

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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

PHOTO BY
FRANKLIN ISHIDA

A message from the presiding bishop



PHOTO BY MICHAEL WATSON

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

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

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

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

Serving together in Christ's name,

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

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Annual congregational meeting opening liturgy

LITANY

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

And also with you.

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

We are a church that belongs to Christ.

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

We are a church whose unity is in Christ.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amen.

**Saint Andrew Lutheran Church
Annual Report
For Year Ending December 31, 2015**

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2015 CHURCH COUNCIL

NAME	OFFICE/MINISTRY LIASON	TERM EXPIRES
Mike Williams	President	January 2018
Dan Malm	Vice-President	January 2018
Bill Best	Christian Education	January 2016
Phil Bickley	Fellowship	January 2018
Brandon Murphy	Finance/Stewardship	January 2016
Mike Williams	Member Outreach	January 2018
Dan Malm	Personnel	January 2018
Keith Rusch	Property	January 2017
Russ Van Skike	Social	January 2017
Mary Wittich	Worship	January 2016
DeDe Gnatz	Youth	January 2017

REPORTS

Mission Statement

The life and ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church shall be open to all who wish to express their faith in God through Jesus Christ by worship, learning, witness, and service. From this gathering of God's people shall come Christian love as members minister to each other, the community, the nation, and the world. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the life and mission of this church can be fulfilled by those within it. Therefore, we wish to express our love of Jesus Christ through faithful support of, and active participation in, the mission and ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church.

**SAINT ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 2016**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>OPERATING</u>	<u>PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
CASH	41,076		74,720	
ELCA - Endowment/Seminary Accts			47,500	163,296
FIXED ASSETS				
LAND AND BUILDING				
CHURCH SITE		171,300		171,300
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS		3,633,473		3,633,473
VACANT LOTS		0		0
EQUIPMENT				
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		15,000		15,000
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		135,000		135,000
SUBTOTAL	0	3,954,773	0	3,954,773
TOTAL ASSETS	41,076	3,954,773	122,220	4,118,069
<hr/>				
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u>				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	606			606
TAXES PAYABLE	4,122			4,122
LONG TERM LIABILITIES				
CHURCH SITE AND BUILDING		1,153,053		1,153,053
OFFICE EQUIPMENT LOAN				0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,729	1,153,053		1,157,782
FUND BALANCES				
FUND BALANCE			2,838,067	2,838,067
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND			1,950	
SABBATICAL FUNDING			10,400	
CHURCH FUNCTION REIMBURSEMENTS			3,851	
FELLOWSHIP			1,188	
WORLD HUNGER			(59)	
SOCIAL MINISTRY			4,111	
MUSIC FUND			3,461	
MORTGAGE CAPITAL FUND			2,194	
YOUTH			9,105	
PROPERTY CAPITAL FUND			12,293	
GIFT FUND			6,292	
KITCHEN			2,041	
ROSE FUND			47	
OFFICE EQUIPMENT			0	
CONTIGENCY FUND			0	
SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND			9,918	
ENDOWMENT FUND			45,428	
EOY CARRY FORWARD			10,000	
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES			122,220	122,220
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	4,729	1,153,053	2,960,287	4,118,069

SAINT ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT
For the Year ended December 31, 2015

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>B/(W) BUDGET</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
OPERATING INCOME				
CONTRIBUTIONS	754,522	732,585	21,937	717,435
TRANSFER FROM DESIGNATED FUNDS	1,293	0	1,293	0
CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR YEARS	0	0	0	0
RENTAL INCOME	2,245	2,000	245	2,455
INVESTMENT INCOME	86	0	86	188
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	758,146	734,585	23,561	720,078
OPERATING EXPENSES				
OUTREACH MINISTRIES				
REGULAR BENEVOLENCE	40,889	41,115	(226)	41,115
EXTENDED MINISTRIES				
WORSHIP	4,003	4,825	(822)	5,381
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	2,203	7,787	(5,584)	7,331
MEMBER OUTREACH	1,658	1,855	(197)	1,774
SOCIAL MINISTRY	0	0	0	0
FELLOWSHIP	158	0	158	708
YOUTH	244	1,891	(1,447)	4,081
STEWARDSHIP	3,221	4,074	(853)	3,874
SUPPORT	461,275	489,275	(28,000)	456,193
PROPERTY CHURCH SITE	9,774	22,728	(12,954)	15,306
SUB-TOTAL	523,425	573,350	(49,925)	535,762
CHURCH FIXED EXPENSES(Utilities)	34,790	35,768	(978)	38,787
FINANCE EXPENSE	794	616	178	674
TRANSFER TO DESIGNATED FUNDS	2,245	2,000	245	2,300
MORTGAGE EXPENSE	150,000	150,000	0	150,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	711,254	761,734	(50,480)	727,523
EXCESS OPERATING INCOME/(EXPENSE)	46,892	(27,149)	74,041	(7,445)
DESIGNATED FUNDS BEG BALANCE:	114,381			52,641
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND CONTRIBUTIONS				
FREED FOR MISSION DEBT REDUCTION	30,428			54,039
OTHER FUNDS	83,428			95,233
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	113,856			149,272
DESIGNATED FUND EXPENSES				
FREED FOR MISSION DEBT REDUCTION	37,911			53,990
OTHER FUNDS	68,106			33,542
TRANSFER TO OPERATING				0
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND EXPENSES	106,018			87,532
Designated Funds Ending Balance:	122,220			114,381

