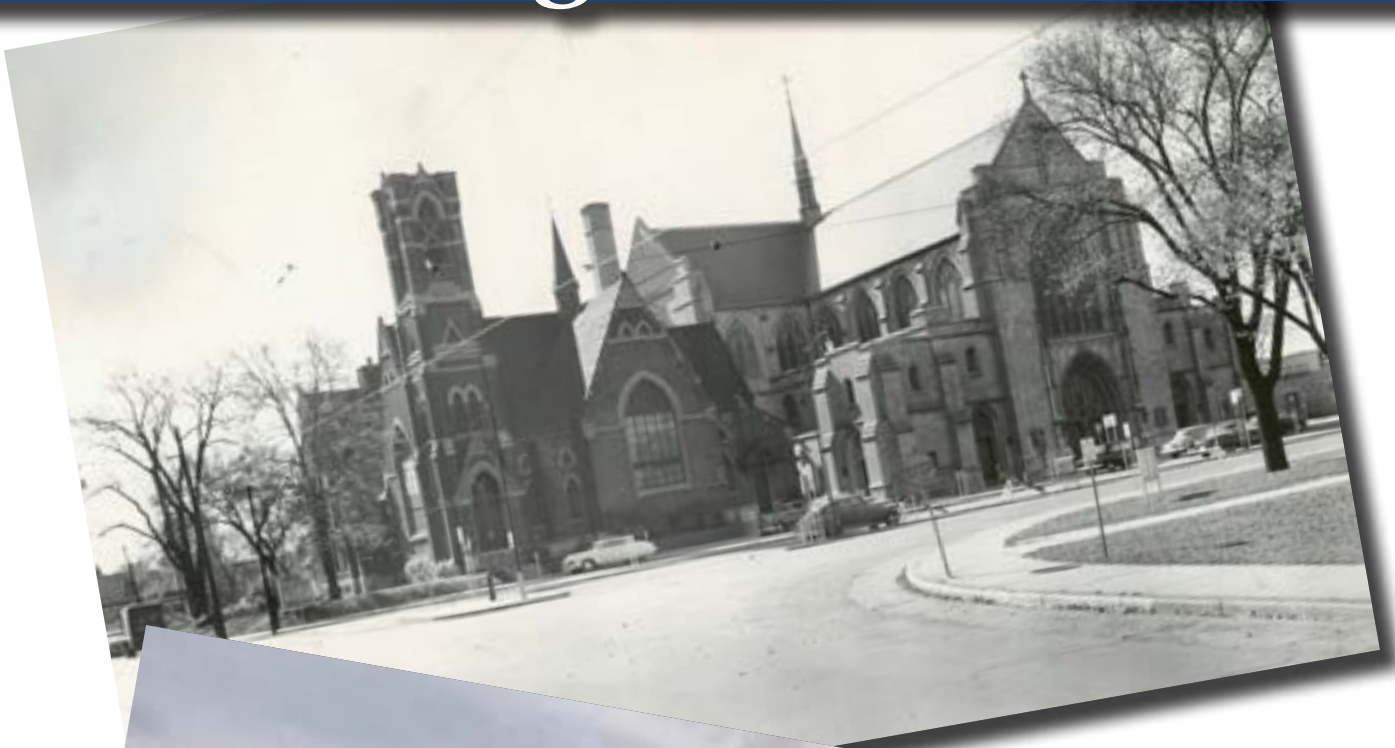


Celebrating 100 Years



*2018 Annual Report
Central Lutheran Church*

Agenda



Central Lutheran Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 10, 2019
11:45 a.m.

AGENDA

Sara Stensaas, president

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- June 20, 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

President's Report

Rostered Minister's Reports

- Pastors
- Deacon

Central Lutheran Church Foundation Report

Ministry Area Reports

Information Items:

- Building Renewal Task Force Report
- Strategic Planning Report

Action Items:

- Treasurer's Report
- 2019 Budget
- Nominating Committee Report and Elections
- Welcome Statement/ Reconciling in Christ Discernment Affirmation Recommendation

Hymn

Election Results

Prayer and Benediction

Adjournment

Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting

Regular Annual Meeting of the Congregation, June 20, 2018

The Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2018. The 2017-2018 annual report was available to Central members prior to the meeting; it was available online via the church's website and was distributed at the Annual Meeting. Besides enjoying ice cream sundaes, the congregation members also had the opportunity to glance inside the new great room in the new parish house being completed in the fall.

Call to Order

Declaring that a quorum was present, Congregation President David Sand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer

The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Pastor Stephanie Friesen and Pastor Melissa Pohlman.

Approval of Agenda

President David Sand highlighted the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for any changes, additions, etc. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made, seconded and approved.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2017 Annual Meeting was made, seconded and approved.

President's Report

Congregation President David Sand reflected on the continued renewal that is taking place with the building of the new facility, and what is being accomplished while surviving in more compressed spaces. Sunday school and young people are thriving, new members and visitors are being welcomed, good Bible studies are taking place—and, even in the midst of ongoing changes, a new meaning of fellowship has been established. As the congregation walks through the wilderness of building demolition and new construction, the promised land of new space is getting closer. In addition, other challenges and opportunities will require the attention of the congregation—a long-range strategic plan, Immigration Sanctuary discussions, the upcoming 100th Anniversary, faith and finance focus, and ongoing support for those in the mission field. The congregation president's report can be found on page 6 of the 2017-2018 annual report.

Rostered Leader's Reports

Pastors Peter, Foy, Melissa, and Stephanie each shared their thoughts, their joys, and their gratitude for the past year, especially for the flexibility of members, volunteers and staff during this construction time. Pastor Peter recognized and thanked the work of the Central staff, including Karen



Knox. He emphasized the framework that is being done by the Strategic Planning Process Task Force. He shared information about the comparative church statistics, found on page 8 of the 2017-2018 annual report. The pastors' and cantor's reports begin on page 7 of the 2017-2018 annual report, as well as reports from the directors of finance, security, facilities, communications, and food service.

Central Lutheran Church Foundation Report

Bonnie Weisenburger, president of the Foundation, summarized the Foundation's report, found on page 16 of the 2017-2018 annual report. She felt the most significant action of the year was the Foundation's approval to increase the distribution to Central Lutheran Church by .50% to bring the total regular distribution from 4.75% to 5.25%, starting January 1, 2019. This brings the total distribution, including the extra 1% for the building fund, to 6.25%, at least for the next year. The five working committees—Executive, Audit, Development, and Governance—continue to work closely with Inez Bergquist, development director.

Ministry Area Reports

President David Sand encouraged all members to read these reports found in the annual report packet.

Information Items:

1. **Building Renewal Task Force Report**
Hazel Reinhardt, chair, highlighted the Building Renewal Task Force report, found on page 21 of the 2017-2018 annual report. She emphasized the celebration that, during construction, every Central ministry and program continued without any interruption. She shared the great news that on April 10, 2018, Central was granted clear title to a couple of land parcels under the parking ramp. She thanked the Kodet Architectural Group and Jorgenson Construction Company and expressed her deepest gratitude to the members of the Building Renewal Task Force for their many hours devoted to the building project. She thanked the Central members for their confidence in her leadership and finished with her personal thanks to Pastor Peter for his leadership and experience that made all the difference!

Action Items:

1. **Treasurer's Report**
Treasurer John Olson began by thanking: Obie Holmen, director of finance, for tutoring him in the intricacies of the accounting system and his support;

Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting (continued)



the Fiscal and Property Committee for their guidance; the Congregation Council for their oversight, and Pastor Peter for providing his experience and insights. He presented an overview of the financial reports, which covered 2017-2018 budget and actual amounts for Ministry and Congregational Life; Foundation & Facility; Events; Parking, Neighborhood and Security. The revenue of all these funds totaled \$2,524,963 and the expenses totaled \$2,582,189, for a deficit total of \$57,226. He also highlighted the Assets and Liabilities Consolidated Funds, the Designated Fund Summary, and the Building Renewal Financials. The financial reports begin on page 25 of the 2017-2018 annual report. A more detailed presentation was given at a meeting one week prior to the Annual Meeting, for all members to attend.

2. 2018-2019 Budget

John presented the 2018-2019 proposed budget, which reflects total revenue of \$2,619,682 and total disbursements of \$2,622,135, with a small deficit of \$2,453. This budget reflects 12 months, but will be used for only seven months, as the congregation had previously voted to change its financial process to a calendar year, beginning January 1, 2019.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded and approved.

A motion to approve the 2018-2019 budget was made, seconded and approved.

3. Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Pastor Peter, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following nominations for leadership: vice president – Lisa Beane; council at-large (two-year term) – Jennifer Surla, Paul Troselius, Roberta Groening; Audit Committee (two-year term) – Seth Peter. The 2018 Synod Assembly Voting Members will be elected at the February 2019 Annual Meeting for the May 2019 Synod Assembly. Also nominated by the Congregation Council for the Nominating Committee for the bridge year: one year remaining – Andrew Heintz, Christa Olson, Bruce Nimmer, Katie Brenke, Carney Bergeson-Meekins, and Susan Troselious, chair; two years remaining – Kari Colchin, Heidi Tysk-Poppe, and Joe Surla.

