



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Report 2008

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
February 1, 2009**

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Old Business:

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Adjournment

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Minutes of the Annual Congregational meeting, February 10th 2008

Council President Bourbon Bellon called the meeting to order at 11:15 am. The required quorum was present. Pastor Tom started the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes -The minutes of the annual congregational meeting of February 11th 2007 were read. A motion was made by Louise Bellon to accept the minutes as read. It was seconded by Brent Speraw and voted and approved by the congregation.

Pastor's and President's Report – The pastor's and president's reports were read. A motion was made to accept the reports by Russ Cook and seconded by Louise Bellon. The motion was voted on and approved by the congregation.

Committee Reports – The committee reports were read. One correction to the WELCA report was noted. A contribution was made to Cedar Lake Foundation not Cedar Point Foundation to help with the Special Olympics. A motion was made by Louise Bellon to accept the reports with the change noted. It was seconded by Dottie Lehigh and the motion was voted on and approved by the congregation.

Budget – The budget for 2008 was discussed. Louise Bellon explained the major differences in the 2008 versus the 2007 budget. Louise stated that there is a decrease in budgeted funds for altar supplies from \$1500 for 2007 to \$500 for 2008. Salaries for the pastor and the music director were increased by 5% for the 2008 budget. There is a slight increase in the money set aside for the synod convention and the Evangelism fund has increased from \$500 to \$2000 since we no longer are advertising weekly in the newspaper. Pastor Tom stated not only did the money set aside for the synod conference increase the amount of money sent to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod increased. Missionary support is not a budgeted item for 2008 and it was noted that the custodial fees are going down because Worthmore is now paying for a custodian. A motion was made by Dorothy Linke to pass the budget as written. The motion was seconded by Jill Speraw and approved by the congregation.

Statistical Analysis Reports – The pastoral acts, year end membership summary and Sunday offerings reports were read. Brent Speraw made a motion to accept the statistical analysis reports as written. Denver Cain seconded the motion and the congregation approved it.

Financial – The financial secretary's report and treasurer's report were read. Louise Bellon made a motion to accept as presented, Dorothy Linke seconded the motion and the congregation approved the motion.

Old Business – None

New Business – Election of new council members is the first order of new business. This year's nominating committee consists of Russ Cook, Stewart DeVane, Dave Schaaf and Dorothy Linke. Council members that are standing for a new two year term are Mary Schull, Ann Wilkerson and Denver Cain. Nancy Cook and Kristen Kopel are being nominated for their first term on council. A motion was made by Dorothy Linke to close the council nomination. Lorraine Will seconded the motion and the congregation approved the motion. Russ Cook made a motion to accept the five council members listed above. Lorraine Will seconded the motion and the congregation approved it.

Other current council members include: Bourbon Bellon, Louise Bellon and Dottie Lehigh. They are all serving the last year of their final term of six years. John Cavey is also returning with one year left on his first term. Members leaving council this year are Dorothy Linke and Dave Schaaf. Dorothy will remain the head of the Red Basket Room and Dave Schaaf will remain the Financial Secretary.

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The nominating committee also nominated Hank and Mary Schull to represent Good Shepherd at the Synod convention.

The nominating committee for 2008 will include Beth Cavey and Brent Speraw along with two members of council that are leaving.

Dorothy Linke made a motion to close all nominations and accept those who were nominated. Louise Bellon seconded the motion and then the motion was voted and approved by the congregation.

Denver asked for special thanks and praise for Louise Bellon for all of the time she spends working for the church and for John Cavey for all the property work he did in 2007.

Since there was no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Brent Speraw, seconded by Russ Cook and voted and approved by the congregation. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Wilkerson

PASTOR'S REPORT

Our Journey Together

Whenever you take a journey or a trip, you have to plan times along the way for resting or eating or just changing positions to make sure the blood is flowing properly. In some respects, I look at the annual congregational meeting as a brief stop along the journey we are all making as members of Good Shepherd. For at this meeting we have an opportunity to look back where we have traveled and dream forward to where we hope to travel in the future. We also have the opportunity to be “filled up” with the energy, enthusiasm and power promised by the Holy Spirit of God for travelers going in His direction.

