ulmer, Jake Satre and Beverley Pavelich** for your committee presence. Each one of you has demonstrated a high level faithful service. You have demonstrated attention to detail, willingness to adapt and also shoulder the hard work of coordinating a range of needs. You have been faithful in so many areas including budgeting, mortgage payments and sanctuary renewal, assisting the Committee on Human Sexuality, sponsoring the various Fund Raisers, and meeting a host of needs. Decisions and determinations which many people will never see. I have been inspired as I witness your commitment and vision. On behalf of our congregation at large I thank you, and I thank God that you have been willing to use your gifts of administration and leadership to benefit your home congregation!

**Joan Meyer and Marty Willick** continue to serve admirably as treasurer and bookkeeper. Your diligence is reflected in part by the best financial position Good Shepherd has ever been in. We trust continued communication from the stewardship committee and a commitment to inform us of needs and vision, will further enhance this excellent financial accountability.

In addition to the CMT members:f

Thanksgiving to **Nathan Elke** for all the tech support, PowerPoint, worship committee, sound, plus preparing the bread for Holy Communion, all marvellous gifts to the community

**Doris Slind!** For continuing the *Stephen Ministry* program among us. Great to have this expanded to be a truly city-wide emphasis with other churches contributing as well.

**MaryAnn Singer and Shannon Sofko** – your diligence to follow thru confirmation with youth these past years has been appreciated!

**Lisa Fraser** has served remarkably on the role of Confirmation coordinator and you are a very efficient servant as well. Blessings to

**Amy Wiebe** in the follow-through for Confirmation coordinator.

**Karen Harilstad** - has provided amazing leadership and liaison work with the Lighthouse Ministry. The 4th Sunday of the month suppers serving, and once a month games night are an exemplary way to become involved with our downtown core, mitt making and quilting gatherings are great. Monday Bible studies are small but wonderful opportunity to study and grow together. ++ see report

**Dick Schneider** continues to faithfully fold bulletins every week!

**Angela Friggstad**- provides an amazing service with securing the worship and communion assistant roles for every Sunday.

Sunday School, Altar Guild, Committees, money counters, worship assistants, seniors study and Christmas Potluck, Christmas tree decorations, setup and take down, and Advent and festival décor, you are too many to list but you are counted as greatly significant for the witness of our collective ministry of grace.

**Lawn maintenance** - thanks to our neighbours and **Mr. Clarence Southworth**, apartment management behind us, at Wildwood Ways for kind volunteer mowing!! Also, special attention from **Les Cannam** and **Al Scholtz**- combined with God's gift of rain made for best lawn ever!

**Snow removal** - Thanks to **Peter Richter** who consistently brings his bobcat to clear the snow from the North and south Parking Lots!! Again thanks to **Mr. Clarence Southworth for regular clearing of sidewalks and entry as well!!**

**Sign Keepers** - **Bob and Darlene Taylor** for the upkeep and posting on the billboard - in all kinds of weather!

**Parking Lot** – **Les Cannam and crew** for winter prep and pothole smoothing!

## **F. Needs – Awaiting Promise**

Here is a partial list of some immediate opportunities before us as a congregation;

- Areas of Adult Education
- Seniors focus
- Retirement community development
- Apartment ministry with neighborhood around us
- Newcomers to city and country

- Nursery Care Children's program
- Young families
- Young adults
- University transition
- Also, music report and 'Gospel, Grub and Kid's Club' proposal for a fellowship night on Wednesdays!
- Also, a Parents night out event with childcare at Good Shepherd is being discussed-come to Annual meeting for fuller picture!

If you have vision for any of these areas please contact a CMT member or Pastor.

## **G. Closing**

### **Personal:**

Each year I write this report in the month of January. Janis, the root word for January, means to look back and to look forward:

As I look ahead, May 2018, will mark the 37th anniversary of the privilege of ordination. I look back on three and a half decades with marvel for both God's grace and the immeasurable patience which people have provided.

The themes of Thanksgiving are under stated as I consider the range and diversity of wonderful people and relationships which this calling to ministry has allowed. With a full two thirds of my work life being here at Good Shepherd I am especially grateful for the many gifts of kindness encouragement and accommodation which I have experienced through people like you.

The clergy guidelines for pastoral call provides for two weeks of Continuing education leave for clergy each year. Since I have not been fully utilizing this provision since my last sabbatical in 2000 I have accrued just over 20 weeks of study leave. In consultation with Church Management Team and other leaders, including seminary, I have embarked on a three-year doctor of ministry program.

I trust the benefits of my time at the seminary/study will be of inspiration and encouragement for our congregation and programming here at Good Shepherd. The initial theme that I will attempt to pursue will involve "Community, Vision for Mission", and how ministry will unfold for our future church. This has been refined to a focus on how Holy communion impacts the witness of a congregation. I have very much enjoyed the mandatory classes as well as the completed electives. I shall provide a more detailed report as I approach completion in the spring of 2019.

As I approach graduation I will need to have an in-house advisory team of 4-6 people who are interested in assisting me as a feedback team. If this is of interest to you please contact me

directly. I will thank you in advance for your support and welcome questions/ inquires over these next semesters!

Within the Janis experience of looking backwards and forwards simultaneously, many changes and transitions have occurred since Sept. 1990. I am very mindful of the gift of prayer and care which Good Shepherd has been to our family. This January 7<sup>th</sup> marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our son Joel's suicide. Thank-you for all the continued care, prayer and support for our family.

My prayer is, that as your pastor, I have reciprocated in some small measure the grace and care by which our family has been nurtured over the years.

I continue to marvel at how God keeps the promises of faith even when there may seem to be huge hurdles of our human defeats to overcome. I bless you for your continued prayers and support for the health of your church home.

I thank my wife and family for accommodating the many time and scheduling arrangements which are part of ministry in seasons filled with details and deadlines.

