

Augustana

Lutheran Church



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WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118
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2014 Annual Report



January 20, 2015

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 20, 2015 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 Torseth, President

Devotions – Pastor Mark Aune

Secretary’s Report – Jan Gunderson

Elections:

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

2014 Financial Report

2014 Harvest Fund Report

Resolution Regarding the Harvest Fund, pg. 19

2014 Audit Committee Report

Ministry Reports

Proposed Goals for 2015

Proposed Budget for 2015

Other Business

Resolution Regarding the Columbarium and Memorial Garden, pg. 20

Adjournment

Benediction

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

New Year Message from Pastor Aune

Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15

For three Sundays in October, we sang a short chorus based on this text from Joshua as a response to the prayer petitions. I can still hear the tune in my head and in my heart I can still feel the power of the whole congregation singing these words as a confession of faith: “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Individually and collectively, we were proclaiming our faith and our decision to serve God in our daily lives. When I hear the phrase, ‘as for me and my house’, I am reminded that serving God is done in community. I am reminded that serving God is done in relationship with people I know and people I don’t know. God’s power is made real in and through those relationships. When we choose to serve the Lord, God’s love is made known in this world.

As you will see from this report, a lot of ministry happened in 2014. The love of Christ was shared by many people in many ways. This congregation has an amazing capacity and willingness to serve and love our neighbor and you can read the details about that in this report.

I am hopeful and encouraged by our emphasis around living a balanced life that was begun this past fall and carries into 2015. **A Life in Balance, Knowing WHO you are, Remember WHOSE You Are** is a tool that invites us as a congregation to use a balance wheel to help us understand how all of life is connected. The Balance Wheel is an invitation to examine our lives and identify areas where our lives are in balance and areas where we can bring our lives more into balance. The staff worked very hard at putting this together and so far it has been a powerful reminder each month for all of us to pay attention to what it means to live faithful lives, rooted and grounded in Jesus. Faithful living means that Jesus is present in all aspects of our daily living. As a staff, our hope and prayer is that we can help as you make daily choices reflecting the presence and power of Jesus as you seek to grow in faith.

Some of the highlights for me in 2014 were;

- Keeping my eyes open in order to see the daily and weekly God moments that are too numerous to mention, yet are a constant source of hope and strength for me.
- For God’s daily grace, the power of forgiveness and a lively worshipping community of Lutheran Christians.
- Hosting Pastor Nixon Mwitula and his wife Prisca in March as part of our Global Mission emphasis.
- Saying goodbye to our organist and friend, Dee Ann Crossley after 38 years of faithful ministry.
- The work of the organist search committee who welcomed our new organist, Dr. Kristina Langlois.
- Saying goodbye to another wonderful intern and spouse and welcoming another wonderful intern and spouse.
- Being part of a staff that worked hard and together to create and implement the balance wheel which was the focus of our stewardship emphasis in October [and into 2015].
- The response to the matching gift challenge for the Harvest Fund on All Saints Sunday.
- Your words of love and care to me and my family on the occasion of my 25th anniversary party.
- Being part of a church that takes seriously the call to prayer and compassion; especially to those who are hurting and broken.
- Working alongside a great staff and amazing lay leadership.

In 2015 we will continue to be a congregation whose primary focus is to lift up the message of God’s love and power, revealed and given to us in Jesus. He calls us to love and serve our neighbor and that is exactly what this house called Augustana will choose to do in 2015.

Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve alongside you.

Pastor Aune

New Year Message from Pastor Torgerson

“...teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.” Psalm 90:12

As I count the days in the past year, I consider all that Augustana has done, continues to do, and will do. In all these things, I pray that we will all indeed gain a wise heart, where our compassion and faith find meaningful and profound expression in the world around us. It is my prayer that we will, as a congregation, apply ourselves with even more excitement and passion to the mission of this church and the needs of the world.

Sometimes, the way we do that can seem small and lighthearted. On March 16, the Evangelism Committee sponsored a nametag Sunday, encouraging everyone who came to worship that morning to put on a nametag. Perhaps it doesn't seem like a nametag can change the world, but in a congregation which finds itself in the top 10% of the ELCA by virtue of its size, it can be difficult to know where you fit in. I remember a distinct energy in the air that morning, fueled by people who sat near each other for years finally getting a solid reminder on names. We truly hope to be a congregation of welcome and hospitality, and an important first step in that attitude is simply to know each other's names. I look forward to a nametag Sunday again soon.

In the same way, Augustana had its biennial picnic on July 20. While it may seem a small thing to gather a few hundred church and community members together on a hot summer day to eat delicious grilled chicken, it is not. When we gather in a spirit of joy and welcome, sharing our faith through hospitality and abundance, we share the gospel. As we continue to be a presence in our community through our volunteering, our financial generosity, and our witness to Christ, we serve in still more ways by simply being gracious and welcoming.

