

**THE ANNUAL REPORT for 2009
Vol. 27, No. 1**

**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
Rich Olsen - Custodian
Bob Greenly - Groundskeeper
Rose Deaner, Treasurer
Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary**

Contents:

The Pastor's Report and Record

50-Year Members

Ministry Group Reports

Prayer Chain Members

Report from the Church Council

Annual Congregational Meeting – November 22, 2009

The Church Staff and Congregational Council

**The Congregation's Financial Stewardship,
2009 Treasurer's Report & 2010 Budget**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Year of 2009

It would be impossible to reflect on the year of 2009 without mentioning the word “change.” Not only did we change simply by the passing of another year, but we also found ourselves changing by virtue of growing in endurance. Our year together in 2009 was filled with new understandings of how we support the ministry we do for God together in this place. Money conversations were tough, yet faithful. Leaders found themselves stepping up to address concerns that took thoughtful time, like stretching budgets for Christian education and outreach. Even as we made progress in responding faithfully, we found ourselves dealing with a change in treasurers, some unanswered questions, and the sorrow of a beloved member in legal trouble – all of which permeated our work together. We are still working on our financial records, finding some challenges, but prayerfully confident we are in good shape. Your Council is committed to sharing that information with you as we learn more.



And...we are still, as leaders and followers, going forward with the mission God has given us. It has been a blessing to share 2009 in partnership with you.



We also said “we love you” and “go forth with the Lord” to many dear, dear friends who worshipped alongside us each week. God called home familiar faces that sat with us and worked with us in ministry. We miss them. We loved them as brothers and sisters in Christ. And we celebrate the promise of eternal life they now live. In witness to their faithfulness, we find energy and strength for our journey together. Change – loss and pain – but faith that we, too, by the grace of God in Jesus Christ, will see them again.

Meanwhile, our work continues – and you will see signs and celebrations of that work in pages that follow this letter.

As your pastor, I give thanks for your presence, your endurance, and your love through the changes of 2009. I celebrate that we are yet 174 active disciples of Christ every day of our ministry together. I thank you for your willingness to jump in and take your part, to bring your love to each change we have made, and to hold each other in prayer, never ceasing. God continues to call us and lead us – and you trust that with all your hearts.

Look with me upon some of the gifts we have shared this past year:

- ✝ God raised *new children of God* in Ryder Cipriani and Katie Deaner. Ryder's young faith joins ours, and with his parents, we are blessed to teach him Jesus' love. Katie celebrates, with her parents, her church family in Nazareth, Pennsylvania.
- ✝ Witness leaders called us to dedicate ourselves to *Christian hospitality* in our ministry together. Our fellowship times have increased and nurtured us as a Christian family. We are learning to know one another even more. We are seeking out one another, gifting others with our time, talent, and resources, and reaching out even more to those in need.
- ✝ Bible Buddies – our *young saints in our church family* – excite us with their enthusiasm to worship, serve, and follow Jesus. They make cards for the homebound, send love and give love to the hospitalized and hurting, and bring us joy, laughter, and an abundance of Jesus' love. Their voices remind us of the innocent welcome Jesus offers each of us. Think of the children in our congregation – and I challenge you to do anything else but smile! ☺!!
- ✝ We are being even more intentional about *planning what we do for our Lord* in this place. Members are bringing their ideas to the table that we can answer together. Leaders are listening, responding, encouraging. We carried out a dedication and celebration of our new pavilion with 80 percent of us involved! The *hungry were fed* under our roof, and the hungry were fed across the world in that same event. We had a grand time providing more than \$3000 in support to God's children. We celebrated! We laughed! We got dirty together – and we cleaned up together, just as joyfully. We were young and old together; able and less able together; organized and disorganized together; and oh, oh, so faithfully called.
- ✝ *One of our own had a need* for accessibility in her wheelchair. We came together again, this time raising over \$11000 to support her. Again, we laughed. Again, we celebrated. Again, we shared the fullness of Jesus' love with one another. We gave that gift to our Lord Jesus in celebration of his birth on Christmas Day.
- ✝ *We raised up leaders for Christ's Church.* Two new authorized lay worship leaders, Kellie Brouse, and Ed Coup, joined Rose Bolich in faithful worship leadership



- ministry in our congregation. You hear God's Word proclaimed in their preaching, teaching, and leading. You continue to see them actively involved, not only in my absence, but as readily-available servants who enhance our worship and learning ministries.
- ✝ Even as we have lost faithful members, more step up. Our *worship attendance* slipped only a little. We lost 11 who were faithful in worship. We lost only 2 in attendance per week. We still have a strong core of

people *studying the Bible and Lutheran faith* together. Delving into God's Word continues to be an important ministry we share. No – there's still not enough at our

Bible studies – and maybe this is God’s call to you to find your way there – as we are growing faithfully in our studies in God’s Word.

