

2008 Annual Report

Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the
First Lutheran Church Congregation

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009 • 12:30 p.m.
Reformation Hall



First Lutheran Church

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First Lutheran Church Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

Mission Statement

First Lutheran Church welcomes all people into the community of Jesus Christ, equipping and sending them forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

Guiding Principles

We are grounded in the great commandment of Jesus (Matthew 22:34–40). We love God and people, according to the mandate of Christ.

We are grounded in the great commission of Jesus (Matthew 28:16–20). Christ's mandate is that we are to take the Gospel to all people. We are a Christ-centered, missionary presence in all segments of society.

We are committed to welcome and minister to all people. We strive to be accessible to as many people as possible. Therefore, we maintain the highest standards of face-to-face ministry, inviting, welcoming and nurturing people at every stage of their walk with Christ.

We are committed to equipping people for ministry. We believe that when people commit to membership in First Lutheran Church, they are committing to prayerful, spiritual growth, which they reveal through Christian acts of service. First Lutheran members discover, develop and deploy their gifts for the transforming work of Christ in their lives.

We are committed to service in our community and world. We are strengthened through Word and Sacrament so that we may witness to and serve those in need in, around and beyond First Lutheran Church. As a member congregation of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, we support mission and evangelism in partnership with our sister congregations.

We are committed to a ministry of relationship building. We believe life transformation takes place most significantly through the power of the Holy Spirit in prayerful, personal relationship with God and others.

We are committed to our heritage and identity as a reforming church. We treasure the rich tradition of the faith of our forbears. We are a church of the Reformation, which inspires us to carry out the mission work of the unchanging Gospel of Jesus Christ, in a constantly changing world in which God calls us to serve.

We are committed to excellence in broadcast ministry. We are uniquely blessed by God to reach a much larger population with the Gospel proclamation of our worship through radio and television ministry. We believe that providing excellence in this technical mode of ministry enhances receptivity to the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the community and region.

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Agenda

First Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009
12:30 p.m. – Reformation Hall

1. Meeting Called to Order President Eric Severson
2. Devotions Pastor Dave Johnson
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from the Feb. 3, 2008, Annual Meeting
5. Report of the President Eric Severson
6. Report of the Associate Pastors and Senior Pastor
7. Reports as Found in the Published Annual Report for 2008 (adopted as published)
8. Financial Report David Van Veldhuizen
 - Vote on Proposed Budget
9. Nomination and Election of Officers and Board Members for 2009 Term
10. New Business
 - Amended By-Laws
11. First Lutheran Foundation Annual Meeting Larry Toll
 - Adoption of Minutes from the Feb. 3, 2008, Annual Meeting
 - Financial Report Investment Committee Member
 - Nomination and Election of Board Members – 2009 Term. Larry Toll
 - New Business
12. Adjournment with Prayer. Pastor John Christopherson

Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting

Feb. 3, 2008



The annual meeting of First Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls, S.D., was called to order by President Martin Oyos in Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Dave Johnson based his opening devotion on Paul's writings on the importance of the members of the body in 1 Corinthians 14:12. He related his experience on a threshing crew, when he learned to appreciate the maintenance man who oiled the machinery and kept it running smoothly. So, too, in the church there is a need for dedicated members who tend to the mundane but essential tasks that build up the body of Christ, he concluded.

President Oyos introduced Dan Nelson, the parliamentarian for the afternoon.

A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to adopt the minutes from the annual meeting held on Jan. 28, 2007, and the minutes from special congregational meetings held Jan. 14, 2007, and July 8, 2007.

President Martin Oyos began his report by thanking the congregation for allowing him to serve as president for the past two years, the lay leaders who gave of their time and wisdom, and the pastors and staff who led the congregation in ministry and mission, with particular appreciation expressed to Senior Pastor John Christopherson and Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill. He went on to list the many ways that he has seen the members of First Lutheran living fully and joyfully in the knowledge of God's grace: worshipping on Sundays, serving as ushers and Sunday school teachers, and attending forums and Bible studies. He noted that the church gathers people from all walks of life to express a common faith in a God who is there in good times and in bad. President Oyos concluded by inviting all members to step forth in 2008, carrying out the ministry and mission of the church with thanksgiving and to the glory of God.

Pastor Jason Burggraff thanked the congregation for the call to ministry. He considers it an honor and a privilege to work with a great staff and congregation and appreciates our hospitality and the faith with which we work. He read the following passage from

Luther's Small Catechism, the Second Petition of the Lords' Prayer, indicating that it encapsulates why we are here: "The Kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also. When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and yonder in eternity." He encouraged congregational participation in small group offerings.

Pastor Barbara Wangsness thanked the congregation for the privilege of doing ministry at First Lutheran Church and for the ministry in Jesus' name that happens from this church. To God be the Glory for the work of the Board for Pastoral Care Ministries which includes a healing service that takes place the third Sunday of each month; the addition of Bread for This Journey and a grief class for children to the bereavement program; a newly-formed Elizabeth Ministry program; and the parish nurse program that continues to grow under the Holistic Health Cabinet.

Pastor Natanael Lizarazo thanked the congregation for giving him the opportunity to serve the Lord in our midst. He pointed out that congregational annual meetings give us an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing through us and for us. Although we will never be free of challenges, God uses our time, our treasure and our talent to make amazing differences in real people in our congregation, synod, and beyond. Serving as a pastoral presence to CYYAFL in this time of transition, Pastor Lizarazo thanked the CYYAFL board for their sense of openness and trust during the transition.

Senior Pastor John Christopherson began his report to the congregation by thanking those who hosted the annual meeting and produced the annual report as well as the pastoral and professional staff. He welcomed to First Lutheran, Pastor Jason Burggraff; Dr. Michael Elsbernd, the new director of music; and Dr. Mark Britzman, a Christian counselor. Citing the book *The Megachurch and the Mainline* by Stephen Ellingson, Pastor Christopherson described a traditional congregation as a community of memory that maintains its own congregational story, is a part of a larger moral tradition that extends back through time, and carries this tradition forward



Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting

(cont.)

into the future. Delving into the “community of memory” at First Lutheran, he mentioned the work of Bertha Bragstad and the First Lutheran Ladies Aid in 1921 in founding the House of Mercy, which later became Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota; the financial support of Augustana College through the years, including a \$20,000 gift to help establish Augustana’s endowment in the early 1920’s; and the founding of the Sioux Valley Hospital Association, with all of its officers claiming membership at First Lutheran. Pastor Christopherson then called attention to some of the ways that this fine tradition is being continued. Thanks to gifts from First Lutheran families, a piano lab is being established, which will provide piano lessons to children who otherwise could not afford them, and a psychologist is providing Christian counseling on the campus. Individual members are still supporting Augustana with estates willed to the endowment and gifts designated for the renovation of the library. Pastor Christopherson concluded by rejoicing in the fact that First Lutheran is a congregation that combines a strong grasp of the historic riches of Christian faith and family with contemporary cultural engagement and adaptive capacity.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adopt the reports as published in the annual report for 2007.

Treasurer Dave Van Veldhuizen reviewed the 2007 operating year, noting that in comparing revenues and expenses there was an actual surplus of \$92,000 of income over expenses. One half of this surplus was put toward capital debt and the other half into revenue reserve. Total debt was reduced from \$3,442,000 to \$3,042,000 in 2007. Although giving to Media Ministry was greater because of special gifts for procuring video equipment, overall designated giving has decreased because the capital campaign is wrapping up. In looking at assets and liabilities, the total assets of \$17 million include the assets of the First Lutheran Church Foundation. The church has a very good equity position. Thanks to the diligent work of our Board for Stewardship and gracious response of our members, the 2008 stewardship campaign was very successful. Dave explained that history has taught us to plan on a 5–10 percent discrepancy or “slippage” between dollars pledged and

dollars actually received. The 2008 pledge amount of \$1,550,945 and the \$190,142 pledged toward debt reduction reflect adjustment for this “slippage.”

Diane Atchison, the chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the report. The floor was opened for nominations; none were offered. A motion to accept the proposed slate was made, seconded and passed.

Martin Oyos proposed the following amendment to the By-laws:

Amendment to the By-laws

Article XL, section 3e

A board chair may request the resignation of a board member for good cause. If the board member does not resign, the board chair may request the Church Council to replace the board member for good cause. The term “good cause” shall include a board member’s absence from three consecutive board meetings or absence from three board meetings within a six-month period or the failure of the board member to satisfactorily perform the duties of a board member.

A motion to accept the proposed amendment to the By-laws was made, seconded and passed.

A motion to temporarily adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and passed. The annual meeting of the First Lutheran Foundation followed.

As the meeting was concluding, Pastor John Christopherson asked for permission to address the members about a concern for the First Lutheran facilities. He drew attention to the fact that the sanctuary is not protected by a fire detection, suppression or alarm system. He suggested that this need might be addressed as a part of any proposed sanctuary improvement project.

President Oyos called on Pastor Barbara Wangness to close the meeting with prayer, which was followed by the singing of “On Our Way Rejoicing.”

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Atchison, Secretary

Carol Knapp, Recording Secretary

Report of the Nominating Committee



Nominating Committee

Chair: Diane Atchison
Denise Aamlid
Shirley Barlow
Larry Hamre
Todd Smith
Marilyn Van Demark

Officers

(1-year terms)
President: Eric Severson
Vice-President: James Moore
Secretary: Corey Halstenson
Treasurer: Dave Van Veldhuizen

Board for Adult Discipleship Ministries

(3-year terms)
Lois Boyce
Kathy Hagen
Don Sneen

Board for Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Family Life Ministries

(3-year terms)
Terri Carlson
Colleen Stavig
Michelle Walter
(1-year term)
Sherry Barkley

Board for Financial Services

(3-year terms)
Ron Burmood
Eric Lundin
Kurt Johnson
(1-year term)
Randy Eide

Board for Media Ministries

(3-year terms)
Micah Aberson
Chris Dummermuth
Mark Tooley

Board for Outreach Ministries

(3-year terms)
Kristy Dillon
Joann Gries
Jean Sneen

Board for Pastoral Care Ministries

(3-year terms)
Jean Eidsness
Tom Gunlicks
Ben Oien

Board for Property and Administrative Services

(3-year terms)
Jim Berg
Craig Houg
Carol Twedt
(1-year term)
Bob Lommen

Board for Stewardship

(3-year terms)
Stan Meyers
Mary Simmons
Elmer Sorensen
(1-year term)
Ron Moegenburg

Board for Worship and Music Ministries

(3-year terms)
Scott Gibson
Kevin Reinesch
Diane Atchison

Member at Large

(3-year term)
Gregg Greenfield



Proposed 2009 Budget

Description	2008		2009
	Budget	Actual	Budget
REVENUES			
Offerings			
Pledge Responses	\$ 1,550,945	\$ 1,468,585	\$ 1,515,849
Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 135,781	\$ 85,655	\$ 88,000
Special Offerings	\$ 53,500	\$ 48,347	\$ 50,000
Total Offerings	\$ 1,740,226	\$ 1,602,588	\$ 1,653,849
Gifts			
Media	\$ 62,400	\$ 52,255	\$ 55,000
Foundation	\$ 186,586	\$ 186,586	\$ 100,000
Total Gifts	\$ 248,986	\$ 238,840	\$ 155,000
Other Income			
Fee Income	\$ 75,325	\$ 81,362	\$ 80,658
Non-Budgeted Income	\$ 24,000	\$ 16,171	\$ 10,000
Operating Reserve			\$ 62,205
Total Other Income	\$ 99,325	\$ 97,532	\$ 152,863
Total Revenues	\$ 2,088,537	\$ 1,938,960	\$ 1,961,712
EXPENSES			
Adult Discipleship	\$ 28,500	\$ 22,796	\$ 23,000
CYYAFL	\$ 47,225	\$ 47,199	\$ 48,000
Financial Services	\$ 273,950	\$ 259,924	\$ 244,000
Media	\$ 75,000	\$ 77,893	\$ 78,000
Outreach	\$ 96,000	\$ 94,295	\$ 95,000
Pastoral Care	\$ 28,000	\$ 23,447	\$ 28,000
Personnel/Council	\$ 1,199,695	\$ 1,124,792	\$ 1,206,000
Property & Administrative Serv	\$ 220,000	\$ 193,545	\$ 194,000
Worship & Music	\$ 24,000	\$ 21,164	\$ 22,000
Stewardship	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,702	\$ 12,000
Total Expenses	\$ 2,007,370	\$ 1,876,756	\$ 1,950,000
Operating Reserve	\$ 81,167		\$ 11,712
Net Revenues/(Expenses)	\$ 2,088,537	\$ 62,205	\$ 1,961,712

Report of the President of the Congregation

Eric Severson



As I reflect on the past year at First Lutheran Church, I am reminded of the privilege that it has been to serve as president. It has been challenging and occasionally frustrating, but still a privilege to try to make a contribution to the leadership of this vital and dynamic congregation. Each month, I read the minutes of all the board meetings submitted to the Church Council and I am reminded of the breadth and depth of the ministry that is being conducted at First Lutheran. I encourage you to take the time to read the board reports included in this annual report to get a taste of the many and varied ways in which God is working through the people of First.

I offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks, first to the pastors and staff of First Lutheran Church for all their hard work and dedication to ministry, and second to all the volunteers who help the staff to make this place function. It is the nature of a church budget that we can't possibly pay all the people needed to do all the things that need to be done, nor can we always pay our staff what they truly deserve for all the time and effort they put into making this ministry happen. But, with God's help, we can do great things with the work of the staff and the volunteers in so many places and so many ways.

The positive effect of all our volunteer help is often recognized with the efforts of the guys in the workshop and of the ladies quilting and working the kitchens for so many events. These folks certainly deserve our thanks for their dedicated service, but there are many, many more who put in countless hours in the service of youth and family life and outreach and adult education and the Sunday worship in the sanctuary and with the African worshipping community in the chapel, to name just a few areas. They do this because they love the Lord and because they love this place, their church home. In this current time of increasingly difficult financial straits and tightening budgets, we need everyone to continue to pitch in and do the things that need to be done. We have a wonderful group of people volunteering their time, but we can always use more of you to contribute your time to the service of the ministry of FLC. There is a place and a task for everyone. Please consider making this a priority in your life!

A special thank you to the members of all the boards who have spent many hours helping to steer the ministries of this congregation, and also to their representatives who have contributed additional time as members of the Church Council, meeting each month to consider the business of the congregation. Please see the individual board reports for more information about each board. And I offer personal thanks to my fellow officers of the congregation—James Moore, Diane Atchison and Dave Van Veldhuizen. These three individuals, along with Senior Pastor John Christopherson and Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill, have contributed freely of their time in leadership as part of the Executive Committee.

Looking to the future, we as a congregation will have the opportunity in 2009 to consider whether we are prepared to authorize and to fund some major elements of repair, renewal and improvement in our sanctuary building that can directly impact our Sunday morning worship. More information will be forthcoming in the new year as we consider vital repairs and needed improvements to our sanctuary organ, and consider the possibilities for 1) extending full fire-suppression coverage throughout the sanctuary building, 2) continuing the process of improving the broadcast equipment for the digital age, and 3) replacing well-worn floor coverings and improving the lighting in the sanctuary. Also lurking in the background of this discussion is our current level of long-term debt which, although still manageable for a congregation our size, causes an ongoing concern because the monthly interest payments consume funds that could be spent on ministry programs. All these things must be considered carefully in the months to come to ensure that we do not negatively impact the ongoing ministry work. Hopefully, with prayerful consideration and with God's help, we will find the necessary resources to tackle these tasks and enhance our ministry to God's people.

God's richest blessings to one and all as we continue in his service at First Lutheran Church!



Report of the Treasurer

David Van Veldhuizen

The 2008 operating year ended much different than it began. The first six months held promise, but the last six months likely reflected the local and national economic situation outlook. Your church lay leadership set what we knew was going to be an ambitious budget for 2008 of \$2,088,537, and based on the first six months of performance it appeared that the budget could have been achieved. However, the last six months proved to be challenging with a disappointing result. As a comparison, the actual income for 2007 exceeded the 2007 budget.

The actual income for 2008 equaled \$1,938,960, or 92.8% of the budget. As a comparison, the 2007 income was greater than budgeted—what a difference one year makes. The 2008 actual year-end income fell short of the budget by \$149,577 which was a significant shortfall. However, there was a bright spot in that the expenses also fell below budget which provided a cash surplus for the operating year of \$62,205. The boards need to be commended for keeping their spending in line, which resulted in 2008 revenues exceeding expenses, leaving a cash balance.

First Lutheran Church is carrying long-term debt in the amount of \$2,634,473 based on current principal loan balances. The debt is between two loan obligations: one being a contract for deed with the Hanson family for the Ideal Yardware property. and the second being a bank note with First Dakota National Bank with a current principal balance of \$1,963,428. During the past operating year, principal was reduced by \$382,773, which exceeded the projected amortization schedule. Both loan obligations are set up as term notes with monthly principal and interest of \$29,142.

It is important to note that the first six months provided special cash gifts that went directly to reduce the bank loan principal. These special gifts were in addition to the regular monthly principal

payments. However, the last six months saw principal reductions close to the principal portion of the monthly bank payments. Special thanks to all who gave designated gifts toward debt reduction. Interest expense decreases as the principal balance is reduced. The question is often asked if First Lutheran has a debt obligation that affects the financial health of the parish. When calculating debt to equity and other ratios, the debt obligation is well within line and leaves the church with ample room to borrow monies if the need should arise.

As we look toward the new operating year of 2009, your lay leadership is recommending a balanced budget of \$1,961,712 which is 8.5% less than 2008. The major revenue components for each year's operating budget are based on: 1) pledge/stewardship results and 2) income from the First Lutheran Church Foundation. When comparing the actual pledge income to total pledges (2008), there was a shortfall in 2008. This means 7.6% of the pledged income was unfulfilled. If the church would have received one hundred percent of the total pledged dollar amount, the result would have been an additional \$116,272 of income. It is important to note that the Foundation has only committed to giving one half of the \$100,000 dollars being shown in the revenue side of the budget. They would distribute \$50,000 early in 2009 and the remainder in July if there are sufficient funds in their reserve fund.

Your lay leadership has recommended a budget that first meets the priorities of debt service, property issues and personnel. With a decrease in anticipated income, certain boards are being asked to operate with the same dollars spent in 2008 which is less in some cases as their 2008 budget and less than their requests presented at the annual Budget Congress.

Thank you for your financial support this past year—each pledge and donation is important to the ongoing financial health of First Lutheran Church.



Defining Times—A Pre-flection for 2009

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents yet gentle as doves.”

—Matthew 10:16

Perhaps more than any other time in our history, 21st century Christians in America should pay “careful” attention to this categorical imperative of Jesus in the 10th chapter of Matthew—as he serves a tough-minded but humble warning to disciples of every age. Materialistic idolatry seemingly has us cornered in recessive and depressive kinds of thinking. Increasing religious pluralism tempts us into thinking “all roads lead to the top of Mt. Fuji” and thus Christianity is but one among all the other religions of the world. They’re all the same. Right? And evangelism ...? What’s that about? (Muslims sure know. Two new mosques are being built in Sioux Falls as I write this little pre-flection for 2009.) ... “Tolerance” is so broadly defined as to imply “anything goes” (well, as long as you don’t hurt anyone else). And for fear of being arrested by the “thought police” of secularism, the church has become the silent minority where moral absolutes are only “good” on Sunday morning (at least for the few who take time to worship and study what God’s Word has to say). **These are defining times.**

Listen to these defining, guiding words from the days of the early church written nearly a century after Jesus: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God ...” (1 John 4:1–2). How then ought we to live? What is our foundation for ethical decision-making? There’s so much ambiguity! **These are defining times.**

* * *

Between services, on the Sunday prior to Christmas, a young newsman from KELO-TV asked if he could have a couple minutes with me to ask some questions. His litany began ... “How has the

recession affected the church? How will cut-backs in church budgets affect increasing poverty? Do you expect offerings at Christmas to be down?” My responses were those of how the church can affect the recession (not vice versa), and how most churches I was aware of in Sioux Falls were “up” in budgets, with “great expectations” as our very existence is to help those in need—especially with the reminder once again of “love came down at Christmas, not the DOW.” Well, the little “interview” never aired. Supposedly a town fire in Iowa caught more attention. “And besides, Pastor John, we were looking for more of a recession message.” Hmmm?! **Defining times.**

* * *

On the “first [or was it the second] day of Christmas” I finally got around to finishing Stephen Ambrose’s bestseller, *Undaunted Courage*. About a third of the way in, he describes the pivotal day when the famous explorers Lewis and Clark and their tiny band of explorers sent their large keel boat back down the river to St. Louis. The boat had carried all of their supplies, weapons and ammunition. It had served as a secure refuge from attack. Now it was gone and they were headed west toward the Pacific Ocean, alone. Lewis sat in his buffalo-skin tepee late at night and entered these words in his journal:

We were now about to penetrate a country at least 2,000 miles in width, on which the foot of civilized men had never trodden ... The picture which now presented itself to me was a most pleasing one, entertaining as I do, the most confident hope of succeeding in a voyage which had formed [a calling for me] for the past ten years. I could but esteem this moment of my departure as among the most happy in my life.

It seems to me that Lewis should have been scared to death. He had just watched all visible means of support and sustenance, all security, all contact with the “outside world” sail down river. And yet,



Report of the Senior Pastor

(cont.)

he called it the happiest day of his life. It's almost as if he knew it was his **defining moment**—the convergence of his particular gifts with a challenge that required the very best of those gifts.

* * *

Dear brothers and sisters of First Lutheran Church: so it is in these **defining times**, that God's Spirit is calling us to rise to the challenges of this new year—"being wise as serpents yet gentle as doves" ... sharing the very best of our gifts as a Welcoming Home in the Heart of Sioux Falls and beyond ... Will we be at regular worship? Will we be in daily prayer and read the Bible? Will we grow into the wisdom of St. Augustine's dictum of "faith seeking ever deeper understanding" through the many excellent children, youth and adult

Christian education offerings? Will we be faithful in financially supporting the various ministry and mission needs by a strong tithe or pledge? Will we share our talents in volunteering? As we move into this new year, the answer to these questions will be most telling ... of whether the times will define us (as the church) or whether we (as the church), by God's grace, will define the times.

In Christ-defining-times,

j.r. christopherson
Senior Pastor

Report of the Associate Pastor for Mission, Outreach and Evangelism • Natanael Lizarazo



“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.”

—Philippians 1:3–5

As I reflect on a year of shared ministry, thankfulness is what fills my heart—thankfulness to God and to you, the people of God at First Lutheran Church!

2008 was a fruitful year for mission outreach. Mission outreach flowed out of our congregation and blessed different ministries in Sioux Falls, our South Dakota Synod, our region, the ELCA and the larger world. Nurtured and watered by regular worship, vibrant music, Bible studies, prayer, sound teaching and servant opportunities, we were used by God as instruments of healing, empowerment and hope! Mission outreach at First Lutheran Church truly is a kaleidoscope of faith active in love.

The diverse spectrum of ministries supported in 2008 by our God-given gifts included The Banquet, The Community Outreach, the Sioux Falls Food Pantry, Family Connection, Good Shepherd Ministry Center, Lutheran Social Services, St. Francis House, Union Gospel Mission, Bowden Youth Center and the St. Dymas of South Dakota prison congregation inside the Sioux Falls Penitentiary. We also provide support for the Augustana College Leadership Endowment Fund, Woyatan Lutheran Church in Rapid City, Campus Ministry in Brookings, Augustana Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls and First Lutheran seminary students at Luther Seminary and the Sioux Falls Seminary.

On the global scene, our gifts supported the Hinderlies, a missionary family serving Kenya, Madagascar and Ethiopia; our companion synods in Nicaragua and Cameroon; and the theological studies of Abraham Gayetaye in Nigeria. Educational opportunities for poor children and youth were made available in Cameroon, Palestine and Colombia. Two global mission trips took place, one to Nicaragua and one to Colombia. Our ELCA World Hunger support was another significant way we blessed local, national and global ministries. We also supported Luther Seminary and fulfilled our congregational

benevolence to our South Dakota Synod and to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Through three Discovery Classes, we also welcomed 82 new members to the congregation. The Alpha ministry engaged members and non-members in a heartfelt approach to Christian faith and community. Throughout the year, we celebrated the joyful presence of a growing African ministry as an integral part of First Lutheran Church! To further guide our ministry relationship, a ministry covenant was signed on Aug. 10, 2008.

My responsibilities included pastoral presence for the Board for Outreach Ministries and for the Board for Children, Youth, Young Adults and Family Life Ministries (CYAFL). For the CYAFL board, I shared responsibilities with Pastor Jason Burggraff. My own responsibilities with CYAFL ministries included general oversight, relationships with the board and staff, mission outreach and pastoral participation in its different programmatic components. To the CYAFL board, staff, volunteers and all its dedicated participants I am indeed thankful! Thank you for allowing me the privilege to work alongside with you!

Additional pastoral responsibilities included worship, preaching, hospital visits, weddings, funerals, counseling and teaching seventh- and eighth-grade confirmation students. I also served on the board of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society and our South Dakota Synod Multicultural and Evangelical Outreach Committees.

I am deeply grateful to our senior pastor, Dr. John Christopherson; other colleague pastors; our Church Council and Executive Committee, the members of the Board for Outreach Ministries and Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill for their dedicated work in facilitating our pastoral ministry. To the entire staff of First Lutheran I express my gratitude as well. It is truly exciting to work among you! Last but not least, I extend my missionary gratitude to First Lutheran Church! For all we accomplished together, we joyfully state: Soli Deo Gloria! To God alone the glory!



Report of the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Barbara Wangsness

“What on earth am I here for?” is the famous quotation staring at me, literally and figuratively, as I write this report at my office table. And amidst the many responses to that question our Pastoral Care Ministry replies, “Service,” attempting to touch our congregation’s ministry needs with Christ-like hands and feet that remind each person that he or she is not alone!

Many of the ways we’ve historically done this are listed on page 24 in our Board for Pastoral Care Ministries report. Here, I’ll highlight newer ones in 2008, but know that all are shared to encourage the involvement and improvement of your health in holistic ways—whether physically, emotionally, spiritually or mentally—for Jesus wants us to have life and to have it abundantly!