I thank God for health and inspiration to pursue the path of grace.

I am still buoyed by the power and potential of our mission statement which carries the promise of moving us Up, In and Out!

I look forward to how God will keep his promises among us as we commit ourselves to serve our Lord this new year of hope and growth.

May God's spirit of grace and truth bring us closer to,

***Knowing Jesus as Lord,***

***Growing in faith, and***

***Showing Christ's love to the World!***

Blessings abound,

Pastor Harley Johnson

## Statistical Report

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<b>2017 Worship Services</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Sunday Morning Worship	<b>85</b>	January 8 <sup>th</sup> through April 30 <sup>th</sup> - two services at 9:30 and 11:00 May 7 <sup>th</sup> to September 3 <sup>rd</sup> - single service at 10am September 10 <sup>th</sup> to December 17 <sup>th</sup> - two services at 9:30 and 11:00 Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> – 3 pm service, Dec 24 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup> - - single service at 11 am
Christmas Eve	<b>2</b>	5:00 and 7:00 pm
Lent	<b>4</b>	Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Lenten Service
Mid-week Summer	<b>9</b>	
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>100</b>	

<b>2017 SUMMARY</b>			
<b>Baptized (B)</b>		<b>Confirmed (C)</b>	
Baptized Membership Dec 31, 2016	<b>226</b>	Confirmed membership Dec 31, 2015	<b>154</b>
Baptisms	9	Confirmations	4
B. Members Received	8	C. Members Received	6
B. Members Transferred Out	5	C. Members Transferred Out	5
B. Members Removed by Death	3	C. Members Removed by Death	3
B. Members to Responsibility List	8	C. Members to Responsibility List	7
B. Statistical Adjustment		C. Statistical Adjustment	
<b>Total Baptized Membership</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>Total Confirmed Membership</b>	<b>149</b>

<b>NEW MEMBERS (8)</b>	<b>Baptized</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
Brian and Gale Davidson	2	2
Clifford and Maureen Desjardins	2	2
Chad, Tabatha, Maggie and Molly Freeman	4	2

<b>BAPTISMS (9)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Parents</b>
Eric Gordon Baan	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Natalie and Bryan Baan
Arie Gordon Baan	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Britney and Gerrit Baan
Alyssa Jordyn Baan	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Britney and Gerrit Baan
Jules Mae Pernitsky	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Justin Pernitsky and Lyndy Savage
Melody Elias Mahray	May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Elias and Feven Mahray
Eleanor Anne Johnson	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Johnson and Nancy Broten
Aasta Ruth Broten	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cameron Broten and Ruth Eliason
Rowdy Vincent Knihnitski	June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Angela and Shane Knihnitski
Soren James Mau Gibson	December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nathaniel Gibson and Elke Mau

<b>WEDDINGS (3)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Brady Fornwald and Natalie Cuthbert	June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ladysmith, BC
Kelsey Mintzler and Evan Sundbo	July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Farm
Shelly Pederson and Ivan Zeljko	July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Farm

<b>FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wendy Austenson	February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Saskatoon
Pat Hodgson	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Saskatoon
Donald Rosten	September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Circle Drive Alliance
Mandy Ringdal	September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Kenaston
Curt Haugen	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Redeemer

<b>CONFIRMANDS (4)</b>	<b>October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017</b>
Kira Berggren	Oliver Paul
Kaelyn Fraser	David Willick

## Non-audited Historical Comparison of Average Attendance and Worship Service Offerings

Year	Avg Attend/Sun	Avg Offer/Sun	Year	Avg Attend/Sun	Avg Offer/Sun
1984	110	917	2001	153	2238
1985	104	960	2002	154	2447
1986	113	1035	2003	163	2297
1987	127	1457	2004	149	2365
1988	123	1563	2005	150	2531
1989	113	1446	2006	*126	2412
1990	119	1066	2007	145	**3312
1991	151	1430	2008	140	3538
1992	138	1368	2009	142	3609
1993	135	1362	2010	145	3858
1994	134	1614	2011	133	3656
1995	145	1598	2012	112	2659
1996	142	1669	2013	112	***4114
1997	146	1860	2014	115	3990
1998	139	1640	2015	118	3721
1999	142	1952	2016	115	4741
2000	157	2143	2017	118*	3828

\*Does not include Wed. night service or Saturday SHIFT service; SHIFT average attendance Sept-Dec is 25.

\*\*Figure (going forward) includes all areas of income (total deposit)

\*\*\*Includes all designated income. Rentals not included (going forward)

## Congregational President's Message: Church Management Team

*Report not available*

## Treasurer's Report

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Thanks be to God that through you, the members and friends of Good Shepherd, the financial targets set for 2017 were met.

Offering receipts were 10% over 2016 receipts following a major appeal at the end of the year.

Following a major capital improvement project in 2016 to replace the deteriorated siding on the church, no major projects were undertaken in 2017. General repairs and maintenance were done as necessary.

The mortgage that in 2009 was \$185,000 is currently \$2,226 and will be paid out in March of this year. Truly a time to celebrate!

During the year financial support beyond our own needs went to the Sask Synod; CLWR; Missions; Kinasao; the Global Gathering Place for refugees; the Lighthouse and OUT Saskatoon.

The 2017 reviewed financial statements will be available for the Annual Meeting.

Providing your financial donation to Good Shepherd through the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) system greatly stabilizes our funding requirements to meet our commitments. If you do not use this system, please seriously consider it and contact the church office for more information.

Thank you to all those who assist me as treasurer of Good Shepherd; the ushers; the teams of counters; Bookkeeper Marty Willick and our church secretary, Angela Friggstad who handles so many of the details with invoices, payments, rentals and inquiries and handling the posting to the donor records.

Thank you for being a part of this congregation's ministry. Thank you for sharing your gifts of time, energy and finances so that Good Shepherd can "show Christ's love to our world."