MEMBER STATISTICS - 2015

History of Baptized and Confirmed Membership 1981-2015

Year	Baptized	Confirmed	Baptized Change	Confirmed Change
1981	351	213		
1982	446	269	+ 95	+ 56
1983	521	297	+ 75	+ 28
1984	588	332	+ 67	+ 35
1985	697	403	+109	+ 71
1986	767	451	+ 70	+ 48
1987	912	525	+145	+ 74
1988	1020	625	+108	+100
1989	1208	703	+188	+ 78
1990	1295	815	+ 87	+112
1991	1351	855	+ 56	+ 40
1992	1403	912	+ 52	+ 57
1993	1440	940	+ 37	+ 28
1994	1605	1013	+165	+ 73
1995	1724	1105	+119	+ 92
1996	1797	1178	+ 73	+ 73
1997	1974	1293	+177	+115
1998	2114	1430	+140	+137
1999	2144	1461	+ 30	+ 31
2000	2239	1534	+ 95	+ 73
2001	2288	1589	+ 49	+55
2002	2402	1651	+114	+ 62
2003	2504	1746	+102	+95
2004	2577	1833	+73	+87
2005	2616	1866	+39	+33
2006	2711	1894	+95	+28
2007	2766	1923	+55	+29
2008	2855	1984	+89	+61
2009	2939	2074	+84	+90
2010	3026	2112	+87	+38
2011	3127	2184	+101	+72
2012	3176	2205	+ 49	+21
2013	3185	2197	+9	-8
2014	3197	2215	+12	+18
2015	3213	2214	+16	-1

Membership Age Grouping										
Age	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
0-5	255	266	275	294	273	265	241	214	192	175
6-10	222	209	213	219	221	227	246	253	252	252
11-15	197	213	217	221	228	238	232	225	228	230
16-20	216	212	211	211	211	201	212	223	228	233
21-25	172	166	183	189	182	199	206	223	208	211
26-30	174	179	193	215	183	178	176	181	194	208
31-35	193	194	202	207	211	210	227	223	227	220
36-40	204	210	217	204	199	210	212	207	212	220
41-45	206	202	195	206	222	226	222	227	203	200
46-50	203	224	228	223	228	212	222	218	220	228
51-55	202	201	214	223	215	224	229	233	230	236
56-60	169	169	166	178	188	199	206	212	221	215
61-65	88	110	125	143	145	163	169	161	178	197
66-70	44	55	54	71	75	88	106	124	139	150
71-75	41	49	46	46	38	40	52	59	70	79
76-80	24	27	34	41	47	46	43	43	42	40
81-100	23	28	22	35	30	34	38	42	46	54

Note: These numbers are approximate as some birth dates have not been reported.

2015 PASTORAL ACTS
New Members & Attendance Breakdown

Pastoral Acts - 2015	
Baptisms	30
(Adult)	2
Weddings	8
Funerals	17
First Communion	24
Confirmations	
Youth	34
Adult	0

New Members Received 2015	
February 15	14
May 17	3
October 18	33
Joined via Confirmation	1
TOTAL	50

Average Weekly Worship Attendance		
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(Between 1981 and 2015)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg. Att.</u>	<u>Change</u>
1981	165	0
1982	182	+ 17
1983	196	+ 14
1984	214	+ 18
1985	263	+ 49
1986	244	- 19
1987	292	+ 48
1988	303	+ 11
1989	311	+ 8
1990	347	+ 36
1991	338	- 9
1992	345	+ 7
1993	330	- 15
1994	357	+ 27
1995	389	+ 32
1996	420	+ 31
1997	482	+ 62
1998	503	+ 21
1999	523	+ 20
2000	542	+ 19
2001	543	+ 1
2002	559	+16
2003	587	+ 28
2004	552	-35
2005	558	+6
2006	508	-50
2007	593	+85
2008	603	+6
2009	548	-55
2010	525	-23
2011	593	+68
2012	565	-28
2013	550	-15
2014	545	-5
2015	527	-18

Worship Attendance – 2015	
<i>Thursday</i>	
12:15	34
6:15	28
<i>Sunday</i>	
8:00	145
9:30/10:30	199
10:45	62

Special Worship Services - 2015	
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Ash Wednesday (12:15)	103
Ash Wednesday (6:15)	236
Midweek Lenten Worship (12:15) (avg.)	75
Midweek Lenten Worship (6:15) (avg.)	181
Maundy Thursday (12:15)	63
Maundy Thursday (6:15)	69
Good Friday (12:15)	287
Good Friday (6:15)	145
Easter Sunday (6:00)	310
Easter Sunday (8:00)	348
Easter Sunday (9:30)	458
Easter Sunday (11:00)	280
Thanksgiving Eve (6:15)	95
Christmas Eve (4:00)	463
Christmas Eve (6:00)	492
Christmas Eve (8:00)	398
Christmas Eve (10:00)	138
Christmas Day (10:00am)	142

Lead Pastor

Pastor Craig Swenson

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” These words were used regularly by the Apostle Paul in his letters to communities and individuals to encourage faith in the lives of those who were beginning to understand a new identity as one rooted in Jesus Christ. As members of a particular community of faith through Saint Andrew, we are also growing in our identity as community together and therefore who and what we believe God is shaping us to be together.

In a recent NPR program, Tom Ashbrook defines 2015 as “A Year We Confronted Our Identity.” The message was that diversity and traditional roles were challenged this past year blurring the lines of established identities by many public figures regarding gender, racial, political, economic, religious roles and freedoms. What was once considered normative is now questionable which for some is liberating and for others oppressive. As members of the Body of Christ, however, we have the privilege of resting secure in the identity we share as named and claimed by a God who entered the world as a living being, born in a manger, raised in a rich religious tradition, was nurtured by loving parents, was baptized, actively witnessed God’s love for all people, willingly accepted his role as Savior of the world through his death and resurrection and now lives among us to continue to shape lives and communities through his love.

