



Augustana

Lutheran Church



1400 South Robert Street
West St. Paul, MN 55118
www.augustana.com

2015 Annual Report



January 19, 2016

Dear Friends:

This is your copy of the agenda and reports pertaining to the annual business meeting of our congregation, which will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM. Please take time to read this collection of reports prior to the meeting. These reports will not be read at the meeting, but the opportunity to ask questions regarding any aspect of these reports of congregational life will be provided.

AGENDA

Call to Order – Lauri Himmer, President

Devotions – Pastor Mark Aune

Secretary’s Report – Mary Hayes

Elections:

- 1. Report of the Nominating Committee**
- 2. Balloting**

2015 Financial Report

2015 Harvest Fund Report

Resolution Regarding the Harvest Fund, pg. 19

2015 Audit Committee Report

Ministry Reports

Proposed Goals for 2016

Proposed Budget for 2016

Other Business

Adjournment

Benediction

**PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE
ANNUAL MEETING**



“Take hold of the life that is truly life.” - 1Timothy 6:19b

This short message from 1 Timothy is the theme for our 2015/16 year-long stewardship emphasis. It is a wonderful text in that it really captures for me what is central to the work of the local congregation. We are called, daily, to take hold of and embrace the life of Jesus. As a community of faith, Augustana provides and does many of the things that make it possible for us to take hold of this life that is in Jesus.

We take hold of this life in Sunday morning worship, in the Christian education of our children and young people. It happens in our choirs and small groups. It happens at Loaves and Fishes, the Boys and Girls Club, Feed My Starving Children, our work with Neighbors, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity just to name a few. It happens when God’s children read the bible and devotionals, attend bible studies, and pray. It happens in our daily interactions with our families and with strangers. Taking hold of this life in Jesus happens in ways too numerous to name. Taking hold of the life that is truly life means that we are intentional about deepening our faith, serving our neighbor and doing our best to love the people God places in our lives on a daily basis.

Much of what we as a staff are trying to do is to help you, as a follower of Jesus, take hold of His life and to deepen your faith in Him. We have a staff that works really hard, truly cares about people and seeks to model what it means to take hold of the life that is really life. They are creative, compassionate and grounded in Jesus.

Much of what you will read in this report is a reflection of the work the staff is called to do, but also what you as a congregation have done in service to Jesus and the community. You continue to act with generous hearts and hands. Your love is shown in tangible ways across the globe through the work of God’s church.

In addition to the daily and weekly ministry that goes on at Augustana, one of the highlights this past year was the completion of the Augustana Columbarium and Memorial Garden. Under the direction and leadership of Gordy Ericson and the task team, a very detailed and involved project was completed. Augustana has a beautiful place to remember our loved ones who have died and gone to be with Jesus. The first inurnments were done last fall. It was very meaningful to gather with families at the Columbarium and to remember that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Please read the report of the Columbarium project. A special thanks to the team and to all who helped make this project a reality.

Your church council once again provided leadership and oversight to the many ministries with which Augustana is involved. A special thanks to Lauri Himmer, outgoing council president for her strong and effective leadership. She has been a huge help to me and I am grateful.

As I begin my 7th decade on earth I am more reflective about what it means to take hold of the life that is really life. I am more aware of what this means for me on a daily basis and I continue to feel a sense of urgency in helping and leading others to know and understand what it means to take hold of this life in Christ. Life in Christ is abundant, hopeful, challenging, joy-filled, and full of surprises. We fully experience this life in community and in relationship with one another. My hope and prayer is that Augustana will continue to be a place that invites, encourages and challenges all of us to experience and fully live the kind of life God intends for each of us.

Thank you for allowing me to be one of your pastors. It is a privilege and a gift for which I thank God each day. I look forward in trust and excitement for what 2016 will bring to Augustana and how God will use us to bring light and hope into the world.

Faithfully and with thanks,

Mark R. Aune



All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

– 2 Timothy 3:16-17

One of the greatest joys in my ministry during 2015 came through emails and social media. For a few years now, I have led a primarily online study. While we started by reading a book, we have since turned to reading scripture. In the spring of 2015 we finished reading the Book of Acts together, and in the fall we started reading the Psalms. I called the group “Living Faith At Augustana” because I want people to hear scripture regularly in a way that helps them truly live their faith, rooted in this congregation but expressed in the world around them. Nearly 75 people gather together digitally every week, whether by reading an email or seeing a Facebook post, to hear a psalm, learn more, and pray together. I am joyful and amazed at the growth in faith that can happen through a screen.

When I hear these words from 2 Timothy, I am reminded of how vital it truly is to be immersed in scripture and to use it well to inform our life of worship and service. We do not study scripture merely to learn more about scripture. We study scripture to encounter Christ, and because we are changed in that meeting, we live our lives differently. Martin Luther said it more poignantly than I:

Therefore, he who would correctly and profitably read Scripture should see to it that he finds Christ in it; then he finds life eternal without fail... I may, of course, become a learned man by reading and studying Scripture and preach what I have acquired; yet all this would do me no good whatever.

In other words, we are not merely reading scripture together to get smart about the movements of Paul in Acts, or the minutiae of pre-exilic worship in the Psalms. We read scripture because it is here that we find Christ, and when we meet him in scripture, we learn to see him everywhere in our lives together.