- ✦ We continue to be blessed by a *Mission Team* from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glenville, New York, who house themselves in our church building and work to meet the needs of our community each summer. They assist HandUp Foundation’s ministry to caring for the environment in recycling, to reaching people with fresh vegetables in a community garden, who worship and talk with the needy who come to the Milton Food Bank for help with feeding themselves, and who share Jesus’ love with their presence. They fix cars for people who need transportation for work. They wash laundry and iron. They tear apart appliances and other used items that provide work for the jobless and imprisoned. They organize books. They see God’s work in feeding, clothing, visiting, and helping God’s children.
- ✦ Look at how many people make sandwiches at Christ Church – not only to feed we who purchase them, but *those who have emergency needs* at times of disaster, cancer diagnoses, and medical expenses! Hands peel and slice onions, shred lettuce, pile together meat, cheese, and vegetables that strengthen our bodies for service.
- ✦ Children gather for dance classes, community service projects, and Christian learning. Adults ballroom dance, give blood, and serve our community and world. God has given us *such a helping shelter for doing the work of God in this place*. I continue to be amazed at how much we can do together, simply because we have a wonderful, safe, and functional building!



On a personal note, Keith and I – and all our family – have been so *blessed by your pastoral attentiveness and love for us* in this past year’s journey with Keith’s health. This new year finds Keith well on the way to complete recovery from breast cancer and surgery. Without you and the love of our family and friends, that journey would have been filled with loneliness, worry, and fear. But God, in God’s grace, sent us you – with your prayers to hold us when we needed strength to stand. You found us with YOUR gifts to serve God, and we continue to thank God for that blessing.



As I reflect once more on the mission God has given us together, *I give thanks* for all our faithful staff, volunteer leaders and workers, and the power of God’s Holy Spirit that has come to each of us. We worship together. We witness together. We learn together. We support one another together. And we reach out to others – TOGETHER. That is the greatest, most wonderful, enduring gift a pastor could ever ask for in a congregation – especially when the gifts and challenges of change have been many.

*Thank you for the blessing of being called to lead you
and to be led by you in Jesus' love.*

“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, 2009*

Stewardship of Call:

Worship and Teaching:

46 Sunday services and 35 sermons
44 Bible studies

7 Saturday services
26 sermon studies
3 worship services at Rockwell’s or Kramm’s

regular participation in choir
5 Midweek Lenten services & 1 reflection
1 Christmas Eve service and 1 sermon
1 Christmas Day breakfast/service & sermon

Healing Services:

Feb. 11 & 15 (led by Rose Bolich, ALWL)
July 15 & 19
October 28

26 weeks Sunday School participation
40 Wednesday services & 8 extra
sermons

5 Sunday services at Trinity
2 First Communion classes
2 Ash Wed. services & 1 sermon

7 Bible Buddies gatherings
3 Holy Week services & 1 extra sermon
Preparation for Lent
5 days Vacation Bible School
1 member birthday party

15 Funerals & 7 family meals/visitations (10 sermons)

Mae E. Illeck (graveside service) (1/12/09 – aunt of member)
Kay Hoffman (3/25/09 – member – officiated by Pastor Donald Haulman)
Janet Elaine Six (3/28/09 – member – celebration of life by the family @ home)
Carrie J. Bastian (5/2/09 – member)
Fay Christine Engleman (7/2/09 – member)
Roger Corson (7/14/09 – member of Trinity)
Claire E. Jones (7/15/09 – member – celebration of life by the family @ Shaw’s, Milton)
Erma Bryson (8/12/09 – member of Zion, Turbotville)
Margaret C. “Peg” Derr (9/9/09 – member)
Helen Rebar Manning (10/6/09 – member)
Blanche Mull Benfer (11/14/09 – member)
Judy Ann Schneider (11/24/09 – member)

P. Franklin Hartzel, Sr. (12/16/09 – member)
 Larry Metzger (12/09 – member – funeral held out of town)
 Debra G. Wolford (12/29/09 – sister of member – officiated by Pastor Ronald Wagner)

Attended 2 funerals of members' relatives:

April Mullin's mother-in-law, Anita Mullin (9/8/09)
 Rusty Brouse's brother, Mark Brouse (11/27/09)

2 **member transfers**

Sonja Hamilton (2/22/09 – to Crossroads Church of the Nazarene)
 Sara Feichtel (5/1/09 – to Trinity Lutheran, Camp Hill PA)

Recognitions/blessings:

Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary (1/11/09)
 Dedication of Banners in memory of Kermit Benfer (1/11/09)
 Installation of Church Council (1/18/09)
 Camp Mt. Luther (1/18/09)
 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (1/18/09)
 Hospitality, Office, and Newsletter volunteers (2/22/09)
 LOVE Bags (2/28/09)
 Youth Leaders (2/8/09)
 Prayer Chain (2/8/09)
 Dale Kriner, Treasurer (3/29/09)
 Dedication of Baptism Banner in memory of Pr. Fred Romig (4/19/09)
 Ed Coup & Kellie Brouse, ALWLs (4/26/09)
 Mothers (5/10/08)
 Church Music, Worship Assistants (5/17/09)
 Veterans (5/24/09)
 Dedication of Pavilion (6/7/09)
 Graduates (6/7/09)
 Property Team (6/21/09)
 Fathers (6/21/09)
 Children (6/28/09)
 Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music (6/28/09)
 School Year (8/9/09)
 VBS Volunteers (8/9/09)
 Dialysis Drivers (8/9/09)
 Bob & Deb Greenly, groundskeepers (8/30/09)
 Rich Olsen, custodian (8/30/09)
 Temple talk by Cathy Sweeney, Diakon Hospice (8/30/09)
 Labor (9/2 & 9/6/09)