I think there are two “journals” in which our trip is being recorded. One journal is what you are reading right now. It consists of information about what we as members have been doing this past year to be “the church” as we understand it. There is a lot about how we have maintained a “place” at 3535 Kessler Blvd. East Drive to serve as the focus of the ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. This requires our money and our time to provide staff, heating, air-conditioning, cleaning, snow shoveling, and utilities. There is also information about how we have provided worship to sustain us along our journey. We see that additions have been made to our experience of worship with exceptional organ and piano music, a bell choir and a singing choir and guests singing and playing anthems, with violin, cello, and other musical instruments. We also see that during our journey, we have experienced high points and low. We have seen two of our members joined in marriage, four new members added to our membership, and one child baptized. We have also celebrated the lives of three members who died this past year, Art Schulz, Bert Behrmann, and Bob Dearing. We give thanks for those who have died before us and who have become part of the Church Eternal.

We also journal the gifts and services that we as a congregation make to our fellow neighbors. We are thankful for the work that Dorothy Linke has done to represent us in the Red Basket projects and for the dedicated members who volunteer their time and energy at the Sharing Place. We also note that our contributions also are made to support Kay Lawler and David Wunch, missionaries in South America. This last year we also continued our help to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New Orleans.

We have offered several educational opportunities such as a seminar of Dietrich Boahoeffer and a Bible Study beginning our Book of Faith emphasis. We had twenty persons per week attend these sessions. WELCA continues its contribution to our ministry. Bible Study and fellowship are important for this group and so is their practice of sending cards to the sick and shut ins in the congregation.

The other journal that is being recorded on our trip is an imaginative one. You can't really keep statistics on what it is recording. For this other journal is out of our hands. This is the imaginative journal that God keeps on the progress of his revealed plan to mend this world, using his servants as co-workers. This is the journal that scripture tells us will be a big surprise for us. Remember Matthew's parable about those who will be invited to inherit the Kingdom of heaven? According to this story, it is those who have seen Jesus in the hungry and gave them food, the thirsty and gave them something to drink, strangers and welcomed them, or naked and clothed them, sick or imprisoned and visited them. The surprise came when they learned who had done this. Apparently while they were living and going about their business, even their church business, they couldn't be sure. This is the tension that we as disciples of Jesus Christ must live with. We pray that God's will be done in and through us but we also pray that it will be done in spite of us sometimes.

We can always take heart in our journey of faith that our Lord is with us regardless of where we are. “I am with you always” Jesus says to his disciples, “to the end of the age.” (Matt.28:20) He gives us hope and faith to continue our journey together as the earthly members of the Body of Christ.

May His peace be with you as we journey together,

Pastor Tom

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There is nothing exemplary about 2008. We had great joy in new life and sorrow in the end of life. We worshiped together, ate together, we laughed together, we played together, we worked together and we cried together. I believe that is the way God wanted it to be. It was a good year.

I want to thank the people who are leaving the council, my wife Louise, Dottie Lehigh and John Cavey. Dave Schaaf is also handing off the financial secretary's job to Hank Schull. Under our constitution Dave was not elected but had a vote on the council. Louise has quietly kept me going in the right direction on the council for the last six years. She has also chaired the finance committee and Fellowship during her time on the council. Dottie Lehigh has been our guiding hand on Worship and Music for many years. She is taking a rest but I suspect will be back. John Cavey served two years as our Property Manager. Things that John did in Good Shepherd will still be visible and operating when his children go off to college. I also expect John will rejoin the council when his time permits.

There are fine people left on the council; Mary Schull, Kristen Kopel, Ann Wilkerson, Nancy Cook and Denver Cain. Thank you all for your time and your support.

I want to mention Pastor Tom Richards. He's da man. He came to this congregation like a shining light from out of the darkness. Bill Novak told me that we needed him and how right he was. We were and are a very strong congregation but I felt we were teetering on extinction when he arrived. Thank you Tom for what you have done for Good Shepherd.

The last thing that I want to mention is our music program. How's that working out for you? Jennifer and Brenda have at least one half of the active congregation involved. There are so many involved, one group must sit in the pews while another group performs, just so there is an audience. Part of the music program is the new bells. The bells would not exist without the support and sponsorship of the congregation. Thank you.

