

**THE ANNUAL REPORT for 2008
Vol. 26, No. 1**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION
OF
CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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**The Reverend Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle, Pastor
Lorei Comerer, Church Office Manager
Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music
Brett Hosterman – Church Organist
Donna Spear, Jr. Choir/Bell Director, Webmaster
TBA - Custodian
Bob Greenly - Groundskeeper
Dale Kriner, Treasurer
Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary**

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Year of 2008

How does one summarize and celebrate an entire year of ministry into one narrative? It's the challenge, opportunity, and call from God to every leader at Christ Church – every year. Last year's calendar is always a helpful tool to my memory, and I regularly use it to remind me how active we are at Christ Church. That will be the case again this year, but first I want to begin with some reflections on statements that I have heard or spoken throughout 2008:

“No one ever wants to come to Bible study.”

This year, as I pondered the ELCA's request to give the number of adults who participate in Bible study groups in this congregation, I expected a single-digit response. But you know what? There are 28 of you who study the Bible together regularly. Some of you are involved in adult Sunday School classes, and some of you participate in our Sunday evening and Thursday afternoon studies.

Yes—there is a lot of room for growth. And if you're not in Bible Study – you NEED that as a child of God! But...twenty-eight is a long way from zero. And what humble prayers of forgiveness I asked of the Lord as I was surprised by the number of people in our church family who gather to study God's Word.



“Our attendance is WAY down.”

I have wondered about this myself throughout the year. It has seemed that way. Yet when I added our attendance figures for worship services throughout 2008, I was again surprised. Yes – our average attendance IS down. Last year's average was 91. The year before that, it was 94. And the year before that, it was 93. Throughout that same time, we gained 34 members and lost 27 – for a net gain in membership of 7. This year, we gained 4 members and lost 10 members – for a net loss in membership of 6.

And for those of us who like mathematical problems solved – this means that for the past four years, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church has gained 1 member.

Surprised? I was, too! And I really jumped back when our average attendance for 2008 amounted to 89 – just 2 people fewer in worship than 2007; and 5 people less than our highest average attendance in the past four years.

Humble prayers again, Lord....our attendance is quite active and much for which to give thanks.



And finally.... *“People just aren't giving enough. Our offerings are way down.”*

It is very true that our weekly offerings did not keep up with what we agreed when we established our budget for 2008. First of all, the budget is our pledge to God that we will provide the financial gifts to do God's work in our congregation, community, and world. Many of our leaders spend a great deal of time, talent, and perspiration determining what to recommend when we gather to consider our annual budget. All of us spend time deciding how much we can offer to the Lord in meeting this budget we pledge to our Lord each year. And if we don't meet it, we get discouraged; perhaps even angry. If you find yourself having been there at any time throughout this past year, know I have been there with you.

I decided, however, to look at this statement from a positive perspective, given all the blessed surprises God has given me in our Bible study and worship attendance.

So, I checked the average annual giving of our active membership from 2005 through 2007. These past reports on the ELCA website revealed an average giving of \$723.19 per year, per active member.

Our treasurer is still finalizing those figures for this year's report. However, in his report to Church Council as of Sunday, December 28, 2008, he reported that \$126,585.47 had been given by our membership for current operating expenses. No—that's not enough to meet the budget—and we do still need to grow in our giving.

But look at this: our active membership totals 172. If you divide our December 28 totals by 172, you get an average giving per active member of \$735.96.

In a year when our economy, our hearts, and our world realities have brought us much pain, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church members have increased their 3-year average giving by \$13 per week.

And if I compare it to our last annual figures, that number has gone from \$686.18 to \$735.96 – a nearly \$50 per week increase per member.

More humble pie. More prayers for forgiveness. More prayers for helping us to continue to proclaim and live the vision God has given us.



You know, most pastors go “blah!” when it comes to talking about these kinds of statistics. The numbers don't tell the story. The growth in faith is what tells the story. I cannot tell you this exercise in statistical learning has been energizing for me at all!

