

St. Luke Lutheran Church



09 Oak Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850
2016 Annual Report
May 7, 2017

The Rev. Rick L. Bair, Pastor
The Rev. Laurie Carson, Pastor

Table of Contents

2016 Annual Report

Pastor Bair's Report	2
Pastor Carson's Report.....	3
Membership Summary	4
Church Council Members and Committee Chairs	5
Campus Ministry Committee	6
Nominating Committee.....	7
Social Ministry Committee	8
Treasurers Report – Finance Report.....	9
Worship and Arts Committee.....	12

Pastor's Report Pastor Rick Bair

For the last couple of years this reflection has been about transitions this faith community known as St. Luke had faced – and come through. Thanks be to God!

We could review *wonderful* transitions like the arrival of a new organ and a new-to-us pastor.

We could review the *challenging* - - and unwelcomed -- transitions like the pipe break that baptized the building last year and the grease trap that gave up the ghost on Palm Sunday this year sharing it's stinky contents with the kitchen floor.



We thank God and so many people for standing together to bring us through such transitions.

But our life continues to be filled with transitions: personal, political, financial, and as a faith community. Our God and our faith life direct us to interact with the constant state of transitions by centering on the promise of God's presence – no matter where, no matter what. I believe that being radically centered in God's love and grace, justice and peace, forgiveness and welcoming inclusion enables us not only to be more faithful models of faith, but also more flexible and agile in our faith.

Old and new: organ, worship book, arrangement of chancel, style of after-church time, students who graduate AND students who arrive. Are we becoming more Law-based-brittle and exclusive or more Gospel-based-flexible and inclusive in our witness?

As a visual metaphor of rolling away the old and being open to the new, I share here the same picture that appeared on the back page of the most recent New Humanity.

Clearly, the large round flat stone is rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. You can see the foot and leg of someone perhaps trying to roll the stone 'back into place' where it used to be when closed. That is the struggle. Open or closed. Open the way God has acted or closed so we are comfortable knowing where everything is.

We give thanks for the way God's love and grace, forgiveness and care, reach and inclusion has rolled away such a stone, and many like it, from places of death in our lives. Amen!

God also calls us to share the grace of rolling away stones from places where people have been placed in 'tombs' where they cannot have full life, inclusion, welcome, forgiveness, justice, peace.

In this year of the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of the Ninety-Five Theses, let us hear and heed God's Spirit-ed call to roll away stones from places of death so that God's gracious life can breath anew into such places and people.

What are the stones you hear God calling us to roll away in this year?

Peace,

Pastor's Report
Pastor Laurie Carson

It has been an exciting, faith-filled year! After much prayer and discernment, we embarked on an out-of-the-box faith formation journey that would build community, engage all ages together, and encourage everyone to share faith stories. That has happened in the following ways:

Summer Ministry that included all ages and some very interesting topics, like **Outdoor Movie Night, Knife Skills** and **Fire Building**. Each event included food, fellowship, and informal worship. Everybody was included, whether or not they chose to participate in the activity. The line-up for this summer is coming together nicely: Drone Day, Lawn Games, Bike and Bible, Kayaking/Water Fun, and more.

Church School took a new spin as we looked at several Bible stories, each over a period of several weeks. Each unit included a service project and "Activate Faith" activities ran the gamut from wine making to experimenting with water filters to drama to pottery. Lots of adults were involved as storytellers, leading workshops, service projects, and playing together. Families gathered for several breakfasts, with lots of great conversation and connecting. The Big Kid Brigade helped with several activities.

The Big Kid Brigade consists of students in grades 6-12. In February we began meeting monthly for service projects, study, worship, and fellowship. The form of this group is still taking shape.

The nursery has been updated, in keeping with the needs of today's young families. Big Kid Brigade helped paint, along with several parents and younger siblings. Furnishings are still in the works.

The nursery update is part of a bigger vision of faith formation that is emerging—one that is very Cross+Generational in scope and accessible even to those away from site.