2 **Baptisms**

Ryder Nickolas-Perry Cipriani (1/4/09)
 Catherine Elizabeth Deaner (1/11/09 – member of St. John's, Nazareth PA)

5 other **Growing Disciples:**

Mackenzie Snyder – First Communion (4/12/09)
 Linea Kristin Brouse (Confirmation – 5/31/09)
 Ryan Matthew Byers (Confirmation – 5/31/09)

Grant Earl Wargo (Confirmation – 5/31/09)
 Jeremy Herr (High School Graduation – 6/7/09)
 Rachel Solomon (High School Graduation – 6/7/09)

Home/Office and Hospital Visits:

243 regular visits	1666 visits by phone or written note	61 counseling visits
56 home communions	25 hospital visits	

Meetings/Events:

Congregation

3 Property meetings, 5 Staff Support meetings, 6 Finance meetings, 4 Endowment meetings, 5 Worship & Music meetings, 4 Witness meetings & 1 potluck meal, Nominating Committee initial meeting, 2 Social Ministry meetings, 2 leadership retreats, 3 VBS planning meetings, 1 VBS follow-up meeting, 3 Christian Education meetings, 1 Ministry Groups planning meeting, 1 senior high youth planning meeting, treasurer transition meeting, 1 congregational meetings (March annual meeting & burger meal, regular meeting November 22), 11 Church Council meetings, absent @ March Church Council meeting—sick, final confirmation interviews, 1 Authorized Lay Worship Leaders meeting, Council installation, Souper Bowl luncheon, “Love Bag” youth activity, youth gr. 3-6 overnight, youth gr. 2 and under McDonald’s lunch, September potluck meal at opening of new year, Advent pageant & potluck, 3 meals with Mission Team from New York, May 2 hunger event & clean-up, 3 hunger event planning meetings & 1 follow-up meeting, Easter breakfast, confirmation interviews with Christian Education leaders, confirmation potluck meal, Tour de Revs potluck & presentation, church work day, 3 fundraisers for Mackenzie Snyder, newspaper interview with Team Mackenzie, 8/2 meal after worship, operated sound system for worship when no volunteers

Community

Interview w/ local newspaper (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity), Central PA Chamber of Commerce awards luncheon, T.I.M.E. Donors meeting, hosted Region 4 band students, Region 4 Band Festival, provided entertainment (with Keith) for Danville supper party, MHS Classrooms for the Future, T.I.M.E. photo op for August 13 Music in the Park sponsorship, 2 HandUP gardening project meetings, gardening project kick-off meal, helped with first planting in gardening project, Bible Buddies/ Northern Lights picnic, Rockwell Center corn roast, Co-chaplain—Montour/Delong Fair (youth choir & vespers service), CROP Walk planning meeting, Watsonstown Yard Sales, Benfer auction, Community Singers Christmas concert @ Riverside, Rockwell Center Christmas party, Vesper service @ Susquehanna University

Synod/Wider Church Community

Pine Street Lutheran Church: Summer Festival; Helped with Pine Street bulletins @ illness of their secretary; December Council meeting; Christmas Eve service; 1 youth fundraiser dinner; Blessing of the Animals service; live nativity; Good Friday Crosswalk; officiated baptism for Pastor Keith when he was sick (4/26/09); helped w/ Jubilee Kitchen meal

2 Buffalo Valley conference meetings, 3 ELCA Rural Ministry meetings, 4 synod Mission Interpreters meetings, 2 Northern Lights meetings, 2 ELCMA Task Force meetings, 2 synod Ministry Partnership Team meetings, Christian Unity luncheon @ St. Joseph’s Parish Center, Holy Spirit (Turbotville) open house, ALWL mentors meeting, synod delegate to ELCMA Assembly in Morristown, Tennessee, Buffalo Valley Conference Assembly, Northern Lights booth @ Fiesta de Mayo, installation of Pastor Jim Fladland @ First Lutheran (Watsonstown), Synod Assembly & Authorized Lay Worship Leaders Blessing, Tour de Revs arrival – hosted 3 members of the group, dedication of St. John’s United Church of Christ in New Columbia, transported ELCA Youth Gathering participants to and from airport, delivered

items for Liberia container, Book of Faith workshop, Northern Lights financial workshop @ Holy Spirit Turbotville

