

Table of Contents

Agenda for the 49 th Annual Congregational Meeting (1/31/2016).....	2
Minutes of the 48 th Annual Congregational Meeting (1/25/2015)	3
Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting (11/15/15).....	7
Pastor’s Report.....	10
Intern Pastor’s Report	13
Music Director’s Report	14
Parish Administrator’s Report	15
Membership Report	16
Council President’s Report	18
Ministry Reports	19-27
Christian Education Committee.....	19
Community Garden.....	21
Global Mission Partnership Ministry.....	22
Internship Committee.....	23
Memorial Committee	24
Property Committee	25
Service Ministry.....	26
Women of Hope (Women/ELCA)	27
Faith Forward Capital Campaign Ministry	28
Financial Reports for the Community Festival, Financial Ministry, Global Mission Partnership Ministry, Love Fund, Women of Hope and Youth.....	29
2015 Treasurer’s Report and 2016 Budget Information	31
Resolution to Amend the Constitution.....	36
Resolution to Install the 50 th Anniversary Committee.....	38
2016 Church Council Elections Ballot	39

49th Annual Congregation Meeting Agenda
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Oakdale, Minnesota
Sunday, January 31, 2016

President: Dean Libby
Vice President: Lynne Johnson
Secretary: Pam Hodges
Treasurer: Dave Buan

- I. Call to Order
- II. Opening Devotions
- III. Teller's Count
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Adopt Minutes of the 2015 Congregational Meeting, January 25, 2015
- VI. Adopt Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting, November 15, 2015
- VII. Reports
 - A. Pastor's Report
 - B. Intern's Report
 - C. Ministry Reports
 - D. Faith Forward Capital Campaign Report
 - E. Auditor's Report
 - F. Treasurer's Report
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Amendments to the Constitution
 - B. Installation and Charge of the 50th Anniversary Committee
 - C. Church Council Elections
 - D. Delegates for Synod Conference Assembly, February 27
 - E. 2016 Synod Assembly, May 20 and 21
 - F. Adoption of 2016 Budget
- IX. Closing Prayer

48th Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
January 25, 2015 @ 10:45 am

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Mike Nelson at 10:45 a.m. All page numbers listed herein refer to the pages in the published Annual Report.
- II. Opening Devotions: Pastor Dan Streeper opened the meeting with prayer and devotions printed in the annual report.
- III. Teller's Count: Pam Hults reported that 70 members were in attendance, which represented a quorum.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: (page 2) Pam Hodges made a motion: **"To approve the Agenda with the following two amendments; between number 5 (V) and 6 (VI) we will present the minutes from the July 13, 2014 special congregation meeting for approval and we will move the Adoption of the budget which is letter A under New Business and present it after letter D Faith Forward informational."** Julie Burau seconded the motion. **Motion Approved.**
- V. Minutes from 2014 Congregational Meeting: (pages 3-7) Mike Nelson made an amendment to page 5; Dave Buan and Lynne Johnson are fulfilling 2 year terms. Pam Hodges made a motion: **"To accept the minutes of the 2014 Congregation Meeting with the amendment by Mike Nelson."** Bev Buan seconded the motion. **Motion Approved.**
- VI. Reports:
- A. Auditor's Report – (see insert for written report) Pam Hodges reported that she, Gary Laska, and Scott Hults audited the books of House of Prayer, Community Festival, the Love Fund, Women of Hope, and the checking account for the Youth. They were all found to be in order. She encouraged everyone to continue with the great record keeping and gave a reminder for everyone to obtain proper documentation for purchases made for the church; like receipts and present them in a timely manner. Kim Facile made a motion: **"To accept the Auditor's Report."** Mary Lou Hodge seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**
- B. Treasurer's Report: (pages 6 - 7) Dave Buan explained the balance sheet and highlighted the expenses listed to give members a better idea as to what our actual expenses were in 2014. He pointed out how we ended the year on a positive note. A testament to the generous giving of our House of Prayer members. We ended with \$35,990.47 in our checkbook. Our final net income was \$11,280. Two corrections were made on the balance sheet in the annual report: long term liabilities Mortgage instead of \$347,206.96 should be \$330,136.26 and our Equity retained earnings is \$168,296.96 instead of \$151,198.75.

