

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Newark, Delaware
2017 Annual Report



*Eternal God, you called us to be a special people,
to preach the gospel and show mercy.
Keep your Spirit with us as we meet together,
so that in everything we may do your will.
Guide us lest we stumble
or be misguided by our own desires.
May all we do be done
for the reconciling of the world,
for the upbuilding of the church,
and for the greater glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

February 28, 2018
9:30 AM

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AGENDA

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
February 28, 2018, 9:30 AM

9:30 **Call to Order**
 Quorum

9:32 **Prayer** – Pastor Gunderson

9:35 **Welcome/Announcements**
 Recognition of 2017 Church Council

Please note: we will be instituting a 90 second time limit for those asking questions and responding during the meeting. This will hopefully allow everyone to speak who wishes to and get through the entire agenda on time.

9:45 **Recognition of Visioning Team**
 Presentation of Visioning Report

9:55 **Call for Elections**
 Recognition of the 2017 Nominating Committee
 Church Council Elections for 2018
 Endowment Committee Elections for 2018
 Nominating Committee Elections for 2018

10:15 **Presentation of 2018 Operating Budget**
 Recognize Mary Collins, acting Treasurer
 Budget presentation/questions/discussion
 Vote

10:40 **Closing Prayer - Adjourn**

MINUTES FROM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MARCH 5, 2017

Attendance: 68 signed – quorum needed 38
(total members present in Sanctuary 87)

Council President Debra Berke opens with welcome & asks Pastor Linda Gunderson for prayer.

Welcome/Announcements

Pastor Gunderson announces the formation of a Visioning Team
Members: Bill Saylor, Emma Parker-Watt, Claire O’Neal, Bob Weidman
Question from floor: do we need to vote on this. Answer: No, this is information.

Debra Berke points out that questions and comments from the floor will be limited to 90 seconds.

Message from Church Council:

Outgoing council members Ginny Rundell, Eric Watt, and Deb Berke presented thoughts on their tenure and why everyone should serve St. Paul’s in some way.

Elections for 2017-2018

Debra Berke introduces MaryAnn Yarrum, chair of the Nominating Committee
MaryAnn thanks the nominating committee members for the year:
Troy Simons, Belinda Johnson, Rich Walden, Bob Weidman

Church Council Nominations (3 year terms)

Troy Simons, Natalie Stevenson, Barbara Palo, Gale Paul

Debra asks for motion to close nominations

Donna Feldman motion to close nominations, seconded by Chuck Maass. Unanimous vote for close

Keith Bart makes a motion for secretary to accept a unanimous ballot for slate of candidates for church council. The motion is seconded by Chuck Maass. Unanimous acceptance of ballot.

Nominating Committee

Debra Berke (1st year), Belinda Johnson (2nd year), Rich Walden (2nd year), Eric Watt (1st year)

Nominations from the floor were opened. Donna Feldman volunteered to run and discussion was held as to whether four or five members are needed for the nominating committee. Chuck Maass advised that four members are ok and Donna withdrew her offer. Debra asked for motion to close nominations and accept the nominees. Motion was made to close. Seconded and unanimously accepted.

Keith Bart makes a motion for secretary to accept a unanimous ballot for slate of candidates for Nominating committee. The motion is seconded. Unanimous acceptance of ballot.

Endowment Committee

Beyan Kesselley, Lynn Deschere

Debra asked for motion to close nominations and accept the nominees.

Motion was made to close by Keith Bart. Seconded and unanimously accepted.
Keith Bart makes a motion for secretary to accept a unanimous ballot for slate of candidates for Endowment committee. The motion is seconded. Unanimous acceptance of ballot.
Debra thanks the nominating committee and all of the nominees for their service.
Congratulatory to all elected.

Introduction of Stacy Onizuk to present “Safe Church” to the congregation

SAFE CHURCH program and document – work of last few years

Members of this working team: Lisa Case – Sunday School, Megan Riordan – School, Amanda Sulek -Sunday School/children’s ministry, Michelle Topi – staff, Stacy Onizuk – youth/children’s ministry

Safe Church is not just for the youth of our congregation, it is protection for all
Leads charge against misconduct, provides guidelines and support shelter. Program includes background checks for all people working with children and youth in the congregation.
Interviews of all volunteers and staff will be held prior to checks. Training in the Safe Church program will be held for all workers.

The program has been researched, discussed and guidelines specifically for St. Paul’s have been written into the document. A lawyer has read and approved the language and intent of all guidelines. Document also complies with St. Paul’s insurance guidelines.

Please note that the document will change in April of 2017 to complement the Beau Biden child/adult protection law that will go into effect in Delaware.

The document body is based on the DE-MD synod Children and Youth program workbook adopted in 2008 written by educators and pastors from the ELCA and a program implemented by the Episcopal Church in America. It has been reviewed and approved by the Church Council of St. Paul’s prior to today’s presentation to the congregation.

The time table for implementation in the congregation will begin with training in August 2017 and implemented in September 2017. Copies of the document are available in the church office – please see Michelle Topi.

Questions for Stacy–

Male and female chaperones for events – Krista Fleetwood asks that this rule be always implemented.

Are copies of the document available online? – yes, they are.

Who was the lawyer that reviewed? Why was a non-member lawyer used to review this document? – a friend of a team member was happy to review and recommend changes in language for us.

Pastor Linda Gunderson answered the question on non-member use – it is recommended by the church and organization that a non-member, non-partisan lawyer would be better for editing and approving legal based documents such as this.

Does the congregation have to approve this? No, it has already been approved. This is just information about the program that will be implemented in the coming months.

Thank you to Stacy for her presentation and the team for their hard work on this program.

Budget Presentation

Debra Berke introduced Keith Bart, chair of the Finance committee to present the budget for 2017

(In the absence of Treasurer, Bob Weidman)

Keith: Asks all present to please be mindful of the tone of the treasurer's note that precedes the budget sheets. *We are the church together.*

Pledges to the budget represent 80% of Income. We ran in the red in 2016.

Income so far in 2017 is similar – we cannot do a deficit again this year.

There are four key areas of ministry represented in this budget: pastoral care, support, property and education. Each area of ministry must be allowed to do work.

How do we do this if income does not come up to expectation?

Last year we voted and adopted a “challenge” budget which was not supported in the congregation.

Questions for Keith and Debra:

No \$ for VBS this year – no, not this year. There is money in the budget for Children's Ministry – the heading titles have changed - \$ is under Faith Formation

Is Pastor's salary up to synod guidelines? We are close!

The house – we are running in the red. Yes, but this year we should be breaking even.

We have a tenant and rent, utilities are being covered. This property has been a help to people as we continue to own it.