Administration:

office coordination with Lorei – bulletins/newsletter	
pastoral record keeping in Shepherd's Staff;	12 Pastor's reports for Council
assisted Lorei w/ Year-End closings	
finance module training; began account set-ups	
annual parochial report for synod	annual pastor's report to Bishop
8 times on-call for other local pastors	handled & resolved computer
	probs.
picked up Knoebel's tickets for Children's Day	changed church sign 1 time
updated BLOG on website	prepared recognition certificates
2 alarm system training meetings	1 burglar alarm response
	(4/25/09)
installed virus updates on both office computers	
Letters: 17 discretionary need letters & errands,	custodian interviews
Leadership Retreat invitations, Witness meeting	Holy Week planning
invitations, Nominating Committee invitations,	Kramms/Rockwell service
	bulletins
evacuation site letter, hunger event invitations,	Leadership retreat planning
Authorized Lay Worship Leader final evaluations,	annual report for congregation
property meeting invitations, May 2 thank you	prepared poster for office
	manager recognition
letters, 2 transfers, 2 authorized lay worship leader final	
evaluations, confirmation invitations,	search for new copier; training
Bible School thank you's, treasurer transfer,	1 Sam's Club pick-up
certificates for growing disciples	
Prepared drafts for 5 funeral bulletins	helped w/ purchase of shredder
Assisted with custodian job termination meeting	shredded old finance records
Delivered food to Milton Food Bank, ALWL paperwork	dealt with church lock issues
	when Mission Team arrived
to synod office, confirmation gifts for engraving,	
palms container to florist, Easter flowers	monitored ELCA Assembly feeds
to 3 homebound members, Christmas flower	
to 1 homebound member	
Ordered and picked up pizza & snacks for retreat & Bible Buddies; cooked for Bible Buddies	Picked up meal for Leadership
Set up air conditioning for 4 church events	Retreat

Continuing Education:

Spiritual direction: # hours: 8
 11 ½ days (includes 2 Sundays)

- 24 hours – February 13-15 – Mission Interpreters' training, The Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL
- 6 hours – March 12 – Leadership & Anxiety – United Lutheran Church, Sunbury PA
- 4 hours – March 21 – Funding Your Congregation's Vision – St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Burke, Virginia
- 4 hours – May 7-8 – The Spiritual Practice of Leaders – Bishop's Retreat, Dr. Mark Allen Powell, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania

10 hours – July 30 & 31, 2009 – studied and journaled the book of Ecclesiastes
– Wardensville, WV

14 hours – August 16-18, 2009 – studied and journaled the book of Song of Solomon,
prepared James sermon series and August 23 sermons – Wardensville, WV

Membership Statistics at End of 2008:

Baptized Members	403
Confirmed Members	299
Confirmed Members who communed and contributed	157

baptized & associate members actively involved in worship in 2009: 174

(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 157 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.)

Members at Christ Lutheran Church received 50 years ago:

Terri Engleman-Fisher	3/29/1959
Doris Heffelfinger	3/22/1959
John Heffelfinger	3/29/1959
Nancy Manning	12/29/1959
April Mullin	3/29/1959
Alice Roush	3/22/1959
Carol Templin	3/29/1959

Members at Christ Lutheran Church confirmed 50 years ago:

Janie Bloom	3/22/1959
Barbara Day	3/22/1959
Kay Dunn	3/22/1959
Charlene Francis	3/22/1959
Doris Heffelfinger	3/22/1959
Merritt Heffelfinger	3/29/1959
Alice Ann Parsons	3/22/1959

Members at Christ Lutheran Church baptized 50 years ago:

Terri Engleman-Fisher	3/29/1959
John Heffelfinger	3/29/1959
Connie Mensch	5/10/1959
Robin Mensch	6/14/1959
April Mullin	3/29/1959
Carol Templin	3/29/1959

Rose Bolich
Authorized Lay Worship Leaders
 Kellie Brouse

Ed Coup

God bless you!

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

Pastor Pat ☺

The Rev. Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle ☺
 January, 2010

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.

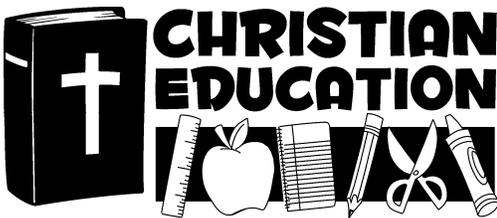
The website is updated each week with the church bulletin, weekly events, the pastor's sermon, the prayer page, photos, and other pertinent changes.

An updated "look" to the website was recently implemented.

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



Co-Chairs of Christian Education, Nancy Mensch and Pam Walsh, would like to thank Pastor Pat for her prayers and guidance in helping us for the year 2009.

We have eight Sunday School classes that meet September through May. The teaching material used for the children's classes is Growing in Christ. We had summer Sunday School, one class for all ages, that met June through August.

September 13, 2009, was Kick-Off day for Sunday School. The Bible story was Matthew 9:2-8. We also used the arch book, The Lame Man Who Walked Again. Sunday School classes that participated made bookmarks. The Sunday School offering and all the money raised for Mackenzie's chairlift was over \$11,000. It was given as a birthday gift to Jesus on Christmas Day. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We would like to thank our Sunday School teachers:

Jen Harrington – Nursery
 Pam Walsh & Rose Walsh – grades 1 and 2
 Kay Dunn – grades 3 thru 5
 Nancy Mensch – grade 6 and substitute teacher
 Pastor Pat – Confirmation
 Larry Gray, James Bartlett, & Kim Mitch – High School
 Kellie Brouse – “The Young and Restless” Adult class
 Rose Bolich – Adult class
 Rose Deaner, Ed Coup, & Donna Spear – Substitute teachers
 Nancy Mensch, Pam Walsh, & Rose Walsh – Summer Sunday School

We would like to thank everyone who brought drinks and snacks for the Sunday School classes. We also want to thank the children for their enthusiasm and talents for all the projects they worked on.