But the growing that comes from these gifts is so very evident to me – and I beg your continued attention as I list just a few of those I have seen just this past year:

- Out of an average weekly worship attendance of 89, I see 62 of you throughout the week as well, beyond Sunday, Wednesday, or Saturday worship, volunteering and participating in various ministries of our congregation.
- Do you know how many people reach out to folks in our congregation who are in grief? - those quiet, behind the scenes folks who provide good food for those in the midst of deep loss? We will soon be recognizing in worship over 50 members of our church who help with this compassionate ministry.
 - We have two new leaders who will soon be authorized as lay worship leaders in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Kellie Brouse and Ed Coup will complete their studies this spring, and at our synod assembly in June, will join Rose Bolich in this synod team of leaders.
 - Our ministry teams are growing and expanding with continued and new ministries.
 - Staff Support initiated a “thank you” ministry this year for our staff and lay leadership.
 - Christian Education gained new leadership in Pam Walsh and Nancy Mensch, who were instrumental in beginning a summer Sunday School for children and a “Bible Buddies” youth ministry for children younger than traditional youth group age.
 - Worship began the task of “all in one” bulletins and learning new liturgies found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, our new ELCA worship book.
 - Property took on the abundant task of installing a new alarm system as well as completing the pavilion project. Our thanks to Roger Watts for his many hours attending to those tasks.
 - Social Ministry has re-organized and developed a plan for



carrying out its many ministries to our homebound, as well as congregation, community, and world needs. We have A LOT of projects going!

- Witness began a great discussion on how hospitable we are at Christ Church and developed a presentation for our congregation to ponder hospitality.
- Finance tackled our tough financial issues and worked to encourage our increased support of the budget. Theirs was a tough, tough task.
- Endowment began the blessed work of reaching out with those bequest monies that we designated for outreach and care of others. In the process, they have discovered some “glitches” in the guidelines and are faithfully working to recommend changes and corrections. Our thanks to Steph Byers for her many hours of leading this group in such a brand-new, complicated ministry!
- And Ron and Deb Snyder have taken on the ministry of missionary coordinators. Their work will be bringing information before us about our missionary, Pastor Ron Shellhamer, who serves in Liberia.

I could go on and on about the growing I see as pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church! Yes, the growing can often get bogged down in the “not-so-great” thoughts. As people, we may have a tendency to look more at what we perceive needs to be fixed, rather than celebrated. Yet, as I approach the end of an old year and anticipate the ministries of a new year, I am hoping that together we can begin to look around the pain and see the blessing growing all around us.

God has been good to us! As we pray that prayer of thanksgiving together, may God lead us to continued, abundant, and wide-open opportunities to see the good that God is creating...as we live the mission God has given us at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church:

“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, 2008*

Stewardship of Call:

Worship and Teaching:

46 Sunday services and 34 sermons
45 Bible studies

11 Saturday services
32 sermon studies
4 worship services at Rockwell’s or Kramm’s
regular participation in choir

5 Midweek Lenten evening prayer services
3 Holy Week services, 1 extra sermon & 2 practices
1 Christmas Day breakfast & service & sermon

32 weeks Sunday School participation
40 Wednesday services & 15 extra sermons

9 Sunday services at Trinity
4 First Communion classes
2 Ash Wed. services
5 Soup & the Word services

1 Christmas Eve service and 1 sermon
5 days Vacation Bible School

Healing Services: March 2, July 16, July 19, July 20,
October 15 & 19 (led by Mindy
Bartholomew, ALWL), December 17 & 21

11 Funerals & 6 family meals/visitations (10 sermons)

Avery Allyne Brown (2/1/08 – grandchild of member)
James Leslie Campbell (2/4/08 – member)
Eugene A. Buck, Jr. (3/11/08 – husband of member)
Kermit Robb Benfer (3/29/08 – member)
Anna Mae Dehart (4/4/08 – member – officiated by Pastor Catrina Ciccone)
William Harry Albertson (4/25/08 – member)
John Junior “Jack” Mazeall (7/14/08 – member)
Meika Susan Albert (7/24/08 – member’s mother)
Shane Michael Longenberger (8/1/08 – member) – burial 10/4/08
Perry Jon Karchner (9/18/08 – husband of member)
Donna Kay Mack (11/18/08 – cousin of member)

2 family funeral home visitations of members’ relative:

M. Derr’s, brother, Howard Fetzer (5/19/08)
S. Karchner’s father, Albert Croll (8/20/08)

1 memorial service at Geisinger (Eugene Alfred Buck, Jr. – 9/18/08)

4 member transfers

Carol Kemp Conrad (5/11/08 – to Trinity Lutheran, Milton)
Service of Holy Communion with Farewell and Godspeed—4/28/08
Betty Stahl Eskildson (5/22/08 – to First Lutheran, Mifflinburg)
Lee Allen Deaner (11/16/08 – to St. John’s, Nazareth)
Suzanne Elizabeth Hall (12/14/08 – to Christ, Fredericksburg, VA)

1 wedding rehearsal & **wedding**:

Ron Snyder & Deb Farrow (9/6/08)

