

# Christ Lutheran

“The ministers of this church are the people!”

## Mission Statement:

We the people of Christ Lutheran Church believe our mission is to share God’s love and His forgiveness through Worship, Word and Sacrament. We seek to care for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of others through the gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure with which God has blessed us. We believe we have been called as living witnesses to exist for others so that all may know Jesus Christ is Lord.

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Christ Lutheran Church  
Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda  
Sunday, January 24, 2010

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Call to Order	Council President
Opening Devotions	Pastor Mueller
Introduction of Council & others	Council President
State of the Church	Council President
Approval of Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting	Vote required
Approval of Annual Reports	Vote required
Approval of 2010 Budget	Vote required
Election of Nominating Committee	Vote required
Old Business	
New Business	
Interim Pastor	
Call Process	
ELCA Social Statement	
Closing Prayer	

**2010 Council Members**

**Officers and Executive Committee**

(Senior Pastor is a member of the Executive Committee)

President	Matt June	667-9812	<a href="mailto:MatthewLJune@comcast.net">MatthewLJune@comcast.net</a>
Vice President	Patrick Blanchard	209-7092	<a href="mailto:pblanchard13@live.com">pblanchard13@live.com</a>
Treasurer	Jim Barritt	249-3070	<a href="mailto:jamesbarritt@yahoo.com">jamesbarritt@yahoo.com</a>

**Committee Chairs**

Education	Kathy Reister	538-6585	<a href="mailto:lreister@att.net">lreister@att.net</a>
Evangelism	Sarah Laurent	534-8658	<a href="mailto:sarah.laurent@greventmanage.com">sarah.laurent@greventmanage.com</a>
Fellowship	Amy Gordon	299-3073	<a href="mailto:amelia_gordon@comcast.net">amelia_gordon@comcast.net</a>
Property	Ken Davison	719-3229	<a href="mailto:tk5459@aol.com">tk5459@aol.com</a>
Welfare & Social Concerns	Jim Ward	532-7327	<a href="mailto:jward2588@sbcglobal.net">jward2588@sbcglobal.net</a>
Worship & Music	Marcia Schaner	891-0455	<a href="mailto:chasandmarcia@chartermi.net">chasandmarcia@chartermi.net</a>
Youth & Family	Vicki Blubaugh	261-5396	<a href="mailto:blubaugh@earthlink.net">blubaugh@earthlink.net</a>
Stewardship			

Ex officio Members (non-voting)

Senior Pastor

**Church Staff**

Minister of Music	Gary Sironen	453-1372	<a href="mailto:garysironen@netzero.com">garysironen@netzero.com</a>
Organist and Bell Choir Director	Marilyn Burgard	531-4703	<a href="mailto:burgardm@sbcglobal.net">burgardm@sbcglobal.net</a>
Junior Choir Director	Hazel Rouker	538-2926	<a href="mailto:hazelm@i2k.com">hazelm@i2k.com</a>
Education Director	Karen Metzner	538-9557	<a href="mailto:kmetzner1211@comcast.net">kmetzner1211@comcast.net</a>
Evangelism Coordinator	Ginny Wheeler	534-3195	<a href="mailto:vlwheeler@msn.com">vlwheeler@msn.com</a>
Secretary	Louise Konopka	532-2274	<a href="mailto:office@christlutheranwyoming.org">office@christlutheranwyoming.org</a>
Property Services & Custodian	Dan and Pat Johnson	534-4706	

**Christ Lutheran Church      Wyoming, Michigan**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Congregational Meeting January 25, 2009**