We have two Bible Study classes. One meets every week on Thursday at 2 p.m. The other one meets once a month on Sunday at 7 p.m. Thank you Pastor Pat for teaching these classes.

Vacation Bible School took place June 21 thru June 25. We give a special thanks to Kay Dunn, Director of “Discovery Canyon” and her leadership people who did a great job serving a meal, doing Bible stories, crafts, music, games, and snacks. VBS was attended by 26 children this year. The last day of VBS included a program the children participated in and an ice cream social for family and friends. Once again, the enthusiasm and talent of the children is wonderful.

Bible Buddies began in January, 2009. The group meets one Friday a month for youth in fifth grade and younger. There are Bible stories, music, crafts, games, and food for the children. Thank you to all who help with Bible Buddies.

On December 6 there was potluck dinner followed by the Advent Pageant, “Sleepover at the Stable.” Many thanks to Kim Mitch and Steph Byers for directing the pageant. The children and young adults who participated did a great job. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
 Nancy Mensch & Pam Walsh
 Christian Education Co-Chairpersons

Worship and Music Annual Report

The Worship and Music Ministry again had a busy year. We still are introducing different service settings from the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship book. The choir has been learning these new settings to teach to the Congregation under the leadership of both Nancy Walters and Brett Hosterman.



Worship Committee

Again we had a number of special services throughout the church year from Ash Wednesday, two Healing Services, and the blessing of labor to just name a few. Wednesdays' Quiet

Communion Services continued as well as Saturday Evening worship through the summer months.

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.

This is just a partial list of what this ministry group did last year. We would like to thank all of you who help 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. Your service is truly a blessing and a great way to honor God. 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.

As always, a special thank you to **YOU THE PEOPLE**, who come to give glory to God.

Yours in Christ,
The Worship and Music Ministry
Kellie Brouse, Chairperson

Social Ministry

With no assigned Social Ministry Leader going into 2009, we were still able to maintain many of our established ministries because everyone pulled together to take the lead for the various events/activities.

The Souper Bowl of Caring, Relay for Life, and Crop Walk are all well established ministries within our congregation and are also supported by various congregations, and we continued to partner with Pine Street Lutheran to provide Love Bags for Geisinger Hospital.

Our annual Yard Sale, Winter Wraps, and Miles of Pennies continued to be successful, and everyone jumped on board to save those Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and Campbell's Soup Labels for Navajo Lutheran Mission.

Our Easter and Christmas celebrations were supported by our Holiday Angels who visited and delivered holiday flowers to our shut-in members, and Thanksgiving and Christmas had us again putting together holiday baskets for 9 families and supporting the annual Angel Tree.

As we head into 2010, we are hopeful that we can continue "reaching out and supporting" as we have in the past, as well as look for new ways to serve.

Submitted by Social Ministry



Hospitality Ministry Group

The women of the Church served at the following events:

Supper and snacks for Vacation Bible School
 Refreshments at Organ Recital
 Lunches after services for: Carrie Bastian, Fay Engleman,
 Blanche Benfer, Peg Derr, Judy Schneider, Frank Hartzel, Debbie
 Wolford



Respectfully submitted,
 Betty Morgan

Altar Guild Ministry Group

Altar Guild Ministry Group is the faithful, behind the scene, group of 21 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.

Respectfully submitted,
 Rose Bolich, Chairperson

Witness Ministry Group

The Witness Ministry Group of 14 members has faithfully continued to carry out Christ's ministry in 2009. I report with great joy that the group shares a wonderful working and spiritual relationship with each other and is already inspired with suggestions to witness God's love and grace to this church, community and the world. Witnessing has taken place in many forms throughout 2009 by the faithful servants of this ministry group as well as support 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 2009:

- 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
- Hospitality Dinner and Program
- Getting to Know Our Church Family Picture Displays
- World Hunger Calendar Project
- New Church Directory (current project)

Friendship Ministry:

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

Homebound Communion Ministry: 4 Ministers (2 sets)

- 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. Bolich, Chairperson



Prayer Chain Members

Edith Gray	742-9808
Mae Jones	742-7570
Betty Brown	742-9442
Evelyn Dewire	568-1522
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 Bolich	568-8433



Staff Support and Parish Relations Ministry Group



This year, Staff Support went through the process of appointing a new custodian, out of 34 applicants.

Staff Support recommended Rose Deaner as acting Treasurer, for a probationary period of 90 days following the resignation of Dale Kriner.

Budget time was difficult for all concerned as again we were unable to give dedicated employees well-deserved raises. We pray in time these raises will be possible.

**SUPPORT STAFF
MINISTRY**

I would like to say thank you to this special group of people for the time and talents they donate to this committee, and for the support and blessing they bestow on this Church. Thank you also for the support you have given to me. May God bless you.