Recognitions/blessings:

dedication of choir carpet and handicapped accessible bathroom (3/16/08)

Girl Scout Sunday (4/13/08)

Nat’l Stewardship Week (4/27/08)

Mothers/Church Music (5/11/08)

Veterans (May 11 & Nov. 11)

Military Packages (Summer/Christmas)

Graduates (6/8/08)

Fathers (6/15/08)

Children (6/22/08)

School Year (8/10/08)

Labor (8/31/08)

Sunday School teachers (9/14/08)

Home Communion Teams (9/14/08)

Librarian (9/14/08)

Offering Counters (9/14/08)

Donna Spear, webmaster and junior choir director (9/28/08)

Council (10/12/08 – led by Karen Lubrecht)

Pastor (10/26/08 – led by Kay Dunn)
 Dedication of new acolyte robes (11/2/08)
 Hosted Jim & Karen Noss, former missionaries (11/23/08)
 Social Ministry (12/7/08)
 Brett Hosterman, organist (12/14/08)
 Staff Support (12/21/08)

3 new members received

Sharon Croll Karchner (12/17/08 – from St. John's, Potts Grove)
 Julie Karchner Cipriani (12/17/08 – from St. John's, Potts Grove)
 Debra Ann Snyder (12/21/08 – from St. John's United Church of Christ, Shamokin)

1 Baptism

Tatum Alexis Brittingham (3/23/08)

8 other Growing Disciples:

Tatum Alexis Brittingham – First Communion (4/20/08)
 Gavin Adam Michael Walsh – First Communion (9/7/08)
 Tatum Alexis Brittingham – entering First Grade (9/14/08)
 Sydney Mensch – entering First Grade (9/14/08)
 Brent Charles Mitch – entering First Grade (9/14/08)
 Julia Spear – beginning confirmation (9/14/08)
 Joseph Martin – new acolyte (12/7/08)
 Cody Martin – new acolyte (12/14/08)

Home/Office and Hospital Visits:

229 regular visits	1682 visits by phone or written note
	58 counseling visits
63 home communions	47 hospital visits

Meetings/Events:

Congregation

3 Property meetings, 1 Property cottage meeting, 9 Staff Support meetings, 5 Finance meetings, 1 Finance & Endowment meeting, 4 Endowment meetings, 7 Worship & Music meetings, 8 Witness meetings, participated in Witness DVD for Hospitality event, 1 Social Ministry meeting, 2 leadership retreats, 1 Youth meeting, 3 VBS planning meetings, 1 VBS follow-up meeting, 2 summer Sunday School planning meetings, 1 Sunday School teachers' meeting, 2 Christian Education meetings, 3 congregational meetings (March annual meeting, pavilion & security system, regular meeting November 16), 12 Church Council meetings, Annual Church Council dinner, Council installation, Souper Bowl luncheon, "Love Bag" youth activity, youth gr. 3-6 overnight, youth gr. 2 and under McDonald's lunch, Synod Middle School youth (FLOOD) retreat, 3 member birthday parties, potluck meal after November congregational meeting, September potluck meal at opening of new year, organ recital, Advent pageant & potluck, Yard Sale for Team Cambodia, cleaned up yard sale leftovers, Mission Team from New York potluck dinner, 1 acolyte training

Community

Northern Lights 30-hour famine community youth retreat, Little League Opening Day prayer, Carousel musical at Milton High School, Northern Lights Harvest Festival booth, Safe Church discussion meeting in Danville, National Day of Prayer, Milton Park dedication, Diakon tour, Stewardship presentation in Jerseytown, Mission Team coordination with HandUp Foundation,

Endowment check presentation to Team Cambodia, Milton High School homecoming parade, National election, clergy tax seminar, Danville School play, MHS Drama Club play, 3 needy family assistance shopping trips, Danville Area Community Singers concert

Synod/Wider Church Community

Pine Street Lutheran Church: chicken & waffle dinner, summer festival, 1 Wonderful Wednesday event, Mission Mall, December Council meeting, Christmas Eve service, 4 youth fundraiser dinners, family banquet, Women of the ELCA meeting, assisted with VBS, 150th anniversary Olde Tyme worship service, congregational anniversary dinner, Blessing of the Animals service, holiday bazaar, benefit dinner, church directory, prepared soup for Mission Mall, operated sound system for December meeting, live nativity