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
10:15 a.m. Call to order	Meeting called to order by Council President Sarah McKenney. Pastor Brown led the congregation in devotions from Ephesians 4.	
Announcements Quorum needed 2009 CLC Council Members  Thank you to outgoing council members	Sarah announced that to have a quorum we need to have 171 voting members in attendance. Sarah introduced the 2009 council: Vice President Steve Green, Treasurer Jim Barritt, Education Liaison Darrin Oliver, Evangelism Liaison Barb Windsor, Fellowship Liaison Amy Gordon, Property Liaison Carlon Snyder, Welfare & Social Concerns Liaison Jim Ward, Stewardship Liaison Matt June, Worship & Music Liaison Sandy Koppelberger, and Youth & Family Liaison Cristina VanWieren. Serving as Recording Secretary is Linda McCullough. The evangelism independent contractor, Ginny Wheeler, and the education independent contractor, Karen Metzner, were introduced. Sarah thanked outgoing council members Toni Steele, Jennifer Breymeyer, Judy Rogers, Kim Holwerda, and Dave Park, who stepped into the vacancy for Welfare & Social Concerns near the end of the year. Sarah then read the Mission Statement of Christ Lutheran Church.	
State of the Church	Sarah spoke of Pastor Bob's retirement and the hiring of Steve Ott as Youth Director, and of Ginny Wheeler and Karen Metzner as independent contractors for Evangelism and Education. Other points: the education program has changed and the Education Committee is regrowing (with an adult program in the works); the revitalization of the Evangelism Committee; the growth of the youth program; the successful completion of annual pastoral reviews by the Executive Committee; challenges that we face in relation to space and the need for volunteers to help with committees, in particular the property and youth committees. Finally, Sarah expressed her appreciation for all who keep the many programs of CLC, and the building itself, running smoothly.	
Suspend quorum rule	Stu Johnson moved that the minutes of the 2008 CLC Congregational Meeting be approved as amended. After discussion, Stu withdrew his motion. It was announced that the number of voting members in attendance was 140, and 171 were needed to have a quorum and conduct the business of the church.	Moved by Terry Speese to suspend the quorum rule, seconded by Forrest Bowling. Voice vote in favor (2/3 majority needed), motion passed.
Approval of minutes of CLC 2008 Congregational Meeting  Approval of Annual Reports	It was announced that the minutes of the CLC 2008 Congregational meeting had been amended by council members.  Sarah noted errors in the printed booklet of Annual Reports from Year 2008.	Stu Johnson moved that the minutes of the 2008 CLC Congregational Meeting be approved as amended, seconded by Ginny Wheeler. Voice vote in favor, motion passed. Mary Knappen moved that the 2008 Annual Reports be approved as amended, seconded by Suzanne Snider. Voice vote in favor, motion passed.
Discussion of proposed 2009 budget - reduction in benevolence line item	Discussion regarding reduction of benevolence to Synod from 10% to 8%. Setting a precedent for our members that it is all right to reduce percentage of giving in hard times. CLC's income may decline, but we should continue giving 10% of whatever our income is. Question to Treasurer: what effect would returning our giving to 10% have on our reserves? Jim Barritt stated that at present our reserves are at 3 ¾ months, and under the current proposed budget our reserves would be	Pastor Becky moved to return the benevolence line for Synod back to 10% from 8%, as recommended by council, seconded by Cindy June. After lengthy discussion, by a show of hands the motion

	<p>3 months. If we return our benevolence to 10% our reserves would be 2 ½ months. Question: what about debt reduction? Jim responded that our mortgage is due to mature in 2013 and the rate is at 5%, so it wouldn't pay to refinance. We looked into borrowing to finance the expense for the roof and decided it would be better to use our reserves. Question: what effect would a 9% donation to Synod have on the budget? Forrest Bowling calculated that it would make about a \$4,000 difference. Question: is the 8% suggestion from the finance committee or from the ELCA? It was noted that the ELCA is requesting an increase to 15%, it was the finance committee's suggestion to decrease to 8%.</p>	<p>passed: 55 in favor, 22 against.</p>
<p>Discussion of proposed 2009 budget – increase of 2.3% for all employees</p>	<p>Organist &amp; bell choir director Marilyn Burgard announced that she would forgo her raise. Children's choir director Hazel Rouker announced that she would do the same. It was also announced that Pastor Tim had said at last week's financial meeting that he would forgo his raise. Other comments: we shouldn't reduce Pastor's salary when he is doing two pastors' work; we have to care for those who serve us and express our love for them; employees can donate their raise back to the church if they care to, it isn't appropriate to take it from them; we shouldn't take their sacrifice (refusing raise) lightly; they can make their own choice to not accept the raise; employees can choose to donate their raise back to the church and take a tax writeoff.</p>	<p>It was moved by Mark Hess, seconded by Mike Burgstahler, to amend the budget to suspend the salary increases. After lengthy discussion, Mark rescinded his motion. Pastor Becky moved to accept Marilyn's, Hazel's, and Pastor Tim's refusal of a raise in 2009, with graciousness, seconded by Mary Knappen. Motion failed: 1 in favor.</p>
<p>Approval of 2009 budget</p>		<p>It was moved by Kim Holwerda to accept the 2009 budget as amended, seconded by Carlon Snyder. Motion passed.</p>
<p>2009 Nominating Committee</p>	<p>Steve Green presented the 2009 nominating committee members for vote: Amy Gordon, Stu Johnson, Matt June, Sue Scharf, and Kim Zeitter.</p>	<p>Tim Zeitter moved to accept those members, seconded by Forrest Bowling. Motion passed.</p>
<p>Old Business Annual reviews</p>	<p>Discussion of lack of leadership and accountability, has the Mutual Ministry Committee followed up with reviews of pastors? The Mutual Ministry Committee created an annual review form, which was used as an exit interview for Pastor Mueller, and a review was held with Pastor Brown. A review tool has also been completed for the Youth Director. Reviews will take place each summer. The Mutual Ministry Committee will discuss what information should be made available to the congregation from the reviews. Pete VanGessell stated that there are legal and privacy issues involved with what can be released from reviews, since they are a part of personnel files. It was noted that a better job needs to be done disseminating information from the annual reviews, since the employer is the council. Question: what is being done about members leaving the church, are they being contacted, is there any follow through by staff? It was stated that we are all called to follow through, not just the pastor or employees.</p>	
<p>11:10 a.m Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.</p>	<p>Terry Speese moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Forrest Bowling. Motion passed.</p>