Faith Formation position – not full time? - no, two staff positions together. Looking to future where position may be full time. Right now two part time positions – Office Admin + Director of Faith Formation. Positions written into one job description for ease in reporting and budget

Russ Milnor - long-term planning needed. Congregation is aging and \$ situations are changing. Must encourage committees to look into alternative source of giving and raising funds. Long-term giving

Keith and Debra reminded congregation that a mission investment forum will be held at St. P's.

House – (three comments) – running in red. Should we be looking in to selling the property?

Keith – this is a small portion of our deficit and as was said before, we should be running in the black this year with the rental.

Russ Milnor – we should be looking into long term planning and actually buying more houses, more property...

Bill Saylor – Is someone working and watching income and expenses?

Keith – yes, Finance committee is watching very closely and we will have to make recommendations in the coming months if income does not increase.

Is it realistic to have a \$50,000 wish budget or deficit budget? We cannot continue to operate in the red.

Call the question to vote on this budget as presented.

Seconded. Vote passes - 1 no.

Motion is made to vote on the 2017 budget as presented.

Vote not easily tabulated as vocal.

Re-vote with show of hands – 77 yes, 3 no, 3 abstain

Debra Berke announces the tabulation and then thanks the Finance Committee for their work on

this budget and presentation. Bob Weidman is recognized (in absentia) for his work as Treasurer for the last 4 years.

Debra calls on Rev. Michelle Topi to deliver the closing prayer.

Meeting ends at 10:46.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Susan Wells Allen and Leah Fett

PASTOR

Writing in his book, “The Learning Congregation”, Thomas R. Hawkins titled chapter 1, ‘Living at the Speed of Change.’ This book holds a 1997 copyright. It is over 20 years old and we might wonder if the speed of change has gone from 65 miles per hour to 80 miles per hour in just that number of years. Whatever speed life goes at the journey of faith is driven by God’s grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. That is a constant in all the normal changes as well as the changes that surprise us in our lives.

Two years has gone by since I begin this call. The time has gone by fast. The time has been rich. Thank you to leaders who have been willing to step up and take ownership for areas of ministry. Growing leaders, maintaining healthy leaders, and passing on leadership continue as areas of focus for the work I have been called to do in this place. To that end a couple of areas have received focus.

The Congregation Council has focused on leading with courage and integrity. They have learned together and explored their leadership gifts. Following this year’s election of new members this Council will once again build a covenant together to guide conversation and set expectations for their work as leaders. It has been challenging to address financial concerns. This Council has worked hard with the excellent leadership of President Susan Allen and acting Treasurer Mary Collins to get all the details ironed out and a proposal in place for 2018. Thank you also to the Finance Committee for their ongoing oversight and detail work for this cause.

The Stephen Ministry program of this congregation will have completed its first training series by early March. This first group of Stephen Ministry Caregivers will start a program that we hope will grow and continue for a long time to come. As the first education phase is concluded information will be provided to the congregation to increase knowledge of the program.

The Vision Team completed its work. The Holy Spirit was certainly guiding this team as they wrote the final statements. There was an energy in the room and an excitement over the mission of this congregation. The Mission Statement and Vision Statement proposed for adoption are included in the report to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

This is a blessed congregation. It is a joy to be a partner with you in ministry. May this new year invite us to continue boldly proclaiming Jesus as Lord and ourselves as servants for Jesus sake.

Pastor Linda Gunderson

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

During my first year on council, a wise man gave an explanation of what our leadership looked like—in short—the church is a circle constantly moving. Each member is in that circle, using our gifts and participating in community. The circle moves around a center which is occupied by the Holy Spirit. When we realize the Spirit is with us, and we keep the circle moving, then the church remains healthy and living. When a person tries to occupy the center, bring forth their own ideas and agenda without the thoughts of community and takes the focus off of the Spirit, the church or group suffers and there is discord. It is the job of the council to make sure the circle continues to move—continues to focus on the vision, mission and work of the congregation. The council spreads out and assists the teams and committees in the completion of the work that keeps the Spirit alive. We attend meetings, gathering information on the wellness of the congregation, what the committees and teams need for their work and then come together to share that information. We pray for the congregation, we empower the leaders and we assist in the decision making that keeps the circle moving. This requires consistent communications and homework to know what is being discussed at our meeting. (The council works primarily with online documents and tries to keep the amount of paper copies down. Sometimes this works, sometimes not).

The healthy council works as a team. We spend time going to our respective committees, making sure minutes are posted online and the action items requiring council's input are in the forefront of the agenda for the monthly meeting. And we spend time working on forming and keeping the team. Yes, there are decisions that only the church council can make. The formulation of the budget, the affirmation of fund-raising events, development of new groups. These are just a small number of things that require council action. But we work even harder to make sure that the decisions of committees are upheld. It requires a team working often in confidence and trust only with each other. This is hard.

We are now in a huge transition of what the council will be doing in the future. Change is difficult. To realize that council is not responsible for every action or reaction in the congregation is not always accepted. The role that council plays in a church our size is bigger, and more challenging. But it is not one of ultimate power. It is developed by the mission and vision of the church. The lay people and staff are the workers that keep the circle going. Council is the group that keeps the workers moving together, keeps the vision alive and the Spirit as center. Power is a tricky word—and is evenly distributed in the Lutheran church. We are all one, equal and working in the kingdom together.

It is true, that the larger we get we still need face to face interaction and communications. I'm gratified that we had such a wonderful response to the Listening Forum at the end of January. You told us what we needed to hear to work towards the budget. And you gave us lots of ideas—and many will be given out to committees and groups and acted upon. You also let us know that you want more opportunities to speak and be heard. Thank you, we heard that and will work towards more opportunities.

This year, even though we continue our work throughout the church, we spent the majority of our time focused on the budget, the running of the church and how we can assist in the renewal of fiscal health to St. Paul's. The role of council is not to be controversial, adversarial or

popular. Decisions are sometimes hard and can be looked at as contrary to what some people think of as historical council behavior. The work we do is for the good of the congregation—keeping the circle moving, ever changing, growing and responding to the needs of the people and mindful of the Spirit’s guidance. Many of us are impatient to keep moving. We will, we are and with your help and God’s help, we will be moving together.

Please keep your church council in your prayers. We pray for you.

Susan Wells Allen

DIRECTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION

“Faith Formation is equipping people to live as disciples of Christ.” - Leif KehrwaThild

In his book, “Generations,” John Roberto writes: “Faith formation “informs, forms and transforms a person (child, youth, adult) and a community into a robust, vital, and life-giving Christian faith that is holistic: a way of the head, the heart, and the hands.” We have experienced this year that faith formation is not just going to Sunday School, or confirmation class, or youth group, or adult ed classes. Faith formation is an over-arching system that provides a structure that transforms people to live as disciples in the world. I am grateful for the enthusiasm, participation and incredible spirit of the community of St. Paul’s. Together, with the Holy Spirit, we have done holy work.