Dale Bender, Chairperson

Members of Committee: Janie Bloom, Susan Albert, Pastor Pat, Bob Greenly, Frank Kovilaritch, Karen Lubrecht

Endowment Committee

Requests reviewed in 2009 are as follows:

App. #011 submitted 10/31/08 – 2005 Protégé Organ for Holy Spirit Lutheran Church; \$25,000 requested; rejected 1/14/09

App. #012 submitted 12/18/09 – Sunday School Heifer project; \$500 requested; approved 2/3/09 one-time funding of \$500; paid by check #13028 dated 2/22/09

App. #013 submitted 2/2/09 – sponsorship of ELCA Missionary; \$1,000 requested; approved 3/3/09 as follows: Since this is an item that is supported by the Church congregation, we agreed to pay the difference between the \$1,000 covenant and the congregation's actual contribution for both year 2008 and 2009.

The annual financial report for 2008 states that \$400 was paid so

the Committee has agreed to pay the remaining \$600 due. There was \$500 allocated for the year 2009, leaving a projected balance of \$500, and the Committee recommends that we fund the actual difference at the end of the fiscal year 2009. Approved 3/3/09

App. #014 submitted 2/10/09 – 100% Youth Scholarship to Camp Mt. Luther up to \$5,000 requested. Committee recommends to fund 75% of scholarship with parents contributing 25% with the exception that those having financial hardship could talk to Pastor Pat, and upon her recommendation, 100% of scholarship would be paid for youth. Approved 4/7/09

App. #015 submitted 2/11/09 – Youth Group Fundraising to support MS Walk; \$400 requested; approved 4/7/09 as follows: Committee recommended to match the dollar amount that is raised by the Youth Group (with the three fundraising events: Mr. Stick sale, Church bake sale, Easter breakfast) up to \$1,000

App. #016 submitted 2/16/09 – pending

App. #017 submitted 2/20/09 – withdrew 4/7/09

App. #018 submitted 3/10/09 – Children's Celebration/Knoebel's tickets; \$400 requested; approved 4/7/09

App. #019 submitted 3/12/09 – Purchase magnetic boards for narthex; \$500 requested; approved 4/7/09

App. #020 submitted 3/13/09 – Matching funds for Meals on Wheels/Tour de Revs; \$1,500 requested; approved 6/2/09

App. #021 submitted 3/25/09 – 2009 building fund drive/Pottsgrove Fire Company; \$1,000 requested; Committee approved \$125 – 6/2/09

App. #022 submitted 3/26/09 – Music in the Park/Milton; \$250 requested; approved 4/7/09

App. #023 submitted 3/27/09 – Meals on Wheels Matching fund; \$500 requested; approved 4/7/09

App. #024 submitted 7/28/09 – Matching funds for 2009 VBS/Navajo Lutheran School – pending

App. #025 submitted 8/31/09 – Diakon Hospice – rejected

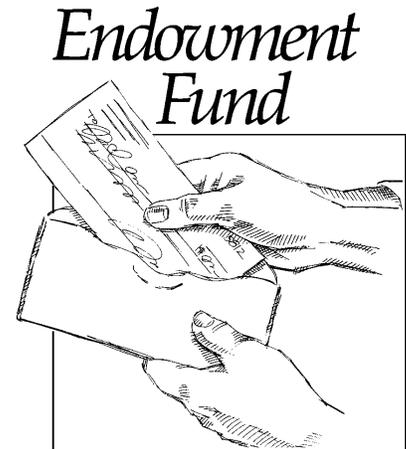
App. #026 submitted 9/6/09 – withdrew

App. #027 submitted 12/1/09 – Christmas gift cards for needy families - \$1,200 requested; approved 12/1/09

App. #028 submitted 11/26/09 – Poultry farm for LOFA Young Women Empowerment Project; - pending

App. #029 submitted 12/4/09; \$1,000 requested – pending

App. #030 submitted 12/20/09 – Congregational subscription to The Lutheran; \$1,000 requested – pending



Roger Watts was re-elected by the congregation on 11/14/08 to serve a three-year term which expires on 12/31/11. Betty Morgan was re-elected by the congregation on 11/20/09 to serve a three-year term which expires on 12/31/12.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Sue Byers

Report of the Congregational Council

The responsibility of the Congregational Council is the general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation. Leading the congregation in stating its mission, long-range planning, setting goals, and priorities are all part of this process. During 2009, Council:

- Had the following members: Dale Bender, Rose Bolich, Don Fisher, Stephanie Byers, Donna Spear, Tim Walsh, Kay Dunn, Michael Lazor, and Stephen Moll
- Held 12 monthly meetings
- Elected officers. President: Don Fisher; Vice President: Rose Bolich; Secretary: Donna Spear
- Led and participated in the Annual Congregational Meetings in March and November
- Participated in a Leadership Retreat in April and August along with other leaders of the church
- Selected Synod Assembly voting members Kellie Brouse and Ed Coup
- Supported Kay Dunn as Vacation Bible School Director as well as all other leaders and the activities of the week
- Supported the completion of the pavilion project
- Supported the first annual "BBQ Under the Pavilion" and yard sale in May
- Acted upon various endowment committee requests
- Worked with Finance in creating a Fiscal Responsibilities Policy which was adopted as Continuing Resolution C.12.05.A09 to the Constitution
- Worked with nominating committee in selecting new council members for 2010
- In conjunction with staff support, hired a new custodian
- Worked in conjunction with the witness committee in holding a hospitality event in February
- Approved the Vacation Bible School Heifer International Project with the \$567.79 collected plus a \$500 matching gift from our Endowment Fund
- Supported the lay ministry progression and completion of Ed Coup and Kellie Brouse
- Accepted Linea Brouse, Ryan Byers, and Grant Wargo as confirmands
- Approved the purchase of a new copier for the office
- Supported Church Work Day in July
- Voted to support Jean and Stephen Godsall-Myers who are serving at the Wittenberg Center in Germany as new missionaries
- Approved spouting repairs
- Approved the revised Audit Committee instructions as Continuing Resolution C13.03.A09 to the constitution