Bourbon

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"A" TEAM

The A-Team is the congregation. The council set up the team to annually plan church wide activities and also our out reach program. The team is open to every member of the congregation. That being said, we usually have about ten to fifteen members attend our first meeting. Our meeting in 2008 was in February and we planned our programs. We cut back a little and concentrated on the garage sale and the paper bins. We also had a tour of Crown Hill Cemetery.

Garage sales registration started off pretty slow. My wife was very worried when she only had about ten booths registered, a week before the sale. Things started looking up and the registrations all came in one big bunch and we had a great garage sale. The booth holders made money and the church made a little on their booth and also on the food concession. All of the proceeds from registrations went to ALS. I don't know if Louise has one more garage sale in her, but she is thinking about it. She had quite a bit of help in 2008 and that made things a lot better.

Our paper bin drive was fantastic. We out grew one bin and now have two. The neighborhood is supporting us. You see cars lined up regularly and Jill Speraw has about carried her whole office over and put it in the bin. Dottie Lehigh brings all of the paper from her office. I have been told that Mary Schull has boxes set up around her office for paper. Peggy Sterrett called the other day and said that her office had a lot of paper. Chip Wilkerson and Hank Schull picked up a pick up truck load from Peggy.

Our trip to Crown Hill, with Dorothy Linke tour master, was great. We were few in number and we all squeezed into the Worthmore van. Dorothy is like a living history book. Among many things that we learned was that when the cemetery was established, no one ever thought that the town would ever go that far north???. If you haven't been to Crown Hill on a tour, do not miss the next opportunity.

We had our annual Pet Blessing in October. Dottie Lehigh and Sally Flint did the work on this one.

Our next meeting will be in February. I hope to see you there. Bourbon, Chair

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EVANGELISM

In 2008, we discontinued sending church brochures to new residents of the surrounding neighborhood. We are considering new ways to reach out to the community. If you have suggestions, I welcome them.

Continued thanks to all who served as greeters in 2008 and have volunteered for 2009. Thank you also to Lorain Will for keeping the schedule of greeters.

We mailed roughly 7000 postcards announcing our Christmas music and Christmas Eve services and did have a few visitors. The cost was \$734.10 for the postcard design and mailing and \$504.84 for postage.

Kristen Kopel, Chairman

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FELLOWSHIP

"Food For The Fun Of It" continued through out the year with between 10 and 15 members in attendance. We welcome more members to join us. We meet once a month at a designated restaurant for food and fellowship each person is responsible for their own check. We hope to see you in attendance. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board announcing the restaurant we plan to eat at.

Other activities of the fellowship committee for 2008 included a Mardi Gras party, Palm Sunday Brunch, lunch for work day in April, 500 Race Party, a Concert on the Canal, picnic at the Cook's, Conner Prairie picnic and concert, A tour of Crown Hill Cemetery led by Dorthy Link, fall gathering at Diane Schaaf's farm, and a lovely Christmas party at the Bellon's. Thanks to all who made these activities so special.

During Lent the fellowship committee was responsible for hosting soup suppers before the Lenten services. These were provided by the Bellon's, Carol and Pastor Richards, Dottie Lehigh, the Cook's and the Miller's. A special thanks to all of the above.

Last but certainly not least are the Sunday refreshments. A very special thank you to all who have so graciously taken their turn through out the year to make our Sunday refreshments enjoyable.

Nancy Cook, Chairman

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FINANCE

The 2009 budget presented this year has a \$4,940.00 deficit budget. Your council members are very careful in spending our money. No expenditures were made that were not necessary and many council members were very generous in spending their own money for the church. We had some major expenses this past year. It is a year of good news and bad news. The good news is that we did not have to dip into our investments for any of our expenses. I think that this is the first year in many years that we did not have to do that. The bad news is that our investments dipped along with the stock market. We are down some 25% but many are down more than that. We changed our account from Smith Barney to The Mutual Funds store. Smith Barney was eating us up with fees and our new company is very generous with us in charging low fees. There was a discussion on the finance committee that we should present a balanced budget by showing money being taken from the investments. But I am a truth in advertising person and if it is not balanced, I think you should know that.