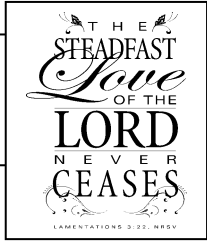
But of course, our days are filled with not only fellowship. It is my great hope that everyone at Augustana will gain a wise heart by making each day an opportunity to encounter Christ through prayer, devotion, and conversation. Our focus on the Balance Wheel this year is just one such way that we hope to encourage people to integrate their faith into the fullness of each aspect of their lives. As part of this focus, I started a group at Augustana called “Living Faith at Augustana”. In its pilot session, we read Bob Goff's moving book “Love Does” and reflected on ways that we can do love in our own lives for the sake of the gospel. This group met almost exclusively online, through email, blog, Twitter, and Facebook. When the group returns to study the book of Acts later this winter, I intend to continue it as a way for people to connect with their faith especially when they can't physically be at church.

What would help you build and express your faith throughout the week? Would you be interested in podcasts of sermons or Bible studies from Augustana? Do you need support to start a small group of people in your community who can study and pray together? Is there a particular topic that you want to see addressed in future classes? If the answer to this or any other thoughts you might have on building faith at Augustana is yes, please contact me or anyone else on staff. We are here to support and encourage you as you learn ways to live your faith daily, gaining a wise and faithful heart that shares Christ with all.

I count it as an honor to do ministry with you here at Augustana, and I will continue to count the days that I share with you. May your generosity, compassion, excitement, hospitality, thoughtfulness, and caring be expressed in big and small ways, always drawing you closer to our Savior.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Torgerson

from the **CHURCH COUNCIL**



COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It has been an eye-opening privilege to serve as a member of the church council: to witness this body of Christ sharing their talents and working together for God in His world. I am in awe of the many

hands and hearts, both in front of and behind the scenes, in this place. We have received so many blessings, including our pastors, church staff, spirit-led ministries and faithful congregational members. A special thank you to outgoing church council members Debbie Siebell and Gordy Ericson who have each faithfully served the congregation for six years.

Our mission of “Seeking to grow in faith, we proclaim, celebrate and share Jesus Christ with all!” is a clear task. It guides our every move at Augustana. It makes us intentional with our actions and resources. It is why the Boys and Girls Club ministry’s Taco Tuesday is such a success. It is why we collected 18,000 pounds of food for MN Food Share Month. It is why Pastor Nixon Mwitula and his wife Prisca traveled here from Ipogoro in Tanzania to participate in Global Mission Sunday. It is why the Columbarium conversation has begun. It is why our Internship program with Luther Seminary is thriving in its fifth consecutive year. It is why our website has a wonderful new design that is both attractive and easy to navigate. It is why we celebrated with grateful hearts the 25-year anniversary of Pastor Aune and Janis strengthening and serving in our midst. It is why we are invited to examine our lives in the light of the Balance Wheel.

What else did we accomplish in 2014? This annual report will answer that question, committee by committee. Please make time to read through it and ponder where God is moving us in 2015. How is He calling you to become involved in the mission of Augustana?

Lauri Torseth, 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. In the preschool, Kirsten Barie accepted a position at another facility; Gina Olson and Kelsey Kahlhamer joined our teaching staff. In May our long-time organist, Dee Ann Crossley, retired after serving in our music ministry for 38 years. We welcomed Kristina Langlois as our new church organist in September.

In August we said farewell to our fourth Luther Seminary intern, Daniel Rinehart and greeted our fifth, Aaron Holmgren. Like Daniel, Aaron 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 35. 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 had a number of facility repairs during 2014. Water damage repairs had to be made to the exterior wall of the youth room and the wall had to be repainted. Old pipes in a lower level restroom

were leaking and were repaired. A fan shaft in one of the furnaces was replaced. The elevator sustained some repairs. One of the kitchen stoves had some repairs as well as the roll down window between the kitchen and Fellowship Hall. Cracks were filled in the east parking lot and then it was seal coated.

Plans are going forward by the Columbarium Committee for the design and location of a columbarium on the south lawn where the playground is now located.

The city of West St. Paul has delayed the Robert Street rebuild which was to start in 2015. I have not heard what their latest schedule plans are or how it will affect Augustana.

Steven W. Klimek, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that Augustana finished 2014 financially solid due to the staff keeping a close eye on expenses and overall member commitments coming in above budget. The surplus allowed us to replenish facility, operating and equipment reserves.

Although pledged member commitments were down slightly for 2015, both in number of Giving Plans received (486 in 2014 to 468 in 2015) as well as pledged dollars (\$1,244,000 in 2014 to \$1,225,000 in 2015), we were able to balance the budget due to a projected increase in unpledged dollars (based on 2014 actuals), freezing staff salaries, reducing program ministry budgets and administrative accounts by five percent from 2014 levels, and slightly reducing our benevolence giving (20% in 2014 to 19.4% for 2015).