Respectfully submitted: Linda McCullough, 01/30/09

## Parochial Report

### Sacrament of Holy Baptism (25)

Tim Bugai	Graeden Demario	Alison Dutkiewicz	Katie Dutkiewicz
Wyatt Fischer	Madilyn Fortin	Chloe Gage	Ella Gaitan
Liliana Gunderson	Piper Huston	Will Lantz	Justin Leper
Lily McKenney	Nathan Rogers	Easton Sizemore	Ellery Sizemore
Gianna Sizemore	Zachery Steele	Gavin Stockwell	Bruce Taylor
Coty Taylor	Mallorie Taylor	Elliot Wass	Brooklynn VanArtsen
Kris Wilson			

### Christian Marriages (6)

Jeff and Katie Anderson	Jake and Amber Dewitt	Andrew and Jessica Groeneveld
Sean and Samantha McKay	Paul and Jennifer Waters	Kris and Ashley Wilson

### Rite of Confirmation (13)

Sydney Birge	Ginger Christie	Christian Harrison	Steven Olthoff
Caleb Pajersky	Rachel Ratliff	Hannah Reardon	Rachel Sironen
Wyatt Smits	Devon Stone	Jordan Sweezer	Christopher Torkleson
Cody Swan			

### Burial of the Dead (9) \*denotes non-member

Ethel Bucek	Ronald Didion	Janice Emrich	Perthena Gunton
Alice Mueller	Dorothy Prindle	Mark Stelzer	Merri Stockwell
Bruce Vissers			

### Reception of Members (18)

*Does not include those listed as received through Baptism.*

*(Includes members received through transfer from other congregations, re-affirmation or affirmation of faith and restoration from inactive status)*

Stu Healey	Sandy Healey	Josh Lanser	Sharon Leder
Gary McCourry	Peggy McCourry	Paula Oddy	Kathy Reister
Aimee Paulson	Rob Paulson	Rachelle Tiano	David Westover
Curtis Druckery	Elizabeth Druckery		
Rob and Aimee Paulson, Gwennyth, Elenora			

### Removed by Transfer (4)

Ed and Suzanne Kosters	Gavin Faas	Carol Stelzer
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### Placed on Inactive Status and Statistical Adjustments - None

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Total Baptized Membership as of December 31, 2009:	1,144
Total Confirmed Membership as of December 31, 2009:	863

## **Pastor's Report**

**Pastor Timothy Brown**  
Resigned December 8, 2009

## **Youth Director**

**Steve Ott**  
Resigned August 2009

## **Minister of Music Report**

**Gary Sironen**  
Music and Worship Arts

Although my area of ministry is officially Music, we have added other arts to our worship experience over the past few years and continue to expand those, and so I am including them in my report. It has certainly been a year for changes and adjustments.