According to the constitution, President David separated the nomination, with a written ballot for vice president and council at-large. Ballots were distributed and handed in for tallying. See below for results.

For the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee, no further nominations came forward from the floor.

A motion to accept the full slate of candidates was

made, seconded, and verbally approved.

4. Strategic Planning Process Framework

Pastor Peter first recognized the members of this team and thanked them for their work. Four core values have been affirmed by this process – connecting, equipping, organizing and inviting. Upon adoption of this framework, the Council will launch a planning team to work on smart goals for each of these areas, to be rolled out in the fall, when the new building is completed.

A motion to approve the Strategic Planning Process Framework was made, seconded, and approved.

Hymn "A Vision Still Unfolding"

Announcement of Election Results

The nominees were all elected.

Introduction of President Sara Stensaas

Before introducing the new Council president, David Sand acknowledged Dave West, past president, Jim Hart, and Franklin Dietrich, who are rotating off the Congregation Council. All were thanked and presented with gifts.

David Sand then introduced Sara Stensaas, new president, who expressed being humbled and honored to serve, feeling blessed to follow the leadership of David Sand and all the role models she has had, both men and women. She shared her excitement, referencing Mark 4 and the Mustard Seed. She talked about how 100 years ago a seed was tossed out by the founders of Central, and how we continue to spread more seeds by the good work that is being done. She thanked David Sand for his presidency over the past year and presented him with a gift. She welcomed all the new leaders and thanked them for their willingness to serve.

Prayer and Benediction

The meeting was closed with a prayer and a benediction by Pastor C.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved. President Sara Stensaas adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Hansen, recording for Sara Gunsch, secretary

Congregation President Sara Stensaas



As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. (Colossians 3:12-16)

This passage has really spoken to me about who we are together as Central Lutheran Church.

Since I began my role last June, a little over seven months ago, I have grown and learned much about Central and how we do church together. Thank you for your trust, support and prayers; I am so humbled and honored to serve you.

In case you didn't already know — we have truly amazing pastors, an exceptional staff and incredible committees, ministry teams and lay leaders; with great levels of expertise and commitment! We are exploring the promise of God for all in this blessed community through worship, formation, community and generosity.

- The months since June have been a whirlwind, as we've moved into our new mission-forward space, with wonderful windows to the community that welcome and invite our neighbors to come in and that help us to send our message out. The decision to move forward with the Building Renewal Project was recent (and so favorable, the generous support from all of you speaks to your heart for the mission of this congregation). The demolition was not so long ago; and now out of the rubble look where we find ourselves!
- We've begun 100th Anniversary celebrations with homegrown pastors returning and potlucks in our new great room!
- Our Strategic Planning Process Task Force has met, prepared a framework and have organized into the following four areas: connecting, equipping, organizing, and inviting (all noted in last year's annual report). Our first goal has begun as we have had the opportunity to sign up to participate in small Spiritual Life Groups to meet and build community and share spiritual development!
- Our Reconciling in Christ Team has worked to update our welcome statement to reflect that ALL are welcome at Central, with no exceptions. We are all a part of the body of Christ; He does not divide us. We have been praying for and discerning God's direction for Central as we strive to share God's

expansive love and welcome with all of God's people. With our updated welcome statement, we can add Central's name to the group of open and welcoming congregations that are a part of Reconciling in Christ.

- We have participated with mission work, locally with a mission start, Tree of Life, in the north loop of Minneapolis; and internationally with a new Lutheran Community Center and Clinic in Juba, South Sudan as well as sending a group from Central to visit and reconnect with Lutheran Healthcare Bangladesh – just to highlight a few!
- Another exciting highlight is from Thanksgiving when Mark and the kitchen team served the Monday community of over 350 people a turkey feast in one sitting!
- Central remains persistent in its mission established from the beginning, "to serve the central part of the city... members or non-members, regardless of race or economic status. ...the day worker as important as his well-to-do employer; the single man or woman, as welcome as the married couple; the young as much a part of the group as the old." (What God Hath Wrought, pgs. 16-17)

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

I give thanks for all of you!
Sara Stensaas

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe



A remarkable year

It has been a remarkable year. A year ago, the contractors were setting the beams for the great room. A year later, here we are in the great room for lunch and the Annual Meeting. The Building Renewal Project has been the most visible sign of a remarkable year. There are other remarkable signs from this past year to note.

David Rodriguez has been remarkable. He and our site manager, Lon Schueth, worked together through thick and thin to complete this project. There were many challenges. These two solved each of them and delivered a new mission-forward facility that will serve the congregation for decades.

The rostered leaders and staff have been remarkable. It was a year that demanded adaptation, patience and a great deal of creativity. Everyone pulled together to make it work, and in the process, trust deepened. I have been so grateful for the joy of the staff as we tended to the logistics to make it work.

The Congregation Council leaders, Building Renewal Team, ministry teams and committees have been remarkable. There have been so many details to tend to, and each leadership group approached them with grace during the disruption and logistics. I often felt like we were building a plane in mid-air, making plans and setting goals for the future building that was still in process.

You have been remarkable, Central Lutheran. Each of you continued to worship, adapt to the changes and live with

a sense of expectation. As we live into the new facility, we will certainly find out where the design plan has succeeded, and we will discover what does not work. With any building project, there is no way to get everything correct, but we will continue with our ability to adapt and continue to live with a sense of expectation. I am hopeful that what we learned together about adaptation, patience and creativity will remain with us as we move forward into God's preferred future for Central Lutheran.

God is remarkable. God has empowered the renewal. God invites us to remember what we have learned. God invites each of us to build on these strengths as the historic sanctuary flows into a mission-forward facility that looks out upon a world in need of the gifts of adaptation, patience, creativity, grace and a sense of expectation.

There is much work to do as we listen for God's call for continued renewal. We are guided by the words of Jesus in this weekend's gospel reading from Luke: "Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him."

Pastor Peter



Comparative Church Statistics

| Categories | 2008 | 2013 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Average Worship: | 583 | 650 | 565 | 548 |
| 5:00 Saturday | NA | 49 | 53 | 58 |
| 8:30 am | 298 | 137 | 105 | 98 |
| 10:30 am | 327 | 334 | 347 | 339 |
| Restoration Center | NA | 200 | 232 | 210 |
| Restoration Worship | NA | NA | 85 | 75 |
| Summer | 470 | 390 | 432 | 404 |
| Lent Mid-week Avg. | 111 | 142 | 114 | 111 |
| Triduum | NA/No Vigil | 658 | 712 | 637 |
| Easter Sunday | 1749 | 1643 | 1501 | 1471 |
| Christmas Eve | 1262 | 1390 | 1570 | 1468 |
| Christmas Day | 257 | 182 | 123 | 126 |
| | | | | |
| Membership: | | | | |
| Baptized | 1700 | 1737 | 1711 | 1083 |
| Confirmed | 1574 | 1371 | 1448 | 952 |
| | | | | |
| Education: | | | | |
| Sunday School Average | 45 registered average NA | 47 registered 28 average | 41 registered 25 average | 45 registered 25 average |
| Sunday Confirmation/HS Youth Average | NA/NA | NA/NA | 20 registered/15 av. 15 registered/8 av. Total: 35/23 | 22 registered/ 16 av. 15 registered/ 8 av. Total: 37/24 |
| Sunday Adult Average | NA | NA | No class/Bld Renewal | No class/Bld Renewal |
| | | | | |
| Changes: | | | | |
| Baptisms | 20 | 18 | 12 | 7 |
| Confirmations | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| Weddings | 14 | 21 | 12 | 6 |
| Funerals | 26 | 24 | 21 | 18 |
| Transfers Out | 53 | 11 | 7 | 5 |
| Transfers In | 56 | 29 | 55 | 15 |
| Statistical Adjustment | | | | (628) |

Notes:

1. Statistics were taken from congregational parochial reports to the ELCA and recorded attendance figures.
2. Average Worship reporting in the ELCA is based on the average for regularly held services and does not include Christmas and Lenten worship. The 2018 average is based on Central's previous practice for all years to include all worship services in the total and divide by 52 weeks. For consideration, without Christmas and Lenten worship included the 2018 weekly worship average was 494 (for 2017 the adjusted average for the year was 515).
3. Restoration Center attendance is based on meals served. Worship average is for the 11am Monday service.
4. Triduum includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil worship.
5. The statistical adjustment for baptized and confirmed membership reflects the good work to update the data base.
6. Information not available (NA) does not mean classes were not held, just that data is not available.

Pastor D. Foy Christopherson



Six whirlwind months and we're at this again! And though it's only been six months, so many accomplishments that have been discussed and dreamed about for so long are now a reality as we begin 2019. One of which, of course, is the adjustment of the Annual Meeting schedule to the beginning of the calendar year, a more common and more intuitive arrangement.

And the new building! So many challenges to life and ministry have been resolved by beginning afresh architecturally. We've had just four short months of occupancy to begin to discover the possibilities. We've hosted a few large events. We celebrated Christmas in it. The months ahead will take a little more settling in. We're still working to find a place for everything and get everything in its place. I'm leading that effort. We need some interior decorating... a little more accent color, and to get the majority of the art back from storage. May 2019 will bring a great test. The event team calls it "May-pocalypse" – several large public events all in a row. We'll really have broken the place in when we are through with that.