Our Faith Formation team was created, and the members are: Crystal Galbus, Ted Hendricks, Stephen Litterst, Stacy Onizuk, Emma Parker-Watt, Katie Spae, Mandy Sulek and Sue Wallden. Together, many wonderful events and activities were planned and implemented:

- We had an intergenerational Bible study with service project
- Taking Faith Home cards are available for people to use as personal and family devotions during the week
- Our laminated “Celebrating Children at St. Paul’s” card was added to the pews
- Our new “Pray-ground” welcomes families with small children to participate in worship
- Dinner Church and Waffle Church (during Praise and Play), became a part of our summer worship opportunities
- A kick-off Sunday picnic, complete with a bounce house and cotton candy was a great success
- We begin our Faith Formation Hour with a 5 minute sharing of blessings and bummers
- Other intergenerational events, like our Advent wreath making, have been well-received

This year also includes preparing for our youth to attend the triennial Youth Gathering in Houston in June, 2018. We have had many successful fundraisers to help send our 5 youth and 2 adult leaders, such as: 4th of July and UD football game parking, “Penny Wars,” Super Bowl subs, and our favorite, FLAMING FLOCKING! (Look for that again in the Spring.) With your generosity and hard work, we hope to raise enough money to send everyone to Houston this summer.

God’s Spirit is alive and active in the lives, hearts and hands of the people of St. Paul’s, and I am blessed to be a part of your journey.

Yours, in Christ, Rev. Michelle Topi

DIRECTOR FOR MUSIC AND WORSHIP

*When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!*

The ministry of music and the arts in worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Newark continues to flourish and grow. It provides a foretaste of the feast to come, a brief hint of our future existence in the City of Light, a place where beauty and celebration will be our chief goal and delight. It offers a range of tools we need to continue on our journey toward this glorious end. As we continually take up the challenge and the opportunities our ministry of music and worship arts provides, let us lay claim to God's gift of beauty. Let us continue our walk together with passion through the paths of our weekly and seasonal worship and praise! Let us be filled with wonder as we discover the contours—the peaks and valleys—of the liturgical year together in this place!

*How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!*

“We want to give our church songs not yet sung, images not yet imagined, words not yet forged into poems, dances not yet rehearsed in our muscles and bones, and all the other dazzling testimonies to the creative power of God at work here within the creation. We long to bring the warmth and disclosure of art to worship; to bring a joy beyond words to the celebration of the sacraments; to incarnate the pain and sorrow of the reality of the crucifixion; to proclaim the promise of resurrection that evokes hope from the whole being, not merely the intellect.”

—Nancy Chinn, *Spaces for Spirit: Adorning the Church*

*So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!*

Our church is blessed with a vibrant ministry of music and the arts which serves the congregation and community in worship and in concert. We offer opportunities for all ages and abilities to share their musical and artistic gifts, enabling the members of the body of Christ to give praise to their Lord and to assist in the proclamation of the Gospel and the celebration of the sacraments. We also offer opportunities for our neighbors to come together in our “beautiful space for music” to build community and raise awareness of the gifts and blessings in the greater Newark-Wilmington area.

*And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing [and ring and play and...], for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!*

Worship arts engage the whole community and the whole person... We worship God with our bodies, through movement, dance, and gesture. Through worship arts, the assembly seeks to praise God, proclaim the Word, pray, and retell the story of what God has done and continues to do. The arts give shape to ritual action, express and form faith, and gather individuals into community.

*Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!*

(Interspersed text: When in Our Music God Is Glorified, ELW 851)

Our choirs and ensembles continue to provide musical expressions weekly and seasonally, and I wish to thank the members which comprise them for sharing their time and talents in rehearsal, worship and concert: the Matins Choir, the Sanctuary Choir, the Children's Choir, the Children's Chimes and the Handbell Ensemble.

There are individuals who go above and beyond to make my job easier through assistance at the organ or piano, through maintaining the music library, and helping to assure our musical guests and patrons enjoy their experience at St. Paul's: Mary Beth Bergstrom, Don Corbin, Jane Corbin, Henry Chisholm, Ruth Ann Chisholm, Cheryl Johnson, Greg Johnson, Kaye Tyson, and Rich Wallden, I must also thank Nancy Lomax and Jared Sharpe for being ringer substitutes.

St. Paul's "friends of music" allow for the furtherance of our ministry of music and the arts beyond the constraints of our budgets. Their generous contributions to the restricted Friends of Music fund are not only greatly appreciated by me but also all who enjoy new music, guest instrumentalists, and expanding programming in worship and concert. In this lean year, our ministry has not suffered thanks to these folks, who will remain anonymous, who show their continued appreciation with their gifts.

And I must express my deepest gratitude to this congregation for its commitment to corporate, dynamic worship and the openness to the traditional and the contemporary, the blended and the eclectic. I am also grateful for the congregation's desire to open its doors to the public for our own concerts as well as hosting guest ensembles. The outreach and inreach provided through this part of our ministry is well known throughout the community and among my colleagues.

2017 Highlights of the Ministry of Music and the Arts
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Newark

Sounds of the Season Concert, January 8
First State Flute Choir in worship, March 19
First State Flute Choir in concert, March 26
Cecil County Choral Society in concert, April 2
New Ark Chorale in concert, April 8
Capital Ringers in concert, April 23
New Ark Chorale in concert, May 28
Concerts for a Summer Holiday, June 23 & 24
Reformation Hymn Festival by the Delaware American Guild of Organists, October 7
Reformation Festival Service, DE-MD Synod and New Castle County, October 29
First State Flute Choir in worship, November 5
First State Flute Choir in concert, November 12
Northern Delaware Oratorio Society in concert, November 26
Rainbow Chorale of Delaware in concert, December 1
Cecil County Choral Society in concert, December 5
New Ark Chorale in concert, December 16

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Bareham

CODE PURPLE

When the winter nights are coldest (20 degrees or below), eight Newark area churches take turns sheltering homeless folks. We provide a hot dinner and a warm, safe bed, and the clients (usually 10 - 20 men and women) are very grateful. A wonderful group of St. Paul's volunteers provide food, set-up, clean-up, and overnight supervision.

The winter of 2016 - 2017 was very mild, and St. Paul's was called on to provide a Code Purple shelter just one time, for 11 people. This winter is a different story; each of the eight churches has already had two Code Purple nights! Help is always welcome; contact Barb Rhodes, brhodes841@aol.com

MEMORIAL GARDENS

2017 has been a year of progress and change. However, some things remain the same. The Garden is still used for private meditation and prayer and we still continue to have several church functions there.