As I reflect back on the year that is now history, I give thanks to God for the joys and challenges that have shaped our life together. Once again, we have shared births, deaths, baptisms, marriages, members who have moved away as well as new members received. We laughed together, cried together, in general, shared in life together and for that and many more reasons, I am thankful. It is in our common identity in Christ that we navigate life’s journey together. It is in this rich tradition of the Lutheran expression of faith that we can embrace life in its fullness and trust that even when the lines of life become blurred, the core of our faith remains strong not because it is formed by us but because our identity is a gift from Christ himself and has been formed in us.

As we look forward to another year of life and ministry together, it is my prayer that this formative identity remains central in our work and in our visioning what God desires for us in the years to come.

It remains a privilege to minister with and among you. I am grateful for your sharing and look forward with great excitement for the many ways we continue this great task of bearing witness to faith in Christ Jesus and God’s great love for the world.

“Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Ephesians 6:23-24

Blessed to serve among you,
Pastor Craig Swenson

Associate Pastor

Pastor Jenn Collins

“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.” - Luke 8:15

When I look around church, all I see is abundant fruit from the seeds that God has planted here.

I see fruit in the form of a heavy cross in the center of a now vaulted ceiling in the youth room – where a wall was taken down and where the generous gifts of many have made a difference for the youth at Saint Andrew. I saw tables at Clay Corner studio filled with adults and students who went to spend time together and paint bowls to benefit the good work of the Neighbor’s Place supporting the hungry in our community. I saw teenagers spend time singing Christmas carols to some of our older, wiser members in their homes and I saw tears stream down cheeks with the joy of being remembered.

I see fruit in the smiles of acolytes who proudly carry the cross into worship each week. I see God’s good fruit in those who were bundled up in the amphitheater on top of Rib Mountain Easter morning as the sun began to rise during the prayers of intercession and the spirit of Christ’s resurrection promise filled up our hearts and warmed our faces as together we said, “He is risen, indeed!” I see fruit in children singing with their whole bodies – “Go tell it on the mountain!” and in the faces of the many teachers, confirmation mentors, and parent volunteers who helped make confirmation, vacation bible school, Sunday school, and the Christmas program possible this year.

I see God’s good fruit in the lives of those who stood at the altar and pledged their lives to one another and in the many, many little faces that were brought to the waters and promises of baptism into this family of faith. God’s promises were ever so abundant as we remembered the many who now rest in light eternal. I see fruit in the many who continue to persevere in the hard work of grieving, illness, and struggle – but not without hope.

I see the fruit of the kingdom in the faces of Matt and Becky Seegert who visited on Christmas Eve day to say that their seminary journey toward ordained ministry is going well and in the form of thanksgiving for the generous gifts from this place to continue supporting them.

The seeds that were planted earlier this year allowed for a fifth weekly worship service and the gifts for music were so graciously provided. There was fruit for the kingdom in the many young families that came to volunteer for the nursery at the 9:30 worship service so that parents could be nourished and fed by God’s word and meal and children cared for well.

Daily I give thanks for the fruit found in the leadership of Pastor Craig – with whom we could celebrate and give thanks to God for 20 years of ordained ministry and service to Christ’s church this past spring. I learn so much from his servant leadership and am grateful for his witness and passion for sharing the good news of Jesus regularly with me and with so many. There is fruit in the form of a generous and willing staff, in council and ministry leaders, in the efforts and presence of many of you.

The word that Jesus uses in the parable of the soils is “perseverance.” When Christ plants something in a heart it can take a while for the sunshine and the rain to come in their seasons so as to nourish the tree, bring forth a blossom, and then, in God’s good timing, bear fruit. When I look around church, I see abundant fruit from the seeds that God has planted and continues to plant in the soil at Saint Andrew – and for all of that abundant fruit, thanks be to God.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Jenn Collins

Visitation Pastor

Pastor Jeff Martinson

Again, as I share thoughts and reflections for the 2016 annual report as Visitation Pastor at Saint Andrew, I consider myself sincerely blessed. For it is by God's grace and yours; Pastors Craig and Jenn, staff, church council and faith family that show God's grace to me in the particular calling to serve this congregation in a ministry you entrust me with. I find rich meaning in this ministry and do enjoy it and feel matched with my pastoral gifts. I hope the visits I make offer you some blessing as they bring me much.

In visits to hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, and other assisted living homes, including those specialized in dealing with memory loss, as well as to members who are homebound, we share life and faith stories, the large and sacred array of human and honest feelings, prayer, and communion. It is holy time, and I am so greatly humbled and blessed to be a part of it, and bring God's riches into the world and to God's children on many regular days.

I understand this in a theological definition, as a ministry of presence, which is one of being there. It is a privilege to both serve and represent Saint Andrew, and to incorporate our mission statement, in which all are welcome. As an on-call chaplain, which compliments the calling at Saint Andrew, it is a ministry of presence to all people regardless of faith, or not. I find in my work at the hospital that 25-30% of the patients list their religion as "None" – with no identified faith or faith family. With respect to these individual choices, I find a yearning for some spiritual understanding and reality. In my visits, I do meet people disconnected from their churches, including Saint Andrew. It is my hope, and I have had some powerful experiences, that a compassionate presence can reconnect God's child to their Creator-Father, Great Lover, and Good Shepherd.

The visits I reflect on go from prayers for healing and thanksgiving before, during and after surgery, to singing a highly delightful version of "Joy to the world" with the residents in an Alzheimer unit in a nursing home. One of the most meaningful visits I reflect upon from 2015 was sharing Holy Communion with Bill and Deb, a married couple from Saint Andrews at the University Hospital in Madison – this was the day before Deb died. If you recall, it had been the "Bread of Life" summer from John 5. Deb died, having asked for the Lord's Supper several times, and several times celebrating the feast of victory; hungers satisfied with faith, forgiveness and bread for the journey to eternal life. Yes, thanks be to God.