I'm most excited about the new opportunities for serving, mission and ministry that the new building will bring... developing concentric circles of welcome. We will be looking for volunteers for ushering and hosting, for the fine arts team and for other hospitality ministries to support the new great room, servery and common spaces. If hospitality and entertaining is your thing, we need you! All these new opportunities will be invited through the sign ups at the welcome desk.

In addition to many May public events, spring 2019 will bring a great celebration of Easter and the Vigil with the new fire on the patio, events in the great room and Easter baptisms. Lent will find us walking along with candidates learning one another's faith stories. Spring and summer will also bring confirmation and a 100th anniversary celebration, and the long waited outdoor color and landscaping to extend our hospitality even further into our site, a hoped-for urban oasis.

Phil Holst (worshiplife) and Judy Hedman (welcomelife) continue to lead our ministry in the Worship and Welcome Mission Area Cluster. I am thankful for their gifts. Angee Hagen led our Advent Christmas seasonal décor with great success. A seasonal team is working now on Lent and Easter worship.

Ministry coordinators Jeffrey Schulz (events), Mark Kieffer (sound), and Michael Dee (life passages) continue to amaze me by their energy and creativity. They are a gift to me and to our congregation. I hope you will thank them for their efforts when you see them.

Pastors Peter, Stephanie and Melissa and Deacon Mark are all super colleagues whose support of our work together allow great ministry to happen. I hope we bring out one another's best gifts and efforts. I'm also thankful for musicians Jane Lien and Tim Short and for all the work of our great staff who make coming to work fun and energizing.

It's been just six months, four of which were moving in just in time for Christmas, and as a result much of the work I laid out in June is still before us:

- Working with Pastor Stephanie on a normative practice welcoming adults to holy baptism (catechumenate/ Welcome to Christ). Our new member process will be considered along with this and we have many members who have already expressed energy for this outreach. I also hope to partner with her more in teaching and faith formation milestones. I also look forward to more worship workshops with the congregation.
- I'm especially excited about the return of the Sunday lunch community meal and forum hour for the opportunities it adds for workshops and meetings.
- Some new fit and finishes for the lower narthex chapel area is in order. This may also include a next phase of the columbarium as long as we're working down there.
- Fine art and accent color through the building will warm the place up.
- A new baptism font is next for the sanctuary. Dave West is leading our team for that. We also hope to enhance the flexibility of the sanctuary using some rebuilt old pews and pew chairs, refinish the floor, explore new communion rail and pew cushions, and freshen up the furnishings. The sacristy is due for paint and carpet this spring.

As ever, it is a gift and pleasure to serve and to be one of your pastors at Central.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor D. Foy Christopherson

Pastor Melissa Pohlman



“You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 138:8a)

The last Annual Meeting was on June 20, but it feels like years ago. The image that will not leave me is standing inside the construction site of our new parish house and watching as you all walked through the door and saw the new place for the very first time. There were so many “Oooooohs!” and “Aaaahhs!” and mouths wide open and giant smiles. This was especially true for the folks who serve as a part of the Community Ministry Mission Cluster. We were so thankful to the whole congregation for supporting the ministry we do together in real and tangible ways through renting the trailer and not forsaking all the people who come looking for a bit of rest, a conversation and a warm coat. We were incredibly thankful for you all converting the sanctuary so we could continue to gather for worship and a meal on Mondays. All of that thankfulness is overshadowed by the joy we now feel to be moved into our new spaces.

The Monday worship and meal has continued to grow in size since October when we moved back in and since Mark started cooking again. The Free Store donations have steadily increased since we reopened, and the volunteers have risen to the task of figuring out how we can be good stewards of the beautiful space we share with the Sunday school. The Augsburg Central Health Commons is loving their immediate access to abundant hot water. Street Voices of Change has been able to both grow and more deeply focus as we have moved home. And, there have been moments of struggle and adjustment and loss too. Not everything worked exactly the way I might have imagined it, and God is faithful and ministry still happens and I learn to get out of your way.

I am eternally grateful for the amazing team of staff we have at Central, especially Dwayne and Freddy and Mark and Betsi and Adam. The constant and consistent way these folks have been creative over the last 18 months is astounding. The same is true for everyone else on staff. I cannot begin to tell you about moments of both flood and fire when we just looked at each other, decided what needed to be done and then did it, together as a team. (I am also writing this while on sabbatical and I am missing my co-workers a ton, so you will need to forgive my tears.)

My fellow pastors in the shared office have been living examples of grace for me. Thank you, Foy, Peter and Stephanie. The same is true of you, who are the good people of Christ at Central Lutheran. You have shown how flexible you can be and how committed to the gospel you are in this place. This last few months we have together looked at ministries that were nearing their end and then purposefully and prayerfully ended them. I especially want to thank Susan Troselius and Kevin Lile for their many

years as job coaches and our good discernment to use their gifts in more impactful ways for the sake of the Restoration Center going forward.

We have a lot of good ministry to take on as we look to the future in this building that now supports us. The Garden Ministry Team is working with landscape architects to know how we can design an outside that welcomes folks into deeper conversation. The Reconciling in Christ Team has done a great deal of discernment about how we more fully welcome all people. The Street Voices of Change have trained another 10 folks in community organizing so that we can work together strategically. Heading Home Central is thinking very creatively about how we advocate for housing in Minneapolis. Emergency Rental Assistance volunteers should be revamped and reinvigorated to start meeting with folks in crisis soon (if not already.)

In a little over a month from the Annual Meeting, I will be back from sabbatical, refreshed and renewed for what God’s purpose is for me in your midst. God is faithful and God’s steadfast love endures forever. Thanks for being an active reminder of this, always.

Shalom,
Pastor Melissa

Pastor Stephanie Friesen



Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world. —John Milton

These words, written over 400 years ago, remain relevant for us today and capture the very essence of our life together over these past weeks and months in the Formation Cluster. As we move into a new year of exploring the many ways that God is at work in our lives, here are a few of the highlights from 2018.

Pastoral care is at the forefront of my work as your formation pastor. Together with the compassionate support of the pastoral staff and an amazing group of loving volunteers, we were out visiting more than 200 times in the past six months. Whether it was to hospitals, care centers or homes, we are finding new and creative ways to keep in touch and provide support to our members and friends who need a visit or a contact from someone at Central. Heartfelt thanks to the volunteers of the Caring Crew and others who delivered plants, made home visits and sent cards. Your work touches people's lives in remarkable ways.

Our Caregivers' Support Group provided an opportunity for those caring for loved ones with chronic illnesses to gather and talk about the challenges and blessings of caring for their beloveds. Knowing that you are not alone in this work is essential to individuals' wellbeing and it is a gift to lead and guide these amazing caregivers in their work.

Pastoral care is at the core of my call with you at Central. Finding and establishing ways to foster connections between each of us is one of the great blessings of my work with this amazing community. Special thanks to all of those who participate in loving and caring for one another.

Education is the other focus in the Formation Cluster. Followed by a summer of great travel and adventure, we are halfway through another academic year and each week is filled with something new. These are a few of those highlights:

- Sunday school students gathered monthly throughout the summer for VBS
- Fifteen high school students attended the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas in June
- Fifteen middle school students travelled to Christikon, a high adventure camp in the mountains of Montana in July
- Sunday school, confirmation and high school programs launched with gusto in September
- The Sunday school children transitioned into their new space in October
- Our confirmation students journeyed to Camp Wapo for a retreat in October

- We travelled to Bangladesh with a group of explorers in November
- A handful of our children baked bread and learned about Holy Communion before Thanksgiving
- A heartwarming Christmas program in mid-December
- Our young adults gathered monthly for service and social events
- Monday and Wednesday afternoon Bible studies are a constant throughout the year
- Wednesday night Bible studies continue through April
- We met last month to begin planning for summer trips in 2019

All of these activities and each of these events require volunteers and supporters. I am profoundly grateful each day for the many leaders who rise up again and again to support and foster learning here at Central. To the teachers and leaders who come each week for Sunday school, confirmation and high school, I offer sincere thanks. To those who have taken time to travel with our middle and high school students on long trips and short retreats, I thank you. To the many who support our kids with their love and prayers, my gratitude for you is great.

And finally, I cannot end this year without expressing my humble and heartfelt thanks and gratitude to my colleagues, the staff and the entire Central community for their love and support of Dean and me as we journeyed through our unexpected cancer adventure. Dean is nearly cancer-free and he looks to the future with trust and with hope.

As spoken by Milton so many centuries ago, our gratitude allows us to encounter everyday epiphanies. I am grateful for you and for the ways each of us hears and responds to God's call.

Peace – Pastor Stephanie

Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio



Our life together over the past six months has been marked by renewal, rejuvenation, exploration as well as excitement. Preparation for and our ultimate move into the new building took up much of the staff's time from the end of August through the beginning of October. The excitement of moving into our new offices and program spaces is still, in fact, somewhat in process because of the fact that bookshelves, music filing cabinets and the new choral music filing system arrived a month after our initial early October physical move. We continue to "settle in." A good part of our vast library of choral music has now been moved into the new music library which conveniently is a part of the office suite. Personal organ, piano, and instrumental music has been alphabetized and catalogued there in recycled filing cabinets recycled from former usage in the old church house building. What an absolute JOY to have this all so much closer to the sanctuary, the organ and the choir loft!

