

THE ANNUAL REPORT for 2011

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION
OF
CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1125 Mahoning Street
Milton, PA 17847**

Office: (570) 742-7473

Pastor's Cell: (570) 768-6705

Website: www.christlutheranmpa.org

Office e-mail: secretary@christlutheranmpa.org

Pastor's e-mail: pastor@christlutheranmpa.org

**The Reverend Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle, Pastor
Lorei Comerer, Church Office Manager
Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music
Brett Hosterman – Church Organist
Donna Spear, Webmaster
Trisha Long – Interim Custodian
Bob & Deb Greenly - Groundskeepers
Rose Deaner, Treasurer
Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary**

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Growing....that's how I describe our ministry here at Christ Church in 2011: *Growing*.

Remember – that's how I describe our ministry here. Not everyone agrees with me:

- We may look at our decreasing attendance at worship or Sunday School to describe our ministry. I'm not there.
- We may look at the inability to afford our general operating expenses without help from our generous savings. I'm not there.
- We may even look at the proportionately smaller number of folks participating in Bible study each week or month, too. I'm not there.



Where I am is in the midst of conversations with you about what we're called to do and how we go about answering that call.



Where I am is listening to our conversations, more and more, centering around the word "mission," and reflecting on what God has placed us in Milton to do for God's kingdom.

Where I am is participating in our leadership ministries: Council, Spiritual Growth, Stewardship, and all the work that lives under those umbrellas – and hearing, more and more, that we are about doing God's work in Jesus' name. The worries about numbers, money, and future are, more and more, centering around what God is calling us to do.

And for me, as your pastor, our turning point toward focusing on God's work has been our leadership call to transformational ministry in this new year. We are committed to strengthening our call to rise out of the "what we can'ts" to "what we CAN" do in the name of Jesus!

God has led us together in these past six years together to turn our attention toward growing in faith. I know, it's hard to be people who face shrinking numbers and resources in a terribly tough economy. It's hard to be people living in a community that sees poverty all around us – people who have fewer and fewer resources – and families that struggle even more to make ends meet.

Yet THAT is the gift, I think, that God is using to lead us to where God calls us. We HAVE a generous call to help the needy – to reach outside ourselves and help those around us have the basic human resources they need for living: food, shelter, clothing.



I look at the increase in administrative tasks I took on in 2011 – all related to our growing toward a new focus in our ministry at Christ Church: making our name known more in Milton, juggling deliveries of much-needed resources to people in need, researching ways to talk about mission, to retreat around mission conversations, visiting with folks who are worried that our congregation is dying....

And all along, God is really GROWING us! We may find smaller numbers, fewer participants, and operating concerns...but we who stay the course together are taking

our mission at Christ Church seriously... risking the fears that are normal, natural, and expected when God is encouraging us to think eternally. Remember the good news that Jesus traveled all over the Holy Land sharing with anyone he met? Remember the challenges he faced as he introduced changes in how people thought or dealt with one another? Remember how preaching and teaching good news wasn't always well-received, especially by those who were firmly rooted in THIS world and its security?

Jesus asked us – no, Jesus CALLED us – to continue that ministry for him as he ascended to heaven's throne to prepare a place for us. I have seen us together as Christ Church in Milton take incredible risks that force us to look outside our security and take on mission as our primary focus.

You will see that mission reflected in the reports that follow in this annual report to the congregation for 2011.

You will see joy we shared... sorrow we shared... struggles we faced... and work, play, and chores that we worked on together.

You will also see, if you dare to look, that God is GROWING us in faith toward a future that is not only possible, but foreseeable....

THAT'S where I am as your pastor. I pray you will continue to be there with me in the new year before us. I pray you will continue to choose to GROW toward the future God has prepared for us in Jesus' Name.

God bless you!

Pastor Pat ☺



“We are called by God to follow Christ's example and teachings through worshipping, witnessing, learning, supporting one another, and reaching out to others.”

Pastor's Report – *January 1 – December 31, 2011*

Stewardship of Call:

Worship and Teaching:

46 Sunday services and 35 sermons
(includes Christmas Day)

40 Bible studies

30 sermon studies

Regular participation in choir

29 Sundays participation in Sunday School
(includes 9 Gerasene Team mtgs.)

9 Sundays at Trinity

37 Wednesday services + 3 extra sermons

3 First Communion classes

7 Bible Buddies events
 1 Epiphany service
 4 new member classes
 LOVE Bags youth event
 Grades 2 & under McDonald's Day
 2 Ash Wednesday services
 4 Northern Lights Lenten services
 Attended 4 member parties
 Attended 1 member bridal shower
 1 Christmas Eve service & 1 sermon

4 services @ Kramm's/Rockwell Center
 prepared prayers for Week of Christian Unity
 regular participation in knitting group
 Grades 3-6 lock-in
 Healing Services:
 March 30 & April 3; Dec. 14 & 18
 1 Maundy Thursday service
 1 Good Friday service
 5 days Vacation Bible School