Sincerely blessed,
Pastor Jeff Martinson

President

*"Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit."
(3 John 1:2)*

Our health is frequently on our mind, particularly this time of year. We make plans to improve it with diets and promises of more exercise. Sometimes we find ourselves just treading water while trying to improve our health and sometimes our body and spirit feel much better with the changes we've made.

The congregation, Council and Ministries of Saint Andrew were put on a diet last year in our mission to grow God's word. We were facing a deficit budget but knew we had to continue this mission to grow our ministry. Through the efforts of many, the giving of time and talent, the stepping in to help when there is a need; the word and spirit have grown and are healthy at Saint Andrew.

Just take a look at the new youth room to see what can happen when people are healthy in spirit.

2016 will challenge our spiritual health once again, but this congregation has shown how healthy it always strives to be. The council has proposed a budget that challenges the congregation to be the best stewards of the mission of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church. With prayer and faith, God's will, will be done.

I am thankful for all of the help and support I have received from the pastors, staff, Church Council and members of the congregation. The experience has been very fulfilling.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Williams
Council President

Vice President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The duties of Council Vice President are to attend the ministry meetings, to fill in for the President as needed, to attend Executive Committee meetings, and create and lead the council nominating group. This past year I served on the Personnel Ministry. They function as the church's Human Resources Department.

This next year our church will be faced with the need to further our response to the gifts the Lord has given us personally, and look to what we as individuals can contribute by way of our talents, time and perhaps, money, if we want to continue God's mission for us as a church.

God's work our hands, yours in Christ,

Dan Malm

Council Vice President

Parish Administrator

The parish staff at Saint Andrew continues to effectively and eagerly serve daily in Christ's church in witness and support to the congregation of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church. – *God is able to provide us with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, we may share abundantly in every good work* – 2 Corinthians 9:8

With gratitude, the parish staff thanks the congregation of Saint Andrew for supporting our efforts and partnering with us by sharing your time and talent in volunteering to assist with projects and initiatives both internally and with programs that reach out into the surrounding communities.

In addition to the benevolence gifts shared to the larger churchwide community of the ELCA and in support of World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief, the following community groups also received benevolence gifts from the congregation of Saint Andrew:

Crossways Camping Ministries

SALC Scout Troop

Noah's Never Ending Rainbows

Stable Hands Ministry

Randlin Homes

A Walk In Their Shoes

Habitat for Humanity

The Neighbor's Place

The Women's Community

Faith In Action

AODA - Push Back Against Drugs

Open Door Ministry

The Warming Shelter

We the members of this church are the hands and feet of God when we share and work with these local ministries. There is more than enough good work to be done, faith to be nurtured and lives to be transformed. God has entrusted this work to our hands – what a gift and what an opportunity!

Blessed to serve,
Shelby Gjertson
Parish Administrator

Christian Education Ministry

Chairperson: Sara Goetsch

Council Liaison: Bill Best

Members: Heidi Wiesman and Katie Gilles

The goal of the Christian Education Ministry is to support the spiritual growth of the congregation through education. Below are some highlights of the past year.

3rd – 5th Grade Retreat at Waypost Camp, Hatley
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Assisted with Lenten Soup Supper
Easter Breakfast
Vacation Bible School with Crossways Camp Counselors
Sunday School Organization
Christmas Program

A big thank you to all those who volunteered their time to be Sunday school teachers, VBS leaders, confirmation mentors and everyone else that supported our ministry throughout the past year.

A big thank you to everyone who donated supplies and monetary contributions for VBS, Sunday school and Easter breakfast.

A big thank you to Mary Shafarik for coordinating the Christmas program and to all those who helped get our youth ready for the delightful program we had this year.

A big thank you to the Saint Andrew staff for all they do to help with the education ministry and so much more.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Best

Council Liaison

Fellowship Ministry

Chairperson: Amy Frolik

Council Liaison: Phil Bickley

Members: Bonita Alafouz (Secretary), Ann McDonald, Dave Mueller, Vicki Mrotek

The Fellowship Ministry supports the Mission of Saint Andrew by planning and coordinating activities and events for all members to provide opportunities for participation in the community life of the church. Fellowship events are: weekly Sunday fellowship and the annual Church Picnic, Pretzel Sunday and Palm Sunday; support the OWLS' monthly group activities; and plan and organize special family outings, community service projects and seasonal events.

This year the ministry has expanded by another person and has continued weekly and annual events as well as adding a few new ones such as serving cupcakes on May 19 at 10 am in honor of Pentecost Sunday, new members joining and it being the last day of Sunday School, as well as a Sundae Sunday and a Potluck Bingo event.

2015 Ministry Events:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Variety Show & Decadent Desserts | February 3 |
| • Pretzel Sunday (1st Sunday in Lent) | February 22 |
| • Assisted in the Soup Kitchen | March 11 |
| • Hot Cross Buns (Palm Sunday) | March 29 |
| • Sundae Sunday | June 7 |
| • SALC Golf Outing | July 18 |
| • Church Picnic | August 30 |
| • Nativity Craft Project & Potluck | November 22 |
| • Gingerbread Village/Cookie Exchange | December 6 |

Weekly: Fellowship on Sundays - Coordinate and schedule volunteers and cookie baking

Monthly: OWLS activities (Older Wiser Lutherans est. 2010) - The group is self-run by members and organizes social events such as potlucks, speakers and field trips

Support: SALC Dartball - assisted with dues

Following each Sunday morning worship service, coffee, juice, milk and cookies are offered for fellowship between services, so the ministry is responsible for coordinating volunteers to host the early and late services and to bake cookies. The new church service times required minor schedule adjustments and has definitely increased the amount of people gathering for fellowship between services.