One of the changes has been the wonderful help in maintenance by the Property Committee. the original Garden committee has only two remaining members and maintenance has been an ongoing problem and expense. The additional help with planting and garden upkeep has been extremely helpful and has allowed our funds to be spent on more new plantings. We will continue to add new plants to the Garden as funds are available. The fact that the original trees and plantings are now twenty years old makes replacement an ongoing issue.

One of the long-standing traditions is the "Coffee in the Garden" and Plant Exchange. This has become a May, Rogation Sunday event and many gardens have benefitted from it.

This year has seen the addition of four members or friends of St. Paul's, who have found their final resting place in the Garden. This brings the total to twenty two. When we created the Garden we had two lovely stones donated to be used as the base for the name plaques. We have now begun to use the second stone.

It has been a wonderful and eventful year for the committee and we look forward to the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Rundell

PRAYER PARTNERS MINISTRY

Prayer Partners. Lynn Deschere, Victoria Deschere, Kathleen Kazmar, Sue Merkel, Bob Patterson, Dave Peterson, Virginia Rundell, Barb Rhodes,, Loretta Peterson, Olive Barton.

Lay people act as "healing ministers. "There is nothing unusual with those who are praying with you or for you. They are simply allowing God to work through them for the healing of yourself or for anyone else. All have the same training and preparation through personal prayer and all are committed to a code of complete confidentiality. All prayers are directed to God.

A prayer partner is available at each service on Sunday morning. The person in need of prayer, communes and then proceeds to the prayer station. We Give thanks to our Heavenly Father for this ministry of faith and love which has touched many lives.

Respectfully submitted,
Olive Barton

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

In Advice to a Young Tradesman, Written by an Old One, Benjamin Franklin wrote his classic piece of advice: "Time is money." As we are all no doubt aware, 2017 was a challenging year for St. Paul's financially. The Property Team, in an effort to do our part but continue to advance our mission to beautify and enhance our facilities took Poor Richard's words to heart: we endeavored to exchange time for money and took on projects that required less in the way of materials, but more in the way of our time, skills, labor, and sweat. Once again, I would like to extend personal thanks to the 2017 members of the Property Team who contributed so many of their Saturdays to this trade: Rob Day, Ted Hendricks, Rich Masi, Roy Palo, Gary Routh, Ginny Rundell, Karen Saylor (and, let's face it, Bill!), Dewey Smith, and Karl Walters and Barbara Palo, who shared the Church Council liaison responsibilities this year.

Much can be accomplished by dedicated volunteers working together. This year, the team held work days in January, March, July, September, and December, as well as congregational work days in May and November. Tasks that got done include:

- Repainted the Blue Room a much cheerier shade of blue and retrofitted all the CFL bulbs with LEDs that provide more immediate, much whiter light
- Deep cleaned the church kitchen, including defrosting the upright freezer, repainted the room, and replaced one of the faucets
- Painted reflective lines on the driveway entrances and exits of the front and back parking lots (thank you Boy Scouts for your help with this!)
- Installed a new banner hanger in the sanctuary, along with a custom pole for accessing the hanger
- Prepared a shovel-ready Request for Proposal for bidding replacement of the roof over the Fellowship Hall and the Office Wing as funds become available in conjunction with Kevin Bart, a roofing professional with extensive expertise in the area
- Prepared a new Building Use Policy for approval by Council governing the use of the church by non-affiliated, (typically) non-music groups
- Trimmed trees and removed brush along the upper corner of the "Triangle"

- Trimmed shrubbery in Memorial Garden below height of school window sills for security purposes
- Hauled away multiple loads of brush from the church and the rental house
- Installed a new electronic bulletin board TV (graciously donated by Pastor Linda) in the Fellowship Hall
- Participated in a walk-through evaluation of the rental house, then installed smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in same, as well as repairing the kitchen exhaust fan
- Ran cable for speakers in the Blue Room, nursery, and narthex to provide sanctuary sound as funds for equipment become available
- Installed a new bicycle rack, which was funded through a Thrivent Action grant and congregational donations
- Pressure-washed the school's play ark for subsequent weather-sealing
- Cleaned out and reorganized the Closet of Doom in the Fellowship Hall (y'all, I found a TOILET in there!)
- Installed a new chimney cleanout door in the boiler room
- Installed a new shelf in the church office for the computer networking equipment
- Repainted the sanctuary windsills
- Initiated and participated in a building security audit with the Newark City Police
- Hosted a congregational forum on energy conservation in conjunction with the results of the energy audit of the church

In addition to the tasks the volunteers and novices (okay, me) are able to complete, sometimes we did have to spend a little cash on the professionals! Jobs that we hired out this year include:

- Replacement of the locking hardware on the back doors
- Replaced the kitchen grease trap
- Installation of a new circuit in Room 12/13 for a dedicated refrigerator for FISH
- Installation of new LED exterior lights over Vestry entrance to the sanctuary
- Professional energy audits of both the church and the rental house at a greatly subsidized rate
- Replaced fluorescent bulbs in Rooms 12/13 with LEDs and rewired for same
- Installed two new toilets, one in the Handicapped restroom due to a tank failure, and a new child-compliant fixture between two classrooms in the school wing due to a clogging failure

In addition to all of this, Adam Fleetwood, one of our Boy Scouts, completed a wonderful Eagle Scout project that is immensely beneficial to the church and school: he reinstalled and upgraded the stepping stone path from the Vestry door to the Memorial Garden. Thanks Adam! We'd also like to thank our Boy Scouts for demolishing the preschool's old wooden play structure, keeping them in compliance with their licensing requirements.

Again, we thank you for all of your support through these challenging economic times. Through your unflagging support, we have been able to keep moving forward in a spirit of joy and service.

Heidi Burch, Chairperson

PROPOSED MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

Mission Statement:

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.

Vision Statement

To worship as a diverse community of all ages.

To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word.

To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry, and housing the homeless.

To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation.

To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities.

QUILTING GROUP

St. Paul's Quilters met nine times during 2017. 30 quilts were completed and donated to various organizations including Lutheran Community Services, Lutheran World Relief, and the Cecil County Women's shelter. In addition, one quilt was donated to St. Paul's preschool for their spring raffle, and numerous handmade items were donated to Lutheran Campus Ministry for their annual FISH fundraiser.

We welcome all of you to join us at our monthly sessions. No sewing skills required - if you can tie a knot, then you could help us make a quilt.

SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE

Safe Church has been implemented for youth leaders, volunteers, and Faith Formation Teachers.