7 **Funerals** & 3 family meals/visitations (5 sermons)

"Rip" Byers (father of member – 3/9/11)
 Edwin Hoch (Trinity member – 8/15/11 – visitation only)
 Mary Kathryn Leiby (member – 8/21/11 – burial in Milton Cemetery – 8/22/11)
 Laurie Lee Fisher (member – 8/27/11)
 Renny D. Dotts (brother of member - @ Shaw's, Milton, 11/30/11)
 Edith L. Coup (member – 12/12/11)
 Paul Heimbach (father of member – 12/14/11 – assisted Pastor Keith @ St. Luke, Sunbury)

Attended 2 funerals of members' family:

Arla Showers (mother of member – 4/1/11)
 Marie Gray (mother of member – 12/20/11)

2 wedding rehearsals and 4 **weddings** plus 2 sermons:

Jen Harrington (member) & Abe Suarez (5/14/11)
 Eric Fisher & Kylie Rosengrant (8/14/11 – members @ Tunkhannock United Methodist)
 Roseann Walsh (member) & Benjamin Kerwell (10/22/11)
 Rose Bolich (member) & Richard Handy, Jr. (11/5/11)

1 **member transfer**

Eric Lee Fisher (1/12/11 – to Tunkhannock United Methodist Church)

Recognitions/blessings:

Installation of Council (1/9/11)
 Mount Luther Sunday (1/16/11) – visit by Chad Hershberger, director
 LOVE Inc. Sunday (2/27/11) - visit by Jill Adams, director
 Mothers (5/8/11)
 Veterans (5/29/11)
 Children (6/26/11)
 Companion Synod (8/7/11)
 New School Year (8/14/11)
 Sunday School leaders (9/4/11)
 Labor (9/4/11)
 Remembrance of Saints (11/2 & 11/6/11)
 Presentation of Christmas gift to Jesus (12/25/11)

5 **Baptisms**

Kaila Ann Bartlett (4/24/11)
 Norah Lynn Bartlett (4/24/11)

Salvatore Charles LaNunziata (8/14/11– membership @ Ascension Luth., Cincinnati, OH)
 Joshua Emmanuel “Manni” Ramos-Valentine (8/28/11)
 Tanila Lee Ramos-Valentine (8/28/11)

15 other **Growing Disciples:**

Christine Ulmer (First Communion – 2/20/11)
 Graduates (6/5/11): Lauren Byers, Brody Gray, Kyle Kovilaritch, Curt Schneider
 3-4 grade Bibles (6/12/11): Hailey Bartlett, Ann-Marie Gregory, Kendall Mensch, Sydney Mensch, Angelina Ulmer, Christine Ulmer
 Confirmation (6/12/11): Curtis Van Schneider, Julia Suzanne Spear, Rachael Marie Spear, Blake Anthony Wargo

5 **New Members**

Victor and Sharon Randolph (4/24/11 – transferred from Baptist & Episcopal congregations)
 Don and Tiara Shipe (9/11/11- transferred from Messiah Lutheran Church, Troxelville, PA)
 Richard F. Handy, Jr. (12/25/11- transferred from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lemoyne, PA)

Home/Office and Hospital Visits:

244 regular visits	1458 visits by phone or written note	43 counseling visits
54 home communions	43 hospital visits	

Meetings/Events:

Congregation

9 Church Council (sick, April meeting; no meeting in July; away for November meeting); 1 Finance & Endowment meeting; 7 Christian Education meetings; 3 Worship & Music meetings; 5 Staff Support meetings; 1 Endowment meeting; 1 Leadership Retreat; helped w/ Souper Bowl soup preparation; helped w/ St. Patty’s Day meal preparation; May event planning meeting; helped w/ Easter egg preparation; March 13 annual meeting; May 15 congregational meeting; 8 Spiritual Growth meetings; 6 Stewardship meetings; meeting w/ staff member; 2 lunch meetings w/ members; helped w/ Outreach Event preparation and yard sale; confirmation interviews w/ Christian Education & Council; confirmation rehearsal; Nominating initial meeting; confirmation potluck and discussion meeting; 1 VBS meeting; helped w/ Brouse fundraiser; staff appreciation dinner; organ recital; helped w/ Nov. 6 fundraising dinner; November 13 congregational meeting; meeting w/ Endowment chair; Advent play & potluck

Community

Lock-up for Muscular Dystrophy Association, Lewisburg; fire safety seminar, Lewisburg; 3 Milton Community Band concerts; Masons’ spaghetti dinner @ Harvest Festival; Milton Women’s Club Presentation; Kathryn’s Kloset fundraiser dinner @ Hoss’, Shamokin Dam; voted in November 1 Election