The remodeled church building continues to be an excellent space for all ages to exercise, especially in cold weather. Seniors especially are reminded of our chair exercise group, Faithfully Fit Forever, and encouraged to simply walk our building, concluding with a rest by the library fireplace to read a book, knit on a needed prayer shawl or visit with friends. I’m sure they could find a cup of coffee, too.

New Pastoral Care opportunities in 2008, mostly coordinated by Parish Nurse Paula Bartels, included the Elizabeth Ministry, which connected 10 “seasoned” moms with 18 “beginner” moms in the last six months alone. Pink Sunday honored women with breast cancer, while reminding others to have their yearly check-up. An Alzheimer’s disease and diabetes awareness event and CPR and AED certification classes offered educational opportunities. Temple Builders was another educational event that our parish nurse regularly presented to First Lutheran elementary students.

One of the best-received new programs in 2008 was Bread for This Journey—an addition to our bereavement support program which provides a fresh loaf of bread as a reminder of the true “Bread of Life/the One” who promises to accompany us on our sacred journey of faith, even through our difficult journeys of grief. Other new support groups

included Celebrate Recovery, for dealing with various addiction issues, and The Lighthouse, for families and friends facing the consequences of their loved ones having made poor choices. This latter program also reflects our synod’s and church-wide program of pastors coaching a lay-led involvement of a new ministry program, Coaching 101.

A new book study has also developed into a wonderful support group through reviewing the book *Being Well When We Are Ill*, by noted Lutheran theologian Marva Dawn, who herself faces several chronic and debilitating diseases. It has been such a blessing and support that we plan to begin a similar study in the fall of 2009 of a book written by another woman theologian and pastor who has faced the unique medical challenges of a brain disorder, commonly called mental illness. There is much we can and need to do to improve awareness of this historic, yet poorly understood or accepted medical condition in our society and our congregation.

In closing, special thanks to Caring Ministries Coordinator Char Peters, Pastors’ Secretary Carol Knapp and the many members of our Pastoral Care Board, Holistic Health Cabinet and Hospitality Team. Thanks also to our visitation pastors—Jim Christopherson, Lee Eikanger, LeRoy Nevin and Paul Sanders; Diaconal Minister Kristi Gullickson; and our pastoral staff—John Christopherson, Jason Burggraff and Natanael Lizarazo—who all join in supporting our Pastoral Care Ministry program.

Thanks also to each First Lutheran Church member who continues to encourage and support this important ministry area of Pastoral Care—whether through participation, referrals, financial assistance or prayer. These are important elements in sharing Christ’s love with others. Your ministry allows us to witness together to Jesus and to the power of God’s love, as we face life’s daily challenges and have the unique and sacred privilege of serving in his name! It is, after all, a wonderful answer to the question of: “What on earth are we here for!”

To God be the glory!

Report of the Associate Pastor working with Adult Discipleship and Youth and Family Ministry • Jason Burggraff



My dad often reminds me that a basic private pilot's license is really a license to learn. I'm pretty sure the same principle applies to ministry, because my first year here at First Lutheran has been a great time of learning and practicing the ministry of proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I continue to be surprised in the joy of sharing with you the incredible work of Christ on the cross, and how that proclamation looks in both the areas of Adult Discipleship and Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Family Life Ministries. Thanks to all at First Lutheran for the great concern and teaching you have shared with me.

It is true that pastors each have areas of special responsibility, yet we are also generalists. And so we share in the work of daily and weekly ministry in worship, preaching, hospital visits, baptisms, weddings, funerals, building relationships and individual pastoral care.

Within this work, and with great excitement, I have sensed a hunger for Bible study and fellowship. This, of course, is what faith yearns for—sharing God's Word with one another. To that end, we journeyed together from Genesis to Revelation in two Bible studies last spring (Divine Drama). Over the summer I redeveloped the material for two more classes this fall (renamed Genesis to Revelation: A Divine Word). My hope is that this 12-week overview can continue to act as a springboard for further desire to read, hear, and study together God's Word at First Lutheran in groups large and small—it certainly has had this effect on me. And so it is this winter/spring of 2009 that we'll be studying together the book of Romans with a more in-depth look at this great letter of Paul. There will also be another section of Genesis to Revelation offered.

A small group here at First Lutheran asked me to help with a Bible study on the book of Revelation. We had lots of fun together this past summer, and from that sprang two more Bible studies on Revelation that met this past fall. Also beginning to meet this fall was Theology on Tap—a group of mostly young adults, which gets together once a month for fellowship and relaxed discussions on the Bible, theology and current events.

Confirmation has been a particular area of delight and challenge over the past year. From teaching sixth- and ninth-graders last year, with a few classes of seventh- and eighth-graders to teaching ninth-graders this year, our interaction has been great, yet the challenge remains for us all: to engage and bring up in the faith our youth in a way that sparks excitement, and deepens both thought and relationships. We have a great base of shepherds and a curriculum that blends both study and service, yet we are continually looking for ways to improve the program. Thank you to parents and others for your help in bringing up our youth in the faith of Jesus Christ.

I continue to enjoy hanging out with our young families on Friday Family Fun Nights, with high schoolers at Wednesday night youth group, and with young adults at 4:12 events. Great thanks to Nancy Henrichsen, Melody Roberts, Marnie Dahle Backer, Mara Stillson and our young adult leaders who plan and help out with these great events. I'm also looking forward to deepening relationships with couples preparing for marriage and couples recently married.

In looking to this coming year, I know that God will continue to be faithful in bringing faith to you and to me—let us cling to his Word of Promise together in all that we do.



Report of the Business Administrator

Marilyn McNeill

I am especially grateful for all the ministries that have been shared in 2008. Without the dedicated staff and volunteers that we are blessed with at First Lutheran Church, we would not be able to share the Word of God and reach out to so many members and friends.

In reviewing 2008, we note various staff changes. We welcome Tyler Johnson and Joe Ward as additional Sunday broadcast directors. Other changes in the media area are Kerrie Vilhauer, who has returned to her former position of media coordinator replacing Dianne Jansen, and Heather Kuecker, who replaced Kayla Kaup as media assistant. Barb Johnson and Kristy Zuraff replaced Eunice Quamen and Cathy Maguire as receptionist/membership secretaries. Linda Carpenter was hired as visitation/volunteer coordinator replacing Stacie Seten. Sarah Hagenlock was hired as a wedding coordinator replacing Dorothy Grevlos. We are very appreciative that Deb Koch and Miles Siebelts were able to help us in the custodial area during the time that John Cerwinske was on short-term disability. Sadly, we mourn the loss

of Merle Pflueger, organist emeritus, who passed away in August. His talents will be greatly missed.

Our volunteers continue to give selflessly of their time and talents as they serve God through First Lutheran Church. Many hours and many days are given to serving in worship and music, teaching, outreach, media, property, office support and other areas. Our First Lutheran ministries would not be complete without volunteers giving of their time and talents. Thank you to the Lord for their services.

I also wish to thank the congregation, the Executive Committee, the Church Council, and all of the boards for the support they give to me and the rest of the staff.

God's blessings to you!

Jesus provides strength and power to all who believe in him; it is said whatever we do, we do it through Jesus. "And whatsoever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).

Adult Discipleship Ministries

David Wegner, Board for Adult Discipleship Ministries Chair



Board members in 2008 included: Judy Erickson; Don Finstad; Lyle McLeod; Cheryl O'Brien; Karyn Pederson; Viola Smith; Jeff Stahl; Suzanne Toll, secretary; and Dave Wegner, chair. Board advisors were pastors Jason Burggraff and Dave Johnson.

The Board for Adult Discipleship Ministries meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.

Adult ministries that operate independent of the Board for Adult Discipleship Ministries

At least eight First Lutheran Church adult ministries operate independently of the Board for Adult Discipleship Ministries: FLC Library; Grace Groups; Helping Hands; Lutheran Men in Mission; Pastor Jason Burggraff's Genesis to Revelation: A Divine Word Bible studies; Project Car; Senior Ministries; and First Lutheran Church Women.

Adult ministries specific to the Adult Discipleship Ministries Board's interest

The Board for Adult Discipleship Ministries itself provides direct leadership for the following four activities: outreach to adults with disabilities; acquisition of writers for devotional booklets; operation of Sunday morning adult forums; and other educational projects directed toward adult members of First Lutheran Church.

Outreach to adults with disabilities

Two events reaching out to adults with disabilities occurred in 2008. The Spring Fling Invitational took place on Thursday, May 15. And the Fall Fling Invitational took place on Thursday, Nov. 20. At each event, 50 to 70 clients of South Dakota Achieve and DakotAbilities came to Reformation

Hall for refreshments and entertainment. Each event lasted an hour and a half, and entertainment was provided by staff from Children's Care Hospital and School and by more than 30 state champion dancers from Washington High School.

Acquiring writers for Lenten booklet

Members of the Board for Adult Discipleship Ministries solicit FLC friends and acquaintances to submit devotional thoughts for the annual Lenten booklet. Board member Lyle McLeod successfully signed up many writers while manning a table for two or three Sunday mornings in December. The theme for the 2008 Lenten devotional was "Reflections on the Lord's Prayer."

Sunday morning Adult Forums

Board Advisor Pastor Dave Johnson once again lined up terrific speakers for the 31 Sundays of forums that were presented during spring and fall of 2008. Forums took place at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Judy Erickson was again our most faithful server of coffee, cookies, doughnuts and sweet rolls.

Other educational projects in 2008

"The Gospel of John" was presented to a full sanctuary on Saturday, Jan. 5. This was a word-for-word theatrical portrayal of the fourth gospel, chosen by the presenter because it, more than the other gospels, highlights the divinity of Christ. On Saturday, Oct. 11, the board sponsored a one-hour musical drama portraying the Old Testament story of Ruth. Presented in the sanctuary, this drama communicated a message of salvation as reflected in Ruth's life experiences and through the revelation of her ancestral connection to Jesus.



Library Ministry

Barbara Siebelts, Librarian

Library mission statement: The library ministry offers print and visual resources for intellectual and spiritual growth for all ages.

The library also joins and assists other ministries to present creative opportunities for worship, education, service, outreach, and fellowship.

The mission statement makes the library, while under the Board for Adult Discipleship Ministries' direction, a tool of all areas of ministry at FLC.

School break movies have been successful. Faith and value studies are being offered for families who may want to discuss the movies shown at school break movies. These events are in conjunction with the Children's Ministry.

Members still find their way into the library for conversation or personal studies. Adults are

encouraged to check out books. Fiction and children's books are checked out most consistently.

A variety of items have been purchased including new books, DVDs and replacements for old books. Donated books also were received.

Four library promotions were attempted during 2008.

The 38 library categories were reduced to 15 genres in an effort to make the library more user-friendly. (See the table below.) A hands-on inventory of the library books and other materials continues. New and easier to read labels are being added to each book and item available for check out. Additional information is being added to each entry in the Book Systems computer program. A donated printer was added to the library desk computer. Training of volunteers for making print-outs of material such as reading lists, books in our library on specific subjects, and by authors is scheduled in 2009.

Report Class	Description	
A	Arts	Art, music, poetry, and related intellectual activities
B	Biographies	Includes autobiographies
C	Christianity	Information based on the life, teachings, and example of Jesus Christ including current issues, Christian church history and missions.
D	Devotional	Prayers or other religious observances
E	Easy Read	Stories for children
F	Fiction	Novels
G	Growth Advice	Directions, self-help
H	Health	The general condition of the body or mind, especially in terms of the presence or absence of illnesses, injuries, or impairments, aging, grief; parish nurse resources
L	Lutheranism and Martin Luther	The major branch of Protestant Christianity that identifies with the 16th-century German reformer Martin Luther and his teachings
M	Media	DVD, VHS and other visual mediums
P	People	A population, community, ethnic group or nationality. Beliefs and opinions not Christian.
R	References	A source of information, e.g. a dictionary or an encyclopedia. Resources for conducting word, verse, and topic searches in many Bible versions, commentaries, Bibles, teaching aids
S	Studies	Courses introducing the basic doctrines of the to stimulate the development of your Christian worldview.
V	Visually Assist	All subjects with bigger than normal typeset for the benefit of partially sighted readers, includes audio presentations in tape and compact disk
Y	Youth	Designed or appropriate for youth ages 8-19

Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Family Life Ministries • Ginny Christopherson, CYAFL Representative



Board members in 2008 included: Terri Carlson; Ginny Christopherson, secretary; Jeff Herbert; Eric Hernes; Todd Monson; Dennis Peters; Denise Schaefer; Carol Spader; and Cindy Tripp. Board advisors were pastors Jason Burggraff and Natanael Lizarazo.

God continues to bless the First Lutheran Church Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Family Life Ministries with his presence and guidance as we strive to help our congregation step together in a lifelong journey of faith.

The members of the Board for Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Family Life (CYAFL) Ministries provide leadership, advice and direction for the spiritual growth of the congregation. This is accomplished through Milestone Ministry; Christian education, including education on Sunday mornings; nursery care for infants and children during various ministries and worship; confirmation ministry and acolytes; retreat and camping ministries; ministries to, for and among young adults in the congregation; and ministries designed to nurture family life relationships.