In Christ's service,  
Joan Meyer, Treasurer

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS - 2017

Families	Weekly Range	Yearly Range
39	no contribution	no contribution
26	\$ 0.01 to \$ 3.00	\$ 0.01 to \$ 156.00
5	\$ 1.01 to \$ 5.00	\$ 156.01 to \$ 260.00
22	\$ 5.01 to \$ 10.00	\$ 260.01 to \$ 520.00
17	\$ 10.01 to \$ 15.00	\$ 520.01 to \$ 780.00
9	\$ 15.01 to \$ 20.00	\$ 780.01 to \$ 1040.00
15	\$ 20.01 to \$ 30.00	\$ 1040.01 to \$ 1560.00
24	\$ 30.01 to \$ 50.00	\$ 1560.01 to \$ 2600.00
7	\$ 50.01 to \$ 90.00	\$ 2600.01 to \$ 4680.00
6	\$ 90.01 to \$200.00	\$ 4680.01 to \$10400.00
0	\$200.01 to \$300.00	\$10400.01 to \$15600.00
1	\$300.01 to \$400.00	\$15600.01 to \$20800.00

Given to an Envelope	\$172,271.45
Average Weekly Amount	\$3,312.91
Average Monthly Amount	\$14,355.95

<b>Envelopes in Report</b>	<b>171</b>
Average weekly per Envelope	\$19.37
Average monthly per Envelope	\$83.95
Average Annual per Envelope	\$1,007.44

<b>Envelopes that Gave</b>	<b>132</b>
Average weekly per Envelope	\$25.10
Average monthly per Envelope	\$108.76
Average Annual per Envelope	\$1,305.09
Percent that Gave	77.20%

## Stewardship Report

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Members: Joan Meyer, Don Slind, Marty Willick, Dan Tooth & Gary Johnson

No fundraisers were conducted in 2017; however, a major appeal was made to members and friends of Good Shepherd in the last quarter of the year to assist in meeting financial needs. White Envelope offerings were approved to help support the Sunday School, VBS and the refugee program.

We give thanks for the dedicated volunteers who have assisted with offering counting this year: Diann Airey, Aaron Fornwald, Jarod Harvey, Doris Slind, Lorene Jewitt, Chris Tucker, Karen Harilstad, Audrey Balaton, Judy Humphreys, Cam Broten, Gary Johnson, Adele Rempel, Cindy Cloke, Ed Miller

No major building projects were undertaken. Chris Tucker and Don Slind did some general maintenance for which we say, "thank you".

Projects planned for 2018 include the replacement of the south "exit door" in the sanctuary, a new railing in the balcony, new flooring, and painting the sanctuary. A new storage shed is also required.

It is hoped that a variety of 'fundraisers' can be planned for 2018 including: Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, a Mortgage-Burning Party, a Summer Barbecue, & a Fall Festival. Fun and fellowship opportunities!!

Respectively submitted,  
Gary Johnson

## Evangelism Report

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### Lighthouse Report

Good Shepherd served at the Lighthouse dining room the last Sunday of each month in 2017. We also maintained the drop bin for donations of needed items from our congregation.



For 2018 we decided to not have a specific date each month where we would volunteer. Instead we are asking our members to sign up to volunteer for shifts that work best for them. On the lighthouse website is instructions on how to go about that. All interested are urged to sign up: [www.lighthousesaskatoon.org](http://www.lighthousesaskatoon.org)

The collection bin will continue to be available and we ask you to watch the bulletins and announcements for any calls for specific items they need.

Thank you to the faithful helpers in the past and to those who donated items and cash. We hope you will sign up for shifts that fit your schedules. Most importantly we ask that you pray for the continuation of this important service to the most vulnerable in our society.

Blessings,  
Karen Harilstad

### **Refugee Committee**

The refugee committee consists of members: Melody Fornwald, Elaine Carter, Joan Meyer, Charmaine Hrynkiw, and Nancy Broten. Over the past year we organized a refugee Sunday on May 26<sup>th</sup> with Global Gathering Place as guests to highlight their work with refugees and immigrants to Saskatoon. A white envelope offering was received to support agencies such as this.

We have begun discussion with the Havros family who have approached Good Shepherd for an In-Kind Sponsorship along with CLWR to bring four family members who are in refugee camps to Canada. This would mean that Good Shepherd does not incur any of the costs to the sponsorship but signs on as a support. We have received approval from CMT to pursue this if the family is ready from their end to go ahead.

Contact was made this past week with CLWR for more information and we will be continuing discussion with the Havros family in the near future and will provide updates through newsletters and announcements as we move through the process.

Submitted by,  
Melody Fornwald

### **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Report**



Our VBS Maker Fun Factory for 2017 was a blessing and surprise! We offered early registration for the first time this year, creating a small discount for an early deadline and registering more than one child in that time. We had a positive interest in that option and as the days approached we invited 60 children to know that “God is there for us” and that “We were made for a reason”. We had a

wonderful crew again this year, who led the children to all their different stations. We welcomed some new faces in leadership roles, and I always believe the kids impact our volunteers as much as the leaders try to impact the kids. Our station leader Drea Calow made Imagination Station a hit. She was able to bring in 3-D printers so that a fidget spinner could be created for each of the children. We would never be able to pull together this level of VBS without the resources of time, ingenuity, volunteers, and most of all donations. A **big thank you** to all our congregation members who provide requested items and offer monetary support, allowing us to meet budget again this year. We look forward to a new and exciting group ahead, please support our future team on this upcoming VBS for 2018.

Kara Erickson-Tucker  
On behalf of the VBS team

## Education Report

No committee at this time

## Sunday School Report

Over the past year we have again seen growth in our Sunday School Program. Enrolment increased from 54 children last year to 63 children this year including Pre-K to Grade 6. The group breakdown is as follows: PreK-K (17), Grade's 1,2,3 (25) and Grade's 4,5,6 (21) of which we have 3 graduates this year moving on from the Sunday School program to Confirmation.