Synod/Wider Church Community

1 Northern Lights meeting; United in Christ, West Milton, chicken waffle & spaghetti suppers; Pastors & Councils seminar, St. Luke, Williamsport; Synod Chrism Mass, First, Watsontown; Synod Assembly; Synod Stewardship meeting; CROP Walk meeting; Northern Lights potluck meal and Chiz Ryder concert; 2 Buffalo Valley Conference meetings; Region 8 two-day meeting in Altoona; Synod Evangelism workshop

Pine Street Lutheran Church: 3 youth fundraiser dinners, Winter festival, Easter Vigil; Iron Festival fundraiser; Summer festival; W/ELCA Christmas dinner; live nativity

Administration:

bulletins & newsletter preparation with Lorei
Pastoral recordkeeping in Shepherd's Staff
& One License

Covered for local pastors 4 times

4 times prepared meal for Bible Buddies
Annual Report – Christ Church
Annual Report to the ELCA

Sunday School closet cleaning/organizing
1 meeting w/ Staff Support liaison

Letters: 7 discretionary, audit & nominating
invitations; May event prayer request; Country
Comfort evacuation site letter; annual meeting
ballots & copies @ Staples of amendments; May
event sign-up sheet; Noah's Ark disaster site letter;
nominating letters; May event thank you to pray-ers;
Sunday School invitation to Chaplain Reitz (Muncy
Prison); 3 congregational letters re: Laurie Fisher;
Endowment gifts

ordered Sunday School supplies/materials

prepared Easter eggs for Bible Buddies

6 times picked up & distributed items from
Kathryn's Kloset

Picked up remaining yard sale items and
delivered to Danville

5 bulletins (baptism/wedding/funeral)

1 pick-up @ Rainbow bookstore
1 pick-up @ synod office (for Sun. School)

recycled 7 boxes of Caps for Creation
September yard sale & set-up/tear-down

Repaired shredder

Attended Thrivent investment seminar in Danville
Provided Sunday School snacks 9/11/11
Interview w/ Julie Sevig of The Lutheran
Prep for Dec. 6 visioning meeting

Prepared ballots for 11/13 meeting
Delivered 1 Thanksgiving basket

12 Pastor's reports for Council

membership records updates
9 times picked up items for Bible
Buddies

Good Friday worship practice
Annual Report to the Bishop
regularly open & close church for
worship

3 times delivered food to Food Bank
meeting w/ home communions
coordinator

Helped set up for Good Friday & Easter
delivered Little Debbie snack orders
returned palms & Easter flower
containers to Andree's & Enterline's
coordinated & delivered CROPWalk off..
updated Sunday School flyer

connected Food Bank w/ Kathryn's
Kloset

prepared homebound flowers for
distribution

delivered 10 homebound Easter flowers
prepared gifts for graduates, confirmation
& growing disciples

delivered confirmation Bibles to and
from engraver

Re-set altar area following Chiz Ryder
concert

delivered one box used SunSchool
material

unlocked door for Union Co. seminar

Interview w/Standard Journal re:
fundraiser

preparation for SunSchool project
fundraiser

1 delivery to HandUp

prepared sign messages for custodian
interviewed & hired temporary custodian
set up staff support meeting for planning
for new custodian

Delivered flowers to 2 homebound
members

Continuing Education:

Spiritual direction: 1 hour

11 days (61 hours): video course on "Making Nutrition Clear" – a health and wellness focus – Wardensville, WV; video course on "New Testament" – Bible focus – Wardensville, WV

Membership Statistics at End of 2011:

Baptized Members	222	(up 8 from 2010)
Confirmed Members	189	(up 2 from 2010)
Confirmed Members who communed and contributed (voting members)	144	(down 8 from 2010)
# baptized & associate members actively involved in worship in 2010:	180	(down 14 from 2010)
Average Weekly Attendance	78	(up 4 from 2010)
Sunday School Attendance	23 students, 8 teachers	(29/11 in 2010)
Vacation Bible School Attendance	19 students, 9 teachers	(18/15 in 2010)

(Keeping accurate records is important but not easy. Our computer records and memory do not agree; people have been here whose attendance and contributions have not been recorded. Voting members are those whose communion and contribution during the current and/or preceding year are on record. We have 144 voting members. It is important for you to fill at least one offering envelope or write a check each year and to record your communion on a pew pad at least once.)

Below are listed those Christ Lutheran members who were received, confirmed and/or baptized in 1961 (50 years ago).

Members at Christ Lutheran Church received 50 years ago:

Laura Beck – March 26

Steven Greenly – April 2

June Mull – March 26

Shawn Roush – September 17

Members at Christ Lutheran Church confirmed 50 years ago:

Laura Beck – March 26

Dale Kriner – March 26

Kathy Longenberger – March 26

June Mull – March 26

Members at Christ Lutheran Church baptized 50 years ago:

Steven Greenly – April 2

Shawn Roush – September 17

God bless you! ☺

Respectfully and Faithfully Submitted,
Your Partner in Mission and Ministry,

The Rev. Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle ☺
January, 2012

Webmaster Report



The design, development, and maintenance of the church website has been under my direction since October of 2005. The cost of hosting a website for our church is \$56 per year, which I continue to donate along with my time in maintaining it.