We, the Congregational Council of Christ Lutheran Church, strive always to follow our Mission Statement:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Spear, Council Secretary

Congregational Meeting Minutes

The November 22, 2009, Annual Congregational Meeting of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church was called to order to present, discuss, and vote on:

1. Elect Council Members for 2010
2. Elect Endowment Committee Member
3. Adopt the 2010 Budget

Elect Council Member for 2010

The following members were presented on recommendation from the nominating committee for appointment to church council: Nancy Walters to fill a two-year position opened as a result of the resignation of Michael Lazor; Donald Fisher, Roger Watts, and Barry Yeager to fill three-year positions. James Bartlett seconded the recommendation and all members present approved.

Elect Endowment Committee Member

As a result of the recommendation from the endowment committee, Betty Morgan was presented to fill a three-year term on the endowment committee. Ruth Greenly seconded and all members present approved.

Adopt the 2010 Budget

The 2010 budget was presented. Don Fisher outlined our income which consists of weekly offerings totaling \$136,000; the pastoral housing allowing of \$6,000; and use of facilities income of \$3,000. The 2010 budget was built around the known income of \$145,000. Items were cut from the budget based on this projected income for 2010. Discussion ensued. Roger Watts commented on the external benevolences and education cuts from the budget. Rose Bolich pointed out that we are a wealthy church, and we should not close the door to outreach. She challenged everyone to increase their weekly giving and made a motion to put the \$1,600 back in the budget for local benevolences. Roger Watts seconded. All members present approved. Nancy Walters spoke about the importance of Christian Education and made a motion to add Christian Education in the budget in the amount of \$1,475. Nancy Mensch seconded. All members present approved. Rose Bolich talked about the bad effects of the economy, but, again encouraged everyone to try to increase giving if you are able. Laurie Fisher spoke about how it is hard on those of us who give fully and consistently to carry the burden for the entire church. Rose Deaner said that since taking over the position of treasurer, she has a new perspective on giving and she will increase her giving. She also talked about the ordinary day-to-day expenses that cannot be cut as they are essential to running the church. After the final discussions, a motion was made to add \$1,600 for local

benevolences and \$1,475 for Christian Education back into the 2010 budget bringing the total budget to \$148,075. The motion was seconded with an approval of all present except for one nay vote.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Spear, Secretary

THE CHURCH STAFF - 2009

The Reverend Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle	Pastor Pat's Cell	570-768-6705
Lorei Comerer	Church Office Manager	570-523-6057
Nancy Walters	Director of Church Music	570-742-4924
Brett Hosterman	Organist	570-713-5813
Donna Spear	Webmaster	570-742-2117
Rich Olsen	Custodian	570-768-1812
Bob Greenly	Groundskeeper	570-742-3277
Rose Deaner	Church Treasurer	570-742-9322
Ruth Greenly	Financial Secretary	570-742-9825

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL - 2010

PRESIDENT	Stephen Moll
VICE PRESIDENT	Stephanie Byers
SECRETARY	Donna Spear
TREASURER	Rose Deaner
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Ruth Greenly

THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL - 2010

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TELEPHONE #</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Pastor Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle	768-6705	
Stephanie Byers	742-3583	2010
Donna Spear	742-2117	2010
Tim Walsh	742-3528	2010
Kay Dunn	524-6868	2011
Stephen Moll	email: Stephen.moll@gmail.com	2011
Nancy Walters	742-4924	2011
Don Fisher	742-7503	2012
Roger Watts	713-0011	2012
Barry Yeager	742-4100	2012
Rose Deaner	524-9944	
Ruth Greenly	742-9825	

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church				
2					
3	Treasurer's Year End Report - 2009				
4	Rose Deaner - Interim Treasurer				
5	Due to a change in Treasurers and a lack of record keeping				
6	this report will be a condensed report.				
7					
8	2009 Budget Amount		\$	157,443.00	
9					
10	Budgetary Income		Budgetary Expenses		Difference between
11	Received		Paid		Income & Expenses
12					
13	\$ 150,920.86		\$ 154,064.10		\$ (3,143.24)
14					
15	Our expenses were less than the budgeted amount this year, but we				
16	didn't have enough income to pay our expenses for the year.				
17					
18	Our expenses were \$3,143.25 more than the income we received. We				
19	need to consider this when we look at our giving commitment for 2010.				
20					
21					
22	Thrivent Invested Funds - 2009				
23					
24	Beginning Value		Ending Value		Increase in
25	January 1, 2009		December 31, 2009		Value
26					
27	\$ 573,632.14		\$ 656,327.32		\$ 82,695.18
28					