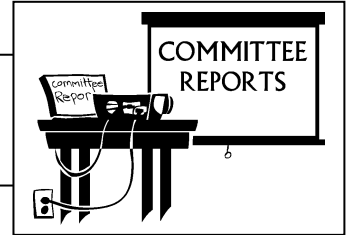
I see this momentum in numerous places in the ministry of Augustana. Our stewardship focus this year drives us all towards regular, meaningful encounters with God in our daily lives. How might your faith and life change if you dedicated as much time to your faith each day as you did to exercise, hobbies, music practice, or the news? Since faith informs who we are in all places of our lives, isn't time spent on learning about and experiencing God most important and vital? I dare you to take on the commitment to spend time daily in prayer, devotion, scripture study, and worship. (Yes, daily worship is a possibility.)

The work of so many committed volunteers centers in the conviction that Christ is at work in our lives. Whether it is the Social Ministry Committee finding new ways to support our neighbor, Lenten Mentors partnering with students to guide them in faith and devotion, volunteers preparing and distributing communion in worship, or Kids Kingdom shepherds helping children learn about God, it is clear that this congregation values living the gospel in both words and actions. It is truly a privilege to serve in a congregation that values service and study so deeply. As always, I invite you to grow still more, to develop, to be challenged, and to let the Spirit be revealed in new ways in your life.

In a year when the birth of my second daughter took me away from this work for most of the summer, I became all the more grateful for the gospel-centered service of this congregation. My colleagues helped fill in while I was gone, members sent gifts and delicious meals, and all throughout my daughter's first months, she has been loved well. I am grateful for these many gifts, for the gift that my daughter is to my life, and for the gift of a place to serve and preach so that “everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work”. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Torgerson

from the CHURCH COUNCIL



COUNCIL PRESIDENT

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. - Proverbs 3:6

God is so good. He is worthy of our unending praise and love. He has led us through another successful year at Augustana Lutheran Church where the Holy Spirit moves within and among us. We have wrapped up our "Life in Balance" theme, and extended it into "The Journey of a Lifetime." I hope you are making openings in your schedule to join our pastors, program staff and fellow parishioners in opportunities to develop a more active and confident faith. If you haven't yet, I encourage you to join me in working to discern, and then to follow, the path that God has set for our lives.

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

A special thank you to outgoing church council members Jan Gunderson and Jim Butwinick who have each faithfully shone their lights within the Church Council for six years. We have powerful evidence of their good works at Augustana and give glory to God in heaven for their service.

A big accomplishment this year was the construction, dedication and first inurnments in the Augustana Memorial Garden and Columbarium. This was an important addition for our community. Much thanks to Gordy Ericson and the Columbarium Committee for their many, many hours of patient, thoughtful and detail-oriented work. We celebrated another beautiful Elva Kaffe, organized and performed by a multitude of faithful members. What else did we accomplish in 2015? This annual report will answer that question, committee by committee. Please make time to read it and ponder where God is moving us in 2016. How is He calling you to become involved in the mission of Augustana?

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:17

Lauri Himmer, Council President

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is responsible for human resource issues; the hiring of new staff, reviewing of job descriptions, benefit plans, performance reviews, and approval of compensation levels for the staff. The Personnel Committee also serves in an advisory capacity for the senior pastor in personnel matters.

We experienced minimal staff turnover this year. Julie Michelson is no longer on staff; we are grateful for her work and ministry over the years. Cathy Hendrikson's responsibilities were expanded. In addition to her role as Director of Children's Ministry, Cathy is also responsible for New Members and Volunteer Coordinator duties at Augustana.

In August we said farewell to our fifth Luther Seminary intern, Aaron Holmgren and greeted our sixth, Miriam Samuelson-Roberts. Like Aaron, Miriam has been involved in preaching, teaching, pastoral care and more. It is a privilege for Augustana to be a teaching congregation and to contribute to building strong pastoral leaders in the Lutheran church.

The total number of personnel on staff at Augustana is 34. It is a strong staff with many gifts and talents, and Augustana is blessed by their hard work and commitment to carry out its mission.

Marybeth Stoltz, Chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

We have coordinated with City of West St. Paul on activities affecting our property related to the Robert Street rebuild. Things went well working with Columbarium committee on plans and construction of the Columbarium. There were some additional sanctuary furnace repairs needed that were completed. The small narthex furnace was replaced. Additional elevator updates were completed. Security plates on several doors were installed, and we ordered oil filled candles for sanctuary. We will be soliciting bids on major east parking lot repairs in 2016. Overall our facilities are in very good condition.

Steven W. Klimek, Property Committee Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Augustana finished 2015 on solid financial footing. This is due primarily to member commitments exceeding budget and lower than expected operating and administrative expenses. The surplus allowed us to replenish facility, operating, and equipment reserves to recommended levels. Additionally, we were able to transfer funds to the Community Mission account and the mortgage fund.

Giving plan commitments are up for 2016 (\$1,240,000 in 2015 to \$1,289,000 in 2016). We are presenting a balanced budget for 2016 that includes a proposed 3% salary/wage increase for staff members while maintaining benevolence, net program ministry, and facility expense budgets at current levels.

Bruce Calhoun, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The 2015 Stewardship Committee conducted a successful campaign which resulted in estimated member commitments of \$1,289,000 for 2016. This represents an increase from 2015 and is considered a strong showing in light of challenging economic conditions. The campaign encouraged stewardship commitment through 1 Timothy 6:19 "...Take hold of the life that is truly life." Committee members included Pastor Aune, Dave Anderson, Dave Halen, Doug Janey, Paul Larsen, Karen Larson, Dennis Munkwitz, Carla Pfeifer, Will Johnston, Susan Berg-Williams and Beth Skwira.