Laurie Prifrel, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The 2014 Stewardship Committee conducted a successful campaign which resulted in estimated member commitments of \$1,225,000 for 2015. This represents a slight decrease from 2014 but is considered a strong showing in light of challenging economic conditions. The campaign encouraged stewardship commitment through Joshua 24:15, "Choose this day whom you will serve...but for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Committee members included Pastor Aune, Dave Anderson, Dave Halen, Doug Janey, Paul Larsen, Karen Larson, Dennis Munkwitz, Carla Pfeifer, and Beth Skwira.

David Anderson, Chair

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Evangelism Committee. Pastor Torgerson leads this committee comprised of approximately 12 members. The group is responsible for the Augustana summer picnic provided in the "even numbered" years. We prayerfully consider outreach projects in the church and community as well.

Janet Gunderson, Committee Member

GLOBAL MISSION TASK FORCE

During the Global Mission Sundays of March 30 & April 6, 396 offering gifts were collected totaling \$64,641, surpassing our goal of \$50,000. Notable designations for the offerings: Tanzania - Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, Selian Hospital, and Plaster House surgeries; Guatemala - building fund for a new church building.

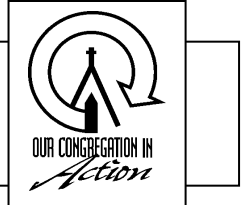
On April 6th our congregation gathered for a pot luck dinner in honor of Pastor Nixon (from Ipogoro, Tanzania) and his wife, Prisca. They visited many points of interest in the area, as well as members' places of employment, including a middle school, hospital and U of M's School of Agriculture.

In August, Janet Metcalfe and Pastor Aune traveled to Guatemala for the ordination of the new pastor at San Agustín. They were also able to observe the construction progress of the new sanctuary. In December Pastor Karen Castillo, new president of the ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala), arrived to visit some St. Paul Area Synod partner churches and met with Augustana's Global Mission Task force on Jan 6, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Larson

about our CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES



SOCIAL MINISTRY

The members of the Social Ministry Committee continue to strive to provide Augustana members with meaningful opportunities to serve people in need in our community and 2014 was another busy year.

Each month saw a record number of client visits to the Augustana food shelf and the consistent contributions from Augustana members made it possible to meet the nutritional needs of these hungry families. The theme for the 2014 food drive was "Be a Hunger Hero". After a month of very spirited competition, Underdog (Pastor Aune) was crowned top dog – the total amount of food/money raised was \$18,324.69. A special thank you goes to everyone who made this such an overwhelming success.

In February Auggie Love Bags were collected and distributed to the West Side Boys and Girls Club and Joseph's Coat. The generous response provided snacks, school and craft supplies to the Boys and Girls Club as well as warm clothing for men, women and children, household items, and hygiene products for the needy in our community.

Augustana members continued to support Feed My Starving Children with work sessions offered each month. An all-congregation event was held on October 15 and the response was overwhelming. 130 Augustana members and friends packed 17,712 meals that will feed 49 kids for a year.

Augustana continued its relationship with the West Side Boys and Girls Club in 2014. The third Tuesday of each month was "Taco Tuesday". Augustana members prepared and served dinner to approximately 125 kids. A very special event was held on the third Tuesday in November - the second annual Thanksgiving feast was celebrated. It was an opportunity for the kids to share a complete Thanksgiving dinner with their families and the numerous Augustana members who volunteered. There were also crafts and other activities for the kids and their families. This was once again a very successful event.

2014 was a record breaking year for Augustana's involvement in Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to passionate and dedicated leadership and the generosity of Augustana members, over 300 boxes were sent to children in the most-needy areas of the world.

Our annual Advent Fair was held on December seventh. Once again the congregation was provided with a wide variety of alternative giving opportunities. Tanzania Widows' Might Weaving Project, Guatemala Scholarship Fund, fair-trade handicraft items, coffee and chocolate were offered. For the first time this year Olivia Rud, an Augustana youth who was impacted by her 2012 visit to Tanzania, offered knitted scarves and headbands for sale with proceeds used to purchase school desks for the new preschool at Ipogoro. All families and seniors from the Neighbors, Inc. Adopt-a-Family/Senior program and all teens from the LSS Rezek Adopt-A-Teen program were adopted. One of the most popular tables again this year was "Sponsor a Christmas Dinner". A confirmation small group was able to collect \$1,090 - enough money to provide 32 families with all the items typically found in a traditional Christmas dinner.

Lastly, our on-going Loaves and Fishes Program continues to be successful with Augustana members' help. Twenty-five to thirty volunteers work to provide meals each month, serving approximately 100-150 people at each meal.

On behalf of the entire Social Ministry committee, I would like to thank the members of Augustana Lutheran Church for their continued generous support. I know everyone on the committee is looking forward to the work that lies ahead in 2015.