	A	B	C	D
1	Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church			
2	2010 - Budget			
3				
4				
5				
6	Line		% of	2010
7	#	Description	Budget	BUDGET
8		CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
9	1	Church School Materials		\$ 1,100.00
10	2	Vacation Bible School		\$ 400.00
11	3	Promotional Resources		\$ 100.00
12	4	Confirmation Ministry		\$ 775.00
13	5	Growing Disciples Program		\$ 375.00
14		CHRISTIAN ED TOTALS	1.86%	\$ 2,750.00
15				
16		WORSHIP and MUSIC		
17	10	Piano Maintenance		\$ 400.00
18	11	Weekly Liturgy Supplements		\$ 150.00
19	12	Altar/Sacrament Supplies		\$ 300.00
20	13	General Worship Supplies		\$ 300.00
21	14	Sundays & Seasons		\$ 400.00
22		WORSHIP & MUSIC TOTALS	1.05%	\$ 1,550.00
23				
24		PROPERTY		
25	20	Electricity		\$ 8,200.00
26	21	Natural Gas		\$ 10,500.00
27	22	Water		\$ 700.00
28	23	General Building Maintenance		\$ 1,200.00
29	24	General Building Supplies		\$ 1,200.00
30	25	Heat/Air System Maintenance		\$ 750.00
31	26	Trash Removal		\$ 660.00
32	24	Snow Removal		\$ 1,000.00
33	28	Grounds/Equipment Maintenance		\$ 350.00
34	29	Insurance - Property/Liability		\$ 3,900.00
35	30	Pump Septic Tank (required every 3 years)		\$ 300.00
36		PROPERTY TOTALS	19.42%	\$ 28,760.00

40		ADMINISTRATION		
41	31	Office Equipment/Maintenance		\$ 3,500.00
42	32	Printing/Office Supplies		\$ 1,000.00
43	33	Postal Expense		\$ 1,500.00
44	34	Telephone & Internet Expense		\$ 2,300.00
45	36	Offering Envelope System		\$ 800.00
46	36	Synod Assembly (Lay Delegates)		\$ 400.00
47	37	Pastoral Auto Allowance		\$ 2,580.00
48	38	Pastoral Professional Expense		\$ 800.00
49	39	Shephard Staff Computer Support		\$ 425.00
50		ADMINISTRATION TOTALS	8.99%	\$ 13,305.00
51				
52		EVANGELISM		
53	40	Materials/Supplies		\$ 300.00
54	41	Daily Devotion Materials		\$ 500.00
55		EVANGELISM TOTALS	0.54%	\$ 800.00
56				
57		CHURCH STAFF		
58	50	Office Manager		\$ 8,580.00
59	51	Treasurer		\$ 1,000.00
60	52	Financial Secretary		\$ 1,300.00
61	53	Senior Choir Director		\$ 3,000.00
62	54	Organist		\$ 4,525.00
63	55	Janitor		\$ 7,722.00
64	56	Groundskeeper		\$ 960.00
65	57	Social Security		\$ 2,500.00
66	58	Workman's Comp. Insurance		\$ 735.00
67	59	Funeral Services		\$ 75.00
68	60	Supply/Guest Ministers		\$ 625.00
69		CHURCH STAFF TOTALS	20.95%	\$ 31,022.00

71		PASTORAL MINISTRY		
72	61	Base Salary		\$ 32,025.00
73	62	Housing Equity Allowance		\$ 13,000.00
74	63	Social Security		\$ 3,500.00
75	64	Pension Plan		\$ 5,700.00
76	65	Medical/Dental Plans		\$ 5,900.00
77	66	Disability Insurance		\$ 1,000.00
78	67	Continuing Education		\$ 550.00
79		PASTORAL MINISTRY TOTALS	41.65%	\$ 61,675.00
80				
81		MISCELLANEOUS		
82	70	Operations Safety Factor		\$ 2,613.00
83		MISCELLANEOUS TOTALS	1.76%	\$ 2,613.00
84				
85		TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET		\$ 142,475.00
86				
87		MISSION SUPPORT FUND		
88	80	Synod Congregation Commitment		\$ 4,000.00
89		MISSION SUPPORT TOTAL	2.70%	\$ 4,000.00
90				
91		LOCAL BENEVOLENCE		
92	81	Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village		\$ 150.00
93	82	Milton Area Ministerium		\$ 300.00
94	83	Milton Area Food Bank		\$ 175.00
95	84	Milton Fire Department		\$ 175.00
96	85	Turbot Township Fire Department		\$ 175.00
97	86	Prison Ministry		\$ 150.00
98	87	Haven Ministry - Sunbury		\$ 175.00
99	88	LOVE Inc.		\$ 150.00
100	89	Meals on Wheels		\$ 150.00
101				
102		LOCAL BENEVOLENCE TOTALS	1.08%	\$ 1,600.00
103				
104				
105		TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2010		\$ 148,075.00
106				
107		TOTAL BUDGET PERCENTAGE	100%	