What does this mean? Any person involved with our youth have completed a training course and criminal background check. We have started to lock the classrooms after our Faith Formation hour to ensure the safety of our congregation.

A review of the Beau Biden Family Protection act was completed. While the church is not required to complete this extensive background check per the letter of the law, the committee will be taking the spirit of the law into consideration in our next session.

Stacy Onizuk

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship had a different look this year – literally. Our two new members, Barbara Palo (our Council liaison) and Rich Wallden, took to wearing hats as a visual representation of the many roles we juggle here at St. Paul’s.

Early in the year we co-hosted, along with the Property Committee, a presentation by the Delaware Interfaith Power and Light organization on Home Energy usage. DeIPL provided lots of valuable information about energy-saving opportunities and offered heavily discounted home energy audits. Several members of the congregation took advantage of the offer and received over \$200 in bulbs, low-flow showerheads, and heater insulation for a fee of \$100. We also put together video loops for the TV in Fellowship Hall to showcase other such opportunities.

By the end of the summer it was obvious that St. Paul’s had a growing financial problem. Our revenue was not meeting the projections made when we approved our budget, so Stewardship – with the help of a generous donor – created the “Challenge Peak” campaign to raise \$35,000 with the promise of another \$7,000 match by our anonymous benefactor. In less than six weeks we had raised the money, met the matching goal, and wiped out the deficit that we faced at the beginning of the challenge, giving us a chance to finish the year on a strong note.

Recognizing the value and success of the Challenge Peak visual aid gave us the idea to follow that up with the LEGO/DUPLO “Growing Our Faith” display. The Wallden family took on the task of designing, obtaining, building and updating the board, which is quite impressive, both in concept and in execution. Despite a later-than-usual start to the program and the loss of over a dozen long-time members to death or relocation, we still hope to see our pledge totals at least match last year’s count and amount.

In hopes of broadening our message, both in terms of what we say and who says it, we brought three non-Stewardship speakers to the Ambo last fall to talk about their “wishes” for St. Paul’s. Along with Reverend Michelle Topi’s impassioned message the following week about the importance of Faith Formation, and Assistant to the Bishop Amsalu Geleta’s stirring sermon about giving on Commitment Sunday, we had a lot of new voices (and faces!) in front of the congregation in November.

In keeping with our efforts to promote electronic giving, we purchased a SQUARE payment reader that can be used to take credit cards. Please see an Usher if you want to take advantage of this option. While that avenue is now open, the VANCO Simply Giving program has raised their fees for the third time in four years and we are actively encouraging our givers who use that platform to transition to one of their bank’s electronic funds transfer methods – either direct to St. Paul’s or via a paper check sent to the church. See Keith Bart for more information about those choices.

What’s next in 2018? How about a year-long focus on Stewardship in all its aspects? We’re going to feature a month-by-month look at local/synod/national/global efforts, educational opportunities for Care of Creation, financial planning, and self-improvement, and ways we can connect with each other and God even more deeply.

If you are interested in helping us grow congregational involvement, please speak to a committee member about joining our group – we’d love to have your ideas and energy!

Yours in Christ,

Keith Bart, Stewardship Chair

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Spring 2017

This was a successful semester of learning God's word in the classrooms. The year end Waffle Breakfast was on May 21st. There were games and Waffles with an array of toppings that were enjoyed by kids and adults.

Fall 2017

More than 30 students registered for the Sunday School. The Preschool class is using the Augsburg Fortress Witness Program, Grades 1-2 are using the Holy Moly Program and Grades 3-6 are using the Spark Lectionary Program. The annual Christmas Pageant was on Sunday December 17th at 4 PM with a reception afterward in fellowship hall. The children performed the play What Gift Should I Bring.

USHERS

Early Service

The ushers are an important part of the St. Paul's family. They help in distribution of the bulletins to the church people, help in answering any questions from visitors, help with communion when needed and other church duties.

We would like to extend personal thanks to the following 2017 members of the early service ushers: Keith & Cindy Bart, Eric Benson, Herb & Marie Bollman, Heidi Burch, Jeff Evans, Pat Fett, Belinda Johnson, John Krick, Gary Routh, Joe Russo, Bill Saylor, Paul & Linda Sayther, Dewey Smith and Karl & Diane Walters.

If anyone is interested in serving as an early service usher, please contact us by email – Palonpaa@aol.com or calling – 302-456-9757.

Roy & Barbara Palo, Early Service Coordinators

Late Service

Thank you to the following members who have volunteered to usher throughout the year.
Brenda Baxter, Jay Bergstrom, Debra Berke, Kris Cassar, Robert Frymoyer, Beyan Kesselly, Chuck Maass, Steve Munch, Bob Patterson, Sue Wallden, and Maggie Weidman.

It was a pleasure working with the Early Service ushers during summer and during Advent.
p.s. We need more ushers. If interested, contact Rick Cassar

WELCA – WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2015

Mission Statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Purpose Statement : 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 callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

2017-2018 Program Year

Monday September 11, 2017 – Commuting Communion
5:30pm – 6:00pm followed by dinner at TGIF
Kaye Tyson Coordinator; Linda Gunderson presiding

Monday October 2, 2017 – Movie Night “Luther and the Reformation”
7pm – 8:30pm
Heidi Skopowski Coordinator

Monday November 6, 2017 – Bible Study with Lorraine Fett
7pm – 8:30pm
Lorraine Fett Coordinator

Monday December 4, 2017 – Parables and Pastries
7pm – 8:30pm
Linda Grund Coordinator

Monday January 8, 2018 – Painting Party
7pm – 8:30pm
Kris Cassar Coordinator

Monday February 5, 2018 – Bible Jeopardy
7pm – 8:30pm
Linda Grund Coordinator

Saturday March 3, 2018 – World Day of Prayer Retreat
9am to 2pm
MaryBeth Bergstrom Coordinator

Saturday April 21, 2018 – Theatre Outing
8pm – The Memory of Water by Chapel Street Players
Linda Grund - Coordinator

Monday May 7, 2018 – Craft Night
7pm – 8:30pm
Kathy Palmer Coordinator

Monday June 4, 2018 – Calendar Planning/Mission Project/Officer Elections
7pm – 8:30pm

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee's purpose is to plan for each seasons worship in keeping with scripture, Lutheran theology and the congregations mission. This includes liturgy, music, visual arts, movement and education. The committee has a commitment to learning together for the sake of quality worship planning.

The Worship Committee is consistent in evaluating each season and listening to suggestions for future improvement, innovation and ongoing tradition.

The biggest change the committee instituted in 2017 was the move to one worship service at 9 am from Memorial Day through the Sunday after Labor Day. This will continue in 2018.