Julie Michelson, Director of Lay Ministry and Community Outreach

ADULT MINISTRY

Adult Forum was consistently offered twice on Sunday mornings incorporating a wide variety of educational experiences. Forum participation has significantly grown this fall. Adult Forum presenters

include guest speakers, Augustana interns, Augustana members, and staff members. We have also incorporated a variety of discussion-based videos and presentations; our discussion skills continue to improve!

Numerous educational opportunities were offered during the weekday, evenings and weekends this past year. The highlights of this season include a spring women's dinner event (90+ participants) and the well-attended monthly aromatherapy classes.

The Adult Ministry and Stewardship focus this fall has been on Connecting with Nature. We have had many interesting presentations and events on The Healing Power of Nature, Therapeutic Horticulture, Communicating with Animals, Nature and Photography, and Healing Monarchs.

Several Pastoral, staff and lay-led Bible studies are offered each season. Opportunities for women are offered on a weekly basis.

More men have attended the monthly breakfast. The Men's Meet & Eat dinner group is thriving and several men's fellowship events have been offered. Fall attendance at all programs has been fantastic!

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

Augustana's Adult Education/Ministry program continues to make good progress towards Augustana's strategic planning goals and other congregational goals. However, it is only with congregational input, support and leadership that Augustana will continue to grow and thrive.

Stacy Eichman-Cardwell, Director of Adult Ministries

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. Our 3yrs-kindergarten age 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 "twins" have their own space called Club 56 where they go to hang out with friends, do service projects, Bible studies, Bible game days, and are big buddies to our 4yr -kindergarten age children. Our Kids' Kingdom program would not run as smooth 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 being 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 fourth grade youth four times during the year for service projects and fellowship. To kick off the holiday season this year we had a dinner and an awesome performer, Brian Bopp, came in to tell the Story of Jesus' birth as four different characters. We also brought families together for a fifth year to make Advent calendars to use at home. Joyful Noise, which is a music & movement class for children age 2yrs through 3yrs, taught by the talented Joan Getz, met on Wednesday mornings and was a big hit with our little ones. We had parents, grandparents, & nannies attending with the children. Offering Date Night to the parents is still a big hit for families with children of all ages. I sometimes wonder who has more fun, the children or the youth helpers!

Our summer camps continue to be a big draw to Augustana families and families from the community. We get over 400 children that participate in six weeks' worth of camps. About three quarters of these children go to our preschool or are community members not currently attending Augustana. Some of the camps that are offered are Recreation, VBS, Princesses of the Bible, Camp Wapo, Music/Art, and Bible Story Fun. 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 in 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

2014 has been another solid year for the Youth and Family Ministry program. Highlights of the year include:

- The New York City Service Trip, which saw over 50 youth and adults experience one of the most amazing cities in the world
- The continued strong attendance at Youth Forum - averaging 35 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 including the annual Snow Trip, Losby Cabin Adventure, Youth Quake, Duluth Service Trip and Summer Servants, all of which had good participation and are helpful in strengthening the faith of young people

We want to recognize the heart-expanding service projects by many young people of Augustana: the Feed My Starving Children event in October, the Walk to End Hunger on Thanksgiving morning with 27 walkers, and special commendation goes to Olivia Rud and Jacob Hopp for their efforts to raise funds to purchase desks for students in Tanzania. It is so encouraging to see our young people reaching out to those who are in need and being able to truly make a difference.

As a general rule, the participation and leadership provided to the younger members at Augustana continues to be a beacon of hope for this community. Plans for a strong year in 2015 and the next youth trip to Tanzania in 2016 are well under way. Please continue to pray for and support the young people of Augustana in every way.

Don Marsh
Director of YFM

Jeff Hawthorne, Jeff Rud, Chad Schmidt
YFM Church Council Members

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Augustana Health Ministry programs have served many members and community members throughout the year. Some of the highlights are listed below.

- The Gathering, a ministry in partnership with Lyngblomsten has 28 volunteers that provide a safe and enjoyable day for those who are experiencing early stage memory loss two times a month. A memory loss support group for caregivers is held once a month.
- The Befriender Ministry, a ministry of being present through 27 volunteers has provided many hours of quiet listening and spirit-filled care for 30+ parishioners experiencing life challenges. The volunteers have shared approximately 9,720 hours caring for others.
- Care Team ministry, in partnership with Lyngblomsten, has provided 350 volunteer hours helping families that are experiencing health or life challenges with tasks such as grocery shopping, yard work, accompanying people to the doctor, housekeeping and socialization.
- Baby Blanket ministry, Prayer Shawl ministry, Card ministry, Grief ministry and Caring Casseroles have shared God's love through visits, cards, shawls and food. There were over 65 meals delivered and 50 cards shared with those experiencing life challenges. A Growing Through Loss series was held at Augustana in the spring and Walking Through Grief series in the fall.
- The Operation Grace Dental Van staffed by volunteer dentists and staff has served people who do not have dental insurance.
- The healing garden and labyrinth continue to be a sacred and beautiful place for many.