David Anderson, Chair

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

One of the great joys of ministry at Augustana is how the congregation truly finds the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ as its center. In everything we do, whether it is word or service, we make sure that we share the good news. Whether through the care and compassion of health ministry or in sharing the story of the Bible with young people in Kids Kingdom, this church commits itself to evangelism. Therefore, while the Evangelism Committee was not active this year, the work of evangelism was certainly done throughout the entire congregation. We are grateful that this is a place where we celebrate, proclaim, and share with all the gift of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Megan Torgerson, Evangelism Committee Staff Liaison

GLOBAL MISSION TASK FORCE

During Global Mission Sundays of April 19 & 26, Pastor Karen Castillo, president of the ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala) preached and we worshipped using a Swahili litany. Our theme was "Creating Connections" – to emphasize that we are linked by God's love and share common human understanding. The Kids Kingdom children made dozens of drawings of what they like to do in winter and over 100 personal greetings were written by Augustana members. All were delivered to our partner congregations in Tanzania and Guatemala. Also, 376 gifts totaling \$76,787.31 were offered to support our global mission partners.

In Guatemala the new church building is nearly complete and everyone is excited about the dedication this spring. We supported educational scholarships offering hope to many teenaged and adult students. We also supported the water project, which is now fully funded. Families in each one of the 17 congregations of the ILAG will receive both an outdoor tank for the collection and storage of water, as well as a much-needed indoor water filter which will instantly reduce dysentery.

In Tanzania construction of new church building continues at Ipogoro. The Nyamhanga preaching point's growth resulted in the creation of a new distinct church; Augustana became its St. Paul Area Synod sponsor. We supported secondary school scholarships, the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, Plaster House surgeries and several other projects.

Bill Larson, Chair

COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

A resolution was approved at the 2015 Augustana Congregational Annual Meeting permitting the construction of the Augustana Memorial Garden and Columbarium, contingent on obtaining

sufficient funds to cover the cost of construction and operating expenses apart from the general budget of Augustana Lutheran Church.

As a result of strong financial support received by pre-construction Notices of Intent to Purchase and generous gifts, the project proceeded with construction of a first phase. Phase one included relocation of the preschool playground and installation of all hard surfaces, all garden landscape features, a single Columbarium cabinet, and two adjacent memorial walls. In addition, foundations were installed for two future Columbarium cabinets. Approximately 40 percent of the 150 niches in the first cabinet were purchased prior to signing contracts for construction. Contracts were signed in May and construction was completed in September. A dedication service took place on All Saints Sunday, November 1st.

C. Johnson Design Group of Edina MN was the project designer and primary builder. Eickhoff Columbaria of Crookston, MN built and installed the niche cabinet and memorial wall components. A contingent of Boy Scouts from Scout Troop 507 under the leadership of Emmet Nelson relocated the preschool playground apparatus as Emmet's Eagle Scout Project. Southview Garden Center owned by member Dan Mortensen installed trees, shrubs, and small plants, and also did the lawn restoration. Irrigation modifications were completed by Rainmakers Irrigation of Woodbury, MN.

This project was envisioned and materialized by the efforts of a dedicated project team consisting of Jim Andrews, Pastor Mark Aune, Jerry Delgehausen, Ruth Delgehausen, Gordy Ericson, Nancy Ericson, Lois Larsen, Paul Larsen, Karen Meslow, Bev Mooney, Dave Mooney, and Cori Pochardt. Much assistance and consultation was provided by several of the church staff.

Three members to serve on the initial Columbarium Committee will be elected at the 2016 Augustana Congregational meeting; (one for three years, one for two years, and one for one year). Thereafter, an election of one member each year will be made, each to serve a three-year term.

2015 activity:

The niche purchase prices were \$2,500 for a single niche and \$3,000 for a companion niche. A memorial wall name engraving purchase price was \$300.

63 niches were purchased.

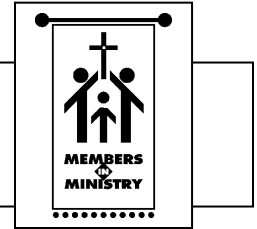
32 Memorial Wall engravings were purchased.

3 inurnment services were conducted.

15 names were engraved on the memorial wall.

Gordy Ericson, Project Leader
and Cori Pochardt, Columbarium Administrator

OUR CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES



SOCIAL MINISTRY

It has been said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. The saying is true for the Social Ministry Committee this year. While there have been changes in staffing and structure, it continues to do the same meaningful work of service and outreach both within the congregation and in the community.

At the end of 2015, changes in Augustana's staffing meant that there was no longer a dedicated staff person committed to community outreach. This return to previous staffing and oversight means that the Social Ministry Committee is once again solely responsible for our partnerships with our local mission partners and for service projects both in the congregation and in the community. The committee will work with Pastor Torgerson, who will be on the committee, and with Cathy Hendrikson, who is now the volunteer coordinator.