The annual church picnic is one of the major events that we are responsible for. It was held in late August due to new service times starting on Rally Sunday. We had the bouncy house that is very popular with the kids and special music by DJ Mathew Clark.

This year a new craft event was organized by Pastor Craig and Karen Swenson. The event provided materials to make your own nativity set out of 2x4's and included a potluck lunch. The gingerbread event in December attracted over 60 people of all ages. The village was then taken to Mount View Nursing Home for all the residents and staff to enjoy. On the same morning, 12 people participated in the Christmas cookie exchange.

In 2016, the Fellowship Ministry looks forward to continuing our weekly and annual events as well as trying new ones. The goals will be to recruit more volunteers to serve on the ministry, to provide activities and events that are enjoyed by all ages and to increase fellowship within our congregation. All the volunteers that made the activities in 2015 so enjoyable are very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Frolik

Chairperson

Finance/Stewardship Ministry

Chairperson: Bill Radloff

Council Liaison: Brandon Murphy

Treasurer: Kerry Fehrman

Members: Mike Howlett, Sheldon Geiger, Betty Dotseth, Amber Schuck, Duane Meyer, Jerry Laine, Mark Gleisner and Tom Weiland

The Finance/Stewardship Ministry is an active group and gives oversight to the following:

Audit Committee

Members: Melissa Beese-Chairperson, Steve Lammers, Jessica Tipple, Jason Rickstad.

Last year, this committee reviewed the 2013 SALC records and identified areas for consideration and improvement. A task group consisting of Jerry Laine, Don Skare and myself were appointed to research and work with the SALC treasurer and staff for resolution. A follow-up response was provided to the Audit Committee with ongoing review and discussion to be held in the future.

Budget Process

The SALC ministry groups put together their budget needs for the year. Saint Andrew's treasurer combines these with the other expenses for a total budget. The ministry looks at the pledged contributions and anticipated giving trends to assist in preparing the proposed annual budget, which is then approved by the congregation council for adoption at the annual meeting. In addition to the standard information, the ministry will also be presenting a Narrative Budget for 2016 to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee is a sub-committee of the Finance/Stewardship ministry. Members include: Ray Skare-Chairperson, Julie Brekke, Marv Meier, Josh Wiesman, Pam Schulz and Dick Jarvis. 2015 began with \$27,407 in this fund. In May a generous \$5,000 matching program was offered with more than \$5,000 received which then added over \$10,000 to the fund with the balance at the end of June reaching \$38,238. The total Endowment Fund balance on December 31, 2015 with interest and other gifts is now at \$45,400. Up to 10% of this ending fund year balance can then be available to disperse for potential approved grant requests in 2016. In 2015 Saint Andrew shared \$2,250 from the Endowment Fund to five separate grant requests.

Finance

Every month the ministry group reviews the various contribution and expense statements that show the financial picture of Saint Andrew. Recommendations are provided to ministries and the council based on these reports, with the goal to improve the bottom line wherever possible.

Financial Peace University

In January the first 9-week Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Course was held with 18 graduates. Subsequent courses were offered in May and September with a total of 32 graduating from these classes held at Saint Andrew in 2015. This course will again be offered beginning in January of 2016.

Stewardship – The goal for 2016 will carryover from last year; to increase levels of giving out of generous response of gratitude by providing opportunities to grow the participation in the programs, ministries and worship life of Saint Andrew.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Radloff

Chairperson

Member Outreach Ministry

Council Liaison: Mike Williams

Members: Lucy Lahr, Billie Schmidt and Annette Green

The goal of the Member Outreach Ministry is to help visitors and members of the church feel welcome, connected and cared for. As members of a community of faith, Saint Andrew welcomes and acknowledges each other in times of need and blessings. This Ministry does not currently meet on a monthly basis but members continue to execute the following activities:

Greeter Program - Many church members volunteer to greet members and visitors as they arrive to attend Sunday morning worship services.

Care Note Program – There is a materials rack in the Narthex that offers information brochures, as well as reading booklets for all ages to offer comfort and reflection with regard to personal situations.

Phone calling and Card Program - An Outreach Ministry member makes phone calls and sends cards to members that are made by church school children, sharing with them that they are thought of and that the church is praying for them. This member also does the calling when food is needed for funerals and other activities and events.

Quilt Groups - Member Outreach has two quilting groups. The second Tuesday of the month quilts are made for the community (local hospitals, Women's Shelter, Salvation Army, Hospice House, local fire departments) and the third Tuesday of the month quilts are made for distribution by Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

Prayer Shawl Program - Prayer shawls are knitted and crocheted by members for anyone that needs a shawl to provide comfort and prayers.

Goal for 2016:

- Member Outreach is looking for new members and welcomes suggestions for outreach ideas to grow this ministry and to meet again on Ministry Night.
- Offer a new opportunity to sew or knit "Chemo" caps to be shared with local individuals who are receiving oncology treatment and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelby Gjertson
Parish Administrator

Memorial Gift Ministry

Chairperson: Marilyn Olson

Council Liaison: Mary Wittich

Staff Advisors: Pastor Craig Swenson, Pastor Jenn Collins and Parish Administrator, Shelby Gjertson

Members: Mavis Bloom, Annette Green, Eric Jacobson, Dick Jarvis, Roger King, Mary Kregel, Donna Peth, Mary Weiland and Julie Weller.

The overall role of the Memorial Gift Ministry is to monitor the Memorial Gift Guidelines, maintain a list of needed “gifts” and disburse monetary gifts in a timely manner. If the gift is designated to a certain area, we will work to make sure it is used for that purpose. If the gift is undesignated, the current needs of Saint Andrew will be considered and the gift designated appropriately.