The CYAFL Board is blessed with support from the First Lutheran Church pastors, CYAFL staff, the parish nurse, and many volunteers in carrying out its ministries. The board is grateful for the commitment and passion of these individuals. Thank you!

CYAFL is also blessed to have two pastors directly assigned and actively involved in our ministries. Pastor Natanael Lizarazo provides senior counsel and serves CYAFL's administrative needs with evangelism and outreach being his primary call. Pastor Jason Burggraff is the primary resource for pastoral input, representing the pastoral staff, with discipleship being his primary call. This dual structure allows for intentionality for evangelism with Pastor Nate and Pastor Jason collaborating their primary ministries to provide the best possible pastoral representation.

The CYAFL ministries and summary of activities will be described more specifically by the pastoral representatives and in the following staff reports.

We invite all of you to join us in bringing God's unconditional love and grace to the children, youth, young adults, and families of First Lutheran Church and our community.

Marnie Dahle Backer,
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Mara Stillson,
Associate Director of Youth Ministries

Youth and Young Adult Ministry at First Lutheran Church is lifting up and caring for the members of our congregation from fifth-grade through their 30s, offering opportunities for them to grow in the lifelong journey of faith, reminding them of God's unconditional love and grace.

Our continuous goal is to incorporate all youth and young adults of our church in ministry. Thank you to members of all ages who have been powerful partners in this journey. The grace of God and the gifts of this congregation continue to help us work toward this goal.

One area of ministry that is growing in leaps and bounds is the Wednesday Night Meal, now serving more than 200 people each week from September through May. Thank you to all those dedicated to making this meal happen each week. This ministry gives a great opportunity to bring people of all ages together.

This ministry is blessed with amazing people who care for our youth. A special thank you goes out to the 37 outstanding shepherds who have dedicated themselves each week to the confirmation students; to the 11 adult leaders for their faithfulness to the high school youth; to the members of the Fundraising Ministry Team for their creativity and commitment; and to all the parents who are so dedicated to their children and our church ... for all you do, we rejoice!

Middle School Ministry provides opportunities each week to connect with youth through confirmation. The shepherds work hard building relationships with the youth and teaching them about God's word, grace and love. Fellowship events, service and camping ministries all help faith to grow as we continue to ask the question, "What can I do to develop a fuller and deeper faith?"

High School Ministry is an ongoing challenge of providing ministry for youth whose faith lives are on a wide spectrum. Through youth group, Bible studies, small groups, retreats, summer trips, mailings, care



Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Family Life Ministries (cont.)

packages and prayer, we seek to share God's love and grace with each student.

College Ministry took a giant step forward with the assembly of the College Ministry Team, made up of parents meeting monthly to pray for college age young adults. The team sent out a care package to each member in this age bracket. We pray as young adults come back to their church, they will know that First Lutheran will always be their home.

Young Adult Ministry is a growing and developing ministry. 4:12 continues with the following mission statement: 4:12 is young Christian adults in their 20s and 30s experiencing ministries through a balance of fellowship, life sharing, spiritual growth, and outreach.

Fellowship and servant events continue, along with small group Bible studies. Our deepest gratitude to you for your continued support and prayers for our youth and young adults. It is a blessing in our lives to be with them and watch them grow in faith. Thank you!

Nancy Henrichsen, Director of Children's Ministries

The FaithWalkers rotation model curriculum for first-through fifth-graders has proven to be an effective model for teaching important Bible knowledge and involving parents and teenagers in shepherd ministry. I am thankful for the leadership that our shepherds and workshop leaders provide each week as our children and families come together to celebrate and learn. We have added a "Taking Faith Home" component to our curriculum in an effort to engage parents in the Christian education of their children.

Nursery Coordinator Irma Rodriguez continues to be an invaluable presence in our nursery. She provides care on Sunday mornings and for special activities that require nursery supervision for children under age 3.

Parish Nurse Paula Bartels meets with FaithWalkers monthly to encourage them and provide helpful projects to encourage spiritual and physical wellness. Children's Ministry Assistant Melody Roberts is my "right hand" as she fields last-minute emergencies and provides so much practical, hands-on assistance on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Her children and husband are bonus helpers for whom I am also grateful.

Our Family Fun Nights on selected Friday evenings will be supplemented in the coming year with fourth- and fifth-grade activity nights. Because families attend classes at four different times on Wednesdays and Sundays, and attend more than 22 different schools, these events provide an opportunity for families and children to interact with each other, and for staff and volunteers to learn the composition of our family groups. Family Fun Nights also reinforce two of the four keys of faith development: service and caring conversation.

The Milestone Ministry added two milestones this year; one for second- and one for fourth-graders. During the Sundays that first- through fourth-grade students celebrate their milestones, Sunday morning classes do not take place. Families are encouraged to attend worship together instead. Fifth-grade youth celebrate their first communion milestone on Maundy Thursday. These celebrations provide rich context for families to establish the rituals and traditions that nurture growth in the Christian faith.

In the summer of 2008, 27 children and youth participated in the camping opportunities offered by Shetek Lutheran ministries and Lutherans Outdoors. Our Veggies Tales Pirates Vacation Bible School was a resounding success in May. We will build upon that by offering a weekday morning model again in the summer of 2009.

The Wednesday Night Meal program has continued to flourish. Participating in a Christian education opportunity mid-week provides many families with the opportunity to worship together on Saturday evening or on Sunday mornings. We are committed to finding ways to encourage families to participate in worship together.

The Christmas Giving program and Pennies for Peace continue to evoke a generous response from our children and families. We are grateful for those who support our ministry by donating scholarship money, recycling printer cartridges and cell phones and serving as shepherds or workshop leaders. All of us together, with the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, make an important difference in the lives of our children and families.



Board members in 2008 included: Ron Burmood; Corey Halstenson, chair; Kurt Johnson; Ben Kyte; Eric Lundin; Ron Mathison; Chris Nelson; Randy Olawsky; and Sue Quail, secretary. The board advisor was Marilyn McNeill

As a board, we would like to thank the members of First Lutheran for giving us the opportunity to serve in this capacity. We are called to serve as stewards of the financial gifts the church has received and use them to serve the mission of the church.

We would also like to thank the other boards of First Lutheran for their financial diligence and support of our church community. While the Board for Financial Services may set the budget, it is not done without input from the various boards. Furthermore, the boards of the church have continued to show their own sound financial management to help meet our annual budget.

The board would also like to thank Financial Specialist LaVonne Wolf and Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill for all of the work they do for the church and in providing information to the Financial Services Board that assists in managing the gifts the church has received

In 2008, the church again posted a surplus of revenues over expenses. This was the third consecutive year that this had occurred. This occurred even though only 92.8% of pledges were received during the year. In addition to the surplus, more than \$382,773 was received for the Capital

Campaign which paid principal on the loan in excess of the scheduled payments. The remaining debt of the church stands at \$2,634,473 after beginning the year with a balance of \$3,042,596. Paying this debt off as quickly as possible will free up significant cash flow for other activities and missions. Through the generosity of our members, we hope to continue to pay ahead and retire the loan as soon as possible.

With the current state of investments of all kinds, the support that we have so generously received from the First Lutheran Foundation will decrease significantly this year. It will be more important than ever that we use sound financial judgment throughout this year in order to balance the budget in 2009. In 2007, the church had a surplus of just over \$93,000 and in 2008, \$62,205. The surplus in 2007 was split between reserves and paying down the loan. In 2009, the entire 2008 surplus will be put into reserves to assist in balancing our budget in 2009.

We look forward into 2009 not knowing what to expect from our economy, yet knowing that it has likely reached some of the members of our congregation. The uncertainty of what is to come makes it even more important that the Financial Services Board, and the other church boards continue to exercise financial diligence in managing their respective budgets. The reality of 2009 is that we expect overall revenues to be down; however, we have faith that the generosity of the members of our church will prevail and our church will continue to build on its strong foundation.



Media Ministry

Scott Korsten, Board for Media Ministries Chair

Board members in 2008 included: Micah Aberson; Christine Dummermuth; Adam Ellsworth; Judy Jasper; Scott Korsten, chair; Shantel Krebs; Greg Leonard, secretary; Todd Smith; and Judy Van Veldhuizen. The board advisor was Marilyn McNeill

As members of First Lutheran Church, we may at times wonder how important it is that we continue the broadcast of our services each week over the television and radio airwaves. But we find inspiration for our mission expressed through the appreciative words of those who rely on this form of outreach:

“Thank you so much for being on the television every Sunday! We attend our own church regularly, but recently were ill and homebound. We worshipped with you!”

– Jeffers, Minn.

“I thank you for the many services you have given us in the past year. I look forward to each Sunday and the message it brings to those of us who are not able to go to our churches. Thank you so much.” – Cherokee, Iowa

“My late wife’s illness prevented her from physically attending services at First Lutheran Church for most of the last six months or so, but she seldom missed a service via the wonderfully televised program. She was very appreciative of the opportunity to ‘attend’ the service weekly via the TV and was very thankful for this arm of First Lutheran Church. God bless you.” – Sioux Falls, S.D.

These words represent the view of thousands who receive, rely on, and look forward to the Sunday morning broadcasts to provide their spiritual nourishment each week. Other Media Ministry programs include the production of our church’s print media such as the weekly bulletins, the monthly *First Word* newsletter, and the First Lutheran annual report; and the production and maintenance of our growing Web site.

During 2008, our television broadcasts were produced using new digital cameras that were put in place in time for the 2007 Christmas broadcasts. While the new cameras were necessary because of the age and unreliability of our equipment at the time, changing to a digital format was also necessary to put us in position to continue broadcasting when analog systems are discontinued by federal mandate in February 2009.

These recent equipment upgrades weren’t intended to get us to the finish line though; we will need to

purchase additional equipment in our control room to provide high-definition broadcasts. The timing of this final transition into HDTV will be dependent on our broadcast partner KSFY-TV making their equipment selections; we will then make plans to acquire equipment that will best integrate with their system. We estimate our additional financial needs will be near \$100,000 for this final transition, most likely in late 2009 or early 2010. If this sounds like a lot of expensive changing going on, we agree; we look forward to completing the biggest change in broadcast technology since the advent of TV and one we can be assured we will not again have to make in the foreseeable future.

The success of FLC’s Media Ministry is largely due to the talented staff who are tasked with keeping our wheels on the wagon. Communications staff Kerrie Vilhauer and Heather Kuecker perform most of the heavy lifting along with Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill. Technical aspects are spearheaded by Dave Palmer and Kathy Hein. Joe Ward and Tyler Johnson were hired as directors in 2008. The Board for Media Ministries gratefully acknowledges their dedication and fine work. The efforts of Media Ministry are supplemented by a group in excess of 30 volunteers who assist in making the weekly broadcasts possible and who help with worship bulletins and other media-related activities.

We are ever-conscious of managing the costs of Media Ministry and have worked to contain and hold our expenses wherever possible. We have experienced an increase in broadcast and telecast fees for 2009 and the Media Board will be raising sponsorship fees in amounts to cover the specific price increases we will experience.

This past year we had the privilege of celebrating 30 years of Media Ministry at First Lutheran Church; this is a significant milestone representing the delivery of God’s love and hope to literally thousands of people in the tri-state area.

Since its humble beginnings, First Lutheran’s Media Ministry has delivered, and will continue to deliver the good news of God’s grace and love and the message of peace via the airwaves. Thank you for your past and future financial support, and as always, the gift of your prayers is most appreciated!

Outreach Ministries



John E. Kittelson, Board for Outreach Ministries Chair

Board members in 2008 included: Jaclyn Aberson; Marilyn Alvine; Roger Braaten; Elly Folkers; Jennifer Gerrietts-Masters, secretary; John Kittelson, chair; Doug Peterson; Don Seten; and Mary Thompson. The board advisor was Pastor Natanael Lizarazo. Visitation/Volunteer Coordinator Linda Carpenter assists in volunteer needs.

As the Board for Outreach Ministries of First Lutheran Church, we will:

- Learn and share the Good News of Jesus!
- Serve the needs of our community and world!
- Challenge our members to do the same!

The Board for Outreach Ministries is First Lutheran Church's contact with the community, region and the world. It serves FLC by projects and financial support of the needs of many people and organizations.

The board manages more than a quarter of a million dollars of budgeted, restricted and trust funds for benevolent use. In addition, it is directly involved in new FLC memberships, reaching out to the needs in the "Heart of the City," the South Dakota Synod and the ELCA. This includes our missionary in Madagascar, Lutheran schools in Palestine, needs in Colombia and our sister synods in Nicaragua and Cameroon. There is also direct involvement with assisting our worshipping friends and members from Liberia. As a result of this involvement, FLC now has a fifth weekend service at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday in Christ the Victor Chapel.

World hunger and missions play a very important role for the board. FLC was recognized as the leader in the South Dakota Synod in these areas at its 2008 assembly. Other areas of strong support to the Synod include camping ministry, prison ministry at the St. Dysmas Congregation at the South Dakota

State Penitentiary, Woyatan Church ministry in Rapid City and the financial support of four seminary students from FLC.