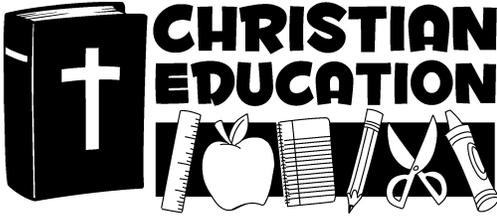
The website is updated each week with the church bulletin, weekly events, the pastor's sermon, the prayer page, photos, and other pertinent changes. Church documentation (council and congregational minutes) are posted and archived regularly.

A Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Facebook page has been established and is maintained by James Bartlett. Our church website and the Facebook page are linked together. The Facebook page continues to grow and draw online visitors. The Facebook page can be found at:
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Christ-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church/211337771270>.

I enjoy doing this work for the church and am open to suggestions for additions and changes to our church website. You can view the church website at: <http://www.christlutheranmpa.org>.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Spear, Webmaster

Christian Education Annual Report



It has been a very busy year for Christian Ed. We have been trying to restructure the Children's Sunday School to try to increase attendance. We are still working on how to accomplish this task.

We extend our gratitude to all the people who have been working with us through the year -

Youth Sunday School teachers: Kay Dunn, Donna Spear, Jen Suarez, Brenda Bartlett, Steph Byers, Kim Mitch, Nancy Walters, Pastor Pat, Nancy Mensch

Adult Sunday School teachers: Rose Handy, Kellie Brouse, Pastor Pat, James Bartlett, Sharon Randolph, Nancy Mensch, and Nancy Walters

Special thanks to:

Kay Dunn for directing Vacation Bible School and all who helped her make it a success. We had an attendance of 28 children this year.

Kim Mitch and Steph Byers for the really great job they did with the Advent Pageant.

Donna Spear for her work with teaching music for Bible Buddies.

Brenda Bartlett for volunteering to be an assistant on Christian Education.

Bible Buddies has been successful this year. We average ten children – one Friday a month.

Sunday Bible Study is held once a month on Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

Thursday Bible Study is held weekly on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

We changed the way our ministry committees meet. We have one combined meeting once a month called Spiritual Growth Ministry, which meets on the 4th Monday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Mensch

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Ministry again had a busy year. We had a number of special services throughout the church year including Ash Wednesday, two Healing Services, and the Blessing of Labor to just name a few. On Wednesdays, we have the 4 p.m. Quiet Communion services.

We also look to the summer to continue our joint services with our brothers and sisters from Trinity, where we share not only organists but also our ministers.....this is truly a blessing.

A few changes have taken place over the last year. If you would like to show your service to God by taking part in a service, you may now volunteer by signing up in the narthex. Also, we are having a contemporary service here at Christ Lutheran. Much of the current service we had borrowed from Trinity, but we are also willing to discuss any new ideas that are brought before us. Wednesday Lenten services will be replaced in 2012 with Community Lenten meals followed by the Holden Evening Prayer service.

This is just a partial list of what this ministry group did last year. We would like to thank all of you who helped to make the work of this Ministry and our worship services run smoothly. From the acolytes and other youth participants, to the servers, Authorized Lay Worship Leaders, and sound system operators, who we are always looking for more volunteers. I would also like to thank those of you who so willingly decorated and undecorated our Church for the Christmas season. That is often over looked but much appreciated by this committee.

All of your service is truly a blessing and a great way to honor God. As always, you all have a special place with this committee, thank you. With all your help, we continue to be a busy place that welcomes God among us.

A special thank you to **YOU THE PEOPLE**, who come to give glory to God.

Yours in Christ,
Kellie Brouse, Chairperson



Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Group meets on the last Monday of each month as a part of the Spiritual Growth Ministry Team. Participants in the Spiritual Growth Ministry Team include: James Bartlett, Rose Handy, Steph Byers, Kay Dunn, Ruth Greenly, Mae Jones, Nancy Mensch, Stephen Moll, Betty Morgan, Pastor Pat, Donna Spear, and Nancy Walters. The mission of the social ministry group is to "reach out to others" and spread the Good News in fun, caring, and loving ways. "Social Ministry" events for 2011 were:

Souper Bowl of Caring, Sunday, February 6, 2011 - Chicken Noodle and Ham and Bean soups were prepared for either eat-in or take-out lunch at a cost of \$5. Eat-in included soup, roll, drink and dessert and take-out was by the quart. Cost was \$5. Total meals served were 78. All proceeds were given to the Milton Food Bank. The total proceeds for this event were \$482.88. Our Endowment Committee approved matching funds for this event.