1 Milton Ministerium meeting, 1 Soup & the Word planning meeting, 5 Buffalo Valley conference meetings, 9 ELCA Rural Ministry meetings plus 2 Rural Ministry consultations with Bishop Driesen, 3 synod Mission Interpreters meetings, Dan May installation at Holy Spirit, Turbotville; Synod youth event @ Susquehanna University; 5 Northern Lights planning meetings, 3 ELCMA Task Force meetings plus 1 ELCMA meeting with HandUp Foundation, Synod Assembly, synod hearing on draft of ELCA sexuality statement, ELCA Region 8 Global Mission Event, Memorial service for Pastor B.J. Collins' mother, Helen Nein, synod Reformation service, 1 synod Small Church Committee meeting, 1 synod World Hunger Task Force meeting

Administration:

office coordination with Lorei – bulletins/newsletter	
assisted with office preparations during the illness of Lorei's parents	
pastoral record keeping in Shepherd's Staff	12 Pastor's reports for Council
annual parochial report for synod	annual pastor's report to Bishop
media contact for 1 worship cancellation – February 13	usher name badges
7 times on-call for other local pastors	handled computer crash, rebooting, & repairs
picked up Knoebel's tickets for Children's Day	
prepared, posted, and updated a new "BLOG" on church website	certificates for Staff Support recognitions
staff consultation	ordered 3 memorial banners (Benfer, Romig)
consulted with a colleague on sabbatical re: caring ministries @ Christ Church	
installed virus updates on both office computers	
Letters: 9 needy assistance, 2 Leadership Retreat invitations, 3 transfers, 2 authorized lay worship leader mid-term evaluations, Romig memorial gift, growing disciples and Sunday School invitations, Bible School thank you's, home communion invitations, new acolyte invitations, missionary gift	
Certificates for growing disciples and new members	
Kramm's/Rockwell service bulletins	
Leadership retreat planning	Holy Week planning
Annual report for congregation	Annual synod leadership report
Annual ELCA parochial report	
Assisted with set-up and take down for Soup & the Word	
Meeting with community group re use of Christ Church building	
Prepared bulletin template for new ELW liturgy, summer liturgy, and children's celebration	
Prepared drafts for 3 funeral bulletins	Prepared Mission Team thank you gift
Ordered chicken for Advent potluck and returned container	

Continuing Education:

13 ½ days (includes 1 Sunday):

February 21 – Religious Coping Mechanisms for Illness – Chaplain Karl Polm-Faudre, Division of Spiritual Care, Geisinger Medical Center (at Christ Lutheran Church, Milton)

April 21-22 – Evangelical Lutheran Coalition on Mission in Appalachia assembly (ELCMA) – Jamestown, New York

May 27-June 2 – personal study on the kings of Israel and Judah – Gilford, New Hampshire

July 8-10 – 2008 Summer Institute—Navigating Ministry – Gettysburg Seminary, Gettysburg PA

September 4 & October 2 – Synod-required Boundary training - @ Buffalo Valley conference meetings

Membership Statistics at End of 2008:

Baptized Members	415
Confirmed Members	299
Confirmed Members who communed and contributed	172

(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. Technically we have 172 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 is listed those Christ Lutheran members who were received, confirmed and/or baptized in 1958 (50 years ago).

Members at Christ Lutheran Church received 50 years ago:

Peggy Drum; Robert Greenly; Kay Hoffman; Sandra Snyder

Members at Christ Lutheran Church confirmed 50 years ago:

Kay Hoffman; Mary Lazor; Michael Lazor

Members at Christ Lutheran Church baptized 50 years ago:

Ralph Brouse, Jr.; Peggy Drum; Scott Freeman; Robert Greenly; Kay Hoffman; Bret Johnson; Sandra Snyder

Stewardship of Self:

Hours worked: 2393 (52 weeks) Goal: 45/week (40 hours + 5 hours tithe)
 Weekly average (48 work weeks): 49.8 11 medical visits
 Family visits: 18 [including vacation and family funeral (Keith's aunt)]
 1 special joy: birth of third grandchild (and third grandson) Finn Logan Tharp, son of Jeremy & Cecily, on June 8 – 7 pounds, 11 ounces, 20 ½ inches long
 Vacation: 23 days (includes 4 Sundays) Sick Days: 4 (includes 1 Sunday, covered by Pastor Berner)

Holidays: 9 (New Year's Day, Monday after Easter, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, December 26 & 29)
 Days off schedule: normally Friday afternoons & Saturdays (usually varies with ministry needs)
 Goal: 2-4 full days per month with NO work agenda # Days off—January-December: 29

We have the joy of sharing in ministry with faithful, dedicated leaders of Christ Church. I give thanks for these folks who helped us all do the Lord's work in 2008:

Staff:

Lorei Comerer, Office Manager	Bob & Debbie Greenly, groundskeepers
Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary	Brett Hosterman, Organist
Dale Kriner, Treasurer	Donna Spear, Webmaster and Jr. Choir Leader
John VanKirk, Custodian	Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music
Rich McSwain, Custodian while John was on sick leave	

Council:

Don Fisher, President	Michael Lazor, Vice-President
Donna Spear, Secretary	Rose Bolich
Stephanie Byers	Kay Dunn
Stephen Moll	Judy Schneider
Tim Walsh	

Ministry Leaders:

Rose Bolich, Witness	Kellie Brouse, Worship
Pam Walsh & Nancy Mensch, Christian Education	Penny Coup, Social Ministry
Kay Dunn, Staff Support	Don Fisher, Finance
Larry & Barbara Gray, Youth	Frank Hartzel & Roger Watts, Property
Betty Morgan, Hospitality	Ron & Deb Snyder, Missionary Coordinators

Authorized Lay Worship Leaders (or Leaders-in-training)

Rose Bolich, ALWL
 Kellie Brouse
 Ed Coup

God bless you!

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

The Rev. Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle ☺
 January, 2009

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.

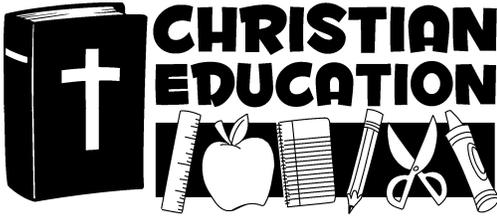
The website is updated each week with the church bulletin, weekly events, the pastor's sermon, the prayer page, photos, and other pertinent changes.

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



Nancy Mensch and Pam Walsh became Co-Chairs of Christian Education in June of 2008. We would like to thank Kellie Brouse for her previous leadership of this committee. We would also like to thank Pastor Pat for her prayers and guidance in helping us.

We have eight Sunday School classes that meet September thru May. The teaching material used for the children's classes has been changed to Growing in Christ. We also had summer Sunday School. One class for all ages. We met June thru August and used the Arch books for our lessons. We were pleased with the attendance and plan to have class again in 2009.

September 14, 2008, was Kick-off day for Sunday School. The Bible story was Noah. We would like to thank Rose Walsh for building the ark which was used to collect offerings for Heifer International. Sunday School classes who wanted to participate made play doh and clay animals for the ark. The offering of \$567.67 was given as a birthday gift to Jesus on Christmas day. We are waiting for possible matching funds from the Endowment Committee/Council. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We would like to thank our Sunday School teachers:

Judy Schneider & 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 - High School
 Kellie Brouse - "The Young and Restless" Adult class
 Rose Bolich - Adult class
 Rose Deaner, Ed Coup and 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 would like 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 2:00 p.m. The other one meets once a month on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Thank you Pastor Pat for teaching these classes.

Vacation Bible School took place July 13th thru July 17th. We give a special thanks to Kay Dunn, Director of "Rain Forest Adventure" and her leadership people who did a great job serving a meal, doing Bible stories, crafts, music, games and snacks. VBS was attended by 30 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.

On December 7th there was a pot luck dinner followed by the advent pageant, "Twinkle." Many thanks to Kim Mitch and Steph Byers for directing the pageant and making ornaments for the

children to pass out to the audience. The children and young adults who participated did a great job. Thank you.

The following people in the Growing Disciple program were recognized :

Tatum Brittingham - Baptism, First Communion and entering First Grade
 Gavin Walsh - First Communion
 Brent Mitch - entering First Grade
 Sydney Mensch - entering First Grade
 Joseph Martin - Acolyte training & service
 Cody Winner - Acolyte training & service
 Chloe Abell - beginning Confirmation Class
 A.J. Gonzales - beginning Confirmation Class
 Courtney Kovilaritch - beginning Confirmation Class
 Julia Spear - beginning Confirmation Class
 Ashley Winner - beginning Confirmation Class
 Corey Danowsky - High School Graduation
 Chris Kehoe - High School Graduation
 Rob Comerer - High School Graduation

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mensch & Pam Walsh
 Christian Education Co-Chairs

Property Committee Annual Report



Your Property Committee has had a very productive year:

We went to bid for a pavilion and received three bids, of which Lloyds Construction was low so we gave the job of building the pavilion. It is all finished except the sidewalk from parking lot to pavilion.

We had the parking lot resurfaced and line painted.