Audrey Orf made a motion: **“To accept the 2014 Treasurer’s Report to include the two corrections mentioned by Dave Buan.”** Dave Bureau seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

- C. Committee Financial Reports: (pages 10-11) see written reports. Jacky Hansen made a motion: **“To accept the 2015 Committee Financial Reports.”** Pam Hodges seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**
- D. Pastor’s Report: (pages 13-14 for written report) Pastor Dan spoke about how God is doing wonderful work among us and with us and renewing things at House of Prayer. Examples of this can be found in the community outreach that takes place at many of our events such as our Community Festival, school tools, food shelf, Trunk or Treat, Operation Christmas Child. House of Prayer was recognized for our service ministries and received the Lutheran Social Service 2014 Servant of Christ award. He spoke of visions and goals for our 2015 ministry together at House of Prayer.
 - *Supporting each other when confronted by loss and looking for more ways we can have fellowship together and celebrate our joys.
 - *Develop a congregational policies and procedures handbook to help make some processes more efficient. Implement a review process for all staff.
 - *He plans to look for new ways to engage in Ministry and to challenge members to try at least one new thing in service of God this year.We will be sad to say goodbye to our Intern Pastor Bitta Clark and her family in a few months. We have been blessed by her presence and it has allowed us to explore how our stories are part of God’s story to make all things new.
- E. Intern Pastor’s Report: (pages 15-16 for written report) Pastor Bitta addressed the members of the congregation and spoke of her gratitude and appreciation for her experiences at House of Prayer. It has allowed her to learn and grow as a Pastor.
- F. Parish Administrators Report: (page 17 written report)
- G. Council President’s Report: (pages 18-19 for written report) Mike Nelson addressed the members of the congregation and reminded everyone of our growth by speaking of the progress made from 2011 to 2015, beginning with a new Pastor in 2011 and the financial struggles we began facing in 2012 to our Faith Forward project in 2013 and new roof in 2014. We each have a wonderful story about our relationship with Christ and Mike challenged the congregation to look for opportunities to share their story with someone new.
- H. Committee Reports: (pages 20-30) President Mike Nelson gave everyone a few minutes to look over the committee reports and give Ministry leads an opportunity to speak if they wanted to. He also gave members an opportunity to ask questions if they had any. (Refer to written reports as there were no concerns or questions brought up.)

VII. **Old Business**

None.

VIII. **New Business**

- A. **Adoption of 2015 Budget** (page 8 – 9) Dave Buan made a motion: **“To accept the 2015 Budget as presented.”** Julie Burau seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**
- B. **Finance Ministry Bylaw** (see additional insert) C. Linda Siluk asked if we have considered Thrivent to manage our books and stocks etc... Dave Buan said yes we did look into that and found the fee we pay our current bookkeeper is very reasonable compared to several others that we checked out. Mary Lou Hodge asked if stock is donated, can it be designated. Mike Nelson said yes, but we would want to have a discussion with the finance ministry board about your wishes. Dave Buan made a motion: **“To accept the update of the Finance Ministry Bylaw as proposed in the insert.”** Pam Hodges seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**
- C. **Intern 2015-2017** (see additional insert for proposal of concurrent M. Div Intern) Intern Pastor Bitta spoke of her experience at House of Prayer. In addition to the practical skills and experiences she has had here, the congregation has helped her to actually think of herself as a Pastor. This program has helped her to grow and realize those feelings. Pastor Dan said that Seminary attendance is down. Even if we vote to have an intern, we may not get one. Audrey Orf asked if we don’t get an intern, do we want another Seminary student. Pastor Dan said we would need to have a special congregation meeting to decide this if needed. Bill Ham made a motion: **“That House of Prayer pursues a half time concurrent M. Div. Intern for fall 2015 – spring 2017.”** Bev Buan seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**
- D. **Faith Forward Informational** (page 21) Mike Nelson referred to the written report on page 21. He and Dave Buan reported that we have completed Phase 1, we have our new roof in place and have received enough money to pay back our loan by the end of this month. We will be moving into Phase 2 during 2015 and looking at sanctuary enhancements. We will have a congregation meeting when the time comes to present this plan to the congregation.
- E. **Church Council Elections** (page 31) The new council structure was adopted as a result of the ratification of our constitution revision in 2013. A ballot sheet was handed out to each voting member. Mike Nelson explained that we would be voting with the “white ballot method.” There were 2 vacancies that were written in just before elections began – President and At Large #2.