- Health Ministry hosts a variety of classes and events: Yogadevotion, Centering Prayer, flu vaccination clinic, monthly blood pressure screenings, blood drive.

In Christ's Service,

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.

After thirty-eight years of faithful service at Augustana, organist Dee Ann Crossley retired in May. Her ability to lead congregational singing along with her expressive solo selections enriched our worship in a significant way. Dee Ann was an accompanist extraordinaire and her playing encouraged the choirs to sound their best. The congregation had an opportunity to say thank you at a wonderful retirement party held in Dee Ann's honor.

A search committee was formed in the spring to find a new church organist. After months of work, we were fortunate to hire a gifted organist, Kristina Langlois. Kris, who is a published composer, earned her Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University-Chicago and her Doctor of Music degree from Northwestern University. She teaches organ at Concordia University-St. Paul and serves as the University Organist.

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 eighteenth 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 have an opportunity to 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.

Over the summer, the Senior Choir robes were given to our sister congregation in Ipogoro, Tanzania to be worn by their adult choir. Our Senior Choir, as well as the Chorister Choir, wore their new robes for the first time on Sunday, December 21st.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Kathy Andrews and Kristina Langlois, co-directors of music

REPORT OF THE AUGUSTANA PRESCHOOL

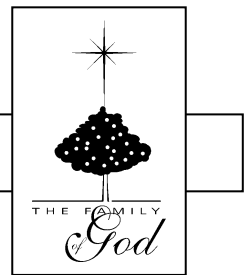
Augustana Preschool, "Play, Pray and Grow" began its 16th year of operation in the fall. The school is a wonderful part of the community and a door to the congregation. We continue to offer a quality, Christian education with 2 ½, 3½ and 4 hour options for ages 3 through pre-kindergarten. Enrollment for the 2014 -15 school year is 57 children.

The preschool is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), licensed by the State of Minnesota, and has earned a 4-Star Parent Aware rating. A preschool advisory committee and church council oversee the operations of the preschool.

A major part of Augustana's Preschool program continues to be tuition assistance provided by benevolence funds from the congregation. We have been able to offer an early childhood experience to the majority of those applying, thanks to the generosity of Augustana Lutheran Church.

Kate Quebodeaux, Preschool Director

STATISTICAL INFORMATION



	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
I. Membership		
Baptized Membership	2154	2265
Confirmed Membership	1361	1414
II. Attendance		
Total Attendance (including Drive-In)	39323	39442
Weekly Average	756	759
III. Pastoral Acts		
Baptisms	31	30
Confirmations	36	38
Marriages	12	8
Funerals	17	19

CONGREGATIONAL GOALS FOR 2015

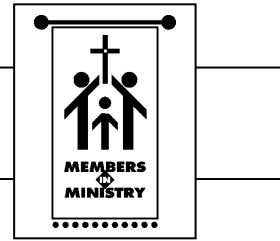


- Provide financial support, totaling 19.4 percent of the member giving plans from Augustana's stewardship campaign, to the following organizations that share the love of Christ through ministry to those in need:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
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- Communicate with Augustana members to engage them in the myriad of events and information offered on a daily/weekly/monthly basis. [We recognize that a “one size fits all” approach to communicating is no longer an effective use of our resources.]
- Expand and fine tune the appropriate mix of print, email, and social media to meet the diverse ways with which our members choose to stay connected to Augustana. [Managing and maintaining accurate email lists continues to be a challenge.]
- Seek out ways to teach, encourage and lift up different prayer practices in the life of individuals and the community in order to strengthen faith and create a deeper relationship with God. [We hear the command of Jesus to pray to God in Heaven and recognize that prayer is one of the core faith practices that connect us to God.]

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015**



Church Council – 3-year term (vote for 7)

Bruce Calhoun
Matt Storlie

Mary Hayes
Karen Larson

Laurie Torseth
Will Johnston

Lauri Prifrel

Harvest Fund Committee – 3-year term (vote for 2)

Stuart Simek

Jeff Kandt

Nominating Committee 2015 – 2 year term (vote for 2)

Gordy Ericson

Debbie Siebel

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

Shayla Maasen

Ann Knuttila

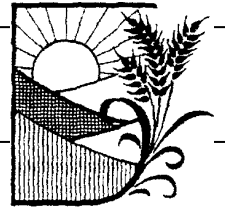
2014 Nominating Committee Members

David Mooney
Sheri Gerzina
Bill Larson

Ginny Rudolph
David Halen

Beth Skwira
Steve Klimek

HARVEST FUND COMMITTEE



The Harvest Fund is an endowment fund established by the congregation 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.

The committee met four times in 2014. The 2014 distribution of \$22,500, an increase of 9.7% over the previous year will be transmitted in first quarter 2015. 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' and Daniel Rinehart's internship here.