Thank you, thank you, thank to all who have planned, prayed, dreamed, schemed, and implemented this glorious, Christ-filled year! It takes a village to raise a Child of God—no matter what their age.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Laurie Carson

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY for 2016

<u>Membership</u>	<u>BAPTIZED</u>	<u>CONFIRMED</u>
Members at the end of 2010	919	650
Members at the end of 2011	935	722
Members at the end of 2012	943	725
Members at the end of 2013	949	729
Members at the end of 2014	958	735
Members at the end of 2015	955	730
<u>Members received during 2016</u>	+2	+1
By baptism of children	2	0
By baptism of adults	0	0
By affirmation of faith	0	1
By transfer from ELCA congregations	0	0
By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	0	0
From non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
Statistical Adjustment	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total members received this year	+2	+1
Baptized members who were confirmed in 2016		
TOTAL	957	731
<u>Members removed during 2016</u>	-	-
By death	1	1
By transfer to other ELCA congregation	0	0
By transfer to other Lutheran. congregation	0	0
To non-Lutheran congregation	0	0
For other reasons & statistical adjustment	0	0
Total members removed this year	-1	-1
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP END OF 2016	956	730

Worship attendance (weekly ave.) 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011

AVERAGE FOR YEAR 105 170 175 170 170 165

Church Council Members and Committee Chairs

Office

2016 – September 2017

Church Council

Chairperson of Council	Laura Gathagan
Vice Chair	Suzanne Horning
Treasurer	Jim Hedlund
Vice-Treasurer	Ron Bonawitz
Secretary	Emily Griep
Member at Large	Kelli Hektor
Member at Large	Woodg Horning
Member at Large	Neil Mattson
Student Member (1 year term)	Kelton Burnside
Student Member (1 year term)	Karin van der Burg

Chairpersons of Standing Committees

Campus Ministry	Nate Rogers and Tommi Schieder
Congregational Life	Monica Vakiner and Diana Dimitrova
Finance	Jack Muckstadt
Nominating	Luke Dewalt
Parish Education	Heather Patel & Lauren Mossotti-Kline
Personnel	Louise McGee
Property	Matt Kline
Social Missions	Nola Booth and Suzanne Snedeker
Stewardship	Brad Wendel
Worship and Arts	Robin Booth and Betta Hedlund

Annual Report
Campus Ministry Committee
Reported by Committee Chairs, Nathaniel Rogers and Tommi Schieder

This past year, members of the St. Luke Campus Ministry participated in events to foster a greater sense of community and friendship amongst themselves and also with the greater St. Luke and Ithaca community. During the school year, we started off with the Ice Cream Sundae Sunday followed by the Welcome Back Luncheon which saw good attendance. From then on, students participated in student discussion meeting held twice a month. In these meetings, students met in Pastor Bair's study at St. Luke where we discussed many topics relevant to the college experience and discussed with Pastor Bair the guidance that can be received from our religion. Some light snacks were provided and other nights dinner orders were taken beforehand and delivered to the church during our meetings. We finished off the Fall 2016 semester with Study Hours in which many of the student members volunteered, along with members of the church to host these hours. There was 148.3 average student hours per day.

This semester, we continued with the student discussions, this time focusing on a single topic covering most of the meetings. The topic was "Faith, Sexism and Justice" in which every week a different module of the topic was discussed. Personal anecdotes were shared, questions of causation and solution were discussed but most importantly, a network of support was formed. An understanding was established that this faith community is aware of the problem and is willing to offer any resource it can to those students and community members at large struggling with this issue. Additionally, several students were asked to write devotions for Synod for the month of April. A few students even received responses from members of the faith community at large who read these devotions and offered the students appreciation and gratitude. In the future as the semester comes to a close, we are planning a picnic in the arboretum for the student members. Additionally, sign ups are underway for Study Hours taking place for roughly two weeks in May.

During both semesters, our 'adopt a student' program continued to run offering students a way to develop a stronger sense of belonging and support in Ithaca. We also have to thank the members of the St. Luke community who offer to serve as adopted parents. We are also very grateful for the donations of food and time needed for our Study Hours to run smoothly.