The Sparks Program continues to be used to educate the children throughout the year. The Grade 4, 5 & 6 classes consisting of 21 children have been split from the younger children and are being provided a more challenging advanced Sparks Program to prepare them for their confirmation studies. Each child in this age group receives their own age appropriate bible to help assist in their learning.

A kick-off party starts the Sunday School year to get the children geared up for learning. The Sunday School offering was designated and donated last year in the amount of \$450 to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation. This year the Sunday School has chosen to support the NEST program which is a small group in Saskatoon that assists refugee women and their families to settle in to Saskatoon.

The Christmas concert "Psalty Christmas and the Chirstmas Songs" was presented by the children and the choir. It was very impressive and included countless hours of preparation from the choir, parent volunteers, children and youth to entertain a full church of friends and family during advent. Events for the remainder of the session will include a wind up for the program in May.

There has been significant growth over the past five years with the breakdown as follows:

2013 – 30

2014 – 42

2015 – 52

2016 – 54

2017 - 63

Good Shepherd Sunday School Education Team Members are:

Kara Erickson Tucker

Geri Meyer

Teri Ife

Karena Berggren

Jen Burns

Ruth Eliason

Elke Mau

Jocelyn Harvey

Leah Zepick

Mark & Becky Corrigan

Thank you to all the parent volunteers on the committee, teachers, confirmation youth and families, Pastor Harley, Christmas Concert organizers, and all those who help educate our children to learn the word of God. Your dedication to our program is a true blessing.

Geri Meyer

on behalf of the Sunday School Team

## Youth Report

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No report at this time. Thanks to Karena Berggren for assisting with the City-Wide Youth program.

## Confirmation Report

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Current enrolment in the confirmation program is 7 youth in Grade 7 and 9 youth in Grade 8 for a total of 16 registered. The curriculum choice continues to be 'Head to Heart.' A dynamic approach to the Bible, sacraments, creed and prayer including Luther's catechism instruction.

Good Shepherd is pleased to actively support the inter-Lutheran RAGS program. Redeemer, Augustana, Good Shepherd, (RAGS+) Trinity and Resurrection have a shared large group gathering once a month. We give thanks to the work of Elaine Akre who serves as our Rags Coordinator with her faithful administration of scheduling, ordering materials, retreat details etc. We have also been joined by the Faith Lutheran Parish of Outlook, Hanley and Davidson this year. Each church has their own session once a month as well. Also featured is a fall retreat at L.C.B.I and a winter/spring retreat at Kinasao. Here we are joined by congregations ranging from North Battleford, PA, and Rosthern.

**Thanks to Lisa Fraser for great parent coordination of this vital program. Also, thanks to Amy Weibe for taking on this responsibility this fall! Thanks to Parent leaders and all who provide rides and snacks and small group supervision!**

We continue to use an older pattern of having a fall festival for the *Affirmation of Baptism service*. This change from a spring confirmation is to benefit the youth ministry in several key ways.

First of all, the youth will be in their early semester of Gr.9, and thus have Sept. and Oct. to further grow in maturity and reflection. Classes are planned as part of the overall youth ministry, with the emphasis being on this important process of confirmation. Secondly, the youth will confirm their faith into the full program of an active and vibrant congregation, rather than the summer recess of a church entering a holiday mode. Lastly, the connection with a "graduation" can better be avoided, and the original intentions of affirmation being a "lifelong discipleship" can be enhanced.

Thanks, and blessings to all the parents and families who promote and enable this important ministry within our Church. Thanks again to the youth who provide encouragement and ministry within the community. The help with service and worship components is very encouraging. Also, the continued tradition of having confirmands present their faith stories and lead in the Affirmation of Baptism service is always greatly appreciated. Thanks for Parents for joining the choir singing at the service with the lovely tribute song, "At the Table"!

A parent planning session will be held in the spring to prepare for the Grade 9 Affirmation feature. A suggested date for fall celebration is Sunday Nov.18<sup>th</sup>.

Grade 9 Youth confirmed in 2017: *October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Reformation Sunday.*

Kira Berggren  
Kaelyn Fraser  
Oliver Paul  
David Willick

Youth enrolled for 2017/2018:

**Grade 8:**

Morgan Claypool  
Jager Eisner  
Emma Erickson  
Declan Ewaskow  
Kieran Friggstad  
Ella Lane  
Paige Pavlove  
Evan Sereda  
Issak Weibe

**Grade 7:**

Keziah Corrigan  
Camryn Elliott  
Megan Hirschfeld  
Camryn Krushelinski  
Nora Linsley  
Chloe Mardell  
Naomi Mutch

## Worship Committee

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*Report not available*

## Music Ministry Report

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It is my privilege to be the Music Coordinator at Good Shepherd and report about the Music Ministry for 2017. I continue to give thanks for all the people who share their amazing musical talents with the church and give their time and energy to contribute to the vibrant music at the church.

Our dedicated band members lead worship music from September to June and in the summer, we switch to piano led hymns. Our band leaders are Angela Friggstad, Stefan Scott, Aaron Zepick, Andrew



Linsley and this fall we welcomed Ruth Eliason. Pianists are Anna Scott, Cheryl Mercier, Angela Friggstad, Ruth Eliason and Carol Brandt. The bands include a variety of singers and instrumentalists. Again, I am very fortunate to rely on so many talented people that select, rehearse, prepare and lead the music for Sunday morning services. I encourage anyone who is interested to be part of the bands, choir or musical contributions to the services to please let me know and get involved! We would love to have you as part of this eclectic team!