On the ballot were: **President** – Dean Libby, **Secretary** – Pam Hodges, **At Large #1** – Tim Byboth, **At Large #2** – Kris Goplen. (All are 2 year – 1st term.)

Mike asked if there were any additions to the ballot, none were made. Dave Burau

made a motion: ***“To close nominations for council elections and vote by white ballot.”*** Barb Lind seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

President Mike Nelson thanked all of those serving on council and for the above persons for accepting positions on the council as well as those who are leaving the council. Leaving council are: Mike Nelson – President, Jan Odegard – Secretary, Dean Libby – At Large, Alicia Prisch – At Large.

- F. **Community Garden Informational** (see special flyer) Dean Libby addressed the members of the congregation and said the council has approved for House of Prayer to begin a Community Garden this spring. There are plots available for members and non-members. The fee will be \$20.00 for a 10’ X 10’ plot. The land just past and behind the garage will be used for the garden. Registration will begin May 1, 2015. If the plot is maintained and cleaned up in the fall, half of the fee will be returned and the remaining \$10.00 will be used for tilling, clean up and possible addition of fencing, etc... There was a drawing for door prizes of various garden items held at this time (donated by council members). Shannon Ross assisted Dean with the drawing. Every family unit was able to take home a garden themed door prize.
 - G. **Synod Conference Assembly delegates** (Feb 28 9am –noon at Christ the King in New Brighton) – Pastor Dan let members know that we are still seeking members to attend the conference assembly along with Pastor Dan.
 - H. **2015 Synod Assembly** (April 24 and 25 at Prince of Peace in Burnsville) – Pastor Dan let members know that we are required to have two voting delegates at this assembly. These two delegate spots are still available.
- IX. **Motion to Adjourn** – A motion “To adjourn the meeting” was made by Ron Beitzel and seconded by Lynne Johnson. **Motion Approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. with a closing prayer led by Pastor Dan.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Odegard
Church Council Secretary

House of Prayer Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting Minutes Sunday, November 15, 2015

The Special Congregational Meeting of House of Prayer Lutheran Church was called to order by President Dean Libby at 9:50 a.m.

Pastor Dan Streeper opened the meeting with a devotion, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. Christ is in and through us to make a difference.

Michael Nelson provided the teller's count. There were 64 members present for the meeting, exceeding the necessary 51 members needed for a quorum.

Dean asked for an approval of the agenda. With a motion from Lynne Johnson and a second from Monica Streeper, the agenda was approved.

Dean provided a history and update of the Faith Forward Capital Campaign. The Campaign began on Commitment Sunday on November 10, 2013. Our pledge goal was \$350,000 and as of that day we received pledges of \$260,000 for the 3 year campaign, which is comprised of 3 phases.

Phase 1 was to replace our roof. This Phase was completed in the fall of 2014 and the loan was paid in January of 2015.

Phase 2 is to upgrade the sanctuary audio visual and lighting as well as office phones and computers. Phase 3 is other building esthetics, such as flooring, ceiling treatments, bathroom updating, soundproofing, \$100,000 debt reduction on our current mortgage and a \$20,000 contribution to missions beyond our walls.