Financial support continues to organizations in the "Heart of the City" to assist the needs of many people. These include Augustana College, Bowden Youth Center, The Banquet, Family Connection House, Food Pantry, Good Shepherd Center, Habitat for Humanity, St. Francis House, Community Outreach, Luther House and Lutheran Social Services. The board decided to build a house in 2009 for the Habitat for Humanity program. This was approved by the Church Council, and plans are progressing. Further assistance programs are being researched for children at the Bowden Youth Center and two of the Sioux Falls elementary schools. The board is attempting to reach out to the community through Alpha, a program for people of all faiths to learn about Christianity. We are in our fifth year of this program, and it continues to grow. The program serves both members and non-members of FLC.

It is the responsibility of the board to oversee the Genesis Café, visitor hospitality and the information desk. Continued financial support by a FLC member couple provides for the serving of Equal Exchange coffee and a financial supplement for food served at the Genesis Café. The new member Discovery Class takes place three times per year and is working well.

The board has gone on annual retreat for the past five years, resulting in excellent focus in its planning. As a result, planning is currently being done to involve more members of FLC in the programs of the Outreach Ministries Board. It is an exciting project that shows to everyone that this board is alive and well!



Pastoral Care Ministries

Charlotte Peters, Board for Pastoral Care Chair

Board members in 2008 included: Larry Anderson; Shirley Bly, secretary; Linda Gores; Benjamin Oien; Charlotte Peters, chair; Karen Saxvik; Barbara Siebelts; and Toby Wellenstein. The board advisor was Pastor Barbara Wangsness.

Mission statement: To support members in time of need, to share God's blessings, and to offer guidance and counsel.

The Board for Pastoral Care Ministries oversees a variety of programs and groups:

- Friendly Visitors
- Prayer Shawl program
- Bread for This Journey: A support program that provides a loaf of bread to those grieving the loss of a loved one.
- Hospitality Team to nursing homes: The team consists of Margaret Doescher, Linda Gores, Dorothy Grevlos, Tracie Osthus, Helen Raker, Joyce Sells, Selma Seten, Mary Simko, Vernelle Swanson, Charlotte Cooper-Tracy, Karen Van Bockern, Thelma McElhaney, and musicians Hazel Wek and Alta Goodman.
- Stephen Ministry: This ministry is headed by Laurie Knutson. Ministers are Joanne Ambroson, Kathrine Clark, Judy Green, Gayle Johnson, Lona Miller, Brenda Roberts, Lottie Rollag, Orrin Townswick, Wanda Todd and Donna Van Houten.

There are also many support groups:

- GriefShare: Led by Chaplain Kristi Gullickson
- Prayer chains by telephone and e-mail
- Book studies
- Lighthouse Support Group: For families and friends facing the consequences of their loved ones having made poor choices.
- Celebrate Recovery: Dealing with addiction issues.
- Special services of prayers for healing led by Pastor Barbara Wangsness.
- Holistic Health Cabinet: Consisting of Phyllis Beukens, Kris O'Connell, Betty Pfeifle, Howard Bich, Mary Oyos, Jim Fink, Laurie Knutson (who is off in October 2008), Kari Fox (who is on in November 2008) and Parish Nurse Paula Bartels.

Under the supervision of the Holistic Health Cabinet we find:

- Called to Care
- Blood Pressure Screening
- Bloodmobile
- Faithfully Fit Forever: Chair exercise class facilitated by Howard Bich and Betty Pfeifle
- SIGH (Stepping Into Good Health): SIGH provides foot care, blood sugar screening, medical referrals and heart health education for those in need.
- Ronald McDonald Care Mobile: Dental care was given to 44 children and young adults in June
- Cancer Support Group: Facilitated by Laurie Knutson and Bill Bradfeldt
- Elizabeth Ministry: A program designed to support women during their childbearing years co-chaired by Ellie Keirnes and Marilyn Van Demark. Eighteen women were served during the last half of 2008.
- Church Walkers

More than 100 members of our congregation are visited monthly by Pastors LeeRoy Eikanger, LeRoy Nevin, Paul Sanders and Jim Christopherson. Holy Communion services are held twice a year at nine retirement or nursing homes.

Staying in touch with FLC members' relatives who are in the armed forces is important to us, and Janie Thomas helps to make it happen.

Pastor Barbara Wangsness "shepherds" all of these caring ministries and offers counseling and prayers in special times of need. Her willingness to be available in countless situations gives her little time, yet she still manages to come up with new ideas and finds ways to implement them.

We are especially grateful for gifts from the First Lutheran Church Women and Lutheran Men in Mission. We are also thankful for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for matching money from our fundraising efforts.

Please continue to remember our ministry in your prayers. We try to help members who are going through crises in appropriate ways and we value the partnership we have with The Community Outreach, who assists us with people who come to us for financial help and are not our members.

Property and Administrative Services



Bob Bauman, Board for Property and Administrative Services Chair

Board members in 2008 included: Bob Bauman, chair; Jim Berg; Joel Doeden; Keith Dykstra; Jan Erkes, secretary; Gerry Gackle; Tim Heinemann; Craig Houg; and Gloria Simpson. The board advisor was Marilyn McNeill

A list of the items completed during the 2008 year are as follows: a new computer installed that improves the efficiency of the boilers; the roof on Starbucks was replaced at a cost of \$12,520; the pillars on the front steps were finished; the retaining wall by Starbucks was repaired; maps have been placed around the church with directions for escape in case of fire; and a new organ for the chapel was bought and installed.

The wonderful volunteers have worked on the following projects: completed a seat for a pew in the south balcony; fixed scratches on all pews; refinished woodwork in the choir balcony; installed a new faucet in Fellowship Hall; fixed a partition in Fellowship Hall; fixed unit heater in the Nave; fixed the sump pump in the east end of the Fellowship Hall kitchen; fixed the circulating pump in the nave; installed a new floor in the WELCA closet; fixed a roof leak in Reformation Hall; and put rock around the parking lot. The recycling program started by the volunteers has made about \$2,500.

The annual church clean-up took place in March. Thank you to all of the volunteers who came and made this event a success. Please come and join us this spring.

The Board for Property and Administrative Services served Genesis Café in July and raised more than \$500.

Facilities Manager Rob Oswald sold the sidewalk brush machine for \$650. The new tractor that was purchased has cut snow removal time in half. The custodial staff made \$500 from snow removal for Mark Aspaas.

A proposal from GF Electric Inc. for a fire alarm and fire detection system, using a beam detector, is \$35,709. The system would be combined with the existing system, which then goes directly to the fire department.

The board has established a “priority list” for upcoming projects—smoke sensors or detectors for the sanctuary, new carpeting for the sanctuary and debt reduction.

There is a possibility of exchanging our Main Avenue parking lot for the parking area west of Nordic Hall. Mark Aspaas will talk to the city and let us know the results.

On behalf of the Property and Administrative Services Board, I would like to thank Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill and our custodial staff—Rob Oswald, Jeff Hartnett and John Cerwinski—as well as our great volunteers for all their hard work. They all do an exceptional job!



Stewardship

Stan Meyers, Board for Stewardship Chair

Board members in 2008 included: Cathie Egge; Kristi Gullickson; Bill Hegg; Jack Miller; Stan Meyers, chair; Terry Pospisil; Mary Simmons; Elmer Sorensen, secretary; and Tim Stark. The board advisor was Marilyn McNeill.

The Board for Stewardship works with all other boards at First Lutheran. Our mission statement is to place stewardship in the hearts of the First Lutheran Church family, guiding them to joyfully receive God's gifts and in thanksgiving generously share their time, talent, and treasure. Eighty-two new members joined the church through the new member Discovery Class this past year. The two primary reasons our new members are joining First Lutheran are the welcoming spirit of the congregation and the strong liturgical tradition of our services.

Our challenge continues to be moving people to more involvement and pledging more of a financial commitment to the ministries of FLC. We completed the first round of what we call our "every member visit" early in 2008. There were 66 teams that started the campaign with each team visiting 10 families. We had planned a second visitation in 2008, but the project was delayed. Our ultimate goal with the visitations is to make sure our database is current and to further understand the thoughts, needs, or concerns of all members of First Lutheran. We want to make every member feel a part of the great family of First Lutheran Church.

Every *First Word* features a testimonial from a member sharing the story of personal meaningfulness in programs, projects and missions at First Lutheran.

We offered written testimonials prior to Consecration Sunday.

Personal telephone calls were made to nearly 1,000 members to encourage them to send in their pledge cards. We still have about one-half of the members of FLC who give no financial support to the church.

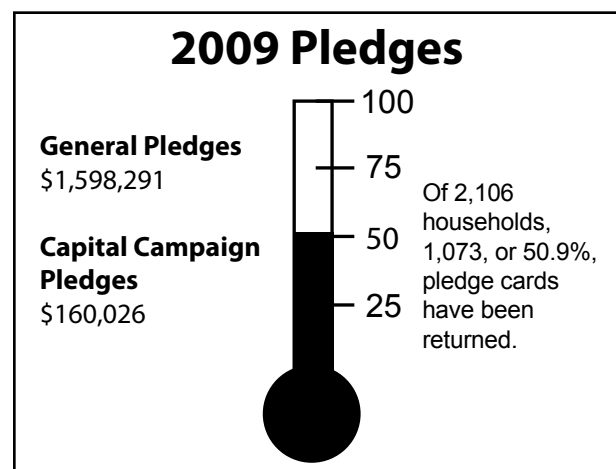
The Stewardship Board offered Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Financial Peace is a biblically-based program that teaches people how to get out of debt and to build wealth. The emphasis is on using a budget and simply following three steps: give first, save second and spend third. The 13-week course started on Sept. 21. Initially there were

about 30 families that registered. Cathie Egge and I facilitated the program which took place on Sunday from 6 to 8 p.m. I believe this program is excellent for all people, especially those struggling with personal finances. We plan on offering another course either in February 2009 or again in September 2009.

Our efforts in the production of a First Lutheran Church video are nearing completion. With no budget for production, some board members have volunteered as parking lot attendants for events at the Washington Pavilion. We expect this project to be completed by the annual meeting.

We continue to put the pledges and capital campaign gifts in front of our members with a graph depicted in each Sunday's bulletin. (See the final graph below.) We continue to urge members to take advantage of direct deposit (Simply Giving), and each year we increase the number of those who take advantage of this opportunity.

We want to thank Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill, visitation/volunteer coordinators Stacie Seten and Linda Carpenter, and Pastor John Christopherson for their spiritual and managerial guidance in 2008. Stacie Seten resigned to take another position. Linda Carpenter has taken over for Stacie and is excited about the opportunities to expand our volunteer participation and to continue conducting the new member classes to expand our family at FLC. We continue to encourage all members to share their testimonials and prayerfully consider the blessings the Lord has given us as we continue our journey of faith in our life of stewardship.



Worship and Music Ministries



David Lankford, Board for Worship and Music Ministries Chair

Board members in 2008 included: Michelle Ahrens; Leah Bogue; Doris Bushard; Tom Christopherson; Kim Djonne, secretary; Scott Gibson; John Hegg; David Lankford, chair; and Sue Severson. Board advisors were Michael Elsbernd and Pastor John Christopherson.

The Board for Worship and Music Ministries supports the efforts of the pastoral and music staff to enhance the worship life of the congregation. The board is constantly working to achieve the most meaningful evangelical Lutheran worship experience for a wide variety of ages, backgrounds and tastes. The board's duties include seasonal decorating for Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. The board also has the responsibility to support the ushers, communion servers, and those who care for worship spaces such as the sanctuary and chapel.

We are into the second year of Dr. Michael Elsbernd's service as director of Music Ministry. It has been an exciting time as we have maintained our cherished musical traditions and expanded our facilities and program.

We have continued our efforts to reorganize the position of head usher. We divided the position into three, so there will be a head usher for each of the three Sunday worship services. We have secured volunteers for the 8:15 and 9:45 a.m. services and are currently looking for a volunteer for 11:15 a.m. service.

The new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book was purchased through congregational gifts and memorials. The new hymnal was introduced in September 2007.

The organ committee was able to obtain a used pipe organ for Christ the Victor Chapel. The old electronic organ was virtually unplayable after 48 years of use. It was donated to a new congregation. Some modifications and additions were made to the new organ, and it entered into service in December. It is a wonderful addition to the chapel. We continue to hope for the completion and reconfiguration of the Aeolean-Skinner organ in the sanctuary.

At the request of the Church Council, the board reviewed our duties listed in the church By-laws. We suggested some minor changes to reflect the evolution of our mission over the years.

The piano lab was put into use this fall. This program will enhance our community outreach and the musical training for those who might otherwise not be able to have this opportunity. Thank you to those who helped fund and arrange this, as well as those who are doing the actual teaching—Michael Elsbernd, Hazel Wek and Dorothy Christopherson.

The Altar Guild has been expanded, and there is now a comprehensive manual for their duties. Thanks to Doris Bushard for her many hours dedicated to accomplishing this.

We look forward to 2009 with enthusiasm. We still have work to do identifying a head usher for 11:15 a.m. worship service, increasing Adult Choir membership and completing the sanctuary organ. We are truly blessed to have so many talented musicians willing to provide leadership for our programs. I would like to thank our directors and accompanists: Michael Elsbernd, Marcia Kittelson, Dorothy Christopherson, Sue Severson, Pam Sonnichsen, Bonnie Lindgren, Gerry Kropp and Hazel Wek. We are also blessed with two dedicated contemporary groups, Ninepatch and Praise Band. A special thanks to our volunteer music librarians, Bev Winter and Eileen Quanbeck, who care for one of our most valuable resources, our extensive collection of sheet music and scores. Finally, I can say that the worship and music life of our church is greatly indebted to the Music Ministry Administrative Assistant Shirley Barlow. Her institutional memory, knowledge of the congregation and wisdom are invaluable.