### **Here are some of the musical moments of 2017:**

#### **The Good Shepherd Choir:**

- The Good Shepherd Choir continued to practice on Wednesday evenings beginning on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. Jeremiah Scott accompanied the choir while Cheryl was away on holidays.
- The choir sang *Give Peace to Your People* for the AGM Sunday on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Good Shepherd Choir and Sunday School students sang '*The Good Shepherd*' on Sunday, March 19th at the 11:00am service. They did a great job and it was nice to have Jeremiah Scott on the piano and Joel Burns playing the alto saxophone.

A special thanks to everyone who contributed to the wonderfully meaningful music during the Lent and Easter season!

- The Good Shepherd Choir for singing for the Inter-Lutheran Lent service on April 5<sup>th</sup>, on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday at Redeemer, Good Friday Tenebrae service at Good Shepherd and Easter Sunday.
- All the band members who share their musical talents and help lead worship.
- The handbell players for playing Palm Sunday, Easter for the women's song and on May 7<sup>th</sup> for the new member's service.
- Sunday School students for singing 'Hosanna' for Palm Sunday and for sharing their voices in the Children's messages Sunday mornings.
- Leah Zepick, Kieran Friggstad and Evan Sereda for playing trumpet!
- The Good Shepherd Choir shared their music with residents at LutherCare Village in Stonebridge on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Those who attended enjoyed hearing the music and it was a nice opportunity to sing in the community and for our Good Shepherd member Norm Hodgson.
- May 10<sup>th</sup> was the last Choir practice for the term.
- CHORAL WORKSHOP- May 11th, 2017 at Christ Anglican Church (151-28th St. W) from 7:00-9:00PM. Karena Berggren, Cheryl Erlandson, Audrey Balaton, Karen and Lorraine Harilstad and Anna Scot were the representatives from the Good Shepherd choir. There were over 100 singers from seven different church choirs from around the city led by guest clinician Lottie Enns-Braun from Winnipeg. Lottie is the Organist/Choir Director at Young United Church, and is also an instructor at the University of Manitoba. We began working on two different chorales, listened to the choirs present songs and then

finished with a combined song with trumpets and organ. Our choir sang 'One Faith, One Hope, One Lord' in the fall for Reformation Sunday which was a song from this event. Thanks to Elke Mau for playing French horn and guest trumpeter Marissa Graham for accompanying this triumphant piece.

- May 14<sup>th</sup>- MOTHER'S DAY CHORAL SERVICE: A big thank you to the choir for their contribution to the service! Thanks to all the musicians, singers, kids and everyone who helped with this festive, special Sunday! A special thanks to:

Piano Accompanist: Cheryl Mercier

Saxophone: Joel Burns

Percussion: Stefan Scott

Guitar: Aaron Friggstad

Bass: Aaron Zepick

Violin: Whitney Aadland

Handbells: Karena Berggren, Joel Burns, Stefan Scott, Jeshua Suresh, Leah Zepick, Cheryl Mercier, Ami Johnson, Audrey Balaton

- Choir Wind Up- May 24<sup>th</sup>: The choir wind up party was a PAINT NITE led by local artist Janet Williams. Evening included supper and painting with Kids Club at 6:30.

**Cord Care:** Stefan installed raceway covers for the cords that were exposed from the sound system and stage. We also added a *hum eliminator* on the cables between the sub and the speakers to minimize the buzzing sound we used to hear during the service.

### **Gospel Grub and Kids Club!**

Every other Wednesday evening from March-June between 20-35 people gathered to share a meal, spend time together and make some music! It was fun to see the kids have a chance to play and sing together and nice to eat a meal with others in the congregation! Thanks to those who organized and prepared supper for this event: Ami Johnson, Karen Linsley, Karen, Nora and Emma Linsley, Anna and Stefan Scott and Karen and Lorraine Harilstad. Thanks to Kira, Mackenzie and Danielle for helping with the kids' club!

These evenings were filled with music- there was a Handbell practice, Kids Chorus and the Good Shepherd Choir. It was a fun night to share a meal together and make some music!



**The Good Shepherd Celebration Calendar was completed early in September. The Celebration Calendar is intended to build community and help our church recognize and celebrate everyone in it!**

THANK YOU:

- To the artists who contributed their artwork to the calendar project: Maggie Freeman, Trygve Johnson, Gavin Tucker, Karen Harilstad, Eden Friggstad, Lorraine Harilstad, Kaja Zepick, Clara Broten, Carol Brandt, Stefan Scott, Annabel Micheels, Ingrid Broten, Matthan Gibson and Jan Erickson! Bravo!
- The calendars are FREE please help yourself to one per family- if you would like a copy please let the office know.
- Donations are welcome and can be made in the general offering. Thanks!
- This calendar includes birthdays and anniversaries, service times, church seasons and special events.
- **If your birthday or anniversary is not in the calendar or a correction to be made- please ask for the copy in the office to revise so it can be fixed for next year!**

We will be looking for more artwork for the next calendar- consider contributing art to the office by the end of June!

**Summer Music:** Thank you to all the pianists and musicians who contributed to the Sunday morning and Wednesday services this summer! Thanks also to Nathan Elke who continued to create and run the PowerPoints throughout the summer months. Even in the busy summer months when people are away on holidays it's nice to know our church continues to provide meaningful worship and ministry thanks to the dedication of volunteers in the church.