Corned Beef Dinner, Sunday, March 13, 2011 - A corned beef and cabbage dinner was served following the Annual March Congregational Meeting. Twenty five tickets were sold at \$7 to raise funds for the year's social ministry outreach projects.

May Outreach Event, Saturday, May 7, 2011 - The third annual May Outreach Event at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church included a food, bake, drink, and yard sale. Pulled-pork sandwiches (\$4.50), fresh-cut French fries (\$1.50), and home-made apple sauce (\$.50) made up the lunch items. The platter sold for \$6.00. Church members donated soda and water for the drink stand and baked goods for the bake sale stand. Yard sale items were collected and sold for donation. This annual event benefits all the local charities our church supports including: Buffalo Lutheran Village, Camp Mount Luther, Haven Ministries, Love INC, Milton & Turbot Township Fire Departments, Milton Food Bank, Milton Ministerium, Prison Ministry, and Union County Meals on Wheels. Total proceeds for this event were \$1,401.02. Our Endowment Committee approved matching funds for this event.

Health Kits Offering, Friday, June 17, 2011 - Boxes of health kits were assembled and received as an "in-kind" offering at the 2011 Synod Assembly in June. Church members donated a variety of items including hand-towels, wash cloths, bath soap, toothbrushes, combs, nail files, and band aids to prepare these health kits for people who must flee their homes quickly in emergency situations or for refugees living in exile.

Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner, Sunday, November 6, 2011 - Following the annual organ recital, a pork and sauerkraut dinner with mashed potatoes, applesauce, hotdogs, green beans, and rolls was served. Cost was \$8.00 with proceeds of \$300 supporting our mission and outreach.

Thanksgiving Meals for the Needy, Sunday, November 20, 2011 - On Christ the King Sunday, church members crowned the altar with Thanksgiving meal food items and following worship, ten "basket" meals were assembled for local needy families. Spiritual Growth Ministry Team members donated turkeys for each basket, and each family who received a basket was blessed with wonderful comfort foods for their Thanksgiving meals.

Flowers for our Shut-ins, Sunday, December 18 - Poinsettias were provided for each of our 21 shut-in members. During the week before Christmas, these flowers were delivered to spread love to our members who are unable to attend regular worship services. The Homebound Communion team, other church members, and Pastor Pat helped in the delivery of the poinsettias.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Spear, Chairperson

Hospitality Ministry Group

The women of the Church served at the following events:

Supper and snacks for Vacation Bible School
Drinks and snacks for Front Porchin' Evangelism Workshop

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Morgan



Altar Guild Ministry Group

Altar Guild Ministry Group is the faithful, behind the scene, group of 22 people who care for our chancel area in preparation for the worship service. Their responsibilities include:

- setting up for communion
- supplying bread for communion
- cleaning up after communion
- displaying proper paraments for the various church seasons
- filling candles for worship
- care of baptismal font
- care of altar items used in worship
- care of assistant robes



ALTAR GUILD

We have members of all ages and males as well as females. The members of this ministry are grateful servants of God, servants of God's people, servants of the liturgy, and servants of the worship space. They faithfully fulfill their responsibilities with very little recognition and yet they are a very vital part of God's ministry. It is a great privilege to work with such dedicated and faithful servants. We appreciate and thank you for your ministry to this congregation.

Those dedicated and faithful servants for 2011 were:

Jennifer Suarez
 Mae Jones
 Rachael Spear
 Ruth Greenly
 Linda Bastian
 BeBe Bolich
 Ida Snyder
 Kim Herr
 Connie Mensch
 Anna Mae Harpster
 Betty Morgan

Kim Mitch
 Laurie Fisher (dec'd.)
 Barbara Gray
 Penny Ulmer
 Kay Dunn
 Betty Baumer
 Nancy Mensch
 Kathleen Burch
 Penny Coup
 Ed Coup
 Laura Beck

Respectfully submitted,
 Rose Handy, Chairperson

Witness Ministry Group

The Witness Ministry Group members have faithfully continued to carry out Christ's ministry in 2011. I report with great joy that the group has joined together with Christian Education, Worship & Music, Youth, Hospitality, and Social Ministry to form the Spiritual Growth Ministry and share working together to witness God's love and grace in this church, community and the world. Witnessing has taken place in many forms throughout 2011 by the faithful servants of these ministry groups as well as support and witnessing from others in our congregation. The Lord, Pastor Pat, and I thank you for your service, commitment and dedication. The following projects were sponsored in 2011:

- Publicized worship times and events in the local newspapers and church sign
- Inspiring and challenging messages on our church sign
- Visitor's table with coffee mugs and info for distribution to visitors
- Bulletins sent to shut-ins
- Fabulous church web page
- Sponsored "Christ in Our Home" devotionals
- Sunday morning greeters
- World Hunger Calendar Project
- Thanksgiving and Easter baskets for the needy
- St. Patrick's Day Congregational Dinner
- May Yard Sale Event
- Prison Ministry
- Knitting Group
- Angel Tree Ministry