However, the real highlights of the year have been in the incredible work the committee has done for the sake of our neighbor. February saw our Auggie Bags supporting alternative learning centers in Dakota County as well as Loaves and Fishes. Minnesota Foodshare got people on the Auggie Express, seeing 15,680 pounds and dollars for food donated on behalf of Neighbors. This summer, Habitat for Humanity volunteers put in over 1,000 hours to help build four housing units. Our relationship with the Boys and Girls Club meant that over 100 receive either lunch or dinner every month, plus backpacks and school supplies in August, a special National Night Out event with food and fun for about 250 people, and a very special Thanksgiving dinner that served around 250 parents and children. God's Work Our Hands Sunday enlisted the congregation to assemble 217 drier packs, 128 bags of laundry detergent, 30 assistance bags for people experiencing homelessness, 120 diaper kits, and 25 birthday bags. This is on top of our regular ongoing service, including up to 150 meals served twice a month at Loaves and Fishes, at least 25 volunteers each month at Feed My Starving Children (plus an extra 150 at our special event in October), a week of serving at the summer meal program at Garlough, and so much more.

The desire to serve others in God's name defines the work of this committee, and clearly the entire congregation. We are grateful for the service of all the individuals on the Social Ministry Committee and every single Augustana member who has given their time and talent to serve others in God's name. We will work and pray to ensure that we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community as we serve others.

Pastor Megan Torgerson, Staff Liaison, Social Ministry Committee

ADULT MINISTRY

This year Adult Ministry offered numerous opportunities for members to learn and grow in their understanding of the Bible. Our pastoral team led a series that helped us understand why we need the Bible, relate to Biblical stories and choose a personal Biblical Life Verse. We offered an in-depth Bible study, *Game of Thrones: Reading Samuel and Kings*. Several new opportunities to help enhance your Sunday morning worship experience were also offered (i.e. *Let's Text* and *To Be Continued...*). A *Spiritual Tools* course provided an opportunity to help you develop an active and confident faith.

In addition to our continuing small groups of Men's Meet & Eat, Stamping Ministry, Quilting, and Needle Work, we have a number of new congregational led ministries. *Working Women of Faith* a dining group meets bi-monthly, an *Adoptive Parent Group* meets monthly, and *Creation on Canvas/Mosaic Expression* meets monthly giving participants a chance to explore their creative gifts.

Adult Forum continues to be offered twice on Sunday mornings with strong Pastoral and congregational leadership. Weekly women's programming (Monday & Tuesday mornings) is very well attended with numerous new participants from Augustana and community members. An extensive variety of educational classes, events, and book studies are offered in the evenings.

Advertising for Adult Education/Ministry events is available in Stacy's Adult Forum, Adult Ministry, and Coffee and Conversation flyers, Augustana's newsletter, bulletins, and Adult Ministry binders at the information center. A weekly email is also sent out through Constant Contact highlighting the week's educational opportunities.

Thank you for all the congregational leadership, participation and support. Because of you, our Adult Education program continues to make good progress towards Augustana's congregational goals.

Stacy Eichman-Cardwell

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Augustana's Children & Family Ministry programs continue to grow each year because of the dedication of the parents and members of the congregation that continue to support these programs in many different ways.

We continue to offer Sunday School/Kids' Kingdom for children age 3yrs-6th grade. This year we have close to 280 children registered for the program with an average of 165 participating on any given Sunday. We also added a Wednesday evening alternative Kids' Kingdom for those that aren't able to attend on Sunday mornings. Our 3yrs-kdtn children stay in a traditional classroom, while our 1st – 4th grade children take part in a rotation model. Each week the children move to a different center (Mary & Martha's Kitchen, Creation Station, Disciple's Drive-in, Science & Games, Drama, & Bible Story), while continuing to learn the same bible story for 4-6 weeks. Our 5th & 6th grader have their own space called Club 56 where they go to do service projects, Bible studies, Bible game days, hang out with friends, and are big buddies to our 4-yr-old through Kdgn. children. Our Kids' Kingdom program would not run as smoothly as it does without the dedication of the 30 adults/high school volunteers and the 20 confirmation youth that work with the children each Sunday. There are great relationships made between the volunteers and the children as many of the volunteers stay with the same group of children year after year.

Some of the highlights of this past year include Christ's Comrades, where members of the congregation were paired up with a 4th grade youth 4 times during the year for service projects and fellowship. We also brought families together for a 6th year to make Advent Calendars to use at home and we had a Christmas ornament make/take event. Joyful Noise, a music & movement class for children age 2yrs through 3yrs, taught by the talented Joan Getz, met on Wednesday mornings and was a again a big hit with our little ones. We had parents, grandparents, & nannies attending with the children.

Our summer camps continue to be a big draw to Augustana families and families from the community. We get over 300 children that participate in 6 weeks' worth of camps. About one quarter of those children go to our preschool or are community members not currently attending Augustana. Some of the camps offered were Recreation, VBS, Princesses of the Bible, Camp Wapo, Music/Art, & Heroes/Villains of the Bible. Once again, our camps couldn't be as great as they are without the support of the congregation, parents, and youth helpers. We even have a few past campers who now are camp directors. It is a great experience seeing these kids grow in their faith and watching them pass on what they have learned and believe to the younger generation. We want to thank everyone for their generous support of the Children's Ministry programs here at Augustana.