We went to bid for a Security and Fire Alarm System. Received two bids and awarded same to a local security company owned by Mike Lutcher, of Milton. It is fully installed and working. If you wish to have an entry code, contact Roger Watts for same.

We have also installed more security lights around building. These projects were all done for the use and safety of all members.

I wish to thank all members of our committee who had a hand in the completion of all projects. A special thanks to Roger Watts who worked with all contractors to see that all work was done properly.

We hope that you will use the pavilion and enjoy the results of our work.

P. Franklin Hartzel
 Chairman of Property Committee

Worship and Music Annual Report

The Worship and Music Ministry again had a busy year. We decided to purchase the annual copyrights to hymns and other things we use for our services through Sundays and Seasons. This allowed us to begin the process of printing our order of service in our weekly bulletins.



Worship Committee

We also began to introduce 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.

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 continue as well as Saturday evening worship through the summer months. This year look for a new format for Saturday services and ways to use our new pavilion for worship opportunities. All suggestions are welcomed; see any member of the committee with ideas.

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.

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.

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

Social Ministry

2008 was another active year of giving for our Social Ministry program and supported our mission to reach out and support one another.

The year began with another successful Souper Bowl event, part of a nationwide effort on NFL Super Bowl Sunday to bring awareness to the issue of hunger. This event helped us donate \$1,007.33 to our local Food Bank.

We also helped the Salvation Army Angel Tree project by providing 25 gifts for local children.

We continued our commitment to family and friends of our members who are serving in the military by putting together and mailing care packages twice during the year; raised \$626.34 for the American Cancer Society through our participation in Relay for Life and raised \$215.00 for World Hunger during the Crop Walk.



Within our congregation, we continued our Holiday Angels, members of the congregation who signed up to deliver our Easter and Christmas cards and flowers to our shut-ins, and put together 6 Holiday Food Baskets for 6 families in our congregation who were grateful for these special gifts.

We also continued our partnership with Pine St. Lutheran in Danville by providing 20+ Love Bags for the Geisinger Children's Hospital; made and provided winter wrap items to local agencies; made and distributed several Prayer Shawls, and continued our Mile of Pennies and Campbell's Soup label collections.

We thank Penny Coup for her able leadership as our Chairperson in 2008. Barbara Gray is joining the group in 2009 as our leader-in-training. We thank all our Christ Church members and Social Ministry Team for your time, talent, and resources!

Submitted by Social Ministry

Hospitality Ministry Group

Lent/Soup & the Word

Reformation Sunday refreshments

Luncheons after funeral services:

Kermit Benfer

Anne DeHart

Jack Mazeall

Meika Albert

Shane Longenberger

Refreshments after funeral service:

Perry Karchner

Vacation Bible School supper & ice cream



The women of the church served and provided food when needed. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morgan

Altar Guild Ministry Group

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



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

Prayer Chain Members

Edith Gray	742-9808
Mae Jones	742-7570
Betty Brown	742-9442
Evelyn Dewire	568-1522
Betty Baumer	742-7334
Fay Engleman	742-8158
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



“A ministry group appointed by the Congregational Council which provides continuity and stability between the Pastor, Church Staff and Congregation by serving as staff liaisons to evaluate work conditions, personal growth, financial support, in-staff working relationships and mediate and attempt to resolve conflict.”

Staff support has been busy working out the process for the Celebration of Staff and for the many people in our congregation to be acknowledged for all the hard work they do, while serving on different ministry groups. We feel this was just a little way of saying thank you and we do appreciate all that you do for us.

We also have changed and updated our Application for Employment and Incident Report.

Budget time was a very hard time for us since we felt our staff is doing an excellent job, and we would like to have been able to see employees receive a raise. We spent many hours coming up with salary increases and have not given up on this. We continue to put it in prayer and to follow God's lead.

Staff Support is now busy working on a Staff Handbook.

I would like to say thank you to a wonderful group of people for all the hard work they have done this year. It has been a blessing working with you.

Kay Dunn, Chairperson

Penny Ulmer
 Karen Lubrecht
 Bob Greenly
 Frank Kovilaritch
 Janie Bloom
 Susan Albert
 Pastor Pat

Witness Ministry Group

The Witness Ministry Group, formally known as the Evangelism Ministry, was newly organized in 2008 and has been very inspired. I report with great joy that the group shares a wonderful working and spiritual relationship with each other. Witnessing has taken place in many forms throughout 2008 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 2008:

- 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.
- "Splash" information for newly baptized children.
- Fabulous church web page.
- Sponsored "Christ in our Home" devotionals.
- Advertisement in "2008 Susquehanna Valley Visitor's Guide".
- Special devotions to help with grief – a resource of Stephens Ministry.
- Sunday morning greeters – restarted in 2008.
- Name tag identification for ushers/greeters/leaders – new in 2008.
- \$5.00 gift certificates at Weis for bread and milk – new for 2008.
- Christmas Service postcard invitation – new for 2008.
- Hospitality Program and Dinner (worked on details for event in 2009).