Michael Elsbernd, Director of Music Ministry

The past year has been quite eventful for Music Ministry. I am, as always, tremendously grateful to all those who participate and support this active and vital ministry. I would like to offer a particular note of thanks for the continued work of Music Ministry Administrative Assistant Shirley Barlow. Her attention to detail and efficient work ethic (often behind the scenes) are indeed invaluable to the worship life of our community of faith.

Our music ministry program is nurtured by a skilled and caring music staff committed to excellence in the areas of music and faith formation. Carol Choir, the



Worship and Music Ministries

(cont.)

foundation of our graded choir program, continues to thrive under the superb leadership of Bonnie Lindgren. Jubilant Singers, led by Pam Sonnichsen, has enjoyed a successful year. Jubilant Singers recently collaborated with FaithWalkers in a musical presentation of Mark Patterson's, "Jesus, Light of the World," on Dec. 21. I am also grateful to Pam for her work as instrumental coordinator. The Women's Choir has also enjoyed another active year under the leadership of Dorothy Christopherson. Supporting both the Women's Choir and Carol Choir as accompanist is Hazel Wek

In addition to the oversight and direction of the entire music program, part of my responsibilities include directing the Agape Ringers (adult bell choir), who welcomed three new ringers this year; Good Vibrations (middle school bell choir), which has more than doubled its membership in 2008; Belle Campana (high school bell choir); FLYGHT (high school vocal); and the Adult Choir. These ensembles are a great joy to work with each week and are comprised of many talented musicians.

A particular highlight for Good Vibrations was an opportunity to present a brief program for the residents at the Good Samaritan Society—Sioux Falls Center. The Adult Choir traveled to Vermillion last May to sing at Trinity Lutheran Church. Several members of the Adult Choir also joined singers from other local church choirs in November to present Bradley Ellingboe's Requiem, along with other anthems, directed by the composer. It was our delight to welcome Professor Ellingboe to First Lutheran Church that particular weekend to direct the entire choir in a presentation of one of his anthems. Accompanying these groups are First Lutheran Organist Marcia Kittelson, Sue Severson (Adult Choir), and Gerry Kropp (FLYGHT). Their artistry and tireless dedication to the ensembles are a vital component of our rehearsals and presentations in worship.

Our commitment to a well-balanced music and worship ministry again includes two contemporary groups, Praise Band and Ninepatch, who work throughout the year to provide worship leadership of the highest quality. (Please see Sue Severson's contemporary music coordinator report on page 31).

The 2008–09 program year began with Music Celebration Sunday entitled, "Holy is This Place." Guest clinician, Dave DeHoogh-Kliewer, director of choral activities at the University of Sioux Falls, worked with a number of our choirs throughout the weekend and directed the combined choirs at the closing event on Sunday, Sept. 28.

The Piano Laboratory at First Lutheran Church officially launched two sections of piano classes during the fall session, September through November. Registration for a third class took place in December for the winter session in 2009. Enrollment for the three classes is now complete, with nearly 24 (maximum capacity) students in this new program. The Piano Laboratory was made possible by a generous gift from a First Lutheran family. The faculty members—Hazel Wek, Dorothy Christopherson and myself—are donating our instructional time for this musical outreach project. The lab serves as the cornerstone for the evolution of an eventual children's music academy. The Piano Laboratory at First Lutheran Church offers group piano lessons to students who would not otherwise be able to afford private piano instruction.

A long-held dream to hear the sound of a pipe organ in Christ the Victor Chapel became a reality this past year. More than 40 years after the chapel was built and dedicated, a small pipe organ now resides in the rear balcony, accompanying the vespers liturgy and hymns. The organ was built in 1968 by Alfred Führer of Wilhelmshaven, Germany (near the North Sea), and it served at least two churches before its installation in Sioux Falls. It was most recently used by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Decorah, Iowa, before the planning council authorized its purchase by First Lutheran. A series of dedication events is scheduled for January, February and March 2009, which will highlight the versatility of this distinguished small instrument.

On a more somber note, Music Ministry, along with the First Lutheran Church and Sioux Falls community, continues to mourn the death of Organist Emeritus Dr. Merle Pflueger. Dr. Pflueger's legacy continues to speak through the magnificent Aeolian-Skinner organ which graces the rear balcony. Rarely does one possess the kind of vision



for an instrument that stands the test of time in such a way as our treasured pipe organ. I'm grateful for his vision and legacy that is now part of the fabric of this congregation.

Finally, I'd like to recognize the work of our two music librarians, Bev Winter and Eileen Quanbeck, who carefully and lovingly maintain our music library. Managing a music library of the size and scope as ours is no easy task. Their work is an invaluable support to Music Ministry. Another debt of gratitude is owed to the members of the Board for Worship and Music Ministries for their work throughout the year so that we may proclaim the good news of Christ's love to all those who gather in our sanctuary.

Marcia Kittelson, Organist

2008 has been a very busy year for both the sanctuary organ and the chapel organ.

The 1959 Aeolian-Skinner sanctuary organ will celebrate 50 years of worship leadership to the First Lutheran congregation in November 2009. This past year has been a painful realization of costly repairs and renovations to the organ that are caused by aging leathers and an outdated and failing electrical system. The expenditures for these repairs depleted our maintenance funds. The J.F. Nordlie Company in Sioux Falls does all of the service work on the organ. We continue to consult with the Schoenstein Company in San Francisco, Calif., on plans for completion of the sanctuary organ. It is important to realize that the replacement cost of our Aeolian-Skinner organ is more than \$1,000,000. It is a heritage instrument worth saving.

There is cause for celebration in Christ the Victor Chapel. It is with great joy that we were able to acquire a 1968 Alfred Führer organ from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Decorah, Iowa. (See Dr. Michael Elsbernd's report). The lovely, one-manual pipe organ replaces the Allen electronic organ that had been in the chapel for 48 years. The Führer organ is a perfect instrument for leading worship and for use as a small recital instrument. It will serve Christ the Victor Chapel for many years. The J.F. Nordlie Company prepared this organ for our chapel.

This past year is significant because two First Lutheran members who were major figures in the

Sioux Falls organ world, Dr. Merle Pflueger and Marie Eide, passed away. Merle was the organist at First Lutheran for 33 years. Marie played the organ here often and was the organist at First Presbyterian Church for many years. We miss their knowledge and encouragement.

We had three successful events featuring First Lutheran Church organs in 2008:

- Fall Organ Series: Three 30-minute noon hour recitals took place in September.
- Organ concert: Ukrainian organist Volodymyr Koshuba performed in October.
- A Musical Advent in Downtown Sioux Falls: Three 30-minute noon hour recitals took place in December. (The third recital featured the Führer organ in the chapel.)

I am a member of the American Guild of Organists and the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. My continuing education for 2008, the national convention of the American Guild of Organists, took place in June in Minneapolis, Minn. The convention provided opportunities for lectures, workshops, master classes, worship services and concerts. These educational opportunities, plus the interactions with fellow church musicians, renew and inspire my work at First Lutheran. I appreciate First Lutheran's partial support of my continuing education.

In addition to serving as your organist, I also accompany the Adult Choir. I appreciate the assistance of Sue Severson, James Moore, Marilyn Van Demark and Hazel Wek. Dr. Michael Elsbernd's guidance and Shirley Barlow's competent and caring administration of the music department are invaluable.

Thank you for your continued support of the organs at First Lutheran. Your gifts and memorials to the organs at First Lutheran are appreciated.

Bonnie Lindgren, Carol Choir Director

I am so proud to be associated with the well-loved First Lutheran Carol Choir—a group of singers that exudes much joy as they sing their songs of praises to the Lord. These 50 choristers, grades one through four, practice Saturdays from 10:15 a.m. to



Worship and Music Ministries

(cont.)

12 p.m. from September through April. They sing at the worship services about twice a month. We are thankful for our piano accompanist, Hazel Wek, and for our helpers—Madison Snelling, Mya Baca, Morgan Johnson, Gillian Roisum and Hattie Seten.

Special activities are built into the Carol Choir schedule. These include social activities such as a video/pizza party, as well as outreach to local nursing homes. The children carol at Dow Rummel Village at Christmas time and also at the end of their season in April. It is a delight to watch the joy on the faces of the residents as the children file by and offer handshakes after they sing. I find it especially heartwarming to hear the children exclaim on their way back to the vans: “That was fun!” In February, the choir makes and delivers valentines to First Lutheran members who live in nursing homes.

Carol Choir also remembers the hungry in the community in its outreach. Carol Choir members proudly bring specially selected food items to the First Lutheran food cupboard. They also contribute coins to the “Carol Choir Feeds the Hungry” piggy bank. The money collected last season was given to the Food Pantry in April of 2008. The Food Pantry responded with a special note of thanks to Carol Choir. The sharing of their gifts has become an important part of each rehearsal.

The highlight of each Carol Choir season is From the Children. In this worship service, the choir retells the story of the Bible—but with a change in focus each year. The theme for 2008 was “Standing on the Promises.” The children sang songs, played instruments, read scriptures, spoke the message and took the offering, and the Motion Choir (composed of Carol Choir girls in grades three and four) prayed the Lord’s Prayer through reverent movements.

The fall of 2008 brought a big, new development to Carol Choir—new choir robes! The choir had worn the old robes for more than 30 years, so the new robes are appreciated greatly. Carol Choir has a special message to all who contributed:

“Thank you for our beautiful new robes!”

Love, Carol Choir and Bonnie

The children are grateful, also, to First Lutheran for the many, many expressions of gratitude for the joy they

spread through their singing. And, I know our Lord who is in heaven has a special fondness for the precious group of little ones who we call the Carol Choir.

Pam Sonnichsen, Jubilant Singers Director

Jubilant Singers is an enthusiastic group of fifth-, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. This choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:30–6:25 p.m. throughout the school year. They are part of the Music Celebration Sunday, Reformation, Thanksgiving, Christmas Music Sunday, Christmas Eve, Lenten service(s), Easter and other Sunday worship services. In the spring of 2008 they, along with FLYGHT, performed a variety show. It was a great way to enjoy the many talents of our young people. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, Jubilant Singers along with the FaithWalkers performed the musical, “Light of the World” by Mark Patterson. It involved narrators, soloists, instrumentalists, Mary, Joseph, an innkeeper, angels, shepherds, magi and camels. It was a wonderful way for the various areas of our church ministry to work together to share the word of the Lord.

Gerry Kropp continues to be our faithful and talented accompanist. Her ministry to our choirs is a gift. The students involved in choir are also involved in many other activities. I am grateful to them and to their parents/guardians for making a commitment to choir.

Dorothy Christopherson, Women’s Choir Director

Thirty-six members sing in the Women’s Choir, which is accompanied by Hazel Wek. The choir has enjoyed singing once a month for worship. This year we were invited to sing for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday and with the combined choirs for Reformation and Christmas Music Sunday. We have a very talented group of singers, so our repertoire this year included some more difficult music, which everyone seemed to enjoy.

On March 9, the Women’s Choir sang for the worship services at Shalom Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, whose pastor is the father of one of our singers, Elizabeth Joyslin.

Worship and Music Ministries

(cont.)



On April 13, Women's Choir provided several anthems together with narrations by the pastors all centered around the theme of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. This was one of our highlights this year.

In September, Women's Choir was involved with Music Celebration Sunday. On Dec. 21, the choir took part in Bells of Christmas. The Women's Choir and the bell choirs provided the music for two of the worship services that day.

The choir has been busy raising money for new choir robes, which we hope to be able to order in the new year.

Special thanks to Director of Music Ministry Michael Elsbernd, Worship and Music Administrative Assistant Shirley Barlow and the music volunteers who assist in various ways to keep things running smoothly.

Sue Severson,

Contemporary Music Coordinator

Ninepatch and Praise Band continue to provide excellent musical leadership at the 11:15 a.m.

worship service. The First Lutheran congregation is very fortunate to have such talented musicians volunteer their time to rehearse, prepare and lead this service. It is quite a commitment, and we are very grateful to have two groups to share the Sunday morning schedule.

Ninepatch has recorded a CD of favorite songs, which will hopefully be ready for release soon. An announcement will be made when the CD is finished, and we look forward to being able to share it with the congregation.

This year, Michael and I introduced liturgy setting six from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal at the 11:15 a.m. worship service. Not only does this showcase one of the many excellent liturgies available in the *ELW*, but it also gives the worship bands a break from time to time while providing a different type of service for the congregation. The setting is a bit reminiscent of the Holden Evening Prayer service that is so well received during the Lenten Wednesday evening services. The hope is that this setting will continue to be used occasionally throughout the church year.



Auxiliary: First Lutheran Church Women

Arlene Bich and Glenna Burns, FLCW Board Chairs

Purpose: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The First Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) consists of women members of the church and all are encouraged and welcome to participate in the activities.