This summer, as some of our members will still be in the Ithaca area, plans are under way for game nights and other meeting times. We are also looking to find news ways for the groups to meet such as our proposed picnic above. We thank you for your support and your time.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathaniel Rogers & Tommi Schieder

**Annual Report
Nominating Committee
Luke Dewalt, Chair**

This year the nominating committee was tasked with filling 7 council positions, 5 committee chair positions and 4 committee member positions (3 nominating committee and 1 personnel committee). We began the process of identifying candidates for these positions at the beginning of March and wrapped up the final slate by late April. The slate of candidates was recommended and submitted to the church council. The church council has approved the recommend slate and will present the candidates for voting on by the congregation at the May congregational meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke Dewalt
Chair Nominating Committee

Annual Report for 2016
Social Ministry Committee
Nola Booth (Chair) and Suzanne Snedeker (Secretary)

The Social Ministry Committee has coordinated a number of events to serve our campus, global, and local communities. Our Adopt-a-Student Program is in its 15th year, and continues to bring college students and St. Luke families together. Adopted parents even attended the wedding of an adopted student alum who is now in graduate school. St. Luke provides a safe and quiet place to study (and free WiFi) for students primarily affiliated with Cornell University during study and final exam week at the end of both the spring and fall semesters. Congregational members provided the staffing (as building monitors) and the snacks for Study Hours. The participation in this program continues to grow with 170.2 average study hours per day in May 2016 and 148.2 average student hours per day in December 2016. Our global-themed support includes offering Fair-Trade products (coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate, and olive oil) for purchase by congregational members, as well as our long-time practice of using Fair Trade coffee and tea in our fellowship events. Our Quilters Group, in its 12th year, continues to meet twice a month to make quilts that are shipped to global destinations by Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Other congregational members participate by “knotting” the quilts at home. A new event included a day-long quilting session in June 2016 for “non-quilters” (adults and teenagers participated), that was enhanced by a luncheon sponsored by Thrivent. St. Luke members, including our Church School children, helped pack 150 school kits this year (also through LWR). Locally, members of St. Luke provide volunteers for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard six to seven times a year, and raised funds for the Kitchen Cupboard through our St. Luke Against Hunger Walk. As a part of our fundraising for the Hunger Walk, many children (and adults) took home cardboard “piggy banks” and the Church School had a coin tallying party. This year, Funds raised (including coinage!) through the 2016 Hunger Walk effort was \$2,718.57. We have lost count of the number of years we have done a Christmas Mitten Tree (at least 30 years) and this year 42 donated items, including hand-knit and store-bought mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves, were provided for distribution to children-in-need at the Beverly J. Martin Elementary School in downtown Ithaca. Advocacy work initiated in the beginning of 2017 included supporting refugees and immigrants.

Thanks and Memorial fund: for any purpose approved by Council. Contributions from memorials and similar undesignated gifts.

balance 1/1/16: \$51,535 contributed 2016: \$3,12 spent 2015: \$500 for Zollkoffer fund legal advice balance 12/31/16: \$54,158

Capital Reserve fund: for major unbudgeted building expenses; \$5,000 added to the fund annually from operating income.

balance 1/1/16: \$37,109 contributed 2016: \$5,000 spent 2016: \$13,444 to replace Fellowship Hall carpet balance 12/31/16: \$28,635

Thrivent Choice: contributions from Thrivent designated by members, for social ministry.

balance 1/1/16: \$1,056 contributed 2016: \$826 spent 2016: \$333 for quilt supplies and quilt shipping balance 12/31/16: \$1,549