Early in the year, Youth Director Steve Ott assisted in leading the 11:15 service musically for a couple of months, introducing us to a number of new songs that have since become a regular part of our repertoire. My thanks to Steve, Pastor Brown and others for encouraging me to continually search for, and write, additional songs to enrich our worship experience.

We were finally able to purchase and install three high-grade video projectors in the sanctuary, thanks to many generous donations of money and labor. Ron Upright and Tim Bugai were especially helpful in the installation. Dan Van Wieren helped put together a team of "video techs" to operate the projectors on a weekly basis at the 11:15 service. Dan Johnson helped us make some physical adjustments to enhance the sound system at the same time. We also were able to add some "sound techs" to help operate the sound system at both services. Thanks to all of you. Your valuable ministry makes it possible for all of us to worship God more fully.

Pam Mueller again wrote scripts and put together a team to use drama as an exciting way of communicating the Gospel message in worship during Lent, and Kristen Thornton continued to find ways to express the beauty of the Gospel through visual art displays, sometimes involving many members of the congregation in the process.

The Worship Choir and Praise Choir have both shown much improvement this year. Marilyn Burgard continues to provide organ and piano accompaniment for our Sunday 9:00 services and evening services throughout the year. Marilyn also directs the Hand Bell Choirs. Hazel Rouker directs the Junior and Cherub Choirs and produces the annual Junior Choir musical. My thanks to both of them for their excellent work, their assistance and support to me, and to their ensembles for enriching and enhancing our worship throughout the year.

After an attempt foiled by the weather in 2008, we were able to present our first concert of Christmas music in 2009, featuring the musical gifts of so many of our members. Thanks to all of you and to all who attended for an amazing and worshipful evening.

Finally, my thanks to all who participated in the Calvin College Institute of Worship's Worship Renewal Grant project. Up to 20 of our members met at various times throughout the year to review our worship practices and to consider applying for a grant of up to \$15,000 from this program. We had decided to create a program to further our Drama and Visual Art ministries at Christ Lutheran. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete the grant application before the deadline, but my hope is that we will take another look at the work we've done up to now and finish the application later this year for a possible grant in 2011.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Gary Sironen

## **Council President**

**Sarah McKenney**

It has been an eventful 2009 for the council of Christ Lutheran Church. We started the year in 2 separate retreats that helped our council to complete the “business” of meetings and to have our minds set towards 4 goals that were agreed upon by the whole group. Those 4 goals were as follows:

- As a council, we will stay focused on the mission of our church and not get caught up (or spend an inordinate amount of time) on the small detail stuff.
- As a council, we will use communication that is both positive and inviting to connect with the congregation which includes both an internal and external focus.
- As a council, we will facilitate, support, and guide the work of the committees and ministries of our church.
- As council members, we will work on our paths of personal discipleship as leaders of the church.

We worked throughout the year to make progress on these goals and did our best to keep these in mind as we moved through the year. For example, we kept our meetings short and to the point to avoid overloading council liaisons whenever possible. We also looked for opportunities to share with the congregation so that all of the Christ Lutheran Church family could be a part of the events that were occurring here. Committees have received guidance and support throughout the year as they have held events, looked at changes in their ministry, or needed council advice and/or approval for various things. I look forward to seeing future councils set and keep their goals in the years to come.

We had many changes with the departure of Steve Ott, our Youth Director in August and now we look to the major change of a new senior pastor as Pastor Brown leaves us in January. We as a council worked towards finding what would work best for our congregation in terms of staffing models and we look forward to the council of 2010 moving forward with these ideas.

Finally, I would like to thank those outgoing members of council for their hard work and passion for both our church and our Lord. Carlon Snyder, Cristina VanWieren, Darrin Oliver, and Barb Windsor were a pleasure to work with through both easy and difficult moments and they have been true witnesses to their faith. I ended each one of my articles in The Branch with the same phrase and it rings true in every sense... God is surely good!