The ministry has not met in 2015 because there have not been any funds to disperse. Members have been emailed with updates as needed. Thanks to a recent gift of \$530, over \$1000 was just forwarded to undesignated funds. The pastors decided to build on that in 2016 until there is enough money to order new blue altar paraments or another need arises.

The 6-year commitment to the Property Ministry of giving 10% of Undesignated Funds ended in June of 2015. This money will be used to help resurface the parking lot at Saint Andrew. To date, \$1178.20 has been given.

A goal for 2016 could be to order new blue altar paraments at a cost estimated at \$2800, or a hearing loop to aide worship participants with hearing devices.

If you are interested in gifting a memorial to Saint Andrew in honor of a loved one, please contact Pastor Craig, Pastor Jenn or Parish Administrator, Shelby Gjertson.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Olson
Chairperson

Personnel Ministry

Chairperson: Don Skare

Council Liaison: Dan Malm

Staff Advisor: Pastor Craig

Members: Julie Brekke, Lynn Holt, Laura Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Pam Kyhos, Penny Nowak, Rick Radloff and Ed Wodalski

Duties and responsibilities of the Personnel Ministry:

- ◆ Develop appropriate personnel policies and procedures
- ◆ Re-assess the role and format of the performance review process
- ◆ Review all ministry and staff job descriptions for accuracy
- ◆ Explore the use of lay professionals to fill identified voids
- ◆ Review Ministry Guidelines to comply with the mission of Saint Andrew
- ◆ Identify requirements for staff positions
- ◆ Identify personnel issues that may require review
- ◆ Review and update personnel policies

Goals the ministry has complete over the past year:

- ◆ Conducted semi-annual salary/benefit reviews with all Saint Andrew non-clergy staff
- ◆ Finalized revision of the Saint Andrew Non-Clergy Employee Handbook, with recommendation for Church Council approval
- ◆ Met with fulltime church staff to discuss the new Employee Handbook and explain any changes that would affect them
- ◆ Revised Sabbatical Policy and recommended Church Council to approve
- ◆ Determined and recommended 2015 salaries for all Saint Andrew staff, clergy and non-clergy
- ◆ Met with employees to discuss concerns and review self-assessments
- ◆ Developed an annual Personnel Ministry calendar
- ◆ Supported pastoral selection of two part-time sextons
- ◆ Reviewed employee benefits through Portico and recommended renewal

The goals and visions for 2016 are:

- ◆ To meet individually meet with Saint Andrew non-clergy staff to provide support, answer questions, and address concerns twice during the year
- ◆ To review benefit plan offerings for 2017 before a commitment for the next year
- ◆ To review job descriptions for accuracy
- ◆ To review policies for personnel not included in the Non-Clergy Employee Handbook

Respectfully submitted,

Don Skare

Chairperson

Property Ministry

Chairperson: Keith Rusch

Council Liaison: Keith Rusch

Members: Shelby Gjertson, Parish Administrator, Dave Paisar, Al Brace, Mike Zenner, Randy Trollop

The Property Ministry oversees the care, maintenance, repair, protection and replacement of all equipment and furnishings of the church building. This group also oversees the care, maintenance, repair, protection and landscaping of the church grounds. They assist with the development and updating of job descriptions and outlines that relate to the ministry's work and responsibilities. The ministry is supported by the Parish Administrator who coordinates the use of all property with the other SALC ministry groups and members as well as with groups and organizations outside of the church.

Ministry projects and activities completed in 2015:

- Held the spring clean-up in conjunction with roadside clean-up.
- Identified and corrected issues with the kitchen hood exhaust system.
- Completed painting and staining of deteriorating surface on the south and west sides of the building.
- Identified and corrected electrical system issues in the education wing.
- Removed some landscaping bushes/shrubs.
- Replaced deteriorated tubing insulation on roof top units.
- Assisted in the discussion for the eventual replacement of the west entrance sidewalk as an Eagle Scout project.
- Assisted in the deconstruction, reconstruction, cross raising, wiring and floor installation in the Youth Room.
- Completed crack repair on west lot.
- Completed fall clean-up.
- Addressed numerous ongoing property requirements such as replacement of stained ceiling tile, emergency light repairs, light bulb replacement, etc.

Goals for 2016:

- Continued service of the facility and grounds.
- Complete asphalt maintenance project on west lot.
- Address low spots in asphalt on the south lot.
- Replace deteriorating sidewalk on west entrance.
- Long term goals: address asphalt replacement/repair needs, potential carpet and siding replacement.

The Property Ministry would like to thank those who participated in weeding and pruning, spring/fall and roadside clean-up projects as well as ALL who have helped in the continuing remodel of the Saint Andrew Youth Room. Your great attitudes and willingness to help have made the projects enjoyable and successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Rusch

Chairperson

Social Ministry

Chairperson: Adam Wurz

Council Liaison: Russ Van Skike

Members: Maureen Anklaam, Ron Mathsen, Ruth Poutanen, Billie Schmidt, Alice Van Skike, Jeanne Willems and Kathy Wurz

Mission of Ministry:

Programs and activities have been developed and expanded by Social Ministry to minister to the needs of Saint Andrew members and to the needs of neighbors beyond the doors of Saint Andrew.

Goals met by Social Ministry over the past year:

- ❖ Find ways to partner with other faith based non-profit groups.
- ❖ Better communicate with the congregation on ways they can participate in our activities.

The result was to offer many ways to volunteer not only at Saint Andrew, but in the greater community. With the parish support of the many activities, \$1,700 was donated to causes within the community and \$1,029 to Walk for Water for a well in Africa.