At our last Special Congregational meeting on July 13, 2014, the congregation agreed not to proceed with Phase 2 or 3 until we had received the funding to cover those expenses. Since that time, we have experienced problems in our office with phones and computers which are in need of replacing or updating. We also experience problems with our sound system and we are pushing our current equipment to the point of failure.

Phase 2 is comprised of four parts: 1) office phones – \$3,600, 2) office computers – \$3,000, 3) audio/visual equipment – \$42,000 and 4) lighting – \$25,000 plus electrician expenses. Phase 2 costs total \$73,600. As of November 8, 2015, \$56,462.37 was on hand in the Capital Campaign.

We are not 100% comfortable with the lighting bid and still have questions about what should or will be done. We also do not have the funds available so we are proposing that we move forward with all parts of Phase 2 except for the lighting, which would allow us time to fine tune the bid and for the funds to come in.

At this point in the meeting Dean made a motion to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, we are called by God to be good stewards of our Facilities that all may hear God's word and be invited to share in Christ's ministry.

WHEREAS, the current technology in our facility is becoming obsolete; phone, computer, and audio visual systems are failing and making it difficult to communicate and perform day-to-day business or to participate fully in ministry and worship.

WHEREAS, there is \$260,000 committed to the Faith Forward Campaign over a three (3) year period, of which \$56,462.37 is on hand as of November 8th, 2015.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the congregation authorize the purchase and installation of necessary phones and computers at a cost of \$6,600.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the congregation authorize the purchase and installation of audio visual equipment at the cost of \$42,000.

With the motion on the floor, Jan Odegard seconded the motion. Next, members were invited to ask questions. A member asked what audio visual equipment would be included. Dean said we would purchase a new sound board, monitors for projection in three places in the Sanctuary, which can be hooked up to our Smart Board, a monitor at the Welcome Center, a separate sound system for the Fellowship Hall, amps, 6 hearing aid assistant devices, a new camera in the back of the Sanctuary which would be audio and visual, giving us broader capabilities.

Other questions asked were if we would have to pay someone to run the equipment, if we would do away with hymnals, if money can come from other income sources, such as the Community Festival and the Christmas Breakfast. One asked why we need this new technology when we seldom use our current technology. Will we be supporting a local company? Another felt that technology is good but would not be in favor of it becoming the primary source of worship. Another asked if we have the money in hand. We were informed the Smart Board does not currently work, but that is outside of the Capital Campaign. Another felt bathrooms should be considered before lighting.

All of these questions were answered by Dean and Pastor Dan. Training will be included with the purchase of the audio visual equipment and will not be a lot different from our current system. It can be controlled from a tablet and will not require setting up and taking down, like the current system. The monitors will enhance the worship service, adding content, flexibility and be easier to use than the current system. Music, not words, would be displayed on the monitors. Treasurer Dave Buan said funds are available and he is in favor of completing these portions of Phase 2.

Some felt that we need to move forward, that we are in the dark ages. Another comment was that this is an investment in the church and the future. Other churches have large screens that attract younger people. Another comment was that we have not had a capital campaign in many years and this will have to get us through the next 10-15 years.

Dean worked with 4-5 company, with 3-4 who came out and measured our space. Only a Brooklyn Park company, who has done work with other churches, submitted a bid, fine tuning and visiting here three times. We could be on their work schedule as soon as two weeks. For the computers, we can purchase those our self and use resources within the congregation to install.

After a recap of the phases, Mary Kay Meisner called for the question.

Dean called for a vote of the resolution, which was unanimously approved.

Dean talked about remaining tasks to be completed, suggesting we could consider bathrooms before lighting. Dean said we will eventually have to change to LED lights and we could get a rebate from Xcel.