During the entire building project, the Central Choir rehearsed in the sanctuary choir loft. While rehearsing in the sanctuary is great for some things (going over pieces with organ accompaniment, for example) in other ways it's surprisingly challenging. This includes the ability of all choir members to hear comments and instructions by the conductor. The absence of designated choir rehearsal space in the new building necessitated some interesting experimentation. We've found that the southeast corner of the great room with the choir facing the fireside room doors works very well acoustically. Choir members are able to hear the conductor, the piano and each other fairly well. Thanks to staff and volunteers who help each week with set-up and tear-down!

At the beginning of the program year we welcomed David Gindra, a recent graduate of St. Olaf College as our bass section leader/soloist. David replaces Harrison Hintzsche who is now working on a graduate degree in vocal performance at Yale. David joins soprano Froya Olson, alto Robin Helgen and tenor Mike Fairbairn as our "Central Quartet." It's a joy to work with these astonishingly talented musicians whom you hear regularly in our worship services. The Central music department continues our partnership with the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (MSO) that has rehearsed on Tuesday nights at Central since its founding as the Central Chamber Orchestra nearly 40 years ago. Members of the MSO string section collaborated with us in presenting Vivaldi's setting of the *Magnificat* just a few weeks ago on the third Sunday in Advent. We've also welcomed other guests including Tanzanian pastor and musician Emmanuel Koghondi who worked with the Central Choir for two rehearsals in October.

I want to thank our Central congregational family for the sabbatical opportunity that was granted to me from mid-

May through mid-July. With the help of a financial grant awarded to me from the Finlandia Foundation National, I was able to spend three weeks in Finland during which I accomplished several undertakings. Highlights included:

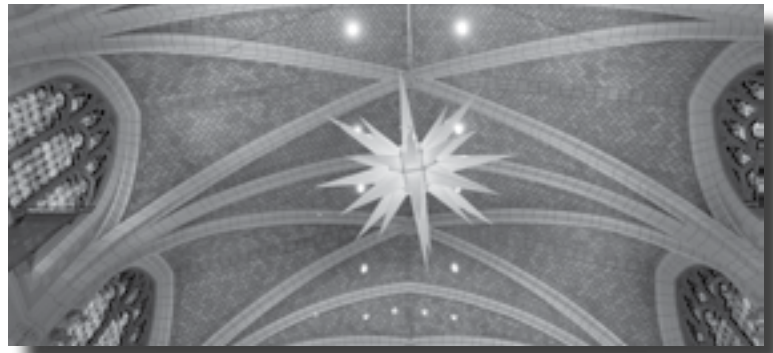
- A stay at New Valamo (Finnish Orthodox) Monastery in the region of Karelia (on the Russian border). Some of the liturgical music from this tradition was a part of our 10:30 worship service on January 13.
- Meetings with representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland at their headquarters in Helsinki, with choral conductors (Ulf Långbacka of the Åbo Academy in Turku), Cantor Tommi Niskala (Kallio Church in Helsinki), Dalva Lamminmäki (MA student in folk studies and native shaman drummer in Joensuu), Maria Takala-Roszczenko (Professor of Orthodox Music and Theological Studies at the University of Eastern Finland), Henna Salmela and Jukka Jokitalo (music editor and production manager) at the offices of Fennica Gehrman music publishers (a meeting that resulted in a trove of musical scores!).
- A two-day instructional class which resulted in me being certified as an instructor in Asahi Nordic—a program developed by three Finnish MDs that increases breath control, balance, peripheral vision. Some of these techniques have become a part of choral warm-ups. It is my hope to introduce regular sessions on Monday mornings for Restoration Center guests as well.

This academic year I am continuing Central's musical relationship with Augsburg University through my position as conductor of the Masterworks Chorale. My time commitment for this is one evening (Tuesday) rehearsal per week with a fall and spring concert as well as participation in the annual Advent Vespers presentations.

In closing, I want to thank all of Central's musical volunteers (Central Choir, Bell Choir, instrumentalists, worship leaders), our section leaders (mentioned above), my clergy colleagues with whom it is such a joy to serve, Tim Short our carillonneur who also helps out with Saturday services, the Central staff (huge call-outs to master-of-nearly-every-detail Michael Dee and to Mark Kieffer who not only supplies top-notch sound and lighting but also creates stunning video; check out our YouTube channel!) and, of course, our incredibly gifted associate cantor, Jane Lien.

With deep appreciation for you all,
Mark Sedio, cantor

Director of Finance, Obie Holmen



Central's first century ends with a unique seven-month fiscal period, and we begin 2019 operations under a new calendar-year accounting basis. As we embark on a celebratory anniversary year in spanking-new facilities, we do so on solid financial ground.

Compared to the same seven-month period (June-December) in 2017, member contributions were up by nearly \$30,000, and Foundation contributions to our operating fund were similarly up by nearly \$30,000. During these seven months, we carved out a mortgage reserve fund from the operating budget, and that fund stands at \$157,000 to be held in reserve to support our mortgage obligations as need be. The Building Renewal Project has received over \$3.1 million of the pledged amount with 10 months remaining on the initial pledge period. The Mission Investment Fund loan amounts have been fully withdrawn, and we have promptly paid construction invoices as submitted. The first monthly mortgage payments were paid in January. Certain construction costs remain to be paid, primarily in the form of "retainage," but there are sufficient amounts in our building renewal bank account to pay remaining invoices as they come due.

On the other hand, two revenue accounts suffered during the seven months for construction-related reasons. Our building usage revenues were down as we were not able to host numerous events, and the parking revenue suffered after the 14th Street entrance was closed and

before the new 3rd Avenue gate (cattle gate) was functional. Breakdowns of the aging parking lot equipment and the I-35W construction also created parking lot problems. By the time of the Annual Meeting, we expect that the new parking lot automation will be installed and functional, to include the new 3rd Avenue gate, which will become the primary gate for public use.

The proposed budget for 2019 is balanced, including line items for the long-term mortgage payments and an anniversary expense fund, which will be partially offset by a gift from the Foundation. The short-term mortgage payments will be funded from the building renewal accounts, which will also include costs related to the parking lot automation and new digital controls for the sanctuary HVAC.

It is an exciting time to be the church, and I continue to feel honored and privileged to serve Central as your director of finance.

Obie

Director of Security, Dwayne Wright

Since we moved into our new building it has been awesome. I am grateful for our wonderful staff and the way we serve together. I am also grateful for the volunteers who have helped with security and parking this past year. Thank you to security officer Freddy Coleman for his excellent work. And to the congregation for your understanding on why we keep the sanctuary wooden doors locked. It has been a huge relief for the security staff because of the concerns with the easy accessibility to the sanctuary. We have installed 60 new cameras for the interior of the building including the sanctuary and the exterior of the building. More will be added to the parking lot.



I am looking for volunteers on Sundays to be at the north curb cut out, and the loading dock area from 7:50 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. or from 9:50 a.m. until 10:20 a.m. to assist members and guests into the building. Please let me know if you are interested in helping on Sundays.

Dwayne

Director of Communications, Sara Masters



This is my 4th annual report. I hope you enjoy reading the reports of all the staff and ministry areas. I like reading the recap from everyone and it amazes me that we have done so much and gone through so much to get to where we are today.

I feel so fortunate to be able to work in our new building. Regardless if I'm here or at 1219 or at home, my work remains the same. I'm very fortunate to work at the church that I am a member of and to work with this great staff. And now that we are in the new building, I feel more connected to the congregation.

As I have done in previous reports, I will share some highlights of the past seven months.

- Produced weekly *Spirit*, eSpirit and eDevos
- Produced two issues of *Centering*
- Served on the 100th Anniversary Committee
- Created ads, graphics and updated the website
- Chaperoned the middle school confirmation trip to Christikon in July
- Took pictures at events
- Served as assisting minister and reader for worship services.

Strategic Plan Report

With the completion of the new mission-forward facility, the Strategic Planning Process Team and the Congregation Council are working on the next steps for strategic plan. The official launch will be this fall. A "soft launch" of an initial goal for Spiritual Life Groups is currently underway. The strategic plan is guided by four core values, each with a supporting insight and a scripture passage. These core values were adopted at last year's Annual Meeting:

Connecting

- A greater intentionality for connecting as one community, open to God.
- Supporting scripture: John 15:5 – "Jesus teaches, I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

Equipping

- Acceptance of where people are in the journey, at each stage, supports growth and vocation as individuals and as a community.
- Supporting scripture: Acts 2:42 – "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Organizing

- We cannot be all things for all people, but we can work toward caring for our neighbors and their specific needs right where we live, work, play and worship.
- Supporting scripture: Micah 6:8 – "God has told you, O

Looking towards 2019

I look forward to April when my daughter Maren will be confirmed here at Central. It will be a proud moment for this mom. She has found a home here and I hope that feeling continues through her high school years and beyond.

I also look forward to working on things that have been put on the back burner because of the building project. I hope to make a "Welcome to Central" brochure that shows/tells the stranger more of what we do and who we are. I also want to convene a communication advisory committee, and look at sprucing up the website since it has been three years since we redesigned it.