Members of the committee include: Chuck Maas (Head Usher), Cindy Bart (Altar Guild) Michael Bareham (Director for Worship and Music), Cheryl Johnson (Member at Large), Leah Fett (Council Representative), Pastor Linda Gunderson (Convener)

WELCOME TEAM

We invite all members of St. Paul's to join us in making St. Paul's a more welcoming place. *"Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."* (Rom 15:7)

During 2017 - The Welcome Team:

- Oversaw and participated in a program of welcoming identified visitors on Sundays with follow-up letters, emails, and phone calls
- Conducted two sessions of the three day Amazing Grace class, leading to the reception into membership via the Affirmation of Baptism of 7 new members.
- Recruited sponsors for members desiring to join St. Paul's
- Recruited congregation sponsors for the 6 infants and children baptized
- Continued to use SignUp Genius for greeters
- Conducted monthly Name Tag Sundays to assist members and visitors in greeting one another by name
- Maintained a welcome center and new member introduction bulletin board in the Narthex, as well as the video welcome screens at the front entrance
- Maintained the "Information for Visitors" section of St. Paul's website, as well as the trifold welcome brochure provided to visitors
- Maintained the Visitor/Prospect list with information from the black binders sign-in forms
- Solicited volunteers to make a supply of new Warm Blessings ministry baby blankets for infants that were baptized during the year

The Welcome Team members have been Michelle and Bob Patterson (co-chairs), Kaye Tyson, Heidi Burch and Linda Brammer. After many years of service on the Welcome Team, the co-chairs and Kaye have announced their retirement from the team and are awaiting the identification of new leaders by the Church Council. If you have an interest in serving on this valuable this ministry, please contact Pastor Linda.

SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL

St. Paul's Preschool has been providing a quality education centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ for many years. We are known for our small student to teacher ratios and our developmentally appropriate hands-on curriculum. Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of each individual child in our program.

St. Paul's Preschool enrollment has remained strong from last year and is almost at capacity for the 2017-18 school year. We have 64 children currently enrolled in our preschool program and 20 children enrolled in our Extended Care Program. We had our first Open House of the year on Monday, February 5th.

This year, we are working closely with the program Delaware Stars for Early Success to renew our Stars application. St. Paul's has been involved with this program for 10 years. Every four years, the Delaware Stars assessment committee visits our school to see how well we are doing in all aspects of our preschool program. The assessors will rate the school on curriculum, materials, lesson plans, child development and assessments, classroom layout, daily schedules; children wait times throughout the day and more. The assessor will then score the assessment and award the school STARS based on the assessment score. The rating is one to five Stars, with 5 being the highest rating a school can receive. St. Paul's is currently four stars but are hoping to move up to five after our assessment in the Spring.

Delaware Stars helps us in many ways throughout the year. By being a Delaware STARS school, we are provided with step by step understanding of the standards and regulations we must follow in the state of Delaware. To further help us with the understanding of the standards and procedures the school is provided with hands-on assistance from a Technical Program Assistant. The Technical assistant helps guide us through the assessment process and is available to help with questions or concerns that come up in our program.

This year, we implemented a new Spanish class into our program. Every Monday, we offer Spanish class to the preschoolers. The half hour class focuses on colors, shapes, conversations words, days of the week and more. The hands-on, active lessons help the children retain the information from week to week.

In February, we did our first family lunch. We invited families to come join us during our preschool lunch time. The preschoolers modeled for their families their lunch time routines. We heard lots of great feedback about this special event.

Parent feedback at St. Paul's Preschool has been very positive and the school scored high on the annual Delaware State licensing inspection. We strive to guarantee that our children receive the most valuable and memorable learning experience possible by continually evaluating our programs.

We greatly appreciate the congregation's response to the needs of the preschool and their support for our fundraisers and special events. We would like to thank the congregation for their support with the Scholastic Book Fair and with all the donations we have received throughout the year. We were able to purchase many new books for our preschool library and replace some of our worn toys with the donations we received from the congregation.

Stephanie Saienni- Director

SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL FINANCIAL UPDATE

**St. Paul's Lutheran School Inc
School P&L
July 2016 through June 2017**

	Jul '16 - Jun 17
Income	
INTEREST INCOME	23
Total CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME	870
Total FUND RAISERS	574
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	1,099
Total PROGRAM FEES	223,668
Total Income	226,234
Expense	
Total FIELD TRIPS	(174)
Reconciliation Discrepancies	1
Total TAXES	100
Total ADVERTISING	506
Total MISCELLANEOUS	1,307
Teacher Monthly Allowance	893
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	632
CONT. EDUCATION & INSERVICE	1,071
Total EQUIPMENT CHARGES	2,750
Total CURRICULUM	773
Total INSURANCE	3,695
Music Class	3,120
Total SUPPLIES	3,070
Total FOOD & SNACKS	6,053
Total MAINTENANCE	13,345
Total PAYROLL EXPENSES	202,586
Total Bad Debt Writeoff	3,164
Total Expense	242,892
Net Income	(16,658)

SCOUTING AT ST. PAUL'S

Boy Scout Troop 252 has 29 boys ages 11 to 17, and meet Tuesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall. In 2017, three Scouts earned Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. The troop went camping every month, including a week of summer camp at Horseshoe Scout Reservation in Chester County. Three Scouts attended another week at the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. Seven Scouts are members of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor society, and volunteered at multiple events. You may have seen some Scouts volunteering at our monthly FISH service project.

Cub Scout Pack 252 has 45 boys ages 6-10, and meets Monday evenings at Newark Charter School. This fall we planted 300 trees at Blackbird Reserve, made 600 packages for our military troops overseas, purchased 13 Thanksgiving dinners for needy families, volunteered at the Food Bank and Wreaths Across America, raised money for the Wilmington VA Medical Center, and performed Christmas carols at local senior centers.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY at the UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Being part of the vibrant team at Lutheran Campus Ministry continues to be a joy and blessing! The students with whom I work regularly inspire me and give me hope with their desire to grow in faith, their respect and care for others and for diversity, and their giftedness and loving hearts. In May we celebrated seven outstanding seniors; one went on to *Lutheran Volunteer Corps* service, one bicycled across the United States with *4K for Cancer* in honor of his cousin, and others have begun internships and jobs in their chosen fields. These young leaders are deeply missed, even as we have welcomed a new group of talented and faithful underclassmen into our group this fall.

Some highlights of 2017-2018 include a spring retreat at Hack's Point, Maryland, which included the joyous baptism of one of our seniors in the Bohemia River, and a fall retreat in Ocean City, Maryland, together with other LCM groups from our synod. Our students gather weekly at the LCM chapel for dinners, worship, and Bible study; during spring term, we finished our journey through the Gospel of Mark, and this year we are studying John's Gospel. Our LCM members are also active in service, volunteering with FISH, as well as helping with the Empty Bowl dinner at St. Stephen's Lutheran and caroling at a local retirement home at Christmastime. Our five student Executive Board members, two Peer Ministers, and student photographer provide thoughtful leadership, committed service, and inspiring expertise in ways that regularly bless this ministry, provide meaningful models for other students, and have rich influence in the wider campus and Newark communities.