With a motion from Karen Munos and a second from Richard Pruden, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Hodges
Council Secretary

Pastor's Report

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

This is the primary scripture that led to the creation of the ELCA slogan "God's Work, Our Hands" that we have used throughout this past year. And, House of Prayer was one of nearly 10,000 congregations that participated in the 'God's Work, Our Hands' Sunday in September. Incredible efforts were made in churches of the ELCA across the country to share our passion for making positive changes in the world. This is, in my opinion, why God created the church, to do the work of the Lord.

'God's Work' Accomplished in 2015

As I reflect on the work "Our Hands" did together in ministry this past year, I am always impressed by how much this small congregation can do in one year; and yet we also need to remember that it is GOD who gives us strength and that we can always do more. Here are some of the highlights from the year.

During our first "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday some 60-70 members participated in making over a thousand sandwiches for the homeless of the Twin Cities. We also made fleece blankets for children in areas of disaster. I can even picture children with those warm blankets after the recent storms, tornados and flooding in the south giving them comfort and warmth.

We continue to participate in many of our 'regular' service ministry efforts making a difference in the world. Some of those include: Feed My Starving Children, School Tools, Operation Christmas Child, Gifts for Seniors, and The Giving Tree. We strengthened our partnership with Cowern School dropping off hats, scarves, mittens and food cards for children in struggling families. This year our larger efforts through the Summer Community Festival and Community Christmas Breakfast benefitted the North Saint Paul Food Shelf, Veterans of the Twin Cities through Lutheran Social Service and our sister congregation in Ifunda, Tanzania. Some newer ministry efforts included our successful new Community Garden, Little Dresses for Africa, and numerous efforts to support the Sendafa Orphanage ministry in Ethiopia.

It also falls upon "Our Hands" to bring praise to God for our many blessings and for our ability to serve others. Our focus in this area centers on weekly worship. Thanks to the musicians, worship assistants, Altar Guild, Women of Hope, Property Committee, House of Prayer Staff, and everyone who provides countless hours of service and helps to do what is truly one of the most important ministries we can provide, praising God! Special thanks to Jacky Hansen for making our new Altar paraments and banners!

Education is also critical if we are to understand and be reminded of and encouraged to do the work to which God has called us. A special thanks to Janet Pruden and Ginny Johnson for the many years of service in this area that you have provided as you move on to other things. I also

want to thank the new group of people who have stepped into educational leadership roles and let others know how deeply needed and important help is in this area.

An important part of our education ministry is the training of seminary students. This year, we said a fond farewell to Intern Pastor Bitta Clark and her family and welcomed Intern Pastor Kevin Hackney and his family. In addition we heard news that Caroline Harthun and Corey Lange both took Pastoral calls. Caroline in Harris, Minnesota and Corey in a two point parish in Bluffs, Illinois.

We have made great progress on our Faith Forward Capital Campaign so that we can continue to be good stewards of this ministry site. As we all know, facilities require ongoing maintenance and upkeep or things deteriorate quickly. After putting on a new roof in 2014, we dedicated it during outside summer worship. We are now ready to update our out-of-date and failing sound and technology equipment throughout the building. Soon we will begin work updating our bathrooms, flooring and other esthetics of the building so that we can continue to be proud to call this place a house of the Lord for all people.

As I reflect upon 2015, one goal the council and I had was to provide more fun and fellowship opportunities. Since that goal setting meeting last spring, the council worked to make sure that at least one time each month there was a pot luck or festive gathering to bring people together. One of the more creative efforts included the Carols and Ales event on December 1, in collaboration with St Mark's and St Paul Lutheran Churches.

Another area of focus during 2015 has been updating and creating much needed administrative policies and procedures so that we can function and communicate more smoothly, allowing us to better focus on doing Christ's ministry.