Cathy Hendrikson, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Laurie Armon, Associate Director of Children & Family Ministries

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

2015 was a very good year for the Youth and Family Ministry program. Highlights of the year include:

- A challenging yet wonderful service trip to Denver, CO with 25 youth and adults who fully poured themselves in to every aspect of the experience
- The continued strong attendance at Youth Forum, averaging 30 per week
- The Confirmation Ministry, with over 110 youth and 26 adult leaders
- The Lenten Mentor Program, which matches each of our Confirmation students with an adult mentor during Lent
- Several other trips/camps including the annual Snow Trip, Wisconsin Cabin Adventure, and Summer Servants, all of which had good participation and are helpful in strengthening the faith of young people

In closing this report we want to recognize the service provided by so many young people and their families who regularly and faithfully give their time and energy. Some places we served together are: Feed My Starving Children, where, in October, 150 of us packed meals; the Walk to End Hunger on Thanksgiving morning, with 55 walkers; and various other church and community service sites. It is so encouraging to see young people reaching out to those in need and being able to make the world and this community a better place. As a general rule the participation and leadership provided to the Augustana congregation continues to be a source of hope for this community. Please continue to pray for and support the young people of Augustana in every way possible.

Don Marsh, Director of YFM

Jan Gunderson, YFM Church Council Representative

HEALTH MINISTRY

It has been an exciting and inspirational year for the many Health Ministry programs. It is always a privilege and honor to work alongside the many caring and compassionate volunteers who share their gifts of caring with others. A few highlights of 2015 are:

- Grief Ministry and caring for those who have had a death in their family is an important Augustana ministry with many facets: South Suburban Grief Coalition offers education and small group support two times/year at different faith communities, a fall grief education series, December Holiday Memorial service which is a time to honor our loved ones who have died, ongoing support to grieving families through mailed cards, a CD and grief information.
- Supporting families with loved ones with memory loss is a priority. The Gathering, a ministry in partnership with Lyngblomsten provides a fun and stimulating day for those experiencing memory loss. The participants and their caregivers share how meaningful the day is for their loved one; “my mom so enjoys coming to the Gathering. She looks forward to coming and I look forward to a day to do what I need or want to do....sometimes I just sleep”. The program is supported by volunteers who share the gift of cooking by preparing a homemade delicious lunch. A memory loss support group for caregivers is facilitated by specially trained caring volunteers. We also hosted two six week series of Powerful Tools for Caregivers.
- Baby Blanket ministry, Prayer Shawl ministry, Card ministry and Caring Casseroles [80 meals in 2015!], have shared God’s love through visits, cards, shawls and food. Befrienders, Care Team, and Operation Grace Dental ministries continues to provide support for many.
- Health Ministry programs partnered with the stewardship themes, “A Life in Balance” and “A Journey of a Lifetime”. Some of these classes/events were Yogadevotion, Centering Prayer, flu vaccination clinic, monthly blood pressure screenings, blood drive, and Walk to The Cross Devotional.

With faith and hope as we continue our ministry in 2016,

Mary Nordtvedt RN, Faith Community Nurse and Health Ministry Leadership Team

MUSIC DIRECTORS’ REPORT

The music ministry at Augustana continues to thrive because of the hundreds of people who give of their time and talent to add meaning and inspiration to our worship services. We are grateful to those who were part of the Senior Choir, Agape Choir, Chorister Choir, Cherub Choir, Rejoice! Ringers, Alleluia Bells, the Celebration Band, the youth orchestra, and the many fine solo musicians we heard throughout the year.

The 2015 Concert Series continued to attract people from the surrounding community into our sanctuary to experience the gift of music. The Minnesota Percussion Trio delighted an inter-generational audience in March; Mississippi Valley Orchestra packed the house to overflowing in May; and organist John West presented the audience with an eclectic program of improvisation as well as classical repertoire in November.

Our choirs and ensembles prepared special musical works for Sunday worship. The Youth Orchestra led worship on Youth Sunday in February. Over 25 youth led special music and congregational hymns for worship that morning. Over 40 children from the Chorister Choir performed the children’s musical *The Three Trees*. Thanks to the parents who helped with costumes, staging, and props. To finish the choir season, our Senior Choir offered a lively performance of Robert Ray’s *Gospel Mass* in May. In December the annual Advent/Christmas Concert was presented involving our adult and children’s choirs, bell choirs, brass quintet, soloists, and instrumentalists, followed by the lively Carol Sing between services.

This fall the American Guild of Organists partnered with some of our Augustana members and staff to produce an educational video about a church's process of purchasing a pipe organ. Our organ was also recorded live in concert and in worship for the DVD.

Two additional musical programs continue to serve the youth at Augustana. Joyful Noise, a musical program for two and three year olds which meets during the program year, continues to blossom under the direction of Augustana member Joan Getz. And in its nineteenth year, Augustana's summer Music and Arts Camp continues to work with children in grades one through five. Boys and girls attending this four day camp experience what it means to be a child of God through singing, dancing, playing instruments, ringing hand bells, creating art, and listening to and working with professional musicians.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Kathy Andrews and Kristina Langlois, co-directors of music

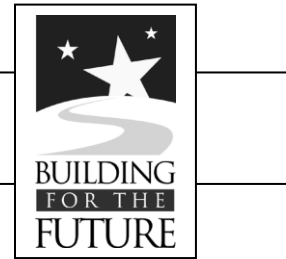
REPORT OF THE AUGUSTANA PRESCHOOL
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Augustana Preschool, "Play, Pray and Grow" began its 16th year of operation in the fall. The school is a wonderful part of the community and a door to the congregation. We continue to offer a high quality, Christian education with 2 ½, 3 ½ and 4 hours class options for ages 33 months through prekindergarten. This year we added a Before Care option (8:00-9:00AM) for our M/W/F Pre-K students. Parents were asking for an earlier drop off time, so the Before Care option was implemented. We have 3-6 students who participate in this option. Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year is 50 children.