I am grateful to be a part of this community and to share my gifts with you.

Sara

mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Inviting

- Welcome is important, so too the more intentional way of invitation that needs to shape the internal and the external life of the congregation.
- Supporting scripture: Matthew 28:19 – "Jesus teaches, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Watch for the invitations this summer as we prepare to launch the strategic plan and the series of SMART goals that invite us into deeper faith, life and mission over the next two years.

The Strategic Planning Team

Hazel Reinhardt (co-chair), Mark Bernhardson (co-chair), Lisa Beane (Council vice president), David Sand, David West, Kevin Lile, Chris Lyle, Patrick Egan, Kris Schoephoerster, Leon Tibben, Bill Masche, Susan Troselius, Dick Shinofield and Shirley Teig. Ex-officio, Sara Stensaas and Pastor Peter Nycklemoe.

Director of Facilities, Dave Rodriguez



Up and Running

Well, here we are in our new home. It has been a long time in the making, but we made it! And although we are still completing a lot of the finishing touches and last-minute catches, I think it is safe to say, indeed we have made it!

With all the events and programming under way, it feels like a long time has passed since our dedication weekend in October. Since then, we have had Augsburg Vespers weekend and Christmas, two of our biggest events of the year, and the building performed very well for both! I am pleased with how the hard work and thoughtful planning has paid off with such excellent functionality. For example, it is great to see how the new doors from the sanctuary to the great room allow for the sanctuary to flow into the new great room intuitively, and how our new security system aids us in managing our building hours while allowing us to make better use of staff hours.

As we continue to settle in, I am sure we will find some areas we could have done better here and there, but it is important to remember all the things we simply could not do with the old building. When I think about all the mechanical systems that had failed, the constant leaks, the inaccessibility, and the wasted space we struggled with, I appreciate all we have with the new space.

We still have some exciting improvements on the horizon which are going to make our new building even more comfortable and enjoyable. The parking lot automation and new entrance from 3rd Avenue will help visitors have an amazing experience from the time they arrive to when they exit. The project I am most excited about is the new HVAC controls for the sanctuary. This is an upgrade that is long overdue and is yet another way we can give our members and guests a more enjoyable experience.

So, as we continue to settle into the building, I look forward to living and learning together, experiencing the joy the new building will bring us as we discover all the ways we can use our space together. I am thankful for how the challenges of the building project have brought us all closer together. It was perhaps the best unexpected side effect of the project.

Dave

Food Service Director, Mark Carroll

Last year was a busy year, considering that we had no kitchen. I believe it went very smoothly. I contacted various caterers and started the year catering food from Presbyterian Homes Food Service. It did not meet our expectations, so I continued to look and found that HyVee was willing to help us with what we were looking for. HyVee was a better fit for our catering needs and they got us through the rest of the year.

When October came and the new building was open, it was time to start moving things into the kitchen. It took five to six weeks to organize, with the help of Betsi and Adam and many volunteers.

Betsi, Adam and I are very happy to be back cooking again. I believe everyone is happier with hot and homemade food. Still working out a few things but thank you for providing such a wonderful place to cook.



Betsi loves the new grill. Adam really appreciates the new dishwasher. I enjoy the new kitchen.

Thank you to Betsi and Adam for all their hard work and a special thank you to all my wonderful volunteers. We are looking forward to a great year ahead.

We wish you all God's blessings.
Mark Carroll

Central Lutheran Church Foundation



A special meeting of the Foundation was held on December 12, 2018 at the Edina Country Club. It was noted that the half percent increase for the distribution to Central Lutheran Church, that was voted on and approved at the Annual Meeting in May, would start on January 1, 2019. That amount will be \$77,500 per month. This amount goes to the General Fund and is utilized as determined by the Congregation Council. The restricted, designated funds are distributed two times a year in one lump sum each time, accompanied by a listing of the amount allotted to each fund. Contributions can be made, at any time, to the general fund or any of the designated funds in the form of memorials, outright gifts or bequests from an estate. The total amount received from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 was \$167,654.71.

The Executive Committee, met on November 28 to discuss items for the December meeting and to set the agenda for that meeting. Due to a discussion on the best time to hold our May meetings, so that the auditors have enough time to complete the audit and present to the audit committee prior to that meeting, the board approved the 4th Wednesday in May for 2019, instead of the previous 2nd Wednesday. Arlan Abel resigned from the Board due to obligations at his work.

Kay Dixon, chair of the Audit Committee, moved to continue to retain Baker Tilly as the Foundation auditors. It was approved. The audit reports for the years ending December 31, 2017 and 2016 were distributed to board members at the end of the summer.

The Development Committee, chaired by Joyce Anderson, with guidance and hard work from Inez Bergquist, our development director, set up the End of Life Series sessions on September 16, October 21 and November 4, with Pastor Peter leading the first forum and Pastor C leading the ending forum. There were 50-60 attendees at each session and 80 total individuals who attended one or all of the sessions. These forums will be offered in the future also, with perhaps an additional financial section. This committee also held a Surviving Spouse Luncheon on December 9, which included 20 participants. It was a wonderful event.

The Governance Committee, chaired by Chas Scheiderer, received back all of the conflict of interest policy forms, signed by all attendees, that were passed out at the May meeting. The process for filling our two vacancies on the board will be set up by this committee.

The investment committee has a new chair, Steve Studt. He was appointed to fill the spot vacated with Arlan's resignation. This committee meets quarterly with GS Investments, the Foundation's Investment Advisors. As of November 30, 2018 the market value of the portfolio was

\$18,794,236. However, the market has fluctuated wildly in December and that figure changes daily. It is important to note, that the amount stated, is approximately the amount that has been distributed to Central Lutheran over the years, since the Foundation's inception.

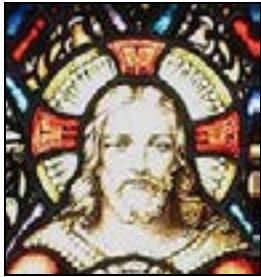
Pastor Peter sent an invitation to the board for consideration to participate as sponsors and underwriters for the upcoming 100th anniversary banquets in May. The board approved the expenditure.

Present members of the Central Lutheran Foundation are:

Bonnie Weisenburger, president
Shirley Teig, vice-president
James Heintz, secretary/treasurer
Emilie Anderson
Joyce Anderson
Kay Dixon
Scott Fisher
Larry Gregerson
Chas Scheiderer
Steve Studt
President of the Congregation - ex officio
Senior Pastor - ex officio (non voting)
Business Administrator - ex officio (non-voting)
Staff: Mark Gaasedelen - executive secretary
Inez Bergquist - development director
CS Investments - fund managers

Submitted by,
Bonnie Weisenburger, president

Columbarium Association



Central Lutheran Columbarium Association

December 31, 2018

Columbarium Association Annual Report

We continue to see interest in Central's columbarium. We observed Easter Sunrise and Memorial Day, All Saints and Veterans Day in the columbarium. The columbarium is located at the west end of the lower narthex chapel and can be visited any time the church building is open. Michael Dee is coordinator of week-to-week details and Pastor Christopherson serves as columbarium director.

The Central Lutheran Columbarium Association was established by the 2014 action of the congregation in the Annual Meeting.

Columbarium Milestones

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| June 22, 2014 | Annual Congregational Meeting founding resolution |
| December 9, 2014 | Columbarium first unit construction completed |
| December 28, 2014 | Columbarium dedication |
| January 2015 | Columbarium Fund established as a stand-alone account |
| March 15, 2015 | First entombment |

COLUMBARIUM ASSOCIATION BOARD

Chuck Anderson
Joyce Anderson
Pr Foy Christopherson
Christopher Haug
Bill Masche
Mark Peterson
Les Rosecke
David Sand
Karl Starr
David West

| | |
|-----|---|
| 144 | Number of total niches in first unit |
| 49 | Number of niches reserved in total as of Dec. 31, 2018 |
| 6 | Number of entombments in this calendar year (since the May, 2018 annual meeting report) |
| | (June 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2018) |
| 29 | Number of entombments in total as of Dec. 31, 2018 |

Entombments in this program year

...We look for the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen.

These bodies have been taken into the care of the Church until the Day of Resurrection:

- + Wayne Bengtson
- + Nancy Bengtson
- + Nolan Watson
- + Ruby Watson
- + Linda Higgins
- + Sidney Berg

Financial Statement - Columbarium Fund

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| \$51,674.31 | Opening Balance |
| \$15,061.02 | Columbarium Membership & Gifts |
| \$2,309.33 | Columbarium Construction & Operation |
| <hr/> | |
| \$64,426.00 | Closing Balance |
| \$2,300.00 | Outstanding (accounts receivable) |

Respectfully Submitted.

Meet a member of the Columbarium Board at their display table at the annual meeting.