Peace,  
Sarah McKenney

## **Council Vice President**

Steve Green  
Resigned due to health reasons.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Youth & Family Ministry**

Cristina VanWieren

Once again, CLC youth ministry has experienced big changes. With the resignation of Steve Ott this past August, there was much to be done in order to put in place sustainable Crossroads (junior high) and Mosaic (high school) programs. Pastor and Ginny Wheeler took off with Crossroads and have done a wonderful job. Pastor was also a huge help and support in preparing for Mosaic. His insight and commitment is inspiring to me. I cannot give thanks enough to Dave Park, Leland Zavadil, and Melissa Copley who came forward immediately and volunteered their consistent help. After some planning, revisions, and working out the kinks (which is never really done!), we have a system in place to get us through until we hire an associate pastor. Dave Park and I will work behind the scenes as needed, while Melissa and Leland will serve as Youth Leaders on Sunday evenings. These wonderful individuals care deeply about the youth of CLC. Please thank them and offer your support!

I must also thank Louise Konopka, our church secretary, for her continuous support. I cannot count the number of times I have had to ask for her help. She always comes through – and with a smile. She really keeps things running here at CLC!

Finally, this year has been a challenging one for your church council. We have faced some unusual issues (to say the least). I feel very privileged to have worked with this group of individuals. Each sincerely cares for CLC and has a heart for service. Thank-you Jim, Jim, Sarah, Carlon, Barb, Darin, Amy, Matt, Steve, and Linda. You are a blessing to this congregation!

### **Property**

Carlon Snyder

Accomplishments of note for Calendar Year 2009 are as follows:

#### **Maintenance and Repairs**

- Furnace repairs to blower fan assembly, and modifications to the air exchange units for both units to increase the efficiency of these two units
- Flat roof repairs to the upper level roof area, and replacement of the entire lower level area completed.
- As a result of the flat roof repair project, it was determined that a large area of the sub-decking above the Nursery was damaged and additional repairs were required to complete the work, and make this area structurally sound in the area around the roof drain. Bids have been received and will be completed as weather permits.
- Heavy rains in October, identified that part of the roof leaks were due to the flashing along the west and front walls of the education wing, and restoration of this area was required to prevent additional water leaks and damage to the Youth room area. Bids have been received and work will be completed as weather permits.

#### **Clean-up Activities**

- Spring clean-up successfully completed in April.
- Fall clean-up of church grounds successfully completed in October, including significant clean-up and trimming of the wooded area to along the south side of the main parking lot.

The Property committee sincerely appreciates the work and support of all those who volunteered their time, tools, and efforts during these events. Their efforts are most welcome and appreciated. We look forward to seeing you and your friends again next year.

We believe that a good time was had by all and that along the way, friendships were renewed and possibly a few new ones made. It is through your efforts and support that we can maintain our facilities in good condition, and be proud of the appearance of our church and grounds. Regretfully we do not have a record of all those in attendance, but we do thank you for your support.

- On November 14, a small group of committee members and their “friends” gathered to make repairs to the roof drainage system on the north side of the education wing. Drainage trenches were renewed, with gravel and new drain tile installed, and connections to the remainder of the drainage tile renewed. After a few blisters, sore backs, and some good fellowship, the project was successfully completed. The Committee extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Alan Windsor, his sons Jeff and Brett, Richard Pinder, and Daryl Breymeyer for their planning and execution of this project.

### Committee Organization and Goals

This year, Council developed a “goal based” approach to its work, and the work of its related committees. As such, Property Committee established the following goals:

- 1 The establishment of an active and functioning Committee with on-going responsibility for the management of the facilities, property, and related assets of Christ Lutheran Church.
  - 2 Working at the direction of Council, and with assistance of the Finance Committee and the Council Treasurer, develop plans for the adequate funding of long term capital improvements of our current facilities and equipment.
- It is my pleasure to report that both of the above goals were achieved, and that the Property Committee is alive and well at Christ Lutheran Church.
  - I extend my personal thanks and appreciation to Alan Windsor, Dan and Pat Johnson, Daryl Breymeyer, Jim Bachmeier, Mark Barnes, Richard Pinder, Ron Heidrich, and Troy Anderson for their gifts of time, talent, and fellowship this past year. They all joined the Committee this year, creating a functional committee, and thus allowing the completion of the first goal. The progress made this past year is due to their work and commitment, and will continue on in the coming year.
  - Work on the second goal, although a continuous and on-going Committee endeavor is also considered to be complete. The Committee has developed a primary list of capital improvement projects, cost estimates, and a timeline for anticipated future repair dates. This list will be expanded over time, and should allow for better planning of these repairs, and a more consistent plan for their accomplishment.
  - We have begun closer working relationship with the Finance Committee, especially as relates to the second goal, and are jointly taking steps to create permanent funding for the long term maintenance projects needed to maintain the church and its grounds. This is an on-going effort, and will remain a focus of this committee in the years ahead.