New in 2015:

- ❖ Choices of area non-profit organizations to receive a donation were offered to those who supported Lenten Soup and Sandwich. A \$250 donation was made to each of the following: SALC Vacation Bible School, the Warming Shelter, the Wausau Women's Shelter and Never Forgotten Honor Flight. The profit from the fourth week of Lenten Soup and Sandwich was donated to ELCA Walk for Water.
- ❖ Donation of \$200 was given to the local Hygiene Drive to stock the area shelters and pantries.
- ❖ Donation of \$300 was given to Hardel's Hope.

Other supported activities:

- ❖ Super Bowl Snack Sale – Many prepared and/or purchased snacks to support the annual sale.
- ❖ Lenten Soup and Sandwich – Many volunteers, both adults and youth, helped make these dinners a huge success. The many people who have shown support by partaking in the meals and purchasing the soup, which supports the food pantry purchases and most of the activities throughout the year, are very much appreciated.
- ❖ Tuesday Morning Quilters and volunteers from the congregation – Donated 96 quilts to Lutheran World Relief and a number of quilts to the Wausau Women's Community.
- ❖ SALC Congregation – Purchased school supplies from the tag board. These supplies filled 54 back packs sewn by volunteers from the congregation. The filled back packs were shipped with the quilts to Lutheran World Relief.
- ❖ Community Dinner – Six dinners are planned, prepared and served on six Sundays throughout the year at First Presbyterian Church, downtown Wausau. An average of 100 meals per Sunday are served at no cost to the community.
- ❖ Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate – These products are offered at cost. Your support helps benefit small land holder farmers worldwide.
- ❖ Emergency Food Baskets – Baskets are prepared from the food pantry and offered to all who are in need.
- ❖ Cradle of Love Baskets – Located by the SALC entrance doors, the baskets encourage weekly food donations to our pantry.
- ❖ Holiday Baskets – Baskets are offered at Easter and Christmas and are available upon request.
- ❖ Thanksgiving Dinner – Open to the community and congregation of Saint Andrew. This event offers the opportunity to help prepare and /or enjoy a home cooked Thanksgiving dinner.
- ❖ Wausau Empty Bowls – Ten gallons of soup for the Neighbors Place Empty Bowls annual fund raiser were prepared and donated.
- ❖ Wausau West High School Fill A Back Pack – Donated \$200 in food items for the pantry.

After many years of service to Social Ministry as a liaison to the Tuesday morning quilters, Marge Bohlman moved to South Carolina. Marge was instrumental in the production of quilts and school bags. We thank Marge for her many years of service to our church and our community.

Goals and Vision for 2016:

- ❖ Continue to meet the needs of the congregation through our mission – Matthew 25:35.
- ❖ Communicate better the services that can be provided to families who are in need of help.
- ❖ Improve participation and communication with those who would like to become more active in Social Ministry.
- ❖ Look for ways to partner with other faith based non-profit groups within the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Wurz
Chairperson

Worship Ministry

Chairperson: Cheryl Allen

Council Liaison: Mary Wittich

Members: Al Freiberg (Coordinator of Music), Barb Breese, Pauline Hartman, Lenette Hoover, Jan Nelson, Shelby Gjertson (Altar Guild Coordinator)

The Worship Ministry is the umbrella ministry for the entire worship life of Saint Andrew and oversees:

- Altar Guild
- Communion Servers and Plate Holders
- Lay Readers
- Music, including
 - Accompanists
 - Bell Choir
 - Chancel Choir
 - Children's Choir
 - Special services and musicians
- Nursery
- Ushers

Highlights in 2015 are hard to pick out – there have been so many this year. Here are some of them:

- At the February ministry night, the Worship ministry decided to conduct an outreach project to interview all the members of Saint Andrew and ask two questions: What do you need? What Brought You to Saint Andrew? Thank you to everyone who participated by interviewing our congregation and thank you to the congregation for your thoughtful responses. We presented the report to the church council and a summary can be found on the next two pages. Copies of the report are available from the church office.
- Pastor Craig's 20th Anniversary of ordained ministry in the ELCA was recognized and celebrated. Congratulations again, Pastor Craig!
- Christian Education worked with the pastors and the Church Council to rearrange the Sunday services and Sunday school classes. Beginning in the fall, a 9:30 am service was added to allow parents and children to begin worship together, and then the children are dismissed to Sunday school. The 10:30 am service was moved to 10:45 am and given a more 'Thursday' worship feel.
- The nursery is now staffed consistently for the 9:30 am service. The work continues to staff the nursery. The nursery room is open for use during all services even if it is not staffed.
- Al Freiberg's 50th Anniversary as a choir director in the Wausau area was recognized and celebrated. This will continue into 2016 as the Chancel Choir will guest-sing at Zion Lutheran Church in Wausau, and Zion's choir will come to Saint Andrew.
- The bell choir 'kicked it up a notch' with the addition of another octave of bells, thanks to a Memorial Gift donation. Providing a richer sound and more openings for others to play.
- Not directly related to worship, but in keeping with the mission that 'All Are Welcome', the South entrance is now equipped with a power-assisted door, again thanks to a memorial gift.
- Sexton, Jared Gjertson was bid farewell and Cullen Stangel and Zach Weis were welcomed and are sharing the sexton duties. Thanks to all three young men for their work this year.
- As always, Worship Ministry provided the on-going support of worship services held four times a week – now five times with the additional Sunday service - and special services at Easter and Christmas. It wouldn't be possible without all the volunteer ushers, lay readers, communion servers, bread bakers, altar dressers, nursery staffers, choir members, etc. Thank You!