Nominating Committee



Central Lutheran Congregation Council Executive Committee

Current leadership

President: Sara Stensaas (one-year remaining)

Treasurer: John Olson (two-year term)

Vice President: Lisa Beane (one-year remaining)

Nominated for leadership

Secretary: Jen Surla (one-year term)

Central Lutheran Congregation Council at-large

Current leadership (one-year remaining)

Dave Sand

Paul Troselius

Roberta Groening

Nominated for leadership (two-year term)

Megan Bowman

Mark Erickson

Carl Numrich

Audit Committee

Current leadership (one-year remaining)

Seth Peter

Nominated for leadership (two-year term)

Heruy Mesfen

Duane Hetland

2018 Synod Voting Members

Christa Olson

Kris Schoephoerster

Karen Knox

Judy Hedman

Nominating Committee

Kari Colchin – one-year remaining

Heidi Tysk-Poppe – one-year remaining

Joe Surla – one-year remaining

Caron Porthan – two-year term

Stephanie Beane – two-year term

Shaunti Austvold – two-year term

Bob Tufford – three-year term

Diane Olson – three-year term

David West – three-year term

Leadership Nominees

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Congregation Council - Secretary Jen Surla Jen lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Joe, and children, Carrie (10) and Ben (6). She has been a member since 1999, and Joe and her were married at Central in 2005. Over the years, she has served as an usher as well as helping with blood pressure checks in between Sunday services.</p> |
|  | <p>Council at Large Megan Bowman Megan is an attorney at Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. in the area of Technology and IP Commercialization. She spends her free time hiking at the Arboretum, volunteering on bar association committees, and baking communion bread. Megan and her husband, Matt (who was baptized at Central in 2016), live in Minnetonka with their two cats, Kitty Rose and Mark.</p> |
|  | <p>Council at Large Mark Erickson Mark along with his wife Lynn are lifelong members of Central. He is involved with Central's Choir, WorshipLife, gardening and the building maintenance volunteers. He recently retired from Medtronic where he worked as a scientist in their Cardiac Rhythm Research Department.</p> |
|  | <p>Council at Large Carl Numrich Carl is an attorney in Minneapolis. He grew up in the Twin Cities, attended St. Olaf College, and then attended the University of St. Thomas Law School. Carl currently lives in Minnetonka with his wife Carly (a lawyer and realtor) and dog Norman (a Golden Pyrenees rescue). Carl and Carly enjoy traveling, playing golf, spending time at their family cabin in Bayfield, Wis., sailing the Apostle Islands, and playing board games. They have been attending Central since their law school days and became members in 2016.</p> |
|  | <p>Audit Committee Heruy Mesfen Heruy joined Central Lutheran in 2008 and is a member of Central Choir. His previous involvements at Central include Global Mission, Garden Ministry, Audit Committee and Seasonal Worship Teams. Heruy has worked in the banking profession for the last 17 years. He is married to Central member Roberta Groening and has a daughter Natalia (age 7).</p> |
|  | <p>Audit Committee Duane Hetland Duane has been a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) since 1971 and a member of Central since 2001. A graduate of Augsburg College and Luther Seminary, he was the installed pastor in three congregations for a total of 30 years and then became involved with interim ministry and congregations in transition. He has served ten Intentional Interim appointments in the Minneapolis Area and Southwestern Minnesota Synods. He and his wife Darlene live in Minnetonka and are parents to three children and grandparents to nine.</p> |

2018 Historian Report



June 2018

2: Bell tower and carillon tours begin for the month; youth begin selling stock for summer trip fundraising
17: Vacation Bible school #1; open finance budget meeting
20: Annual Meeting, with ice cream sundaes and a peek into the new great room work site. The congregation approved the treasurer's report, the 2018-2019 budget, the Nominating Committee's ballot for officers and leaders of the congregation, and the Strategic Planning Process Framework
24: Carl and Joy Follingstad present "Bible Translation in a Changing World"
26: High school youth and three adults leave for ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas; new Congregation Council meets for introductions and basics to review

July 2018

1: Staff celebrates one-year at 1219 Marquette Ave.
8: Summer on the plaza begins, with carillon concerts and food trucks, through the end of August
9: 15 middle school youth and four adults leave for Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp in Montana
22: Vacation Bible school #2
25: OWLS trip to "West Side Story" at Guthrie Theater
31: An evening with Pr. Mawien Ariik, ELCA missionary in South Sudan

August 2018

5: Bread of Life month begins; Prayer Mini-Retreat with Tree of Life
12: YAGM Sunday with Casey Haffield and Lauren Ellwell
16: Night OWLS at Twins game
21: ACTS Circle hosts Nip & Nosh for Central women
22: OWLS see "Newsies" at Chanhassen Dinner Theater; Faith & Finance Ministry Team sponsor Gratitude Gathering: Growing to a Tithe
26: Vacation Bible school #3; annual congregation picnic on the north plaza;
27: 14th Street entrance permanently closes, Welcome to Amelia Schurke and Eli Yackel-Juleen, 2018-19 YAGMs

September 2018

8/9: "Centering Weekend" with autumn schedule resuming; blessing of backpacks, Sunday school open house; 2nd Sunday for Youth
16: First day of Sunday school; 3-year-old Bible presentation milestone, End of Life Planning Series begins
19: OWLS trip to Glensheen Mansion
23: Sunday adult lifelong faith formation begins
29/30/1: Sabbath to End Homelessness Weekend

October 2018

5: Marie Wiegert elected MAS WELCA President
6/7/8: Dedication and Anniversary Year Launch Weekend
7: Anniversary Oktoberfest lunch
8: Anniversary Restoration Center lunch
10: Fall Wednesday Night Bible Study with Pastor Peter: Genesis, chapter 1-11
13/14: Celebrating 100 Years of Global Mission; confirmation retreat at Camp Wapo
14: Prayer classes on Ignatian Spirituality and Discernment with the Rev. Kathie Nycklemoe begin
16: Prayer Shawl Ministry Team presents Sunday school children with prayer squares
21: Intergenerational Bell Museum tour
28: Minnesota Symphonic Winds Concert

November 2018

3/4/5: All Saints' Weekend
5: Eight Central women travel to Bangladesh with Lynn Peterson
10/11/12: 100th Anniversary guest preacher, the Rev. Wolfgang Laudert
11: The Rev. Chick Lane and "How Much is Enough?"; Sunday Old-Fashioned Potluck
17/18: Abundant Generosity – Making Our Faith Promises
21: End of Life Planning #2
26: Downtown Interfaith Thanksgiving service at Basilica of St. Mary
29/30/1: Augsburg University Advent Vespers

December 2018

9: Sunday school Christmas pageant; Sunday community meals restart
12: OWLS holiday luncheon with the Kingery Family Singers
15: Holy Communion class
16: Vivaldi's "Magnificat" presented by Central Choir and the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra
15: Holy Communion class
16: Bangladesh Mission Trip report at adult forum
23: Advent/Christmas Festival, 10:00 a.m. worship
24: 3:00 p.m. Twilight Service of Blessing; 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Holy Communion
25: 10:00 a.m. Contemplative Christmas Day Communion

Building Renewal Task Force



The Building Renewal Task Force, which began meeting in June 2015, completed its work with a wrap up meeting on December 12, 2018. This final meeting provided task force members an opportunity to name their goals for the project and their hopes and vision for the project. We discussed the successes we want to communicate to the Council and congregation and the goals, hopes and vision that were not realized in the new facility.

As the work of the task force comes to an end, a recap of its work is worthwhile. From June 2015 through June 2017, the task force met every other week most months. All the planning and design work was completed by the June 2017 Annual Meeting and on July 20, 2017, bids for construction were received and opened. August 27, 2017 marked a joyous groundbreaking ceremony. Demolition of the education building, parish house and south commons began in late September 2017. Beginning in January 2018, the task force met to look at interior finishes and colors.

Since September 2017, some key elements of the Building Renewal Project were completed including the refurbishing of the sanctuary's stained-glass windows as well as the installation of new sound, light and video. The addition of video capabilities has been a blessing because Central can now livestream the weekly worship services as well as other major worship services. The number of people "tuning in" continues to increase. The new pew chairs have allowed for greater flexibility in the sanctuary, which has been critical as the sanctuary became home for many of Central's ministries during the construction period.

Finally, on April 10, 2018, Central was granted clear title to a couple of land parcels under the parking ramp. No deeds could be found for these parcels and without clear title, Central could not proceed with work in the parking lot.

Since the 2018 Annual Meeting, Dedication weekend — Saturday, October 6 through Monday, October 8, 2018 — marked the fruition of our work. Task force members were honored to take part in one or more of the worship services blessing areas of the new building. On November 1, we were pleased to help with an open house for the community.

As this journey comes to an end, we are filled with gratitude. We are grateful to Kodet Architects and Jorgenson Construction for their work on this project. To our amazing staff, we say thank you, thank you! Facing many obstacles, you persevered with good humor and kept Central's ministries alive and well. To our fellow Central members, thank you for entrusting us with the work of planning and building a new mission-forward building.

I personally want to thank my fellow task force members for their faithfulness — Franklin Dietrich, Kari Lyle, Ron Fiscus, Paul Troselius, Kevin Lile, David West, Dave Rodriguez, Pastor Peter, Pastor C and Pastor Melissa.

A special thanks to Pastor Peter whose leadership and experience was invaluable.