Looking Forward to 2016: Areas for Growth

As I look forward toward 2016... I am struck by the recent scripture from Colossians that was read in worship... where we are called to "Clothe ourselves in love!" Maybe that should be our theme for 2016, "Clothed in Christ's Compassion and Love." The service ministry team is currently planning an "Undie Sunday" in January to provide much needed underwear and socks for the children at Covern School. We will, once again, literally be clothing those in need! **I want to challenge every person in the congregation to become active** in our service ministry. If you have not participated in some way in the past, simply choose *one* activity and find a way to take part.

As we have heard this year, much to our surprise, we are not always as welcoming of a congregation as we think that we are. As we "Clothe Ourselves in Love" may we find new ways to consider what it means to be welcoming. Again, I challenge each of us to **take a new look at the word 'hospitality,'** to understand it from the context of scripture and to take intentional steps to live that out every day in all areas of our ministry.

Finally, as a mainline Christian congregation we are living in a time of great change. During times like this it becomes easy to look back with fondness upon times when ministry was

successful and many were involved. It is a good thing to look back and to celebrate these days and the people involved. Doing things differently is not a sign that old ways were not good, but a commentary on the fact that times and people change. Our God in fact, is a God of change.

As your spiritual leader and guide I also want us to consider that our GOD is a God of the present and future as well. If we are to continue to be a successful congregation doing God's Work, we must look to the future and continue to strive to do our best.

Recently, active participation in the leadership of this congregation has declined and fewer and fewer are doing the work that needs to be done. I am confident from scripture that when we are producing the fruits of ministry doing 'God's Work,' and that while we do God will make a way for us to be successful. And so, personally I am not worried about our future. However, realistically we will need to work hard on these important areas for growth so that we can continue to produce fruit. As you look back at all that was accomplished, and I didn't even name everything here, this little congregation does great things for God. We need to be proud of our efforts and invite others to be part of this important work. That is my final challenge to you, that we double our efforts to invite, welcome, and involve new members to do the Lord's ministry as part of the House of Prayer family.

May we be 'Clothed in Christ's Compassion and Love,' so that we can become a House of Prayer and service for all people in 2016!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Daniel J. Streeper - Pastor
Soli Deo Gloria - To God be the Glory!

Intern Pastor's Report

I felt unprepared to start in August. I had to start sometime though. Most of fellow interns at other sites had the same feeling. Some of this is that I'm a worrier. I've only had two classes on worship and preaching, and now reflecting on this I wish they required more. So I felt I was thrown into the fire.

My family has had a lot of health issues this past year. This congregation has been very willing to share that burden, and walk with us. It helped to know so many who had gone through something similar or are still going through it. We've been a part of this community even before you met us. You were praying for my wife when she was in the hospital, and when she had her cancer treatment. It seems as if my wife and daughter are an important part of this congregation too with Kendra in bells, and Zoey sitting next to me during the children's sermons.

I think what was most important for me though about this last year was to realize that I'm allowed to make mistakes. Many of you have shown me that this is a safe place where I can make a mistake. I'm proud of the progress I've made. I have a great supervisor and committee. I feel blessed to have been trusted enough to lead the service of the word by myself, which helped my confidence.

In the coming year, I look forward to learning what it means to be in the office of pastor. My main goals are focused on worship, preaching, and pastoral care. I have gotten more confident at leading worship. As I get more efficient at writing sermons, my hope is to start working on some of my other goals. One goal in particular I'm scared and excited about at the same time. It's exploring the relationship between teaching, pastoral care and evangelism. My hope is that my internship project might evolve from here.

I'm also excited about the new audio/video upgrade to the sanctuary. Not just to have a reliable amplifier, but because I might be able to show you what I'm thinking in my sermons. I think this will be a really beneficial upgrade for House of Prayer. The hard part is that there are almost too many possibilities, and not all of them help worship. Thank you for the grace you've extended me since I started. 2016 is a new year with new possibilities.