I am also thankful for the many non-student team members who serve and partner with us to keep the ministry running smoothly. I am daily blessed by my Administrative Assistant, JoAnne Gross, who manages correspondence, publicity, finances (in cooperation with our volunteer treasurer), property concerns, Tuesday dinner coordination, and an abundance of fundraiser and special event details. She is a gem and an outstanding colleague! Our Directing Committee (governing board) brings together an insightful team of people, including recent alumni, local pastors, and lay people from nearby parishes; their support, participation, service, and leadership

are invaluable to LCM. We are blessed by the faithful, thoughtful presence and many hours of service provided by Susie Olson as our Staff Advisor and by Emily Pierce as our Treasurer. In addition, we give thanks for the many friends and supporters of the ministry who share often and generously; for committed colleagues; and for alumni who step up to take on leadership and service in many ways. This past year we began a FISH Committee to strengthen our sustainability and partnerships for this ministry. Special thanks to Kaye Tyson and to Nancy Lomax for their incredible service to FISH and for their presence on this committee! We are grateful for our ongoing partnership with your congregation and with Lutheran Community Services on behalf of local families.

Our LCM fall fundraiser was hosted this past November by St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Wilmington. We were very pleased by the turnout of supporters from many congregations who joined us for our dinner, by the words of our thoughtful alumni speakers, and by the success of our silent auction and raffle baskets. Together we raised over \$11,500 in support of our ministry with and among college students. Local congregations also provide welcome home-cooked meals for our Tuesday suppers, participate in our Saturday property work days, offer wonderful financial support, and keep our students in their prayers.

Finally, we are deeply grateful for the continued support that we receive from the Delaware-Maryland Synod, for the vibrant support of Bishop Bill Gohl, and for the ways in which our synod partners with campus ministry in reaching out to young people and empowering them to grow in faith, discipleship, outreach, leadership, and service. We invite your continued support and prayers for this ministry and for blessing upon our students, staff, and volunteers; may our shared efforts daily reflect the love and grace of Christ and give glory to God!

Mindy Holland, Chaplain
[302-368-3078](tel:302-368-3078); chaplain@lutheransatud.org

HILLTOP LUTHERAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center 2017 Annual Report

2017 was a year of continued success and accomplishment at Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center. We continued to operate with the State of Delaware's Stars for Early Success highest rating of Five Stars as a provider of child care services. Sadly, we needed to begin preparations for the retirement of our long term Executive Director, Mr. Jea P. Street. After extensive consideration, the Board selected, Ms. Michelle J. Williams, to become the new Executive Director. Ms Williams who has served at the center in various roles, most recently as Director of Operations, began her tenure as Executive Director on January 1, 2018. At the same time, Mr. Street became the Director of Development and will serve in that capacity until he retires from the Center in November 2018. We have begun the search for a new Director of Operations.

2017 also presented some major challenges. Due to fiscal constraints, the State of Delaware found it necessary to reduce funding to all Grant in Aid agencies by 10%. Consistent with that, United Way found it necessary to reduce funding for all agencies by 12%. Regrettably, the City of Wilmington had more shootings than ever before. In an abundance of caution, Hilltop decided to hire off duty police officers every evening that the Center is open. We found this action necessary and appropriate as a deterrent to violence involving any of our children or families and to assure that our parents and children have the highest level of comfort in viewing Hilltop as a safe haven. Overall, we had a substantial increase in costs and at the same time had to endure the consequences of funding reductions, including the City of Wilmington's decision to stop the provision of trash services to nonprofit agencies. We were able to meet these challenges and continue to operate five days a week during the day and four to five evenings each week providing a safe structured environment for learning and recreation.

The Lutheran Churches continued to be the backbone of overall agency operations. In 2017, the representatives from local churches continued to serve as Board members. The churches provided complete Thanksgiving Baskets to over 300 individual families and church members continued to serve in a variety of volunteer capacities including continued sponsorship of our Fundraiser "Super Stars for Hilltop". Lutheran Churches in conjunction with the City of Wilmington, Kenny Foundation, Parents of African Americans at Tower Hill School and Wilmington Friends made it possible for Hilltop to provide Christmas gifts to over 200 children. Funding from individual churches continues to be a major asset to overall operations.

In 2017, our "Early Childhood Education Program" continued to operate five days a week from 7:00 am through 5:30 pm. Our partnerships with the University of Delaware's New Directions Early Head Start program, the State of Delaware's Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP traditionally known as Head Start,) the State of Delaware's Department of Services For Children Youth and Their Families (Office of Child Care Licensing and Purchase of Care), the State of Delaware's Department of Education (Child and

Adult Care Food Program), Delaware Stars for Early Success, United Way and the Red Clay Consolidated School District collectively made it possible for us to provide this program to preschool children and families.

Our “Youth Services Program” for school age children which includes our before and after school program for children ages 5-12, summer camp and our evening program for school age children (9-18 years of age) continued to provide educational enhancement activities and a safe haven for our participants. These programs were made possible through the State of Delaware’s Grant in Aid Program, the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (Extended Hours Program, Office of Child Care Licensing and Purchase of Care), the State of Delaware’s Criminal Justice Council, Delaware Stars for Early Success, the State of Delaware’s Department of Education (Child and Adult Care Food Program) the City of Wilmington’s Department of Parks and Recreation, M&T Charitable Foundation, Kenny Foundation, WAL-MART, National Headquarters of US Lacrosse, Lacrosse. Education. Attitude. Perseverance. Success (LEAPS) and the Summer Learning Collaborative Program.

Our goals for 2018 include enhancement of our educational programs for school age children, which will include activities on Saturdays and the development and implementation of a College Admissions Assistance Program. We will work hard to meet the challenge of doing more with less and we are looking forward to a smooth transition into new leadership as our long term Executive Director prepares for retirement in November.

It is the sincere hope that all who have supported us will continue their support, and that we will find new ways to raise the needed capital and support for our efforts to give the children and families of the Hilltop Community the help that is so desperately needed to facilitate their success!

Respectfully,
Leslie Marinelli
President

F.I.S.H. ANNUAL REPORT

Fellowship In Serving the Hungry (F.I.S.H.), which helps local families in need, was started in 2004 by students of UD's Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) and continues as a vibrant community outreach ministry for St. Paul's as well as for LCM.