In 2008, general meetings took place the first Thursday of the month consisting of a noon luncheon followed by special music and an inspirational program. Exceptions to this schedule were: a salad supper held in May with the program "Stuff and Things with a Patriotic Twist," an evening supper in September where Pastor John Christopherson introduced the Bible study "Hidden Hand of God—Wisdom Stories of Ruth, Daniel and Esther," and the annual Christmas birthday party for Jesus held in December with a program called "Things about Christmas." Other programs presented throughout the year included: "Bold Women Program: Cherishing the Old, Relishing the New," by Arlene Bich and Glenna Burns; "Women's Health, Raising up Healthy Women," by Paula Bartels; a Seder meal by Jean Sneen; "Norway Today," by Jerry Hanson; "The World of Long-Term Care," by Loren Boyens; "Your Thanks Offering At Work," by Janet Naessig.

Eleven circles met monthly for Bible study and fellowship. During the months of June and August, the Bible study was led by Norma Hofer and Donna Willadsen. Each month, circles visited the women of First Lutheran Church who live in nursing homes.

Stewardship projects for 2008 included gifts of 865 quilts, 64 lap robes, 132 layettes, 81 health kits, 49

sewing kits, 60 yards of material and 41 midwife kits. FLCW's ongoing mission contributions included but were not limited to: Lutheran Social Services (\$600), Union Gospel Mission (\$1,600), Liberian ministry at First Lutheran Church (\$600), Children's Inn (\$1,000), Food Pantry (\$1,000), St. Francis House (\$1,000), The Banquet (\$1,000), Good Shepherd Ministry (\$1,000), First Lutheran Media Ministry memorials (\$300), Heartland Ephphatha Ministries (\$173); and Lutheran World Relief Project Comfort (\$1,400). The Christmas offering was given to the First Lutheran Church Banquet Fund. FLCW continued the tradition of sponsoring the media telecasts on Mother's Day and the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's.

The women served Genesis Café in April and November. In February, FLCW hosted a waffle breakfast as a fundraiser and made \$2,250, which was put toward new robes for the FLC Women's Choir and FLC Communion Assistants. FLCW also planned, organized and carried out the First Lutheran Church Bazaar in November which raised \$49,100. \$37,400 was immediately given to various missions and \$6,600 was retained to continue mission work throughout 2009. In service and love to First Lutheran Church, FLCW contributed \$3,000 to the chapel organ fund. During 2008, FLCW continued to serve at funerals.

FLCW members attended local conventions as well as the state WELCA convention in Spearfish, S.D.

It has been an honor to work with our dedicated and committed women this year. We would like to thank them for their cooperation, support and love. You are invited to come and enjoy fellowship with us and be surrounded by the love of Christ. In humble obedience, we step out in faith and service to our Lord and to First Lutheran Church.



Auxiliary: Lutheran Men in Mission

Lynwood E. Oyos, LMM President

“Every man who is a Christian at all should join some church organization. I advocate a man’s joining in church work for the sake of showing his faith by his works.”

–Theodore Roosevelt

During 2008, Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) sponsored several events. Pastor Jim Christopherson presented an illustrated talk on “The Splendors of St. Petersburg” to a full house at the annual Valentine Breakfast on Feb. 16. He was preceded by a “Name That Tune” contest conducted by Ken Kessinger. LMM played host to the Crossroads Conference Prayer Breakfast in Reformation Hall on April 5. The featured speaker was Bill Hoff, a retired public school administrator, who conducted several very successful community-wide Bible studies. The fall “kick-off” featuring contests and games took place in Reformation Hall on Oct. 11. The contests were followed by a noon luncheon in the Gathering Room with brief comments on the current national financial crisis by Lyn Oyos. Golf tournaments took place at Willow Run Golf Course in June and early September.

At LMM’s quarterly meeting on Jan. 26, Stu Whitney, sports editor for the Argus Leader, gave a very stimulating and interesting talk on the pros and cons of keeping Howard Field or razing it. At the various quarterly meetings, the following grant requests were funded:

- Capital Campaign (\$1,000)
- New robes for the Communion Ministry Team (\$400)
- First Lutheran Banquet Account (\$450)
- First Lutheran JazzFest booth (\$200)
- First Lutheran Quilters (\$1,000)
- Technical equipment for Ninepatch (\$500)
- New robes for Women’s Choir (\$500)

Lutheran Men in Mission was commended for being a leader in sponsoring the Congregational Art Project (the mural in Reformation Hall). Its members assisted at the carnival in conjunction with the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. They also took part in the preparations for the annual bazaar that took place on Nov. 1. During the First Lutheran Church Bazaar, they manned the parking lots, served as greeters and worked in the kitchen. The LMM parking crews worked during 17 events at the Washington Pavilion and assisted other FLC organizations at 14 other events making a total of \$6,923 in parking fees. Men from LMM assisted with the Salvation Army in the distribution of toys before Christmas. The men in the carpentry and maintenance shop on the lower level continued to perform invaluable tasks in improving the worship and social environment and providing technical assistance when needed. The Recycling Project, a new endeavor which collects valuable scrap metal, was begun during the year. Money from the sale of the scrap metal was directed to the Capital Campaign.

In charge of securing personnel for specific activities were:

- Ken Kessinger and Toby Wellenstein: Parking
- Don Toft and Warren Day: Dishwashing
- Jim Berg and Norm Ekeland: Golf tournaments
- Ken Kessinger and Morris Magnuson: Seek and secure speakers for LMM events

The officers for 2008 who have agreed to serve in 2009 include:

- Lynwood Oyos, president
- Ken Kessinger, vice president
- Howard Bich, secretary
- Gerald Gackle, treasurer

Parish Statistics



For the Year Ending Dec. 31, 2008 (Unaudited)

Description	Audited			Unaudited
	2005	2006	2007	2008
PARISH STATISTICS				
Regular Member Giving				
Pledge Responses	\$ 1,166,403	\$ 1,231,279	\$ 1,356,245	\$ 1,550,946
Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 158,810	\$ 162,142	\$ 135,283	\$ 135,781
Special Offerings	\$ 43,235	\$ 50,469	\$ 54,348	\$ 53,500
African Context Service				\$ 2,819
Regular Member Giving	\$ 1,368,448	\$ 1,443,889	\$ 1,545,876	\$ 1,743,046
Average Giving To Gen Offering Per Confirmed Member	\$ 408	\$ 432	\$ 465	\$ 528
DESIGNATED Member Giving				
Capital Campaign & Capital Campaign Projects	\$ 778,408	\$ 630,062	\$ 307,550	\$ 314,448
Chapel Organ, Piano Lab, Sanctuary Organ	\$ 6,829		\$ 25,000	\$ 31,279
Counselor			\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Holiday Flowers (Easter Garden & Christmas Mem)	\$ 3,357	\$ 8,713	\$ 6,786	\$ 7,232
Library	\$ 413	\$ 135	\$ 1,580	\$ 100
Media (Radio & TV), Media Equipment	\$ 37,279	\$ 87,747	\$ 110,245	\$ 56,565
Memorial Projects, Furnishings			\$ 1,250	
Music Dept, Women's Choir, Hand Bells, Carol Choir	\$ 7,505	\$ 2,605	\$ 1,435	\$ 10,175
National Youth Gathering	\$ 4,120	\$ 2,842		
Volunteer Shop Fund	\$ 30	\$ 1,415	\$ 1,417	\$ 929
Sanctuary Organ (above)	\$ 26,720	\$ 980	\$ 3,943	\$ -
Special Gifts	\$ 10,406	\$ 18,084	\$ 11,021	\$ 4,396
Sprinkler System				\$ 220
Stephen Ministries	\$ 1,421	\$ 80	\$ 100	\$ 15
Youth MS/HS and Children Gifts	\$ 12,763	\$ 4,392	\$ 555	\$ 930
Congregational Art Project		\$ 4,000	\$ 15,015	\$ 400
Parish Nurse		\$ 20		\$ 160
Hymnal Sponsorship			\$ 14,354	\$ 938
Total Designated Member Giving	\$ 889,251	\$ 761,075	\$ 506,250	\$ 433,787
Benevolence - Designated - Member Giving				
Good Shepherd		\$ 490	\$ 600	\$ 548
Banquet	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 65	\$ 1,125
Cameroon Companion Synod	\$ 900	\$ 496	\$ 309	\$ 396
Camperships	\$ 2,788	\$ 1,233	\$ 1,495	\$ 2,782
Caring Ministry	1094	6399	772	1158
Colombian Scholarships	\$ 8,483	\$ 16,465	\$ 10,751	\$ 20,072
ELCA Disasters	\$ 12,632			\$ 5,089
Family Connection House	\$ 628	\$ 547	\$ 602	\$ 695
Food Pantry	\$ 45	\$ 1,592		\$ 537
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 926	\$ 833	\$ 487	\$ 724
Helping Hands Ministry	\$ 120	\$ 80	\$ 75	\$ -
Heartland House	\$ 10			\$ -
Luther Seminary	\$ 554	\$ 548	\$ 1,120	\$ 519
Missionary Support	\$ 425	\$ 506	\$ 548	\$ 635
Missions - Misc	\$ 2,506	\$ 727	\$ 1,762	\$ 3,215
Nursing Home Ministry			\$ 605	\$ 74
Relief Fund - South Asia	\$ 3,506			
Nicaragua-Companion Synod		\$ 2,887	\$ 5,504	\$ 1,562
St. Dymas	\$ 1,168	\$ 565	\$ 497	\$ 697
St. Francis House	\$ 1,040	\$ 694	\$ 620	\$ 699
Scouts			\$ 300	
Union Gospel Mission	\$ 35	\$ 10		
World Hunger	\$ 8,731	\$ 7,925	\$ 7,211	\$ 2,266
Woyatan New Ministry	\$ 1,172	\$ 749	\$ 3,221	\$ 491
Ida Bergeland Bread for World Hunger		\$ 715	\$ 690	\$ 930
Total Benevolence - Designated -Member Giving	\$ 46,803	\$ 43,522	\$ 37,234	\$ 44,215
Total Member Giving (Reg, Desig & Benevolence)	\$ 2,304,502	\$ 2,248,486	\$ 2,089,360	\$ 2,221,048



Parish Statistics

(cont.)

Benevolence - First Lutheran Church Budget				
(CYYAFL) Camp/Retreat Assistance	\$ 696	\$ 955	\$ 2,210	\$ 2,725
(CYYAFL) College Grants	\$ 3,050	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,600
(CYYAFL) Outreach / Evangelism	\$ 624	\$ 640	\$ 360	\$ 600
(CYYAFL) Wed Night Meals			\$ 1,441	\$ 2,456
(Outreach) Augustana	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
(Outreach) Seminary Grant	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
(Outreach) LSS	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000
(Outreach) Global Mission (excluding Haugo)	\$ 3,350	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,250
(Outreach) Local Mission (excluding Haugo)	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,150
(Outreach) ELCA SYNOD Budgeted Benevolence	\$ 80,800	\$ 69,480	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,100
(Outreach) Social Ministry Programs	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
(Outreach) Camping Ministry	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
(Outreach) Community Outreach	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,338	\$ 2,000
(Outreach) Haugo Trust Local Missions	\$ 3,000			\$ 10,362
(Outreach) Haugo Trust Global Missions	\$ 300	\$ 600	\$ 300	\$ 4,569
(Outreach) Alpha Program			\$ 991	\$ 1,467
(Pastoral Care) Caring Fund	\$ 760			\$ -
(Adult Discipleship) Special Needs	\$ 1,680	\$ 1,600	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,250
(Adult Discipleship) Project Car	\$6,448	\$6,026	\$4,494	\$4,162
(Adult Discipleship) Senior Meals	\$1,917	\$1,622	\$1,981	\$1,725
Total Benevolence - First Lutheran Church	\$ 117,625	\$ 92,323	\$ 108,315	\$ 121,415
Total Benevolence (Member Giving & First Lutheran Church Budget)	\$ 164,428	\$ 135,844	\$ 145,548	\$ 165,630

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Membership	Baptized Members	4,135	4212	4253	4290	4302
	Confirmed Members	3,297	3353	3339	3324	3300
	Households	2,079	2119	2126	2125	2106
	Members Received	261	189	216	225	145
	By Child Baptism	56	49	61	65	56
	By Adult Baptism	2	0	2	4	2
	By Transfer	83	99	101	119	66
	By Affirmation	25	28	32	23	12
	By Reactivation/Statistical Readjustment	95	13	20	14	9
	Members Removed	155	112	175	188	133
	By Death	52	47	61	50	43
	By Transfer/Release	69	65	86	100	59
By Dismissal/Inactive Status	34	0	28	38	31	
Participation	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	1,106	1110	1215	1169	1037
	Church School Enrollment	357	332	300	304	331
	Average Weekly Church School Attendance	320	295	200	225	154
	Confirmation Enrollment	197	231	215	162	176
Ministerial Acts	Baptisms	59	49	65	69	57
	Confirmations	0	43	36	37	30
	Weddings	30	29	32	36	26
	Funerals	58	56	64	61	58

Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances

Cash Basis



Description	Audited		Unaudited
	12/31/2006	12/31/2007	12/31/2008
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	\$ 309,821	\$ 194,178	\$ 647,919
Assets Not Available for Current Needs			
Cash	\$ 341,267	\$ 521,501	
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 145,508	\$ 145,508	\$ 145,508
*Foundation	\$ 6,351,796	\$ 6,787,292	\$ 5,525,472
Total Assets Not Available for Current Needs	\$ 6,838,571	\$ 7,454,301	\$ 6,318,899
Fixed Assets			
Land & Land Improvements	\$ 3,126,832	\$ 3,126,832	\$ 3,376,088
Buildings - Church & Parish Hall	\$ 8,266,206	\$ 8,266,206	\$ 8,266,206
Buildings - Rental			\$ 310,000
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	\$ 847,133	\$ 989,755	\$ 989,755
Vehicles	\$ 68,224	\$ 68,224	\$ 68,224
Subtotal	\$ 12,308,395	\$ 12,451,017	\$ 13,010,273
Construction in Progress			
Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (3,239,089)	\$ (3,462,455)	\$ (3,564,497)
Total	\$ 9,069,306	\$ 8,988,562	\$ 9,445,776
Other Assets			
Deposit			
Land & Building Rental - net of accumulated depr	\$ 472,714	\$ 457,215	
Starbucks - Rental Commission	\$ 26,885	\$ 22,852	\$ 22,852
Starbucks - Improvements	\$ 52,500	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Gain/Loss on Disposal of Property			
Total Other Assets	\$ 552,099	\$ 525,067	\$ 67,852
Total Assets	\$ 16,769,797	\$ 17,162,108	\$ 15,832,528
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS			
Liabilities			
Current portion of long-term debt		\$ 127,531	
Accrued liabilities	\$ 294	\$ 4,324	\$ 1,710
Notes Payable			
Bank CC Loan			
Bank Line of Credit	\$ -	\$ -	
Bank Real Estate Loan	\$ 2,722,317	\$ 2,244,200	\$ 1,963,428
Contract For Deed - Ideal Party Store	\$ 719,953	\$ 670,866	\$ 671,044
Member Loans			
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,442,563	\$ 3,046,921	\$ 2,636,183
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	\$ 6,488,662	\$ 6,660,886	\$ 6,775,289
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 2,642,586	\$ 3,057,368	\$ 1,796,109
*Permanently Restricted	\$ 4,195,986	\$ 4,396,933	\$ 4,624,947
Total Net Assets	\$ 13,327,234	\$ 14,115,187	\$ 13,196,345
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 16,769,797	\$ 17,162,108	\$ 15,832,528

*We are now required by Federal Regulations & Audit Guidelines to include the First Lutheran Church Foundation on the First Lutheran Church Balance Sheet.



Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Description	2007	2008		2008 Variance
	Actual	Budget	Actual	
REVENUES				
Offerings				
Pledge Responses	\$ 1,366,265	\$ 1,550,946	\$ 1,468,585	\$ (82,361)
Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 135,283	\$ 135,781	\$ 85,655	\$ (50,126)
Special Offerings	\$ 54,368	\$ 53,500	\$ 48,347	\$ (5,153)
Total Offerings	\$ 1,555,916	\$ 1,740,227	\$ 1,602,588	\$ (137,639)
Gifts				
Media	\$ 67,343	\$ 62,400	\$ 52,255	\$ (10,145)
Foundation	\$ 175,258	\$ 186,585	\$ 186,586	\$ 1
Total Gifts	\$ 242,601	\$ 248,985	\$ 238,840	\$ (10,145)
Other Income				
Fee Income	\$ 78,349	\$ 75,325	\$ 81,362	\$ 6,037
Non-Budgeted Income	\$ 28,838	\$ 24,000	\$ 16,171	\$ (7,829)
Operating Reserve				\$ -
Total Other Income	\$ 107,187	\$ 99,325	\$ 97,532	\$ (1,793)
Total Revenues	\$ 1,905,704	\$ 2,088,537	\$ 1,938,960	\$ (149,577)
EXPENSES				
Adult Discipleship	\$ 24,504	\$ 28,500	\$ 22,796	\$ (5,704)
CYYAFL	\$ 45,996	\$ 47,225	\$ 47,199	\$ (26)
Outreach	\$ 94,027	\$ 96,000	\$ 94,295	\$ (1,705)
Pastoral Care	\$ 23,511	\$ 28,000	\$ 23,447	\$ (4,553)
Worship & Music	\$ 21,228	\$ 24,000	\$ 21,164	\$ (2,836)
Media	\$ 71,753	\$ 75,000	\$ 77,893	\$ 2,893
Financial Services	\$ 263,866	\$ 273,950	\$ 259,924	\$ (14,026)
Property & Administrative Serv	\$ 191,902	\$ 220,000	\$ 193,545	\$ (26,455)
Personnel/Council	\$ 1,062,797	\$ 1,199,695	\$ 1,124,792	\$ (74,903)
Stewardship	\$ 12,301	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,702	\$ (3,299)
Operating Reserve		\$ 81,167		\$ (81,167)
Total Expenses	\$ 1,811,884	\$ 2,088,537	\$ 1,876,755	\$ (211,782)
Non Budgeted Prin Debt Reduction				
Net Revenues/(Expenses)	\$ 93,819	\$ -	\$ 62,205	\$ 62,205

Statement of Loan Activity



For the Year Ending Dec. 31, 2008 (Unaudited)

Description	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Paid on Debt
DEBT SERVICE			
Bank Capital Campaign Loan (First Dakota National Bank)	\$ 382,773	\$ 150,227	\$ 533,000
Contract for Deed (Ideal Prop)	\$ 25,351	\$ 54,947	\$ 80,298
Total Debt Service	\$ 408,124	\$ 205,174	\$ 613,298

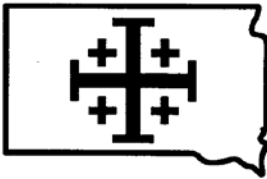
	12/31/2007 Balance	12/31/2008 Balance	Net Change to Debt - (Inc/Dec)
DEBT			
Bank Capital Campaign Loan (First Dakota National Bank)	\$ 2,346,201	\$ 1,963,428	\$ (382,773) (Increase)
Contract for Deed (Ideal Prop)	\$ 696,395	\$ 671,044	\$ (25,351) (Decrease)
Total Debt	\$ 3,042,596	\$ 2,634,473	\$ (408,124) (Decrease)



Summary of Restricted Funds

For the Year Ending Dec. 31, 2008 (Unaudited)

Description	Beginning Balance	Cash Receipts and Adjustment	Cash Disbursements and Adjustments	Ending Balance
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Temporarily Restricted				
General Operating Fund (Prepaid Pledges)	\$130,134	\$ 118,250	\$ (109,846)	\$ 138,537
Capital Campaign Fund	\$0	\$ 322,272	\$ 1,019	\$ 323,291
Designated Fund (Totals of all Boards Designated)	\$295,023	\$ 924,537	\$ (931,313)	\$ 288,247
Trust Fund	\$10,500			\$ 10,500
Total Temporarily Restricted	\$435,656	\$1,365,059	(\$1,040,140)	\$760,575
Permanently Restricted				
Trust Fund	\$135,008	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,008
Total Restricted Funds	\$ 570,665	\$ 1,365,059	\$ (1,040,140)	\$ 895,584



Bishop David B. Zellmer
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD, ELCA

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Sometimes, when you are in the midst of day to day ministry and you are responding to the joys and stresses of life in the parish it may be difficult to see God at work, to notice the miracles, to trace the progress of the Spirit. One may get to feeling mired in details and wonder if it makes a difference. Well, it makes a difference. Lord, does it make a difference! Here is what I see from the vantage point of being your Bishop.

- 1) First and foremost I see the gospel proclaimed and the sacraments rightly administered in 253 congregations and a dozen worshipping communities in nearly every community of the state. Every week tens of thousands of people come within earshot of the gospel, and the word of Christ goes to work on minds and hearts as it calls people to repentance and faith and discipleship. Thank you.
- 2) I see thousands of people being uplifted in prayer knowing that they do not face life's hardships alone. Thank you.
- 3) I see hands offered in service. Thousands and thousands of Christian disciples are offering themselves daily to greet the newcomer, stroke the brow of the nursing-home resident, prepare a hotdish for a grieving family, and embrace a child. Thank you.
- 4) I see congregation after congregation striving to become all that God dreams for them. Each of you in your own place is working to live out the gospel. Thank you.
- 5) I see sacrificial offerings of love that give glory to God and that are employed to love the neighbor, first in your communities, then in our partnership ministries here in South Dakota, and then beyond in our whole ELCA. Thank you.
- 6) I see the lame walking, the blind seeing, the hungry fed, and the poor receiving good news all around the world because of your yielding your hands to God's work in the world. It's God's work, our hands. Thank you.

Now it is time again to consider your congregation's Mission Support for the coming year. Last year I asked you to consider growing in your giving, and you responded wonderfully. The world has changed since last year. People speak the words "the economy" with fearful reverence. The prosperity that we took for granted last year is threatened this year. How does a Lutheran Christian respond in times like these? I hope that we will respond by showing the world that Jesus, not the economy, is the Lord. I hope that we will respond by striving forward in mission even while the rest of the world is retreating in fear. I would hope that while the rest of the world grasps, we would give. Every time we make a commitment to give, we do so in faith, and this year we are especially mindful of that fact. I encourage you to let your own giving as well as your congregation's giving become a light to the huddled world—that we may stand as a witness of hope and generosity amidst the world's fear and grasping.

Boldly in Christ's Mission,

The Rev. David B. Zellmer, Bishop
South Dakota Synod, ELCA



Synodical Reports (cont.)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Just as congregations base their budgets on regular giving by their members, so too does the South Dakota Synod base its annual Mission Plan on congregations' mission support.



In 2007, congregations of the South Dakota Synod contributed \$2,061,509 toward the shared ministry of this synod. Thank you!

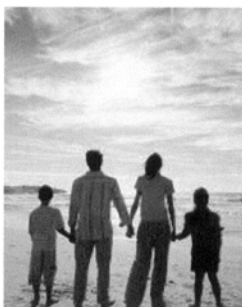
The synod in turn contributes toward the ministry of the church-wide expression. In 2007, the South Dakota Synod dedicated 42% of its congregations' mission support—\$864,154—to ELCA ministry.

Together in this Synod, We

- Encourage and develop future leaders through the Answer the Call campaign
- Work with congregations in times of pastoral transition
- Provide support and training for lay leaders through Faith Builders
- Provide support and training in youth ministry through Faith Family Style
- Coordinate the work of the Candidacy Committee to help guide candidates for ministry
- Provide support and training for rostered leaders
- Work with and support people of other cultures and other colors
- Provide help, resources, and networking for congregations in areas such as stewardship, finances, outreach, worship, constitutional questions, etc.

Together

We extend the reach of our hands



Together beyond this Synod, We

- Support global mission through our companion synod relationships in Cameroon and Nicaragua as well as the Global Connections Task Force, Global Health Ministries, and more
- Engage in education ministry including Luther Seminary, ELCA church colleges
- Participate in national expressions such as ELCA Church Council, Youth Leadership Network (YNet), Churchwide Assembly, churchwide committees and task forces, Conference of Bishops, etc.
- Support ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Disaster Response

God uses our hands—together.

Lutheran Social Services Report to Congregations



Lutheran Social Services Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities

2008 Annual Report to Congregations

Thank you now more than ever for your support! Late this year we started to see the effects of the faltering economy on some of our state's people. In a time like this, resources decrease while needs increase. On behalf of the thousands of people to whom Lutheran Social Services brings hope and healing, we thank you for staying the course through our ministry. LSS is needed now more than ever and I thank you for volunteering your precious time, keeping us in your hearts and prayers, and blessing us with your generous gifts.

While we endured the high gas and grocery prices and watched our retirement funds falter; to some it was devastating. When we *tightened our belts* and cut back on some of our discretionary spending just to be on the safe side, those who were previously just barely getting by could no longer afford to fill up their vehicle to get to work, and the impact snowballed from there. LSS of SD was there to help.

The ministry of LSS touched the lives of over 43,000 people in 2008! Here are some examples of how we are helping people through our ministry partnership, especially now:

Counseling

- 4,726 people served, 30% served had incomes below \$30,000 and utilized the sliding fee scale
- 341 were served through family based services, with counselors working with the youth and family in their own community and home.

Refugee and Immigration Services

- The LSS Refugee & Immigration Center resettled 316 people this year.
- We partnered with Good Samaritan to provide Pre-CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) Training to newly arrived refugees to teach them the English and medical vocabulary needed to be successful in CNA training. The first class of 24 individuals from around the world just graduated.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service

In addition to debt repayment and general credit counseling, our counselors worked with 100 new families and individuals monthly to prevent mortgage foreclosures this year. A snapshot of those served in the area of foreclosure prevention from April through mid-November shows that 216 of the 640 clients served were 30-60 days+ past due on their mortgage (33.75%). In addition many of our clients typically run two weeks past due on their mortgage. We are working with them to consistently pay their mortgage on time.

There are more rough times ahead for the people of South Dakota and LSS of SD. We are committed to our mission and will make necessary changes to continue to be able to provide quality services to those in need. Through our partnership in ministry with you, we are not just touching lives in good times and tough times—together we are making a difference in the lives of those we touch.

With gratitude,

Betty Oldenkamp
President

STATE CENTER

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LICENSED BY THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA—A UNITED WAY AGENCY—ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