Hazel H. Reinhardt, chair

Camp Amnicon



2018 was another year of transition for Camp Amnicon, full of both endings and beginnings. We said goodbye to Jeff Barrow, who provided much wisdom through service as interim executive director. We also said goodbye to Bonnie Arnce, our longtime and beloved cook, who left to pursue other employment. Lastly, we said goodbye to Annie Dahlquist, who's faithful time on our Board of Directors came to an end.

The new beginnings of 2018 began with the adoption of a Strategic Plan for the ministry of Camp Amnicon. The four strategies included in this plan aim to create a framework within which Amnicon can experience and share God's resurrecting power in order move into the next generation of ministry. We have already begun to implement goals and objectives in order to begin living out these strategies:

1. Create and implement a leadership development plan to equip the Board of Directors and camp staff.
2. Revitalize the site for hospitality, aesthetics, functionality, and safety.
3. Develop flexible and innovative programming around the vision of "Grace Beyond Your Comfort Zone" that incorporates Jesus' love, adventure, and wilderness experience.
4. Grow the ministry of camp and its impact through partnerships, fundraising, outreach and marketing.
5. The other major new beginning was that of myself as the new executive director of Camp Amnicon. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve such a vital and important ministry. In my first few months, I have grown to appreciate the rich history of Amnicon, the volunteer spirit that has grown it, and the treasured supporters that have invested so much to sustain it.

Our summer usage numbers were down last year; however, this follows our typical pattern during an ELCA National Youth Gathering summer. Despite the lower numbers, we were still able to provide an opportunity for 190 campers from 22 different groups to experience "Grace Beyond Your Comfort Zone" through a wilderness trip. In addition, we welcomed over 75 groups or individuals for a retreat experience.

The members serving on the Camp Amnicon Board of Directors at the end of 2018 are:

Rev. Jason Lukis – Chair
Gaelyn Beal – Vice Chair
David Larson – Treasurer
Matt Logue – Secretary
Michael Farmer
Barnaby Wiesner
Michelle Damon
Sarah Larson-Woodruff

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for God's ministry through Camp Amnicon.

Respectfully submitted,
Jesse Weiss, executive director

Your congregation matters! It matters because the *gospel* matters. The Good News of Jesus Christ proclaims that, in God's eyes, you are enough. The world is great at telling us we're not enough. "Do more. Be better." But God's *grace in Jesus Christ* says something else. Not only are you enough, you *belong*; you are welcome into beloved community. In that community, God provides food for the journey, friends in faith, and power to live out the presence of Christ in our daily lives.

The church matters because of the *gospel*, because of the *community* it forms, and also because the *world* needs the church's *voice*. Our communities need us to speak of God's love for all people, no exception; to advocate for the care of creation; and to build cities and neighborhoods where justice is the standard for all our work.

The church matters. *Everything we do in the synod office is poured into this conviction.*

Because the church matters, **congregations** matter:

In 2018, the synod walked with 58 congregations in call processes and assisted 52 congregations in work such as stewardship growth, conflict resolution, vision discernment, and anniversaries. Through the new Resurrection Fund Imagination Grants, we made legacy awards totaling \$270,230 to 40 congregations and ministries to further the mission of the gospel. And, in addition to our 145 congregations, the synod has five new mission starts: Tapestry, Intertwine, Tree of Life, Amazing Grace, Southwest Latino Ministry.

Because the church matters, **leaders** matter:

With nearly 700 rostered leaders, our synod has 313 in active calls, 31 on leave, and 347 retired. We work hard so the church receives the mature, faithful and theologically well-formed ministers it needs. In the years ahead, we will focus even more on raising the next generation of gifted and diverse leaders who will carry a message of God's love to a multiracial world.

Our Tool Kit gathering is a favorite for elected congregational leaders, and we invite you to consider bringing your church council to the 2019 Tool Kit at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, on Saturday, February 23, 2019.

In 2018, we supported 69 persons in the candidacy process as they prepare to become deacons or pastors. We ordained 11 pastors and installed 25; we had a combined attendance of 463 pastors and deacons at our Ministeriums, Bishop's Theological Conference, and the Lunch and Learn gatherings; and we have 250 leaders meeting in peer groups. We also gave scholarships to 38 pastors to attend a conference on supervision and building healthy teams.

Because God's **world** matters, the **church's voice** matters.

Together, the congregations of the synod are working to foster racial, environmental, and economic justice. With grants from InFaith Community Foundation, the Bush Foundation, area Watershed Districts, and local congregations, we have called three synod staff members to lead congregations in this work. We also trained 65 leaders in faith-based community organizing.

It is the generosity of congregations like yours that make the synod's work possible. Thank you! We seek to be careful stewards of every gift. For the fifth straight year, we've been given a clean audit. For our fiscal stewardship as well as for the synod's excellent governance, I give thanks to our synod council and to Vice President Felicia Boone. Our synod is also blessed with an extraordinary staff who work with humility, tenacious commitment, wisdom, creativity, and hope. We also rejoice in the two full-time Lutheran Volunteer Corps Members on our staff and the age and ethnic diversity our growing staff brings.

I conclude this annual report with a word of deep gratitude for the privilege of serving as your bishop. Especially, I thank you for calling me to serve a second six-year term. I praise God for our shared mission and our vital partnership. Please let us know how we can serve one another better—working together so all experience **gracious invitation** into **life-giving Christian community** and live in **just and healthy neighborhoods**.



Financials:

Assets and Liabilities

Consolidated Funds December 31, 2018

ASSETS

| OPERATING | 12/31/18 | 5/31/18 | 5/31/17 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Checking Account | \$67,874 | \$88,409 | \$127,532 |
| Savings Account | \$100,335 | \$200,212 | \$225,101 |
| Youth Account | \$0 | \$797 | \$1,206 |
| DCEH and Tree of Life Accounts | \$54,031 | \$80,454 | \$25,906 |
| TOTAL OPERATING ASSETS | \$222,241 | \$369,872 | \$379,745 |
| BUILDING & CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS | | | |
| Checking Account | \$572,677 | \$509,169 | \$593,591 |
| MIF Demand Investment | \$623 | \$215 | \$100 |
| Sanctuary and New Construction* | \$17,130,000 | \$15,343,811 | \$15,343,811 |
| Parking Lot Land and Equipment** | ? | | |
| TOTAL BUILDING & CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS | \$17,703,300 | \$15,853,195 | \$15,937,502 |
| DESIGNATED FUNDS (RESTRICTED) | | | |
| Checking Account | \$436,665 | \$400,710 | \$275,484 |
| Funds Invested-ELCA | \$105,546 | \$104,301 | \$62,729 |
| Life Insurance-Cash Surrender Value | \$25,829 | \$24,893 | \$22,017 |
| Investments | \$145,853 | \$143,941 | \$172,245 |
| TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS ASSETS | \$713,894 | \$673,845 | \$532,474 |
| COLUMBARIUM | \$64,246 | \$55,345 | \$45,239 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$18,703,680 | \$16,952,257 | \$16,894,960 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| FUNDS HELD FOR OTHERS (DCEH & TOL) | \$54,031 | \$80,454 | \$25,906 |
| MORTGAGE NOTES | | | |
| Long Term Note Payable-MIF | \$6,293,000 | \$4,044,419 | \$649,612 |
| Short Term Note Payable-MIF | \$2,500,000 | | |
| DESIGNATED FUNDS (RESTRICTED) | \$676,952 | \$644,697 | \$534,249 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$9,523,983 | \$4,769,570 | \$1,209,767 |
| NET ASSETS | \$9,179,697 | \$12,182,687 | \$15,685,193 |

*Based upon a prospective appraisal dated September 29, 2017 obtained for the MIF loan application

**Although the parking lot land and equipment has a substantial value, we have no current data to determine actual value

Proposed Budget

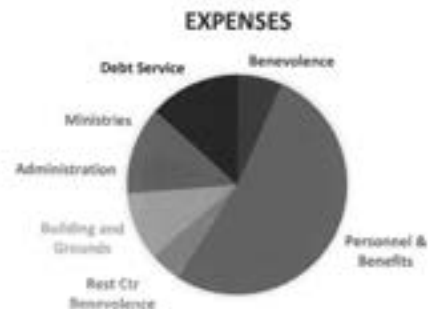
| | Current Budget (2019) | Prior Budget |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Revenues | | |
| Accounts | | |
| Regular Offering | \$1,280,000 | \$1,275,000 |
| Building Usage Revenue | \$40,000 | \$40,000 |
| Parking Revenue | \$490,000 | \$490,000 |
| Foundation Revenue | \$762,000 | \$709,932 |
| Kitchen Cash Receipts | \$15,000 | \$15,000 |
| Donor Designated Audio Visual* | \$3,000 | \$1,750 |
| Donor Designated Music* | \$24,000 | \$12,000 |
| Donor Designated CYF* | \$48,000 | \$42,000 |
| Donor Designated Seniors* | \$36,000 | \$27,000 |
| Donor Designated Seminarian Support* | \$5,000 | \$2,000 |
| Anniversary FDN Support | \$30,000 | |
| Interest/Investment Revenue | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Total Revenues | \$2,738,000 | \$2,619,682 |

*In addition to monthly operating fund contributions, the Foundation contributes to various Designated Funds. In 2018, the total was \$159,609.