The preschool is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Parent Aware 4 Star Rating, and licensed by the State of Minnesota. A preschool Advisory Committee oversees the operations of the preschool. A major part of Augustana's Preschool program continues to be tuition assistance provided by the benevolence funds from the congregation. We have been able to offer an early childhood experience to the majority of families who have asked, thanks to the generosity of Augustana Lutheran Church.

Kate Beck, Preschool Director

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016**



Audit Committee – (vote for 1)

Jim Stender

Church Council – 3-year term (vote for 5)

Susan Berg-Williams Scott Deyo Doug Janey
Sally Reis Eric Satre

Columbarium Committee – (vote for 3)

Nancy Ericson – 1 year term
Paul Larson – 2 year term
Dan Masrud – 3 year term

Harvest Fund Committee – 3-year term (vote for 1)

Andy Hunter

Nominating Committee – 2 year term (vote for 2)

Jan Gunderson Jim Butwinick

Personnel Committee – (vote for 1)

Anne Losby

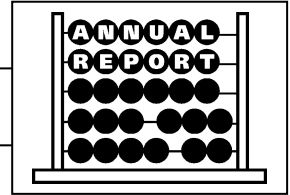
Preschool Committee – 3-year term (vote for 2)

Jessica Hoffman Evie Woveras

2015 Nominating Committee Members

Sheri Gerzina (chair) David Halen
Steve Klimek Karen Larson
Debbie Siebell

STATISTICAL INFORMATION



	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
I. Membership		
Baptized Membership	2265	2071
Confirmed Membership	1414	1399
II. Attendance		
Total Attendance (including Drive-In)	39442	37016
Weekly Average	759	711
III. Pastoral Acts		
IV. Baptisms		
Confirmations	30	17
Marriages	38	42
Funerals	8	5
	19	14

CONGREGATIONAL GOALS FOR 2016



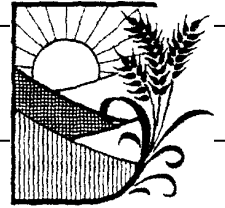
- Provide financial support, totaling 19.4 percent of the member giving plans from Augustana's stewardship campaign, to the following organizations that share the love of Christ through ministry to those in need:

St. Paul Area Synod
 Missionary – Mark Jacobson
 ELCA World Hunger
 360 Communities
 Habitat for Humanity
 Loaves and Fishes
 LSS - Rezek Transitional
 Teen Housing
 Lutheran Social Service
 Lyngblomsten

Neighbors, Inc.
 Preschool Scholarships
 Pueblo de Fe
 Seminary Students
 St. Paul Council of Churches
 Union Gospel Mission
 Camp Wapogasset
 Humble Walk Lutheran Church
 Feed My Starving Children
 Lutheran Campus Ministry

- Provide opportunities, education, and encouragement for members to have daily interaction with God
- Equip members to express how God is at work in their lives in a confident, relaxed, and natural way
- Increase members' awareness of how their faith informs their daily lives
- Challenge members to make deliberate and intentional choices about how they serve, give, and live their lives

HARVEST FUND COMMITTEE



The Harvest Fund is an endowment fund established by the congregation in 1991 to support the mission and ministry of Augustana. It is overseen by the Harvest Fund Endowment committee, whose members are elected at the Annual Meeting. This year was a time of transition for the Harvest Fund, as the fund assets were transferred to InFaith Foundation after Congregational vote on January 20, 2015.

Although the committee generally meets quarterly, the full committee met six times in 2015 in order to evaluate the transition to InFaith. The 2015 distribution of \$24,800, which was based on 2014 returns, was an increase of 9.1% over the previous year and was paid in 2015. The 2016 distribution, which is based on 2015 returns, is expected to be similar to 2015 and will be transmitted in 2nd quarter 2016. The Augustana special needs portion of the fund and the undesignated portion went to support Augustana's participation in Luther Seminary's Intern program, resulting in Aaron Holmgren's and Miriam Samuelson-Roberts' internships here.

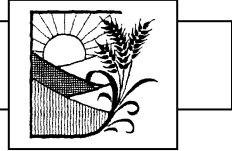
In 2015, the Harvest Fund received \$42,479 in new contributions. As of December 31, 2015, the total assets of the Harvest Fund were \$859,540.79. Unfortunately, the simple return was down 7.25% as the stock market took a downturn last year, resulting in a net loss of \$35,240.22.

Leaving a legacy for the ministry and mission of the church is a privilege and a responsibility for the congregation. Thank you to all of you who have made contributions this last year.

A very special thank you goes out to Andy Hunter, Tom Wallace, Jeff Kandt, Stuart Simek, Lauri Himmer and Pastor Aune for the giving of their time and talents on this committee in 2015.