Friendship Ministry:

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

Homebound Communion Ministry: 6 Ministers (3 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.

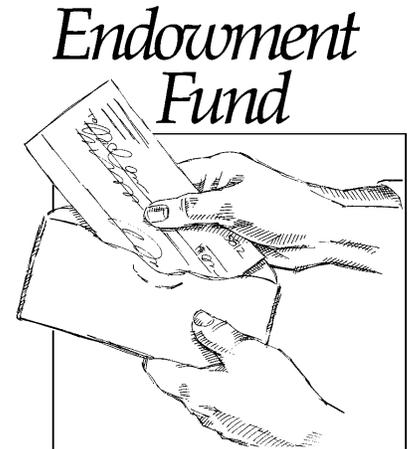
Respectfully submitted,

Rose M. Bolich, Chairperson



Endowment Committee

The new committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2008. Stephanie Byers was elected at the January Council meeting to serve as the appointed Council representative on this committee. A random drawing was held on March 25, 2008, to determine the length of term to be served by the newly elected congregational electees – Roger Watts (1-year term), Betty Morgan (2-year term), Ed Coup (3-year term). Our fifth committee member, Glenn Snyder, was appointed at the April Council meeting.



Requests reviewed in 2008 are as follows:

- #001 submitted 5/4/08 – Project Team Cambodia - \$2,500 approved on 6/3/08 – one time funding to be used strictly for the building, equipping and ongoing maintenance fees incurred for the operation of the Milton School in Cambodia
- #002 submitted 5/6/08 – “Celebration of Children” Knoebel’s tickets - \$400 approved on 6/3/08 – one time funding
- #003 submitted 6/11/08 – Camp Mt. Luther Scholarships - \$1,481.75 approved on 8/5/08 for five applicants, which was 75% of fees
- #004 submitted 6/9/08 – Matching funds for 2008 budget for 11 local benevolences - \$2,400 rejected on 7/2/08
- #005 submitted 7/10/08 – VBS 2008 mission project - \$200 approved on 8/5/08 – one time funding to support schools in Cuzco & Peru
- #006 submitted 9/16/08 – Congregational subscription to Lutheran Magazine - \$1,100 approved on 12/2/08 to be reviewed each year
- #007 submitted on 9/17/08 – Free Bread & Milk Sunday – up to \$500 approved on 11/4/08 – one time funding to hand out Free Bread/Milk Cards to be redeemed at Weis Markets, Milton, by January 20, 2009
- #008 submitted 9/29/08 – Christmas gift cards for needy families - \$1,050 approved 11/4/08 for 14 gift cards
- #009 submitted 9/29/08 – Christmas gift for Pastor Ron Shellhamer, missionary serving in Liberia - \$500 approved on 11/4/08
- #010 submitted 10/1/08 – Support Navajo Lutheran Mission school supplies - \$500 approved on 11/4/08 – one time funding
- #011 submitted 10/31/08 – 2205 Protégé Organ – application still under review

The financial documentation given to committee as of 11/12/08 has the Endowment Fund with a balance of \$188,110.29.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie 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 2008, Council:

- Participated in a Leadership Retreats on April 18 and August 5 along with other leaders of the church.
- Participated in the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 9, 2008, as well as additional congregational meetings on May 18, September 28, and November 16.
- Approved the finance committee's recommendation for the following persons for the newly formed Endowment Committee: Ed Coup, Betty Morgan, Glenn Snyder, and Roger Watts.
- Approved the purchase of two new roasters for the kitchen with money from the Kitchen Fund.
- Selected Synod Assembly voting members Rose Bolich with Kay Dunn as alternate; and Ed Coup with Stephen Moll as alternate.
- Supported Kay Dunn as Vacation Bible School Director as well as all other leaders and the activities of the week.
- Supported the youth group will help with the church yard sale on May 3, 2008.
- Supported the congregation approved pavilion project.
- Approved a donation of \$500 from current expenses donated to First Lutheran Church, Altoona, as a memorial gift in memory of Pastor Fred Romig.
- Approved property committee recommendation that the old sanctuary lights and ceiling fans be donated to HandUP Foundation.
- Supported a small committee of Penny Coup, Rose Deaner, Kathleen Burch, Laurie Fisher, and Donna Spear who worked to raise awareness to increase giving during the summer.
- Approved Unico Sealing, Inc. of Lewisburg for parking lot resealing.
- Supported the property committee in the installation of new sanctuary lights.
- Approved the ELCA's recommendation to supporting Pastor Ron Shellhamer in Liberia.
- Supported the congregation approved installation of the church fire and security system project.
- Supported the purchase of three new banners and new acolyte robes.
- Supported the Synod Reformation Service on October 26 at Christ Church.
- Provided a "simple" lunch of hotdogs cooked in the new pavilion following the November 16 congregational meeting.
- Council accepted the resignation of Judy Schneider due to health reasons.
- Council accepted Mike Lazor's resignation from Council as of May 31, 2009.