**Fall Music:**

- The Good Shepherd Choir rehearsals switched to THURSDAYS from 7-8pm and started on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Cheryl for accompanying us again this fall! Kids Chorus also started singing on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:40pm.
- The handbell choir practiced at 6pm and played at many services throughout the term including All Saint's Day and the service of Carols and Readings.
- The choir sang for a synod session held at Good Shepherd- *Taste and See* and *He Is There* and also sang at the 11am service on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Thanks to the choir for singing at the Confirmation Sunday service which was also the same Sunday we recognized Reformation Day. They sang 'Taste and See' with the confirmation parents.
- The choir sang at both services on Nov. 5th for Remembrance Day and All Saint's Day. They sang *Let There Be Peace on Earth* with the Sunday School kids and did a wonderful job. Also, thanks to Ruth for singing and playing with kids- *Find the Good* –

Mandy Ringdal's song with an added children's part Anna taught the Sunday School and the handbells joined as well. Thanks to Nathan for putting together the pictures for the All Saint's slideshow and for creating the PowerPoint with the extra Remembrance Day portion of the service. Thanks to Hans Grande and Lloyd and Elizabeth Ulrich

- This year's Advent candle lighting song was called *Candlelight Canon* by Andy Beck.
- **The Good Shepherd Family Sing-a-long Christmas!** The Choir and Sunday School joined together for the Christmas concert based on Psalty's Family Sing-a-long Christmas on Sunday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am and 3pm. They did an amazing job sharing the joy and excitement of Christmas with both familiar carols and some possibly new songs (unless you grew up listening to Psalty!) Thanks to all of the Sunday School teachers and parents for their support and all the details to put this together including help at practices, the backdrop, treat bags, costumes, backstage help, lighting and crowd control! Thanks to the Confirmation students and families for their help as well and Elena Himbeault for helping with the choreography, and Isaak Weibe with PowerPoint. A huge thank you to Angela for playing piano on short notice and to the band- Kurt Bergsma on drums, Evan Sundboe on bass, Stefan Scott and Andy Linsley on guitar. Thanks to everyone willing to sing a solo and for the handbells as well! What a great crew to work with! It was a big day and a wonderful way to celebrate the special Christmas season. Thank you!
- Thanks to everyone who provided musical contributions to the Advent and Christmas Eve services including musical contributions from- Nathan and Katie Elke, Maria Himbeault, Angela & Aaron Friggstad, Stefan and Jeremiah Scott, Ruth Eliason, Esther and Carmen Rabuka, Aaron Zepick and Leah Zepick.
- What a joy to begin Advent with a festive Carols Readings experience. Great contributions from Angela's band, Confirmation youth reading, handbells and Ruth Elisaon leading in powerful reflective song "Born In Me"
- Advent 2 included Ladies choir supporting soloist Aaron Zepick in the classic 'I heard the Bells'

The Good Shepherd Choir

New Members Welcome!

**Rehearsals: Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm**

**Kids Chorus: 6:40pm**

**Beginning Term 2: Feb.1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 in the Good Shepherd Sanctuary**

Director: Anna Scott

Blessings on a new, musical year!

Sincerely,

Anna Scott

Music Ministry Coordinator

## Altar Guild

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Committee Members:

Chair: Angeline Demkiw  
Melody Fornwald  
Sandra Haug

Lloyd and Lorraine Larson  
Richard Schneider  
Liz and Loyd Ulrich

It is wonderful to see floral arrangements given in memory of loved ones as memorials or on special occasions. Deepest thanks for the caring shown by each of you.

We also appreciate memorial money given. It is put to such good use for altar cloths, banners, etc.

We are very thankful to all those who help decorate our worship space for special times such as Easter, Mother's and Father's Day, anniversaries, baptisms, birthdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please continue to do so.

We acknowledge with appreciation Beverly Pavelich's years of service and her decision to resign this year.

It is so important that each of us makes an effort to add meaning to our worship and we thank you so much for all you do.

Sincerely,  
The Altar Guild

## Senior Bible Study

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All Welcome! Our twice a month fellowship and Study has had a significant change. Pastor Curtis Satre had co-led the group with Pastor Harley these past 14 years. The passing of Pastor Satre in March of 2015 has meant a time of mourning and adjustment for our group.

The group had a later start this fall but has continued to meet with Pastor Harley leading the Bible Studies. usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. at 2pm. Average attendance is approx. 10.

The Seniors Study folk sponsored a congregational Christmas carol and dainties afternoon. Thanks Ruth Eliason for leading with the piano and Carol singing. The title may be seniors, but invitation is open to all ages- the fellowship Lunch is always exceptional! AND of course, the studies and worship are superb as well! We perhaps should change our name, since not all who attend are seniors..., but our goal of fellowship and mutual support will be the same: All Welcome.

Thanks for Lenore Schmidt for flute accompaniment as well, and all who provide the refreshments!

Thanks Gerri Blackwell for helping coordinate and providing phone reminders!

## Committee on Human Sexuality (COHS)

COHS, the committee on human sexuality, facilitated two speakers at Sunday services in 2017. In April, Rev. Colin Clay spoke on the issues facing transgender individuals and, in October, Rachel Loewen-Walker, executive director of OUT Saskatoon, spoke on inclusion and highlighted the work of OUT, its history and a new venture, Pride Home in Saskatoon. The presentations in April and October were followed by coffee and muffins with a time for questions and welcoming. A chance to donate to OUT resulted in great generosity by Good Shepherd. Subsequent to that, a hamper was assembled and sent to Pride Home in early December. There is a thank-you card from them on our bulletin board.

Thank-you to CMT and the Good Shepherd congregation for continuing to support and love and get-to-know the vulnerable in our society. May we continue to grow in love and compassion and good works as Christ would have us do.

Doris Slind  
COHS chair

## Creative Coffee

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Creative Coffee at Good Shepherd Church is a monthly gathering for women to share fellowship, explore new facilities around town, and enjoy each other's companionship. We had a busy 2017 which began April 28<sup>th</sup> at Mystic Java where we chatted about the upcoming year.

Following on June 20<sup>th</sup> 8 ladies took a beautiful tour of the show suites at Luthercare Village in Stonebridge followed by a lovely coffee party our hosts prepared for us.

On Aug 16<sup>th</sup> ladies, children and even grandchildren attended a Pool Party in Mercier's back yard in which a good time was had by everyone. Sept 27<sup>th</sup> we toured the Mendel conservatory and had coffee there prior to its closing for a one-year period.