St. Luke Lutheran Church

2016 full year	2016	2016	over	budget	2015	2016 -
Income	budget	actual	/under	percent	actual	2015
Congregation offering	269,223	241,947	-27,276	90%	247,826	-5,879
Grants	17,000	15,108	-1,892	89%	20,643	-5,535
Alumni, parent, other gifts	3,400	5,973	2,573	176%	4,402	1,571
Misc. income	3,500	1,545	-1,955	44%	5,690	-4,145
Total income	293,123	264,573	-28,550	90%	278,561	-13,988
Expenses						
Staff (exc. Pastor Laurie)*	194,708	189,970	-4,738	98%	187,497	2,473
Programs	15,125	13,051	-2,074	86%	12,089	962
Office administration	17,490	19,078	1,588	109%	18,260	818
Property	36,200	34,234	-1,966	95%	31,711	2,523
Benevolence	24,600	24,470	-130	99%	24,300	170
Capital reserve	5,000	5,000	0	100%	5,000	0
Total expenses	293,123	285,803	-7,320	98%	278,857	6,946
Surplus or deficit	0		-21,230			

* Pastor Laurie's expenses and the contributions to cover them are recorded separately.

2017 first quarter: The table on the next page shows our results for the first three months of 2017. The top of the table presents actual results, showing a \$26,291 surplus. This is due to three lump-sum contributions totaling \$45,533, which almost certainly is all of the annual giving for these members. The Pro-rated offering thru Mar line toward the bottom allocates only one-quarter of this total to the first three months, producing a pro-rated deficit of \$7,859.

Expenses were under budget through March despite continuing high utility bills. Barring any unforeseen major equipment replacements we anticipate that expenses will continue to be under budget for the next few months as temperatures rise and programs for the semester wind down.

If you have questions or want copies of the complete financial reports, please see either of us.

Roland Bonawitz, Assistant Treasurer
 Jim Hedlund, Treasurer

**St. Luke Lutheran Church
2017 March**

final	budget	budget	actual	over	% budget
	full year	thru Mar	thru Mar	/under	thru Mar
Income - actual					
Congregation offering	274,183	68,546	94,688	26,142	138%
Grants	17,274	4,319	3,921	-398	91%
Alumni, parent, other gifts	3,100	775	1,050	275	135%
Miscellaneous income	3,000	750	460	-290	61%
Total income	297,557	74,389	100,119	25,730	135%
Expenses					
Staff (exc. Pastor Laurie)*	198,577	49,644	46,094	-3,550	93%
Programs	16,252	4,063	3,359	-704	83%
Office administration	18,878	4,720	5,293	574	112%
Property	34,300	8,575	11,242	2,667	131%
Benevolence	24,550	6,138	6,590	453	107%
Capital reserve	5,000	1,250	1,250	0	100%
Total expenses	297,557	74,389	73,828	-561	99%
Surplus or deficit	0			26,291	
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Pro-rated offering thru Mar			60,538	-8,008	88%
Pro-rated total income			65,969	-8,420	89%
Pro-rated surplus or deficit				-7,859	

* Pastor Laurie's expenses and the contributions to cover them are recorded separately.

Annual Report
Worship and Arts Committee
Robin Booth and Betta Hedlund, Co-Chairs

Report of the Worship and Arts Committee, 2016 - 2017
For the St. Luke Congregational Meeting, May 2017

In this year, the Committee instituted a full text and liturgy bulletin for the Sunday morning service at St. Luke. After a trial period during Summer 2016, congregational response was overwhelmingly favorable and the change to the all-inclusive bulletin was made with the start of the fall schedule.

On September 16 to 18, 2016, a dedication festival for the new Juget-Sinclair French romantic organ featured a Friday recital by French organist Michel Bouvard, presentations by the organ builders, master classes, and a Saturday concert in collaboration with regional organists and musicians. The St. Luke Choir sang "Messe Solennelle" by Louis Vierne during the Sunday festival service of Holy Communion.

The Committee is again meeting on a regular basis. After discussion at the April 2017 meeting, it was decided that the 5:00 Sunday service no longer meets a need as originally intended and that staff time and resources could be better used. The 5:00 service will be discontinued at the end of the academic year. The Committee will be considering an early Sunday morning service as an alternative beginning in the fall.

Submitted by Worship and Arts Committee Co-Chairs
Robin Booth
Betta Hedlund