I leave my two-year tenure as Property Committee Liaison to Council, thankful for the opportunity to serve Christ Lutheran Church. I feel blessed to have been a part of this Council, as well as a member of the broader community of its congregation. I made many new friends and acquaintances, and have enjoyed the time spent. Further, I have grown in my faith, and in my understanding of this church, part of my personal goals for wanting to serve in this capacity.

I leave with mixed feelings to be sure, but I am grateful for all the support, comments, and suggestions I have received in this capacity. I believe the Property Committee is in good hands, and look forward to its further growth and development. I know I leave it in good hands.

My hope is that Christ Lutheran Church remains a strong and vibrant community of faith. My belief is that it will because of its diversity of membership, their support, and their willingness to give. May God continue His blessings on our work, and on the members of this congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carlton Snyder

## **Education Committee**

Darrin Oliver

It has been my sincere pleasure to be a part of the education committee the past two years as the Council liaison. I am thankful for the experience and opportunity to serve God in this capacity at Christ Lutheran Church.

I would like to thank the following members for their service and commitment to the education committee during 2009: Lysa Buchan, Kathy Reister, Suzanne Schnider, Karen Metzner, and Pastor Brown. The five of you have been consistent participants the entire year and I am extremely thankful for your efforts. Your ideas and hard work have made the education program at CLC stronger by covering more age groups with the addition of Senior High and adult education.

I would like to give a special thank you to Dave Birge. Dave joined the education committee in 2008. He grabbed the reins as the leader of the committee and has not looked back. He has been instrumental in every aspect of the committee. Dave is a well organized, thoughtful, and committed Christian that has been such a great boost for education at CLC. In addition, he and his entire family assisted with the organization and facilitation of Vacation Bible School. VBS was a great success with their leadership.

Thank you to all of our volunteers this year, including VBS volunteers, teachers, assistants, Children's Church leaders and assistants, and Little Lambs leaders and assistants.

As a committee, our goals for 2009 are the following:

### **Goal 1:**

To come together as the "Family of God" at church, sharing the message of Jesus with one another; growing in our faith at home; and sharing the love of Jesus with family and friends by maintaining a monthly family gathering event.

**Goal Status:** The Family Time events have been occurring on a Monthly basis with great participation.

### **Goal 2:**

To fill the education gap for the young adult ages 20-30 years old.

**Goal Status:** Although the committee is providing adult education during the Sunday School hour, the goal of providing education for the 20-30 year-old age group has not been achieved. The steps identified by the committee as needed to achieve this goal are the following:

1. Seek education/curriculum formats
2. identify potential leaders
3. recruit leaders
4. implement agreed upon programs

With the recently added programming and the ideas being discussed for 2010, things are very exciting for the future of education at CLC. I thank the entire congregation for your support the past two years.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Darrin Oliver

## **Fellowship Committee**

Amy Gordon

Report submitted by Christine Spear

In 2009, the Fellowship Committee evaluated its place in the church and examined its duties for alignment to committee goals and missions. One of the interesting benchmarks we focused on was that Fellowship is a goal of every group and committee within Christ Lutheran, not just ours. In an effort to be a more welcoming and inviting church, our question to our committee was, how do we support fellowship activities and how do we manage it all?

We reviewed several models of process and with Pastor Brown's help, we adopted a support management model in which the fellowship committee does not have to manage all activities that fall under Fellowship. For instance, any group may use the kitchen for a lunch or potluck and while Fellowship does manage the kitchen, Fellowship Committee does not have to oversee the activity. Fellowship Committee provides the support and resources where and when needed. Another part of this model involved formalizing a process that already existed in which activities and events are chaired or captained by a volunteer that is supported by the Fellowship Committee. The Women's Retreat is an example of this where an event committee planned and executed this event with support from the Fellowship Committee.