Louise Bellon, Finance Chairman

HEALTH MINISTRY

The Health Ministry committee members provided reference books in the library and Jill Speraw maintained a rack of Care Notes in the narthex that are free to anyone who would like to take one. We have been available to consult with any member who has a health concern and have done so on many occasions. We have helped or arranged for help for members and their families as we have been requested to do. We are open for suggestions as well as consultation. You may call Nancy Cook, Mary Schull or Louise Bellon.

Louise Bellon, Coordinator

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PROPERTY

Modifications to the pulpit and church pews were accomplished this year. The changes allow for a more adaptable arrangement of the sanctuary. The pulpit was reduced in height and made mobile. Pews at the front of the sanctuary were detached from their permanent attachment to the floor.

Light fixtures were replaced in the church office and several classrooms. This upgrade brings much of the building light fixtures up to commercial code. The light fixtures in the remainder of the classrooms and hallways in the building remain to be completed. Spotlights on the front exterior of the building need to be replaced.

Supplies were purchased through Camacho Janitorial Services throughout the year to meet cleaning and usage demands.

Several false security alarms occurred throughout the year. Some causes were due to sensitivity of the equipment and battery life, these issues were addressed by Circle City Alarm company.

The tractor will need major work this year and replacement should be seriously considered and budgeted.

The thermostat in the library should be replaced.

Respectfully, John Cavey, Property Chairman

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SOCIAL MINISTRY

2008 was a very busy year for Social Ministry. We had many projects that hopefully benefited many people, both in our community, country and world.

The Red Basket Room effort is the main thrust of the Social Ministry activities. Through the donation of merchandise and money, Good Shepherd supported 22 agencies and 6 special projects this year. The agencies and value of donated and purchased items are as follows:

- Abby Hunt Bryce House \$81.28
- John Craine House \$415.46
- Henry Coburn Place \$25.00
- Damien Health Center \$51.28
- Dove Treatment Center for Women \$183.78
- Dressing for Success \$385.00
- Family Support Center \$215.59
- Genessaret Clinic \$306.00
- Good News Ministries \$641.87
- Good Samaritan Clinic \$747.00 and 2300 pill bottles
- Goodwill \$163.85
- Guardian Home \$150.00
- Homeless Initiative \$402.00
- Horizon House \$25.00
- Julian Center \$119.96
- Lawrence Manor Healthcare \$455.00
- Pathway to Recovery \$345.38
- Second Helpings \$130.00
- Shepherd Community \$863.26
- Thrifty Threads \$627.50

VA Medical Center (8th floor) \$140.00

Our House 55lbs of pull tabs

Lions International 1 lens, 3 prs sunglasses, 11 prs glasses, 1 set of frames, 10 cases

The money collected at the Lenten Soup Suppers (\$60.00) purchased 6 baskets of chicks for families in Peru, one of the countries served by our missionaries.

In August, \$93.00 was collected to purchase school supplies for the Lutherwood Educational Academy.

During the Advent season, donations of gloves and hats and money provided 96 pairs of gloves and 29 hats for the teenage youth served by the Midtown Youth Center. We also filled 75 prayer socks with \$1.00 each for the preschool children.

Thank you to everyone who so generously helped the Red Basket fulfill its mission. It is through your generosity that we are able to serve so many people. My biggest thanks go to Dorothy Linke. Without Dorothy's tireless efforts, the Red Basket Room would not exist. She goes above and beyond in her efforts to serve the less fortunate, both in our community and in the larger world community. Thank you also to all those who helped Dorothy sort and box donations and helped deliver donations. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans helped out with a donation of \$240.00 to help defray the cost of gas for those who made deliveries for the Red Basket Room.

Each month, we collected groceries for the Sharing Place. This year we collected 215 bags of groceries for the Sharing Place. Special thanks to Clarence and Ruth Edwards and Russ and Nancy Cook for delivering our collected bags each month.

We continue to support missionaries David Wunsch and his wife, Kathryn Lawler-Wunsch, who serve 5 countries in South America. We are in the second year of our 3 year covenant with the Wunsches. We sent Christmas gifts to their children this year.