In 2016, meeting the needs of the members, as well as providing meaningful volunteer opportunities for all worship participants will continue to be the ministry's goal.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Allen
Chairperson

Question 1 - What Do You Need? Summary				
Values				
Row Labels	Count of category1	Count of category2	Count of category3	
communication	13	5		
education	20	8	1	
fellowship	19	8	5	
nothing	25	2		
nursery	3	3	3	
other	35	4	3	
outreach	7	6		
worship	39	11	3	
youth	19	10	3	
Grand Total	180	57	18	

Row Labels	Sum of Categories	Pct	Row Labels	Sum of Categories	Pct
communication	18	7.06%	communication	18	7.06%
education	29	11.37%	education	29	11.37%
fellowship	32	12.55%	fellowship	32	12.55%
nothing	27	10.59%	nothing	27	10.59%
nursery	9	3.53%	nursery	9	3.53%
other	42	16.47%	other	42	16.47%
outreach	13	5.10%	outreach	13	5.10%
worship	53	20.78%	worship	53	20.78%
youth	32	12.55%	youth	32	12.55%
Grand Total	255	100.00%	Grand Total	255	100.00%

Sum of Categories

- communication
- education
- fellowship
- nothing
- nursery
- other
- outreach
- worship
- youth

Question 2 - What Brought You to Saint Andrew? Summary									
Row Labels	Values Count of Category1	Count of Category2	Total	Pct	Row Labels	Total	Pct		
continuing	7	3	7	3.13%	continuing	7	3.13%		
knew others at Saint Andrew	17	3	20	8.93%	knew others at Saint Andrew	20	8.93%		
location	30	23	53	23.66%	location	53	23.66%		
other	6		6	2.68%	other	6	2.68%		
theology	19	11	30	13.39%	theology	30	13.39%		
welcoming	83	8	91	40.63%	welcoming	91	40.63%		
worship	8	1	9	4.02%	worship	9	4.02%		
youth	5	3	8	3.57%	youth	8	3.57%		
Grand Total	175	49	224		Grand Total	224			

Total

- continuing
- knew others at Saint Andrew
- location
- other
- theology
- welcoming
- worship

Altar Guild

Chairperson: Shelby Gjertson, Parish Administrator

Council Liaison: Mary Wittich

Members: Donna Peth, Joleen Meier, Ann McDonald, Sandra Fischer, Shelby Niskanen, Darlene Caillouette, Joyce Schoepke, Sue McFaul, Jodi Gargulak, Mavis Bloom, Mary Wittich, Mary Weiland, Pam Levra, Julie Weller, Holly Herwig, Rosalie Doering, Rebecca Sonnentag, Linda Peterson and Chris Welsh

The ministry of the Altar Guild at Saint Andrew is a team effort. The Chairperson prepares the weekly schedules, prepares the agenda for team meetings, prepares meeting minutes and makes them available to team members, purchases wine, hosts and other needed supplies, updates a calendar for the parament seasonal color changes, coordinates with team leaders and the staff to execute the weekly & seasonal activities of the church year.

Team members prepare communion bread, set up/clean up communion & credence cloths after all four services and change the paraments on the altar according to the church calendar. Saint Andrew is blessed to have team members who have served from 5-22 years.

Whether it is baking bread, preparing the altar, changing paraments, filling the candles with oil, laundering linens or decorating for festive worship services, the work is never a burden but is always a privilege!

Thank you to the team members and bread makers for their dedicated time and service. Special thanks to Mary Weiland for laundering the linens regularly. Additional thanks to other individuals who serve as “extra” bread bakers for special and seasonal worship services!

Altar Guild members contribute to the life of the church in other ways. This includes serving, providing desserts and clean up for the Lenten Soup and Sandwich meals. Several members gather to decorate the sanctuary altar and chapel for Christmas and Easter and others strip the altar on Maundy Thursday. Thank you to Dave Mueller, Mike Williams and Tom Weidman who assisted with set up at the 6:00 am 2015 Easter Sunrise Service on top of Rib Mountain.

The Parish staff also provides support to the Altar group teams. Thanks to Sextons, Jared Gjertson, Cullen Stangel, Tom Weidman and Zach Weis for their assistance on Sunday mornings and special services with set up for baptisms, filling candles and resetting communion as needed; Shannon Vujnovich for assisting with seasonal preparations and Joy Mitchell for assisting with the seasonal flower orders.

The new purple paraments purchased from undesignated memorial funds were used for the first time during the Lenten season.

Goals for 2016:

- Additional members – both men and women are invited and welcome to serve as team members or bread bakers
- Welcome a new chairperson or two individuals to co-chair

Respectfully submitted,
Shelby Gjertson
Chairperson

Youth Ministry

Chairperson(s): Jennifer Hinker and Mark Clark

Council Liaison: DeEnna Gnatz

Members: Sandy and Keith Rusch, Jen and Marty Ferris, Melissa Best and Pam Clark

This is a newly formed ministry that separated from the Christian Education Ministry. This group focuses on the needs of the 5th grade thru high school age students.

Activities and projects achieved in 2015:

1. With the helping hands and generous support of many a warm and welcoming space for the youth was created.
2. The first youth lock-in was held.
3. As a group, a picnic at church, summer pool party outing, an afternoon at a corn maze, a group hike up Rib Mountain, Christmas caroling and a Christmas party was enjoyed.
4. Worked together on service projects, painting at church and the Empty Bowls fundraiser.
5. Students and chaperones attended the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit.

Goals for 2016:

1. Continue to decorate and furnish the youth room.
2. Plan events to enjoy time together both at the church and in the community.
3. Youth summer trip to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado.
4. Continue to work on service projects.

All are welcome to enjoy this fun and growing ministry – contact the church office for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
DeDe Gnatz
Council Liaison

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



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



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



Refrain



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



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



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



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

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

Do not be conformed to this world, be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

Romans 12:2-5



Why participation in the ELCA makes a difference

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

How our missional partnership makes a difference

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