Heather Johnston – Chair

HARVEST FUND ANNUAL REPORT



12/31/2015

Contribution Summary of Invested Funds

<u>Designations</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/14</u>	<u>Current Year Contributions</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/15</u>
Missions	\$23,381	\$25	\$23,406
Scholarships-ELCA Seminary	\$22,991	\$220	\$23,211
Youth Ministry	\$53,321	\$890	\$54,211
Music Ministry	\$50,225	\$2,025	\$52,250
Community & Social Ministry	\$49,685	\$3,945	\$53,630
Special Needs-Augustana	\$164,546	\$2,570	\$167,116
Selian Hospital	\$33,434	\$200	\$33,634
Undesignated	\$226,080	\$32,584	\$258,664
Tumaini University	\$119,886	\$20	\$119,906
Total Contributions	\$743,549	\$42,479	\$786,028
		LY	\$43,908
		% INC	-3.26%

Market Value and Performance Summary of Invested Funds

Total Market Value on 12/31/14		\$880,621
Contributions		\$42,479
2014 Distribution		\$24,800
Return on Investments		\$ (38,124.16)
Interest and Dividend Income	\$3,627	
Appreciation (Depreciation) of Investments	\$ (38,866.96)	
Administrative Fee	\$ (2,883.94)	
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS 12/31/15		\$859,541
Total Distributions Since Fund Inception		\$244,043
Total Harvest Fund Assets and Distributions to Date		\$1,103,584
Total Gifts to Harvest Fund		\$786,028

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH - BALANCE SHEET

	Balance as of 1/1/2015	Balance as of 12/31/2015	Annual Change
ASSETS			
CHECKING ACCT	\$ 176,978	\$ 287,378	\$ 110,400
ASSOCIATED BANK MM ACCT	\$ 210,757	\$ 209,871	\$ (886)
ASSOC BANK, INVESTMENT ACCT.	\$ 343,003	\$ 344,498	\$ 1,495
MISSION INVESTMENT FUND	\$ 16,141	\$ 16,141	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 746,880	\$ 857,888	\$ 111,008
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS			
PREPAID PLEDGES	\$ 39,739	\$ 41,096	\$ 1,357
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 39,739	\$ 41,096	\$ 1,357
NET ASSETS			
BUDGET FUND BALANCE	\$ 119,294	\$ 119,294	\$ -
DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ 587,847	\$ 694,450	\$ 106,603
CURRENT PERIOD CHANGES	\$ -	\$ 3,048	\$ 3,048
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 707,141	\$ 816,792	\$ 109,651
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 746,880	\$ 857,888	\$ 111,008

Please Note: The Balance Sheet does not reflect 1) the value of the buildings and contents, insured for \$14.7 million, 2) the mortgage obligation, \$570,997 as of 12/31/2015, or 3) the Harvest Fund, with a year-end market value of \$859,541.

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH - INCOME STATEMENT / BUDGET

	2015	2015	2016
	Budget	Income Statement	Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
MEMBER COMMITMENTS	\$ 1,410,000	\$ 1,401,532	\$ 1,435,000
SHRINKAGE	\$ (40,000)	\$ -	\$ (40,000)
LOOSE OFFERING	\$ 22,000	\$ 19,424	\$ 22,000
LENT & EASTER	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,300	\$ 19,000
CHRISTMAS	\$ 14,000	\$ 16,081	\$ 14,000
ADULT MINISTRY	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,636	\$ 7,000
CONGREGATIONAL DINNERS	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,036	\$ 10,000
HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,857	\$ 8,000
PRESCHOOL	\$ 94,020	\$ 81,464	\$ 90,040
SUMMER CAMPS	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,084	\$ 5,000
YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY	\$ 30,000	\$ 21,409	\$ 23,000
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 800	\$ 390	\$ 800
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,708	\$ 12,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,591,820	\$ 1,595,921	\$ 1,605,840
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>			
ST. PAUL AREA SYNOD	\$ 151,525	\$ 151,525	\$ 154,000
MISSIONARY - JACOBSON	\$ 8,600	\$ 8,600	\$ 8,600
ELCA WORLD HUNGER	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
360 COMMUNITIES	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
LOAVES AND FISHES	\$ 11,000	\$ 13,325	\$ 12,000
LSS-REZEK TEEN TRANS. HOUSING	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
LYNGBLOMSTEN	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
NEIGHBORS	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
PUEBLO DE FE	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
SEMINARY STUDENT	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
ST, PAUL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200
UNION GOSPEL MISSION	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
WAPOGASSET CAMP	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
HUMBLE WALK	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	\$ 241,025	\$ 243,350	\$ 244,500