Each month, the FISH program purchases food from the Delaware Food Bank. FISH volunteers transport the food from the Food Bank to St. Paul's, assemble 55-60 boxes of food, which are then available to the program participants who come to St. Paul's on the 3rd Friday of each month to pick up their boxes of food. The FISH program currently can serve a maximum of 65 households, and we typically have a waiting list.

All of our FISH clients are local residents who range in age from toddlers through age 90+. As of December 2017, our 65 client households represented 167 individual clients, including 40 children. In the past year, FISH distributed nearly 30,000 pounds of food to these local families in need!

Funding for FISH comes almost exclusively from individual donations and congregational support; FISH continues to be the only self-funded food program coordinated through Lutheran Community Services (LCS). This year a FISH Advisory Team was formed, comprised of members from St. Paul's, LCM students and alumni, and LCS. The primary goal of this group is long term planning for FISH and helping assure program sustainability.

In 2017:

- FISH's average monthly budget was \$560 which was used to obtain over 2,500 pounds of food each month for distribution. A "typical" box of food might include such items as: canned vegetables, canned fruits, pasta, rice, soup, cereal, beans, tuna or other protein, snacks, and frozen meats.
- Donation of additional freezer space plus a refrigerator has allowed us to expand our offerings for perishable items. Clients appreciate the opportunity to select from an assortment of such items as milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, and fresh produce – based on whatever is available (and free) that day from the Food Bank. Additional volunteers from St. Paul's have made it possible for FISH to provide this service.
- Arrangements were made with the UD Community Garden to receive some of their excess produce for distribution to our FISH clients. We anticipate this will continue in 2018.
- Maria Faiola, a junior LCM student, has continued to serve as our FISH Peer Minister, providing excellent leadership and program coordination. She has expanded the outreach effort to gain student volunteers from not only LCM, but also other campus religious and service organizations. Over 30 UD students have served with FISH at different times during the year.
- Special collections in 2017 provided some "extras" for our clients, in addition to the monthly box of food. Thanks to donations from the congregation, household goods were distributed in March, garden fruits and vegetables in August, and coats and sweatshirts in December. Also, FISH received sufficient donations through individuals and thru the LCM fund-raiser to provide all clients with a frozen turkey for Thanksgiving. Additionally, members of St. Paul's generously donated home baked sweet breads for

Thanksgiving and beautifully decorated boxes of homemade Christmas Cookies in December.

The clients are VERY GRATEFUL for whatever we can offer them, and those who are honored to serve as volunteers on “FISH Days” hear the clients’ appreciation, are greeted with their hugs, and see their smiles each month. There is a real spirit of connectedness across our “FISH Community.”

This ministry is blessed to have many dedicated volunteers, and in 2017 FISH volunteers put in a total of 1000+ hours to make it all happen. Some volunteers are able to come each month, and some are able to assist once or twice a year to fill in when needed; everyone’s help - in whatever capacity - is tremendously valuable. About 30-35 different volunteers help each month make FISH a reality. During 2017, we’ve had over 100 individuals volunteering for FISH, including members from St. Paul’s, students and alumni from Lutheran Campus Ministry and other UD service organizations, as well as Cub Scouts from Pack 252 and Boy Scouts from Troop 252.

Our appreciation goes to all those St. Paul’s members, friends and LCM students who:

- Coordinate the volunteers
- Make monthly reminder phone calls to all FISH clients
- Order the food
- Pick up the food from the food bank and deliver to St. Paul’s
- Pack the boxes at St. Paul’s (Thursday before the 3rd Friday of each month, 6:30-8 pm)
- Sort and package the perishable items on Friday mornings before FISH
- Greet the clients and help distribute the food at St. Paul’s (3rd Friday of each month, between 2-5pm)
- Write thank you notes
- Maintain the records
- Support FISH financially

While we have many dedicated volunteers, we ALWAYS welcome additional assistance at any time! There are many tasks, many jobs “behind the scenes” and not all require being available the 3rd Friday of the month. Come help us FISH!!

For more information please contact either Keith Bart (302-345-6107 or keith.m.bart@gmail.com) or Nancy Lomax (610-869-4671 or n455lom@verizon.net).

2018-2019 NOMINATIONS

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Susan Allen President
Lori Davis Vice-President
Leah Fett Secretary
Karen Peterson, Barbara Palo, Gale Paul, Natalie Stevenson
Ending her term is: Karen Peterson

NOMINEES FOR COUNCIL – 2018-2019

Karen Peterson, Bryan Case, Chris Repp

Bryan Case - I am 49 years old married with 3 kids. I work in the chiropractic field as a technician. Born here in Delaware. Raised in the Catholic Church. Married into the Lutheran Church. This is probably more than you need but I am a diehard Dallas Cowboys fan.

Chris Repp - I was born and raised in South Dakota, and received my BA degree in Government and International Affairs at an ELCA affiliated University, Augustana University, in Sioux Falls, SD. I moved to the east coast in 2014 with my family for a new job opportunity. I'm married to Jennifer Repp and we have 5 children. I currently work as a software tester for a small technology company in Wilmington, DE. I became a member of St. Paul's a couple years ago.

NOMINEE FOR ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE –

Bob Weidman

NOMINEES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (one year term)

Donna Feldman, Heidi Burch, Pat Fett, Stacy Onizuk, Brenda Hagelstein

Donna Feldman - A North Carolina Moravian from birth, Donna moved to DE in 2003. She began her airline career with Piedmont, culminating with USAirways' TLC Desk. Donna retired from Highmark Delaware BCBS in May of 2017 after 13 years. She and Monika found a wonderful family here and joined St. Paul's in 2004. You'll find Donna somewhere around our youth most often. She ADORES the children!

Heidi Burch was born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia, where she was baptized and confirmed in the ELCA at Grace Lutheran Church in St. Albans, WV (which has since closed, but that's probably not her fault). She graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in chemical engineering, then from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a PhD in chemical and polymer engineering. Upon her graduation, she accepted a job with DuPont in the Teflon(r) fluoropolymer research group at Washington Works in Parkersburg, West Virginia, where she

remained for ten years without blowing anything up. She transferred to the Experimental Station in 2012, working in the Polymer Processing group in Corporate Engineering (which has since closed, but that's probably not her fault, either). She now works in the Electronics and Imaging business's Emerging Technologies Group. She has two parents, one sister (Heather), one nephew (Sam), one brother-in-law (unmentionable), all of whom live in North Carolina, no spouse, no pets, and a thriving English ivy plant she won from Nancy Lomax at last year's LCM basket drawing. When she isn't busy fixing toilets on the Property Committee, she enjoys baking, reading mysteries and romance novels, and traveling.



St. Paul's Staff Welcomes You!
www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

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