Oct 25<sup>th</sup> we visited Wilson's new greenhouse which was very entertaining in that it was Halloween and Pumpkins were everywhere – even stuffed into antique cars.

Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, we settled in for a warm cup of coffee together at our favorite coffee shop – Mystic Java.

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 12 ladies enjoyed a beautiful lunch together at the Village Bistro with a challenge to fill Santa's Bag with much needed articles for the Lighthouse.

The challenge was met with sincere enthusiasm bringing in 22 pairs of new socks, 16 pairs of new gloves and oodles of toiletries for those in need.

Looking ahead to 2018 we will resume our monthly Creative Coffees in April . If you are interested in joining us for any or all of our get-togethers please contact Cheryl at [LCMERCIER@SHAW.CA](mailto:LCMERCIER@SHAW.CA)

## Lay Academy

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The western ELCIC Lay Academy is collaboration between the four western synods (BC, ABT, SK, MNO) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The establishment of the Lay Academy is in response to the leadership needs of many congregations and the interest expressed by lay people for a comprehensive program of study.

The goal of the Lay Academy is two-folded: (1) Provide continuing education opportunities for lay people in the church and (2) Provide continuing education opportunities for those being prepared for the ELCIC's National Authorized Lay Ministry program.

While part (2) is yet to be offered, in relation to part (1) in January and February 2017 the Lay Academy presented a 4-part series of "Galatians: Famous Lost Words" led by Bishop Marlin Aadland, first Bishop of the British Columbia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (1986 to 1998). Good Shepherd Lutheran was one of 12 participating church host sites. 95 people were in attendance online and in-person.

In November 2017, the Lay Academy presented a 2-part series on Advent featuring our 4 western synod Bishops: Larry Kochendorfer (ABT), Sid Haugen (SK), Greg Mohr (BC) and Elaine Sauer (MNO). There were 12 participating church sites again with 45 people in attendance online and in-person. "Connecting Conversations: The Arrival" was a special and rare occasion to see our Bishops together having a table talk on the Advent texts which they thoroughly enjoyed.

In January 2018 the Lay Academy presented another 2-part series – this time on "Building Community: Welcoming the Stranger, Loving Our Neighbor" involving 8 church host sites. Interesting discussion was generated around 'How does Christ's welcome of us influence how we welcome others? What does my faith have to do with refugees? How does reconciliation move us to become whole?' Guest speakers were Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein (ABT), Dr. Fikre Tsehai from CLWR (BC), Rev. Jason Johnson (SK) and Rev. Tyler Gingrich (MNO).

For 2018, the Lay Academy objectives are to fully develop a program curriculum that can be provided to all our laity for years.

For further information on the Lay Academy please visit the website <https://layacademy5.wixsite.com/elcicwla>

Lorene Jewitt

Lay Academy Coordinator

## Saskatchewan Synod - 2017 in review

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Grace to you and peace,

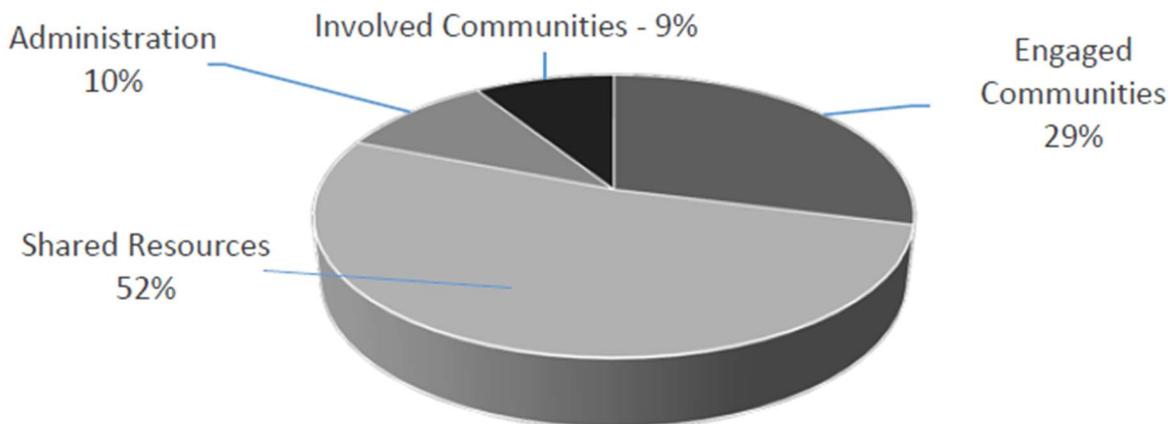
As you gather in annual meeting this year looking back at your year as a congregation in your local area, reviewing both what you have accomplished as a congregation and how the financial resources from the people have supported that work; let me share with you what the synodical cooperative has accomplished this year and how the financial resources provided by congregations supported that work.

### Resources available to the synod in 2017

- Resources provided to the synod by congregational benevolence came to \$510,000.
- Although the main source of revenue is always congregational benevolence, the national church approved synod applications from the Canadian Missions CECF (Church Extension and Capital Fund) fund for approved program areas.

### The Plan: Strengthening Faith Communities for Service

The goal of Synod council's strategic plan established in 2014 is, "Strengthening Faith Communities for Service." The plan focused as it is on synodical support of local congregations and ministries further identified three specific goals and related priorities for the synod: Engaged Faith Communities - Build leadership capacity; Shared Resources - Operate as one team; Involved Communities - Practice love and service. What follows is a report on those three goals for 2017.