<u>PROGRAM MINISTRIES</u>	2015	2015	2016
	Budget	Income Statement	Budget
ADULT MINISTRY	\$ 19,000	\$ 11,335	\$ 19,000
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	\$ 18,050	\$ 14,778	\$ 18,400
CONGREGATIONAL DINNERS	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,822	\$ 10,400
NURSERY	\$ 400	\$ 344	\$ -
SUMMER CAMPS	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,742	\$ 5,000
HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 13,457	\$ 16,035	\$ 13,457
MUSIC	\$ 22,800	\$ 22,954	\$ 22,800
PRESCHOOL	\$ 5,049	\$ 5,309	\$ 2,900
EVANGELISM	\$ 1,900	\$ -	\$ 1,900
NEW MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS	\$ 2,945	\$ 2,647	\$ 3,000
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$ 950	\$ 1,277	\$ 950
YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY	\$ 57,500	\$ 47,394	\$ 50,000
TOTAL PROGRAM MINISTRIES	\$ 158,051	\$ 135,637	\$ 147,807
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>			
COMPENSATION	\$ 775,000	\$ 753,754	\$ 792,518
STAFF BENEFITS	\$ 182,000	\$ 192,135	\$ 190,000
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,963	\$ 5,000
COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 13,775	\$ 10,966	\$ 12,000
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$ 22,000	\$ 15,462	\$ 20,000
HOME WORSHIP	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,733	\$ 1,750
INS. & WORK. COMP	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,069	\$ 19,000
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,824	\$ 9,500
OFFICE REPAIRS/SUPPLIES	\$ 19,000	\$ 15,440	\$ 19,000
ORGAN & PIANOS	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,325	\$ 3,500
PASTORS' BOOK ALLOWANCE	\$ 1,000	\$ 382	\$ 1,000
PASTORS' EXPENSE ALLOWANCE	\$ 1,000	\$ 709	\$ 1,000
POSTAGE	\$ 11,400	\$ 9,886	\$ 11,000
SANCTUARY WORSHIP	\$ 8,550	\$ 6,415	\$ 7,000
SERVICE FEES	\$ 8,500	\$ 10,893	\$ 10,000
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,867	\$ 3,000
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 9,025	\$ 7,923	\$ 8,000
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,085	\$ 13,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,107,150	\$ 1,079,831	\$ 1,126,268
<u>FACILITIES</u>			
CLEANING/KITCHEN SUPPLIES	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,824	\$ 9,000
LANDSCAPE & GROUNDS	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,125	\$ 6,500
MAINTENANCE	\$ 15,200	\$ 21,529	\$ 15,200
UTILITIES	\$ 54,000	\$ 46,275	\$ 54,000
TOTAL FACILITIES	\$ 84,700	\$ 79,753	\$ 84,700
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,590,926	\$ 1,538,571	\$ 1,603,275
NET INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS	\$ 894	\$ 57,350	\$ 2,565
BUDGET TRANSFER	\$ -	\$ 54,301	\$ -
NET INCOME AFTER TRANSFERS	\$ 894	\$ 3,049	\$ 2,565

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH - DEDICATED FUNDS STATEMENT

	Balance	2015	2015	Balance
	1/1/2015	Receipts	Expenses	12/31/2015
PROGRAMMING				
HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 1,449	\$ -	\$ 688	\$ 761
CHILDRENS' MINISTRY REIMB	\$ 4,316	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,162	\$ 4,404
CONCERT SERIES	\$ 14,167	\$ 877	\$ 4,296	\$ 10,748
MUSIC MEMORIALS	\$ 10,790	\$ 4,012	\$ 834	\$ 13,968
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 21,374	\$ 882	\$ 1,000	\$ 21,256
SENIOR MINISTRIES	\$ 3,941	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,941
YOUTH GLOBAL MISSION	\$ 749	\$ 11,013	\$ 1,723	\$ 10,039
WOMEN'S SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$ 1,180	\$ 110	\$ -	\$ 1,290
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	\$ 57,966	\$ 18,144	\$ 9,703	\$ 66,407
ADMINISTRATION				
FACILITY RESERVE FUND	\$ 85,605	\$ 18,368	\$ 3,973	\$ 100,000
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND	\$ 23,611	\$ 8,051	\$ 6,662	\$ 25,000
HARVEST FUND	\$ 579	\$ 42,247	\$ -	\$ 42,826
INTEREST	\$ 16,569	\$ 1,405	\$ 1,185	\$ 16,789
MEMORIAL GARDENS	\$ 12,691	\$ 2,130	\$ -	\$ 14,821
OPERATING RESERVE FUND	\$ 86,943	\$ 32,424	\$ 19,367	\$ 100,000
PLACE-MRA	\$ 4,353	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,180	\$ 3,173
PLACE-MT	\$ 6,800	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 7,600
REIMBURSABLE	\$ 7,326	\$ 3,394	\$ 3,382	\$ 7,338
COLUMBARIUM FUND	\$ 30,280	\$ 208,120	\$ 221,264	\$ 17,136
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 274,757	\$ 317,939	\$ 258,013	\$ 334,683
MORTGAGE FUND BALANCE	\$ 81,246	\$ 334,670	\$ 319,465	\$ 96,451
BENEVOLENCE				
GLOBAL MISSION	\$ 15,045	\$ 30,233	\$ 25,300	\$ 19,978
GM- GUATEMALA	\$ 1,939	\$ 35,735	\$ 37,665	\$ 9
GM- TANZANIA	\$ 5,117	\$ 99,370	\$ 95,648	\$ 8,839
DISCRETIONARY	\$ 6,139	\$ 12,421	\$ 7,002	\$ 11,558
ELCA SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ -	\$ 146,495	\$ 135,000	\$ 11,495
COMMUNITY MISSION	\$ 20,962	\$ 39,895	\$ 32,094	\$ 28,763
HYMNALS	\$ 547	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547
CONFIRMATION OFFERING	\$ 3,348	\$ 1,914	\$ 4,278	\$ 984
KIDS' KINGDOM OFFERING	\$ 643	\$ 1,215	\$ 582	\$ 1,276
WORLD HUNGER	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -
OTHER BENEVOLENCE	\$ 9,984	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,984
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	\$ 63,724	\$ 367,428	\$ 337,719	\$ 93,433
INDIVIDUAL MEMORIALS	\$ 110,156	\$ 2,320	\$ 9,001	\$ 103,475
TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ 587,849	\$ 1,040,501	\$ 933,901	\$ 694,449