Friendship Ministry:

- On-going communication through calls, cards, direct contact and prayers with church members

Homebound Communion Ministry:

- Distributed monthly communion to a small group of shut-ins

Prayer Team Ministry:

- Sponsored Sunday morning Prayer Ministers
Assigned Ministry member prayed for the congregation before each worship service. Also they conducted prayer with service participants, choir, organist, and Pastor before Sunday service begins.
- Sponsored "Prayer and Events" card inserts in weekly bulletins
- Sponsored worship service prayer writing for Sunday and special worship services

Prayer Chain Ministry:

- Sponsored prayer and passing special prayer requests from one prayer chain minister to another

We ask you to please pray for all our ministry groups, and if the Spirit moves you, please don't hesitate to join us. All are welcome to participate in the Lord's ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose M. Handy, Chairperson



Staff Support and Parish Relations Ministry Group



This has been a year of working together on showing support to our Staff and Volunteers in different ways. We really want to express how much we appreciate all the things they do for us.

We were able to hold a Staff Appreciation Dinner on November 10, which Staff and a guest attended along with Council members and guests. A dinner of roast beef, baked potatoes, creamed corn, and salad was enjoyed by all, and we finished it off with cake for dessert. We showed our appreciation by speeches and a small gift that was given to each Staff member.

Rich Olsen resigned as custodian, and Trisha Long stepped in as substitute custodian. The Staff Support Committee is currently studying the job description for the custodian to see if possible changes and recommendations are needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Dunn, Chairperson



The Endowment Committee was formed by Resolution at the Nov. 18, 2007 Congregational Meeting for the purpose of evaluating requests, from members of the Congregation, for funding of Charitable Projects and if approved, forwarding the request to the Church Council with a recommendation for funding from the Endowment portion of the Church's Thrivent Investments. See Figure 1 Summary of Thrivent Investments & Withdrawals for available funds.

Figure 1 – Summary of Thrivent Investments and Withdrawals from 01/01/06 to 12/31/11

	Yearly. Total.	Gen. Fund	Investment	Endowment	Property	Housing
Total Checks Written 2006	\$26,135.16	\$25,254.81		\$898.32		
Total Checks Written 2007	\$69,178.53			\$63,078.53	\$6,100.00	
Total Checks Written 2008	\$141,841.71	\$32,621.00		\$7,584.50	\$101,636.21	
Total Checks Written 2009	\$37,938.24			\$1,363.01	\$30,575.23	\$6,000.00
Total Checks Written 2010	\$17,935.61	-\$9,403.18	\$9,909.67	\$11,429.12		\$6,000.00
Total Checks Written 2011	\$24,882.38			\$24,882.38		
Total of All Checks Written 2006 – 2011	\$317,911.63	\$48,472.63	\$9,909.67	\$109,235.86	\$138,311.44	\$12,000.00
Funds Invested 01/01/06	\$250,736.23					
Funds Invested 04/20/06	\$100,000.00					
Funds Invested 02/08/07	\$551,000.00					
Funds Invested 10/24/07	\$14,800.00					
Funds Invested 12/31/10	\$3,587.51					
Funds Invested	\$7,810.09					
Total of All Checks Written 2006 – 2011	-\$317,911.63					
Return on Investment 2006 – 2011	\$86,153.47					
Total Funds Invested with Thrivent 12/31/11	\$696,175.67	\$67,595.80	\$211,309.12	\$224,578.37	\$78,504.30	\$114,188.08

App. #41 Submitted 11/30/10 Approved 12/27/10 – ELCA Missionary Sponsorship 2011 - \$1000.00

App. #42 Submitted 11/30/10 Not Approved – Memorial Brick at Founders Circle

App. #43 Submitted 12/16/10 Approved 12/27/10 – Match Fishing for People SS Project - \$875.75

App. #44 Submitted 12/27/10 Approved 12/27/10 – Match Souper Bowl Luncheon for Food Bank- \$1000.00

App. #45 Submitted 03/14/11 Approved 05/24/11 – Community Pool Donation - \$500.00 Still Pending

App. #46 Submitted 03/14/11 Approved 04/26/11 – Bibles for Prison Ministry - \$378.78

App. # 47 Submitted 03/14/11 Approved 04/26/11 – Children Attend Camp Mt. Luther - \$889.10

App. #48 Submitted 04/17/11 Approved 04/26/11 – MD Assoc. - \$1000.00

App. #49 Submitted 05/09/11 Approved 05/24/11 – Augment May Event Fund Raiser - \$3598.98
Supports 10 Local Charities at \$500.00 ea.