In 2009, Fellowship activities included:

- Lenten Journey which started with Mardi Gras and continued each Wednesday with a community dinner before Lenten Services. Lenten Journey also included a special ceremonial Seder dinner for the confirmation students hosted by the Fellowship Committee.
- Flowers for Moms on Mother's Day, distributed carnations to the ladies as they entered service on Mother's Day
- Family Time June Meeting, we underwrote the costs of the June Family Time lunch so that Family Time could offer a free lunch to participants before their summer break.
- The Annual Camping Outing was planned for June and had a very good turnout that included some new families and friends.
- All Church Picnic, in August, we sponsored the annual picnic. Unfortunately, not a lot of folks participated. This was the third year of declining attendance and we have decided to not hold this event in 2010.
- Steve Ott Farewell Open House, we hosted an appreciation party to say goodbye to Steve and Sarah in August.
- Family Time October Outing, we sponsored the outing to the orchard to offer a lower price to families who wanted to go. This event had a fabulous attendance.
- Services Fair, Fellowship Committee and all the sub-groups captained by volunteers (Keenagers, Camping, Picnic, Women's Retreat, Coffee & Cookies) participated and Fellowship supported breads and muffins for the event.

- Women's Retreat was a new event that was very well received in October. We hope to offer and continue to support 2-3 events for women throughout the coming year.
- Cookie Walk is an annual treat that everyone loves and this year was not different. Cookie Walk 2009 raised \$300 in one hour and 15 minutes, completely selling out. Thrivent matched our funds for the Personal Care Pantry.
- Sunday Coffee & Cookies underwent a budget and process re-vamp in January. We were able to drop costs considerably throughout the year. Two events, Mardi Gras and an Autumn fundraiser, help collect cookies and raise awareness about this ongoing ministry. The Fall Coffee Fundraiser collected \$130 approximately and cookie donations continue to come in through the end of the year.
- We supported four funeral lunches this year. With the help of the entire church community, we are able to offer funeral lunches. Council is always gracious enough to provide us with budget money to purchase the needed goods so that we are able to continue this ministry.

Our goals for 2009 focused on defining and aligning the fellowship committee to the needs of the church and its governing committees, supporting existing groups where and when they need help and resources to allow them to succeed and helping to create welcoming and environment within our church. We feel that we have completed these and endeavor to grow in 2010 by continuing our work.

## **Stewardship**

Matthew June

The efforts of the stewardship committee this year focused on three main goals.

Our first goal was to provide four to six temple talks during the course of the year. We accomplished this goal through a series of talks about the variety of gifts we receive and how the gifts we give are used within our church, within the local community, and throughout our country and the world through the ELCA. We also presented temple talks on the MapleCreek retirement community and the annual Stewardship drive

Our second goal was to develop written Stewardship information and distribute through articles in the Branch and inserts in the financial statements. We worked with the finance committee and included stewardship information in the quarterly financial statements sent to members of the congregation. This information included a definition of stewardship, information about the MapleCreek fund raising effort, and details of the annual stewardship drive. We also submitted various articles for inclusion in the announcement pages and the Branch.

Our largest goal this year was to plan and conduct the annual stewardship campaign. We developed a slightly different approach from recent years for the stewardship drive. We organized approximately 10 cottage meetings. Each cottage meeting had a host and/or hostess and a facilitator. The meetings were held in the home of the host/hostess. We had hoped to have 10 to 12 people attend each meeting. The meetings were led by the facilitator with an agenda as follows:

- Arrival/Greeting
- Open with prayer
- Introductions
- Agenda Review and Discussion of Objectives
- Short Bible Study

Video  
Shared Stories  
Opportunities for Giving (time and talent sheets, pledge cards, etc.)  
Wrap-up  
Close with prayer

The facilitator served to keep the conversation moving and encourage the attendees to share stories and participate in the discussion. The bible study was organized by Pastor Becky and was centered on the bible story of the widow's mite. The video was developed and produced by the Stewardship Committee. It featured interviews of Renee Green, Joy Johnson, and Dave Park in which they answered questions about the giving and receiving of gifts. After the discussions, the facilitator passed out pledge cards, time and talent questionnaires, and stewardship information.

Through these cottage meetings, we hoped to give church members the opportunity to meet and get to know other members they may not have had the opportunity meet previously. We had also hoped to present stewardship as a personal commitment to God and, through biblical reference and testimonials, show how giving is important to our spiritual life.

Although turn out for the cottage meetings was low, we feel we achieved our desired goals for the individuals that attended. We gathered lessons learned and will incorporate them into the program for next year.