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

"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 16, 2008, congregational meeting of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church was called to order to present, discuss, and vote on:

1. Constitutional change to the Nominating Committee procedure
2. Endowment Committee election
3. Church Council elections
4. 2009 Church Budget

Don Fisher reviewed the constitutional change concerning the Nominating Committee procedure. Each member had a copy to review. Don explained that this change actually brings the constitution wording to the actual nominating procedure which has been followed for several years. Today marks the first reading of this constitutional change. The actual change will be voted on at the March 2009 congregational meeting. There were no questions, comments, or discussion.

Don explained the Endowment Committee election. Roger Watts served one year and has now agreed to serve a full three years. Council recommends that we accept Roger to serve a three-year term on the Endowment Committee. Ed Coup seconded the recommendation. There were no other nominations from the floor. By voice, all in attendance were in agreement.

Council recommends that Kay Dunn, Mike Lazor, and Steven Moll serve a second three-year term on church council. Each has agreed to the second term. Nancy Walters seconded the recommendation. By voice, all in attendance were in agreement.

Don presented two 2009 budget possibilities from council: a maintenance budget which matches the expected 2008 income and expenses; and the mission budget which is the 2008 budget plus a \$5,000 increase which is undesignated. The maintenance budget would include no salary increases, no local benevolences, and reductions in current church programs. Council recommends the mission budget but needs commitment from the congregation in order to make this budget realistic. With the mission budget, an increase of \$20,000 from current giving, or 17%, will need to be realized.

Discussion ensued. Evelyn McConnell commented that voting yes to the mission budget is making a pledge to God to give of their talents. Penny Coup agreed that if we vote for the mission budget we must show commitment. One way is to enroll in the Simply Giving program which deducts your church offering from your paycheck. This ensures that you give to your church on a regular basis. Kathleen Burch shared concerns about the current financial situation and people with fixed incomes and families with children. Rose Bolich made reference to today's Gospel and sermon and feels that we need to vote for the mission budget. We cannot become complacent. We cannot rely on the wonderful gifts that we as a church have received from faithfully departed members. Rose continued by saying that we need to be responsible for our giving and this involves our faith. If we cease to do mission then our mission ceases to exist. Anna Mae Harpster asked for clarification about how the vote will proceed. Don explained that if we vote yes for the mission budget then we are done. However, we will need commitment. If we vote no for the mission budget then talk will resume. Rose Bolich seconded council's recommendation to pass the 2009 mission budget. By voice vote, the mission budget passed. Pastor Pat asked for a show of hands for the record. Thirty-five voted yes, eleven voted no.

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	Jr. Choir/Bell Director Webmaster	570-742-2117
TBA	Custodian	
Bob Greenly	Groundskeeper	570-742-3277
Dale Kriner	Church Treasurer	570-742-9322
Ruth Greenly	Financial Secretary	570-742-9825

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL - 2009

PRESIDENT	Don Fisher
VICE PRESIDENT	Rose Bolich
SECRETARY	Donna Spear
TREASURER	Dale Kriner
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Ruth Greenly

THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL - 2009

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TELEPHONE #</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Pastor Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle	768-6705	
Kay Dunn	524-6868	2011
Michael Lazor	724-7138	5/31/2009
Stephen Moll	email: Stephen.moll@gmail.com	2011
Stephanie Byers	742-3583	2010
Donna Spear	742-2117	2010
Tim Walsh	742-3528	2010
Rose Bolich	568-8433	2009
Don Fisher	742-7503	2009
Dale Bender	538-4511	2009
Dale Kriner	742-9322	
Ruth Greenly	742-9825	