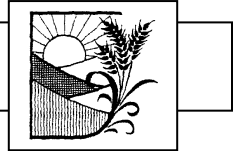
In 2014, the Harvest Fund received \$43,908 in new contributions. As of December 31, 2014, the total assets of the Harvest Fund were \$880,621. The simple return was 7.25% in a very successful year in the stock market while producing interest and dividends of \$34,530.

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, Tim Graham, Tom Wallace, Heather Johnston, Lauri Torseth and Pastor Aune for the giving of their time and talents on this committee in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Griffin – Chair

HARVEST FUND ANNUAL REPORT



12/31/2014

Contribution Summary of Invested Funds				
	Balance		Current Year	Balance
Designations	12/31/13		Contributions	12/31/14
Missions	\$23,081		\$300	\$23,381
Scholarships-ELCA Seminary	\$20,891		\$2,100	\$22,991
Youth Ministry	\$52,683		\$638	\$53,321
Music Ministry	\$47,275		\$2,950	\$50,225
Community & Social Ministry	\$48,235		\$1,450	\$49,685
Special Needs-Augustana	\$155,396		\$9,150	\$164,546
Selian Hospital	\$32,449		\$985	\$33,434
Undesignated	\$199,890		\$26,190	\$226,080
Tumaini University	\$119,741		\$145	\$119,886
Total Contributions	\$699,641		\$43,908	\$743,549
Market Value and Performance Summary of Invested Funds				
Total Market Value on 12/31/13				\$797,611
Contributions				\$43,908
2012 Distribution				\$20,500
2013 Distribution				\$0.00
Return on Investments				\$59,602
Interest and Dividend Income			\$34,530	
Appreciation (Depreciation) of Investments			\$25,072	
Simple Return				7.25%
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS 12/31/14				\$880,621
Total Distributions Since Fund Inception				\$219,243
Total Harvest Fund Assets and Distributions to Date				\$1,099,864
Total Gifts to Harvest Fund				\$743,549

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH - BALANCE SHEET

	Balance as of		Balance as of		Annual
	1/1/2014		12/31/2014		Change
ASSETS					
CHECKING ACCT	\$ 135,383		\$ 176,978		\$ 41,595
ASSOCIATED BANK MM ACCT	\$ 210,336		\$ 210,757		\$ 421
ASSOC BANK, INVESTMENT ACCT.	\$ 341,228		\$ 343,003		\$ 1,775
MISSION INVESTMENT FUND	\$ 16,141		\$ 16,141		\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 703,088		\$ 746,880		\$ 43,792
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS					
PREPAID PLEDGES	\$ 30,080		\$ 39,739		\$ 9,659
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 30,080		\$ 39,739		\$ 9,659
NET ASSETS					
BUDGET FUND BALANCE	\$ 115,699		\$ 115,699		\$ -
DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ 557,310		\$ 587,847		\$ 30,537
CURRENT PERIOD CHANGES	\$ -		\$ 3,595		\$ 3,595
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 673,009		\$ 707,141		\$ 34,132
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS					
ASSETS	\$ 703,089		\$ 746,880		\$ 43,792

Please Note: The Balance Sheet does not reflect 1) the value of the buildings and contents, insured for \$17.4 million, 2) the mortgage obligation, \$862,452 as of 12/31/2014, or 3) the Harvest Fund, with a year-end market value of \$880,621.

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH - INCOME STATEMENT / BUDGET

	2014	2014	2015
	Budget	Income Statement	Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
MEMBER COMMITMENTS	\$ 1,410,000	\$ 1,401,318	\$ 1,410,000
SHRINKAGE	\$ (50,000)	\$ -	\$ (40,000)
LOOSE OFFERING	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,039	\$ 22,000
LENT & EASTER	\$ 17,000	\$ 18,601	\$ 18,000
CHRISTMAS	\$ 14,000	\$ 13,099	\$ 14,000
ADULT MINISTRY	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,000
CONGREGATIONAL DINNERS	\$ 9,500	\$ 10,386	\$ 10,000
HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,067	\$ 8,000
PRESCHOOL	\$ 108,580	\$ 88,101	\$ 94,020
SUMMER CAMPS	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,650	\$ 6,000
YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY	\$ 21,000	\$ 38,505	\$ 30,000
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 500	\$ 847	\$ 800
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,948	\$ 12,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,584,580	\$ 1,626,561	\$ 1,591,820
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>			
ST. PAUL AREA SYNOD	\$ 163,000	\$ 163,000	\$ 151,525
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	\$ 8,500	\$ 12,232	\$ 11,000
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	\$ 250,000	\$ 253,732	\$ 241,025