In addition to working on our three goals for the year, the Stewardship Committee facilitated a fund raising activity within our church for MapleCreek. The need for funds centered on providing furnishings, equipment, and resources for the recently renovated facilities of MapleCreek.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew June

## **Evangelism**

Barb Windsor

In 2009, we were blessed by the return of Ginny Wheeler, who has been serving part time under contract spearheading our Evangelism effort. This work included:

\*Development of programs and strategies to seek out and invite those not yet here yet, and to more fully engage those who are already here in their faith and lives of discipleship.

\*Work to educate and encourage the congregation to invite others into this community in order that they might hear/experience the Word.

\*Follow up/welcome of those who are new to the life of the congregation

\*Follow up with and care for those who have become inactive in the life of the church with the objective of inviting them to re-connect.

## Welfare & Social Concerns

Jim Ward

*“He has shown you , O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8*

On Tuesday, November 17, we gathered as members of Christ Lutheran Church connected with the Welfare and Social Concerns Committee. Well over 30 gathered, shared dinner and discussed social outreach with representatives from Family Network and UCOM. We learned that the need for food and assistance has grown, that new individuals and families are being served and we are being challenged to serve and reach those who need assistance in unprecedented ways. Our Committee is an umbrella organization which has had as many as 14 committees and well over 80 participants. Activities include the Blood Drive, Christmas Store, Cookies for Vets, Degage, Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Health Kits, Holiday Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas, Hunger Walk, Personal Care Pantry, School Bags and Wee Care. We serve as individual members and serve in multiple activities and ways, but the motivation is the same: *servicing Christ in our community, helping those who need our help*. Although the food pantry was discontinued and we did not participate in the City Wide Food Drive this year, we added Mel Trotter and are looking at additional ways we can serve our community. We hope to involve our youth in these activities—the doing and the motivation is what we are all about as Christians. We can always use more volunteers and many of our activities have specific active times. That’s makes our work so defined as to time and task. The Time and Talents Survey revealed many of you who were interested in serving and your name was passed on the committee chairs which I list below and the activity they were associated with. *Thanks to those who direct and to those who serve*. Our tasks go on and the need is great but you have responded actively, encouraging those who need our help and care. If you are interested in helping, see the following members and stay tuned, know your assistance is welcome and the task is bringing Christ to our community in a variety of ways:

### Activities and Contact/ Chairs

- Blood Drive, Dave Park, Deb Holland and Kim Holwerda
- Care Week, Mary Jaeschke
- Christmas Store, Mary Jaeschke
- Cookies for Veterans, Mary Jaeschke
- Degage, Barb Deal
- Habitat for Humanity, Stuart Johnson
- Health Kits, Mary Jaeschke
- Holiday Baskets, Mary Jaeschke and Lisa Barnes
- Hunger Walk, Dave Park
- Mel Trotter, Jim Barritt
- Personal Care Pantry, Lisa Barnes and Mary Jaeschke
- School Bags, Mary Jaeschke
- UCOM , Mary Jaeschke
- Wee Care, Denise Starr and Melanie Jernberg

## **Luther's Cruisers**

Stuart Johnson

The Christ Lutheran Church car group is known as the Luther's Cruisers. An active group of six "gearhead" families with specialty automobiles.

We have a road rally in the spring and a fall color tour. During the summer months we all attend various gatherings centered around automobiles. This would include car shows, drag racing, stock car racing and garage tours when possible.

This year we were happy to raise over \$260.00 for Habitat for Humanity. Brad and Carol Schultz will be organizing our events for 2010.

## **Habitat for Humanity 2009 Year-end Report**

Stuart Johnson

In February, CLC was asked again to assist Habitat for Humanity to build another four plex at Dawes Court. We agreed to offer financial and labor assistance and chose four Saturdays to work.

Our financial assistance included asking for donations and a reverse offering. The reverse offering consisted of passing plates of \$20.00 bills back through the congregation. Any one could take one or more of these bills and 'grow it' through the year. And grow we did, \$1,140.00 was taken and \$1,320.00 was returned. Many interesting stories evolved of how the Spirit worked to advance God's plan. Our total gift to Habitat was \$3,096.00 about 20% above last years giving.

At the end of November the building was complete and four responsible families received keys to their new life as a homeowner, an emotional event for all involved.

We give thanks to God for this opportunity to serve and to all of you for the response from CLC to do our part for this important ministry.