App. #50 Submitted 05/19/11 Approved 05/24/11 – Staff Support Dinner - \$385.56

App. #51 Submitted 05/24/11 Approved 05/24/11 – Relay for Life Fund Raiser Match - \$504.00

App. #52 Submitted 06/28/11 Approved 08/30/11 – Brouse Family Fire Disaster Relief - \$1500.00

App. #53 Submitted 06/28/11 Approved 09/27/11 – Transformational Ministry - \$500.00 Still Pending

App. #54 Submitted 06/28/11 Approved 08/30/11 – ELCA Malaria Outreach / VBS Project - \$131.53

App. #55 Submitted 08/10/11 Approved 09/27/11 – Milton High School Scholarship - \$1000.00 Still Pending

App. #56 Submitted 08/29/11 Approved 09/27/11 – Upper Susq. Synod Liberia Roofing Proj. - \$550.00

App. #57 Submitted 09/07/11 Approved 09/27/11 – Christmas Gift Cards for Church Staff - \$1000.00

App. #58 Submitted 09/07/11 Approved 09/27/11 - Christmas Gift Cards for Needy Families - \$1550.00

App. #59 Submitted 09/11/11 Approved 09/27/11 – 2012 Missionary Support for Rev. Brian Palmer - \$1000.00 Still Pending

App. #60 Submitted 10/22/11 Approved 10/25/11 – BSA Total Challenge Matching Grant - \$7000.00

App. #61 Submitted 11/22/11 Approved 11/22/11 – Upper Susquehanna Synod Support - \$2000.00

Respectfully submitted, Roger Watts, Chairperson

Prayer Chain Members

Mae Jones	742-7570
Betty Baumer	742-7334
Mae Keefer	568-2452
Evelyn Campbell	742-6071
Ida Shuck	568-0023
Pam Walsh	742-3528
Barbara Gray	568-0022
Mary Steeley	742-7746
Rose Handy	568-8433



Report of the Annual Congregational Meeting – March 13, 2011

Congregation President Stephen Moll presided over the meeting.

2011 Nominating Committee for ballot opened with Kay Dunn, Kellie Brouse, Betty Morgan, Joanne Seidel, Kim Herr and Connie Mensch being nominated. Jack Plotts moved that nominations be closed and Ruth Greenly seconded. A Unanimous Ballot was declared.

2011 Synod Assembly Delegates opened with Nancy Mensch as female delegate, Rose Deaner as female alternate, James Bartlett as male delegate and Edward Coup as male alternate. Nancy Walters moved to close nominations and Betty Morgan seconded. A Unanimous Ballot was declared.

The Annual Report of the congregation was presented and recommended by the Congregational Council. Rose Bolich seconded the motion. A correction to the list of 50 year members of the congregation was noted. Connie Mensch is a 50 year member from the date of her joining the congregation and Kim Herr is a 50 year member for the date of her Baptism. The congregation approved the Annual Report as amended.

The Congregational Council recommended the creation of the Emergency Reserve Fund C.5.12.05.01M10 which reads:

The Emergency Reserve Fund was created by Council action (subject to congregation approval at the 2011 Annual Meeting). The intent of this fund is that it is to be used for unforeseen emergency expenses. In addition, funds may be borrowed from this account to cover any general checking account deficits.

Donna Spear seconded the motion. Roger Watts explained the reason and uses for the fund. Susan Albert asked for clarification on the Congregational Councils ability to use the fund and when congregational permission is needed. Roger Watts and Stephen Moll explained that the Congregational Council can authorize up to \$10,000.00 without the approval of the congregation and that any amount over that limit would require the approval of the congregation. However, if the fund were used without the approval of the congregation, the Congregational Council would notify the congregation that the fund was used and provide an explanation. Rose Bolich asked for clarification as to whether this fund was created in response to

requests made at our Congregational Meeting in November. Roger Watts responded that this fund was not in response to the November meeting.

The motion to create the Emergency Reserve Fund C.5.12.05.01M10 carried 43-0.

Changes to C5 of the Constitution was presented to the congregation for discussion:

-The possibility of voting annually to violate the principle of the congregations Thrivent investments was discussed.

-Roger Watts explained why this might be necessary in the near future.

-Pastor Pat also commented on the possible necessity.

-Rose Bolich questioned the use of interest earned from the investment funds to cover budgetary needs. Stephen Moll answered that the Congregational Council can use proceeds under \$10,000.00 without the approval of the congregation.

Roger Watts gave examples of the principle and proceeds to illustrate the use of the funds. The Housing Allowance was the focus of the discussion because it is projected that the principle of that fund will need to be violated by 2012 to meet our budgetary needs.

Nancy Walters motioned to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Pat seconded and we concluded with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Bartlett, Secretary

Report of the Congregational Meeting – November 13, 2011

Vice President Donald Fisher presided over the meeting.

The congregation voted to confirm all constitutional changes from the previous meeting on March 13, 2011.