	2014	2014	2015
<u>PROGRAM MINISTRIES</u>	Budget	Income Statement	Budget
ADULT MINISTRY	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,187	\$ 19,000
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,077	\$ 18,050
CONGREGATIONAL DINNERS	\$ 8,500	\$ 12,081	\$ 10,000
NURSERY	\$ 400	\$ 302	\$ 400
SUMMER CAMPS	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,126	\$ 6,000
HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 14,165	\$ 15,051	\$ 13,457
MUSIC	\$ 24,000	\$ 25,761	\$ 22,800
PRESCHOOL	\$ 12,669	\$ 4,092	\$ 5,049
EVANGELISM	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,775	\$ 1,900
NEW MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS	\$ 3,100	\$ 3,274	\$ 2,945
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,506	\$ 950
YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY	\$ 50,000	\$ 68,266	\$ 57,500
TOTAL PROGRAM MINISTRIES	\$ 161,834	\$ 177,498	\$ 158,051
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>			
COMPENSATION	\$ 760,000	\$ 773,563	\$ 775,000
STAFF BENEFITS	\$ 167,000	\$ 169,471	\$ 182,000
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,455	\$ 5,000
COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 14,500	\$ 12,551	\$ 13,775
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,190	\$ 22,000
HOME WORSHIP	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,156	\$ 1,900
INS. & WORK. COMP	\$ 19,000	\$ 17,662	\$ 20,000
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,788	\$ 9,500
OFFICE REPAIRS/SUPPLIES	\$ 20,000	\$ 18,930	\$ 19,000
ORGAN & PIANOS	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,431	\$ 3,500
PASTORS' BOOK ALLOWANCE	\$ 1,000	\$ 287	\$ 1,000
PASTORS' EXPENSE ALLOWANCE	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,096	\$ 1,000
POSTAGE	\$ 12,000	\$ 9,803	\$ 11,400
SANCTUARY WORSHIP	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,539	\$ 8,550
SERVICE FEES	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,824	\$ 8,500
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,261	\$ 3,000
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 9,500	\$ 7,293	\$ 9,025
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,425	\$ 13,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,081,000	\$ 1,078,725	\$ 1,107,150
<u>FACILITIES</u>			
CLEANING/KITCHEN SUPPLIES	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,982	\$ 9,000
LANDSCAPE & GROUNDS	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,510	\$ 6,500
MAINTENANCE	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,536	\$ 15,200
UTILITIES	\$ 55,000	\$ 54,382	\$ 54,000
TOTAL FACILITIES	\$ 86,500	\$ 86,410	\$ 84,700
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,579,334	\$ 1,596,365	\$ 1,590,926
NET INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS	\$ 5,246	\$ 30,196	\$ 894
BUDGET TRANSFER	\$ -	\$ 26,600	\$ -
NET INCOME AFTER TRANSFERS	\$ 5,246	\$ 3,596	\$ 894

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH - DEDICATED FUNDS STATEMENT				
	Balance	2014	2014	Balance
	1/1/2014	Receipts	Expenses	12/31/2014
PROGRAMMING				
HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 2,656	\$ -	\$ 1,207	\$ 1,449
CHILDRENS' MINISTRY REIMB	\$ 2,787	\$ 4,618	\$ 3,089	\$ 4,316
CONCERT SERIES	\$ 12,673	\$ 1,663	\$ 169	\$ 14,167
MUSIC MEMORIALS	\$ 9,250	\$ 12,854	\$ 11,314	\$ 10,790
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 21,548	\$ 826	\$ 1,000	\$ 21,374
SENIOR MINISTRIES	\$ 3,941	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,941
YOUTH GLOBAL MISSION	\$ (1,671)	\$ 3,675	\$ 1,255	\$ 749
WOMEN'S SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$ 775	\$ 405	\$ -	\$ 1,180
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	\$ 51,959	\$ 24,041	\$ 18,034	\$ 57,966
ADMINISTRATION				
FACILITY RESERVE FUND	\$ 100,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 26,895	\$ 85,605
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND	\$ 20,569	\$ 19,200	\$ 16,158	\$ 23,611
HARVEST FUND	\$ 1,636	\$ 44,104	\$ 45,161	\$ 579
INTEREST	\$ 15,278	\$ 1,404	\$ 113	\$ 16,569
MEMORIAL GARDENS	\$ 11,215	\$ 2,673	\$ 1,197	\$ 12,691
OPERATING RESERVE FUND	\$ 100,000	\$ 20,006	\$ 33,063	\$ 86,943
PLACE-MRA	\$ 3,253	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ 4,353
PLACE-MT	\$ 5,800	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 6,800
REIMBURSABLE	\$ 5,392	\$ 19,725	\$ 17,791	\$ 7,326
COLUMBARIUM FUND	\$ -	\$ 30,280	\$ -	\$ 30,280
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 263,143	\$ 151,992	\$ 140,378	\$ 274,757
MORTGAGE FUND BALANCE	\$ 61,034	\$ 491,120	\$ 470,908	\$ 81,246
BENEVOLENCE				
GLOBAL MISSION	\$ 16,675	\$ 20,525	\$ 22,155	\$ 15,045
GM- GUATEMALA	\$ 136	\$ 50,829	\$ 49,026	\$ 1,939
GM- TANZANIA	\$ 2,889	\$ 42,055	\$ 39,827	\$ 5,117
DISCRETIONARY	\$ 2,685	\$ 12,228	\$ 8,774	\$ 6,139
ELCA SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 193	\$ 114,807	\$ 115,000	\$ -
COMMUNITY MISSION	\$ 32,655	\$ 28,214	\$ 39,907	\$ 20,962
HYMNALS	\$ 547	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547
CONFIRMATION OFFERING	\$ 1,325	\$ 3,421	\$ 1,398	\$ 3,348
KIDS' KINGDOM OFFERING	\$ 851	\$ 998	\$ 1,206	\$ 643
WORLD HUNGER	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -
OTHER BENEVOLENCE	\$ 9,984	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,984
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	\$ 68,040	\$ 273,077	\$ 277,393	\$ 63,724
INDIVIDUAL MEMORIALS	\$ 113,133	\$ 8,073	\$ 11,050	\$ 110,156
TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ 557,309	\$ 948,303	\$ 917,763	\$ 587,849

**AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
WEST ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER OF THE ASSETS OF THE HARVEST FUND TO
THE INFaITH COMMUNITY FUND AT THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

WHEREAS, the Harvest Fund was established as an endowment fund to support the long-term plans for outreach activities at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, gifts to the Harvest Fund support Community and Social Ministry, Missions, Music Ministry, Scholarships (ELCA Seminaries), Iringa University and Selian Hospital in Tanzania and Youth Ministry, among other special needs; and

WHEREAS, the Harvest Fund provides an opportunity for members of the Congregation to provide a gift that will continue these activities long into the future; and

WHEREAS, transfer of the Harvest Fund assets to the InFaith Community Foundation is under consideration by Augustana Lutheran Church; and

WHEREAS, transfer of the assets to the InFaith Community Foundation is believed to give the church access to a broader array of investments; provide for stability of personnel managing the funds; and give greater access to resources to help promote the activities of the fund, including the benefit to its members of investing in such a fund; and

WHEREAS, the assets of the Harvest Fund are nearing \$1 million, a level at which a diversified investment portfolio would assist in the long-term stability of the fund;

WHEREAS, the proposed transfer was discussed at informational sessions at the Stewardship Fair on October 12 and at two Adult Forums on October 26.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Augustana Church Council as follows:

1. The Augustana Church Council supports the transfer of assets to the InFaith Community Foundation.
2. The Augustana Church Council recommends approval of the transfer to the Congregation, which will vote on the transfer on January 20, 2015.
3. If approved by the Congregation, the Senior Pastor and Council are authorized to execute this transfer on behalf of Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul.

Adopted by the Augustana Lutheran Church Council this 18th day of November, 2014.

Mark Aune, Senior Pastor

Laurie Torseth, President, Church Council

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE
AUGUSTANA MEMORIAL GARDEN AND COLUMBARIUM

OF

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

1400 South Robert Street
West Saint Paul, Minnesota 55118

Augustana Lutheran Church has witnessed a significant and increasing use of cremation and inurnment at death by its members. In early 2014, an advisory columbarium team was established to research the possibility of a columbarium at Augustana. That team has determined that there is an opportunity for Augustana to provide a final resting place for cremains that reflects a tradition in the Christian church of interring human remains within the church walls or churchyard.

To do this, the members of Augustana Lutheran Church intend to establish the AUGUSTANA MEMORIAL GARDEN AND COLUMBARIUM.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the AUGUSTANA MEMORIAL GARDEN AND COLUMBARIUM is to provide a final resting place for human cremains that visibly proclaims the Church's mission to be a caring and comforting community and reflects the centrality of faith in the life journey of its members and faith community.

Based on the mission statement, the Church Council of Augustana Lutheran Church recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, an acceptable design for the Memorial Garden and Columbarium has been prepared by C. Johnson Design Group, and

WHEREAS, an acceptable Policy and Procedure document has been prepared for the management of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium, and

WHEREAS, no significant financial resources of the congregation will be necessary to construct and manage the Memorial Garden and Columbarium;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the congregation of Augustana Lutheran Church establish the AUGUSTANA MEMORIAL GARDEN AND COLUMBARIUM on the church's property adjacent to the Healing Garden and Labyrinth as designed by C. Johnson Design Group, and that it be managed in accordance to the Policy and Procedure document by appointing a Columbarium Committee and Columbarium Administrator, and that a construction contract be entered into with C. Johnson Design Group if and when sufficient funds have been obtained to cover initial phase construction costs through initial advance purchases of right-to-use and/or by donations , and that subsequent phase construction activities to complete the design be covered by ongoing purchases of right-to-use and/or donations.