Unfortunately, 2008 saw many natural disasters, some in our own state, that affected many people. We collected \$550.00 for Lutheran Disaster Response to aid in recovery efforts in these areas.

In October, the Hunger Appeal raised \$185.00, both for domestic and international hunger programs administered by the ELCA.

WELCA is a group of 7 women in the congregation who meet monthly for Bible study. This year, they studied the Beatitudes, the book of Ruth and currently, the book of Daniel. They also collected money for the following projects:

Heifer International—\$165.79 collected by WELCA and \$84.21 donated by the congregation for a total of \$250.00. A pregnant alpaca named Maelrumar was purchased in memory of Mary Ellen Oberlander, Marilyn Sikkink, and Ruth Schaaf for use by a family in the high altitude Andes mountains.

Nature Conservancy—\$20.00 raised to purchase yerba trees and medicinal plants to save the Atlantic forest in Brazil

Lutheran World Relief—\$30.00 for the Mopti Handcraft Center, Mali, Africa. The center helps women earn money for medical/surgical treatment.

Immunization for displaced orphans in Sudan—\$25.00

School supplies for children with AIDS in Africa—\$25.00

The ladies of WELCA thank the congregation in supporting them in the large purchase of the alpaca. WELCA tries to support the countries served by our missionaries whenever possible.

Thank you to every one who donated money or goods to any of the above efforts this year. Even though Good Shepherd is a small congregation, we are very large in terms of our outreach to those less blessed than us. Please help continue these efforts in 2009.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Schull

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship effort this year culminated in our usual pitch-in dinner in November. Pledges this year showed an increase of about 5 percent.

Thanks are due, as usual, to Dottie for her usual capable handling of the dinner. Also to Nancy Cook and Dave Schaaf for their temple talks

Certainly not least, thanks to all who were generous in their support of time and money

Denver Cain, Stewardship Chairman

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WORSHIP AND MUSIC

After many years serving on the Worship committee it is wonderful to see how we have continued to provide enriching services for the congregation.

Pastor Richards has lead us with his wonderful sermons and many ideas to enhance the services.

Our Music, Director Jennifer Stokes, has done an outstanding job with providing us with lovely music for our services. Her talents and those of our members and the many people that she has brought to the services have been truly enjoyed by all of us. Our choir continues to sound great every time they sing.

Brenda Jackson has done a super job with the Chimers that are now Ringers, thanks to the generosity of our members who paid for our new bells.

We have continued to purchase our Altar flowers and Organ arrangements from Joey B’s Florist. We had a price increase during the year but the cost still seems to be less than most congregations pay, and he has made an effort to enlarge the arrangements and still fit them in our vases.

The very large and lovely Poinsettias and the Easter Liles were purchased from Schlegel Greenhouse.

Our Mid Week Lenten services were a series called “Christ In Trial”. They were dramatizations done by our members.

We had two very interesting Bible Studies during the year. The life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with study and discussion led by Pastor Bill Novak. Pastor Richards led us in the study entitled Rediscovering the Book of Faith. This is part of an initiative called Book of Faith that ELCA voted to embrace.

Many heartfelt thanks to all the members who have shared their talents to assist in our services as Lay Assistants, Lay Readers, Ushers, Acolytes, Altar Guild.

Dottie Lehigh, Worship & Music Chairman

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YOUNG AT HEART

The Senior Citizens group met monthly. The group averages 10 – 12 members. Many, many thanks to Marian Schulz who was so helpful with this group. Thanks also to Denver Cain, our bingo caller.

Louise Bellon, Coordinator

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PASTORAL ACTS IN 2008

Baptism: Liam Baugh

Deaths: Bert Behrmann
Robert Dearing

Transfer In: Denise Walker
Kerry Baugh
Juanita Morrison

Marriages: Justine Marter and Jason Stout
Colleen Dettmer and Ryan Miles

YEAR END MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Membership as of 1/1/08:	Baptized	<u>84</u>	Confirmed	<u>78</u>
Membership as of 12/31/08:	Baptized	<u>85</u>	Confirmed	<u>78</u>
Average Worship Attendance for 2007:		<u>47</u>		
Average Worship Attendance for 2008:		<u>48</u>		