| | Current Budget (2019) | Prior Budget |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| Expenses | | |
| Mission Emphasis (Benevolence) | | |
| ELCA Churchwide Partnership | \$56,000 | \$54,000 |
| ELCA Mission Start (North Loop) | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |
| ELCA South Sudan Mission | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Young Adults Global Mission (YAGM) | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Luther Seminary CPL | \$14,727 | \$15,000 |
| Lutheran Healthcare Bangladesh | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| China Service Ventures | \$7,500 | \$7,500 |
| Wycliffe-Follingstad | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Wycliffe-Gaultney | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Lutheran Social Services | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Lutheran Campus Ministry | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Downtown Cong to End Homelessness | \$6,000 | \$6,000 |
| Augsburg University | \$6,000 | \$6,000 |
| Camp Amnicon | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| ReconcilingWorks | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Total Mission Emphasis (Benevolence) | \$174,227 | \$172,500 |
| Ministry Emphasis | | |
| Worship Life Ministry | \$24,000 | \$19,250 |
| Music Ministry | \$33,400 | \$28,750 |
| Children/Youth/Family Ministry | \$23,500 | \$21,250 |
| Community Ministry | \$3,500 | \$4,500 |
| Adult Education | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| GLBT Ministry | \$1,100 | \$1,000 |

Proposed Budget, continued

| | Current Budget (2019) | Prior Budget |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Pastoral Care Ministry | \$600 | \$500 |
| Prayer Life Ministry | \$3,500 | \$2,800 |
| Welcome Life Ministry | \$5,500 | \$5,500 |
| Fellowship Ministry | \$21,550 | \$12,000 |
| Anniversary | \$40,000 | |
| Kitchen Ministry | \$20,000 | \$27,500 |
| Faith & Finance Ministry | \$300 | \$500 |
| Shared Ministry | \$750 | \$250 |
| Global Mission Operations | \$200 | \$0 |
| Total Ministry Emphasis | \$178,900 | \$124,800 |
| Facility Expenses | | |
| Building Operations | \$139,200 | \$131,100 |
| Utilities | \$93,000 | \$79,000 |
| Parking Lot | \$45,000 | \$32,500 |
| Total Facility Expenses | \$277,200 | \$242,600 |
| Debt Service | \$368,004 | \$368,004 |
| Congregational Life | | |
| Administration | \$138,500 | \$135,000 |
| Council & Committees | \$2,500 | \$2,500 |
| Communications | \$5,500 | \$8,750 |
| Banking, Legal, and Audit | \$28,000 | \$30,000 |
| Total Congregational Life | \$174,500 | \$176,250 |
| Personnel | | |
| Ministry & Congregational Life Staff | \$759,961 | \$768,578 |
| Event Staff | \$26,371 | \$23,157 |
| Facility Staff | \$108,651 | \$107,309 |
| Security & Restoration Staff | \$296,860 | \$284,045 |
| Employee Benefits | \$327,368 | \$310,793 |
| Continuing Education | \$18,500 | \$18,000 |
| Mileage & Expense Accounts | \$11,000 | \$12,600 |
| Misc Personnel Expense | \$16,100 | \$13,500 |
| Total Personnel | \$1,564,811 | \$1,537,982 |
| Total Revenues | \$2,738,000 | \$2,619,682 |
| Total Expenses | \$2,737,642 | \$2,622,136 |
| Surplus | \$358 | (\$2,454) |



Designated Fund Summary

June 2018 thru December 2018

| Accounts | Beginning Balance | Revenue | Expense | Ending Balance |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 100th Anniversary | \$115 | \$2,466 | \$2,581 | \$0 |
| Debt Reduction | \$1,228 | \$10,931 | \$12,099 | \$60 |
| Bequests | \$0 | \$9,668 | \$9,668 | \$0 |
| Capital Replace | \$285,745 | \$67,834 | \$9,759 | \$343,821 |
| Music Fund | \$40,709 | \$15,727 | \$11,775 | \$44,661 |
| Global Missions | \$16,704 | \$10,827 | \$19,099 | \$8,433 |
| Senior Adult Mi | \$19,709 | \$51,919 | \$41,521 | \$30,107 |
| Library Reserve | \$8,294 | \$0 | \$0 | \$8,294 |
| Fine Art Acquis | \$19,142 | \$0 | \$0 | \$19,142 |
| Children, Youth, Family | \$20,994 | \$38,568 | \$24,929 | \$34,633 |
| Community Minis | \$47,947 | \$80,861 | \$106,969 | \$21,839 |
| Prayer Shawls | \$1,064 | \$50 | \$0 | \$1,114 |
| Heritage Team | (\$260) | \$0 | \$0 | (\$260) |
| Community Meals | \$0 | \$50,460 | \$50,460 | \$0 |
| Camp Amnicon De | \$800 | \$5,000 | \$0 | \$5,800 |
| Men's Fellowship | \$921 | \$0 | \$0 | \$921 |
| Ushers | \$757 | \$0 | \$0 | \$757 |
| Hannah Grinde Memorial | \$1,327 | \$0 | \$1,327 | \$0 |
| Memorials | \$15,654 | \$12,872 | \$24,454 | \$4,071 |
| Maint & Sec Staff Discretionary | \$5,130 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,130 |
| Seminary Scholarship | \$3,061 | \$3,091 | \$1,167 | \$4,986 |
| Caring for Creation | \$793 | \$0 | \$0 | \$793 |
| Kitchen Fund | \$1,850 | \$200 | \$0 | \$2,050 |
| Mission Support | \$0 | \$45 | \$0 | \$45 |
| Congregational Events | \$172 | \$0 | \$0 | \$172 |
| Linda Ahlberg Memorial | \$1,246 | \$0 | \$1,246 | \$0 |
| Organ Fund | \$30,870 | \$0 | \$0 | \$30,870 |
| Central Nursing | \$0 | \$708 | \$1,295 | (\$587) |
| Peace & Justice | \$2,807 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,807 |
| Downtown Music | \$2,007 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,007 |
| Gardening Corps | \$1,476 | \$64 | \$741 | \$799 |
| Central Quilters | \$27 | \$0 | \$0 | \$27 |
| Centennial Quilt | \$1,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,000 |
| Saturday Night | \$0 | \$1,915 | \$0 | \$1,915 |
| ELCA World Hunger | \$590 | \$20 | \$0 | \$610 |
| Due TO operatin | \$0 | \$7,906 | \$7,906 | \$0 |
| ELCA Disaster Relief | \$550 | \$0 | \$0 | \$550 |
| Digital Sign Fund | \$9,935 | \$29,805 | \$39,740 | \$0 |
| Music Commission | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$10,000 |
| LSS Refugee Sup | \$920 | \$0 | \$0 | \$920 |
| Baptismal Font | \$50,000 | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$60,000 |
| BR Benevolence (TOL) | \$25,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$25,000 |
| ACTS | \$0 | \$327 | \$0 | \$327 |
| Ed Penner Memor | \$5,100 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,100 |
| CYF Shareholder | \$238 | \$5,439 | \$5,677 | \$0 |
| Parking Lot Dev | \$11,074 | \$35,032 | \$204,161 | (\$158,054) |
| MIF Escrow | \$0 | \$178,831 | \$21,739 | \$157,092 |
| Total | \$644,697 | \$630,565 | \$598,310 | \$676,952 |

Building Renewal Financials

BUILDING RENEWAL OVERVIEW (as of January 15, 2019)

| | Budget | Paid | Remaining | Overage |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sanctuary | \$750,205 | \$875,408 | \$0 | \$125,203 |
| Test, Surveys, and Inspections | \$57,749 | \$53,810 | \$0 | (\$3,939) |
| Financing Considerations | \$382,525 | \$386,898 | \$0 | \$4,373 |
| Architectural & Construction | \$9,528,200 | \$9,474,218 | \$295,000 | \$241,018 |
| Furniture and Equipment | <u>\$395,000</u> | <u>\$584,410</u> | <u>\$-55,000</u> | <u>\$134,410</u> |
| | \$11,113,679 | \$11,374,744 | \$240,000 | \$501,065 |

HVAC Digital Controls for Sanctuary **\$159,000**

| | Paid | Remaining |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Parking Lot Automation | | |
| Tapco (Tiba) automated gates | \$80,918 | \$80,918 |
| Architectural and Legal | \$62,267 | \$0 |
| Security cameras | \$11,804 | \$4,891 |
| Electrical and Cabling (estimated) | \$0 | \$25,000 |
| Digital Sign | \$13,000 | \$13,000 |
| Booth Removal and Misc (estimated) | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$5,000</u> |
| | \$167,989 | \$128,809 |

Short Term Mortgage Minimum Annual Payment **\$146,196**
To be paid in 2019 **\$674,005**

Capital Appeal Status

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Total amount pledged | \$3,511,060 |
| Total Received | |
| Pledges | \$3,026,470 |
| Non-pledge gifts | <u>\$126,243</u> |
| | \$3,152,713 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Pledge Balance Remaining | \$358,347 |
| Cash on Hand | \$364,057 |
| Foundation Pledge | <u>\$162,000</u> |
| Available Funding in 2019 | \$884,404 |

Mortgage Reserve Fund \$157,000



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Exploring the promise of God for all