Church Council Elections: On the ballot are Rose Deaner, Debbie Greenly and Sharon Randolph. Nancy Walters moved to close the ballot. Barry Yeager seconded. Motion carried. A Unanimous Ballot was declared.

Endowment Ministry Elections: On the ballot is Stephanie Byers. 37 votes for, 0 votes against. Motion Carried.

The budget for 2012 was recommended to the congregation by the Church Council. Nancy Walters seconded. Discussion followed.

-Rose Handy inquired as to whether the actual expenses for the current year are being met. The answer was no.

-Pastor Pat asked for more thoughts on the budget.

-James Bartlett stated that the budget is scary because we are patching the problem and not focusing on the real problem, our lack of focus on our ministry and outreach to grow the church and the faith. He stated that using investment funds and invading the principal of our funds is a bad sign and could signal the decline of the congregation.

-Deb Greenly asked what we were supposed to do if we should not use these funds.

- James Bartlett answered that we would have to use the funds because of the position we are in and that we had to fix the real problem rather than patch the symptoms.
- Roger Watts explained our investment funds, the needs for maintaining the building and the reality of our current financial situation.
- Rose Handy expressed her disappointment with the attendance to support our ministry and to take part in the decision making for our future ministry.
- Nancy Walters suggested a Visitation Team to reach out to congregation members who have become inactive and have fallen away from the congregation.

Voting results for the 2012 budget - 36 yes, 2 no.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
James Bartlett, Secretary

Church Council Highlights

Members:

<u>Class of 2011</u>	<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Other Officers</u>
Kay Dunn	Don Fisher	James Bartlett	Rose Deaner, Treasurer
Stephen Moll	Roger Watts	Ed Coup	Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary
Nancy Walters	Barry Yeager	Nancy Mensch	Rev. Pat Pittsnogle, Pastor

At our annual leadership retreat we restructured our committees into ministry groups. The Stewardship Ministry encompasses the Endowment, Finance, Property, and Staff Support-Parish Relations Committees. The Spiritual Growth Ministry encompasses the Christian Education, Hospitality, Social, Witness and Worship & Music Committees.

We welcomed special guest speakers throughout Epiphany and Lent from charitable organizations we support.

Brett Hosterman, organist, composed a Lenten liturgy for our Sunday worship services.

Curt Schneider, Julia Spear, Rachael Spear, and Blake Wargo were confirmed on Pentecost.

Christine Ulmer received her First Communion.

Voting members for the 2011 Synod Assembly: female delegate Nancy Mensch and Rose Deaner as the alternate; male delegate James Bartlett and Ed Coup as the alternate.

The Congregational Council expressed interest in participating in the synod's Transformational Ministry event. No date was set and the council continues to wait for a date to be set by the synod team.

Our May Event was again a success and each charity supported by the event received \$500.00 from the congregation.

The council secured funds through the Endowment Committee to help support the Brouse family after their home was destroyed by fire. The funds supplemented those raised by a benefit dinner sponsored by Social Ministry.

Missionary support will be used to support Rev. Brian and Christine Palmer. The Palmers replace Viking and Marissa Dietrich, who retired in 2011.

Sharon Randolph, Deb Greenly, and Rose Deaner were elected to serve on church council and will be the class of 2014.

The bulk of our December meeting was devoted to creating a vision for the future ministry in the congregation and the community. The formulation of a vision statement will continue into 2012.

Kay Dunn, Stephen Moll and Nancy Walters finished their term on council. Thank you Kay, Stephen and Nancy for your service and wisdom in leading the congregation in our ministry!

Respectfully Submitted,
James Bartlett, Secretary

THE CHURCH STAFF - 2012

The Reverend Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle	Pastor Pat's Cell	570-768-6705
Lorei Comerer	Church Office Manager	
Nancy Walters	Director of Church Music	570-742-4924
Brett Hosterman	Organist	570-713-5813
Donna Spear	Webmaster	570-742-2117
Trisha Long	Interim Custodian	570-742-4785
Bob & Deb Greenly	Groundskeepers	570-742-3277
Rose Deaner	Church Treasurer	570-742-9322
Ruth Greenly	Financial Secretary	570-742-9825

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL - 2012

PRESIDENT	Don Fisher
VICE-PRESIDENT	James Bartlett
SECRETARY	Debbie Greenly
TREASURER	Rose Deaner
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Ruth Greenly

THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL - 2012

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TELEPHONE #</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Pastor Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle	768-6705	
Don Fisher	742-7503	2012
Roger Watts	713-0011	2012
Barry Yeager	742-7002	2012
James Bartlett	939-1471	2013
Edward Coup	713-9116	2013
Nancy Mensch	742-7841	2013
Rose Deaner	524-9944	2014
Debbie Greenly	742-3277	2014
Sharon Randolph	568-0385	2014
Ruth Greenly	742-9825	