1. Engaged Faith Communities – Priority to Build Leadership Capacity (29% of all resources)

- Supported formation of rostered ministers by providing significant financial support to Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon— **17% of all resources**.
- Supported the development of rostered ministers through the work of the CTEL, the committee charged with mentoring and supporting the development of rostered ministers.
- Supported the development of rostered ministers through the Internship Grant to support Seminary supervision (from funds held in trust at the Synod)
- Supported the development of lay leadership by providing significant financial support for the Lay Academy (using funds applied for from the national CECF Special initiatives fund)
- Supported Congregational lay leadership and rostered ministers through the governance work of Synod council, the administrative work of the Bishop and the Bishop’s Administrative team, and in the constituency through the work of the Bishop and the Bishop’s Pastoral team.
- Supported rostered ministers in funding the Professional Leadership Study Conference
- Supported leadership at the national level through Convention levies for delegates to the national convention
- Developed the Bishop’s Pastoral Team of two quarter time assistants to the Bishop joining the bishop for ‘on the ground’ work in congregations. Funding for this initiative was secured through application to the national church’s Church Extension and Capital Fund (CECF) Special Initiatives fund.

2. Shared Resources – Priority to Operate as One Team – (52% of all resources)

- Supported the work of our national church at home and abroad as approved by Synod Council— **20% of all resources**.
- Supported the Congregations in the synod: Bishop and the Bishop’s pastoral team continue to make Sunday visits and contact during the week with congregations throughout the synod.
- Supported Ministries in the synod: Synod provides significant support in financial advice and funding to the Saskatoon Campus Ministry; as well as limited funding to Hospital ministries in Saskatoon (LuMinHoS) and in Regina (Lutheran Hospital Chaplaincy), and to the ecumenical faith organization located in Saskatoon (Prairie Centre for Ecumenism). Synod also provided support for chaplains following the impact of the provincial budget cuts.
- Funding meetings and events for synodical leaders: Synod funding meets the costs incurred in council, committee and task force meetings as well as covering the costs to attend events in the development in relationships with each other and with other faith communities.

- Initiatives of the Mission in Ministry committee are funded from regular funding provided by the national Church Extension/Capital Fund (CECF) regular funding (our synod's portion of the interest earned from the national CECF fund)

### 3. Involved Communities – Priority to Inspire Love and Service – 9%

- Supported indigenous ministry through significant grant approvals for IMCF (Indian Metis Christian Fellowship) in Regina. Funding for this support came from a special fund for indigenous ministry held in trust at the Synod
- Supported the development of regional gatherings in the North and South regions. The gatherings brought together about 100 lay and clergy to be inspired by a keynote speaker and by conversation with each another.
- Supported Reformation Commemoration services that took place at a number of venues in the synod as Lutherans and Roman Catholics gathered on the 500th anniversary of the reformation to join in common prayer.

### Administration: 10%

Finance reports an administration cost of about 10% needed to cover office costs, insurance, audit fees, general communication, salaries portion for general administrative work, etc. Finance also notes that the financial reporting in this annual report is based on unaudited results and does not include flow-through monies received from congregations to be forwarded to partners.

### Three closing notes:

First, I want to say “Thank-you.” Thank-you as individuals for your support and commitment to your local congregation. That truly is where the rubber hits the road, where Word and Sacrament is shared among the people. Second, Thank-you as congregations for your support of the synod. For attending regional gatherings, reading SaskSynod News, following the SaskSynod webpage and Facebook page in order to better share what is happening with your sisters and brothers beyond your local congregation. And of course, thank you for your financial contributions to the synod in support of other congregations and other ministries beyond your local area.

Second, as you meet at your annual meeting this winter, I ask you to take a moment to decide together how your faith community is able to contribute to the synod. Congregations normally set aside a percentage of offerings or a given amount of offering to synod benevolence. The amount is voluntary, just as a person's offering on Sunday morning is voluntary. Financially gifted congregations and congregations with fewer financial resources contribute what they are able to support the whole church. We are in this together.

Third, I do ask you for your continued prayers for the bishop and the synod staff this coming year. I am currently supported by one full time and one-half time and one quarter time contract staff on the Administrative team and two quarter time Assistants to the Bishop on the Pastoral team. Our work requires a high level of effort and organization to cover 115 congregations and several ministries. And we realize that it requires some patience from you as well, as we prioritize the work we can get to on any given week.

Peace to you all as you gather to consider what God is doing among us as we enter 2018.

Peace,  
Bishop Sid

## National Convention

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Thank-you to Karen Harilstad for attending and submitting :  
Report to the Congregations of the Saskatchewan Synod  
Regarding the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial ELCIC National Convention  
held in Winnipeg, July 6-8, 2017



One item we have followed thru on is  
**National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation:**

*Thanks to Arlene Tangjerd, lay delegate from Yorkton, Kim Sherwin, rostered delegate from Melville, Trinity Fusick, youth delegate from Shellbrook.*

Kaila Johnston, research coordinator at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), provided a detailed overview of the history and the legacy that was covered by the activities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She began by reviewing the history of the residential school system, and identifying who was impacted by this form of cultural genocide. She explained the settlement agreement in 2006 that resulted in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the NCTR in addition to financial compensation. The NCTR was built to hold over 7,000 hours of collected audio video interview of survivors of residential school and their descendants. The NCTR's collection is available on line and holds in addition to the interviews: historic records of the residential schools, some burial records and many of the collected pictures from the schools.

It was great to learn what reconciliation really is, not just a destination but a process. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission made 94 recommendations for action to the people of Canada following the hearings in 2008. Kaila gave specific suggestions on actions we can take to work towards the achievement of the calls to action. These included learning about the issues and understanding them, teaching others about them and choosing a particular call to action to focus on.

Our congregation has decided to use a statement from the Truth and Reconciliation commission, **Calls to Action** each week in our bulletin.

Full report from Websites to get more information:

<https://sasksynod.ca/news-and-events/elcic-national-convention/>

<http://elcic.ca/In-Convention/2017-Winnipeg/default.cfm>

## **2017 Balance Sheet**

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available in hard-copy as a separate report.

## **2017 Donations and Expenses**

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available in hard-copy as a separate report.

## **2018 Proposed Budget**

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available in hard-copy as a separate report.