Blessings,

Kevin

Music Director's Report

Children's Music

The children's music this year has focused on preparation for singing one hymn in worship each month. These hymns are prepared during the opening session of Sunday School and the kids are encouraged to discuss the topic of the hymn and apply their own meaning and understanding of the text of the hymn. The kids are also often encouraged to experiment with rhythm instruments to increase their rhythmic accuracy. During the Christmas program the kids also participated by singing and playing chimes on their own for the congregation.

Adult Choir

The adult choir continues to grow and improve their skills as work is done to improve technique. In the last year members of the choir participated in the National Lutheran Choir's Choral Tune-Up with members of other choirs around the region. These chances to sing with large groups help those participating to increase their skills and musical knowledge.

Handbells

Beginning this year we have joined the two choirs into one ensemble. This allows for the use of all five octaves of bells that House of Prayer owns. In order to allow for members of the first group to feel more comfortable and also to allow for a learning space for new comers, a second two octave set of bells was borrowed to intersperse with our own bells so that there can be doubling. This allows for guidance from more experienced individual players. This arrangement has allowed for some greater flexibility within the ensemble and will be continued into the next year.

HOP Singers

With the addition of several singers and the continued participation of our instrumentalists our worship leading group continues to be strong. The goal of the singers is to find the best ways to foster worship in our community and support the singing of the congregation. Participation in our quarterly planning meetings has also been strong and this has improved our level of preparedness in the past year. As planning and communication continue to improve we look forward to improving our worship as a community.

Respectfully submitted,

William Mills

Parish Administrator's Report

Coordinating: I am continuing to coordinate ministry work here at House of Prayer. I monitor building use for the church by making sure that our groups have the space needed at the correct dates and times.

Scheduling: Please continue to let me know if there are availability updates that you have for Members in Ministry positions. Thank you to everyone that participates in this ministry! You have helped to make it very successful! God is definitely at work here at House of Prayer.

Nursery Attendant: All of our services continue to have a paid nursery attendant. Betty Tuolee is working every Sunday as our nursery attendant.

Shepherd's Staff: This is the software that we utilize to track contributions, membership and attendance. Audrey Orf has been helping with recording attendance. The Shepherd's Staff Church Registry (master list of baptisms, first communion, confirmation, weddings and funerals) are up to date. From this software we are able to print member reports and labels for mailing.

New Members: In 2015, 21 new members joined us at House of Prayer. Thanks to all who have helped to sponsor and host the new member orientations. Your participation was greatly appreciated.

House of Prayer is God's work in motion! Thank you for allowing me to be here. You are a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Feland
Parish Administrator

Membership Report

An examination of the parish records indicate the following statistics regarding the status of our congregation:

	<u>Members</u>
1. Membership, end of 2014	521
2. Members received during 2015	
a. By Baptism: Child (15 years and under).....	8
b. By Baptism: Adult (16 years and over)	0
c. By Affirmation of Faith	21
d. By Transfer from ELCA congregations.....	0
e. By Transfer from other Lutheran congregations	0
f. From non-Lutheran congregations.....	0
g. From other sources/statistical adjustment.....	2
Total members received this year	38
3. Baptized youth confirmed in 2015.....	0
4. Members removed during 2015	
a. By death	4
b. By transfer to other ELCA congregations	3
c. By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	0
d. To non-Lutheran congregations	0
e. Moved	17
f. For other reasons/statistical adjustment	14
Total members removed in 2015	38
5. Membership, end of 2015	521
6. Average weekly worship attendance	129

Baptisms:

Austin Strauch	March 1, 2015
Kaitlyn Nihart	April 19, 2015
Elise Richards	April 19, 2015
Adeline Fynskov Clark	May 24, 2015
Whidbey Fynskov Clark	May 24, 2015
Athena Erickson Mohrbacker	June 28, 2015
Cecelia Schlosser	November 1, 2015
Jacob Walker	December 27, 2015

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmations):

No Affirmations of Baptism were conducted during 2015

Weddings:

No weddings were held at House of Prayer during the past year.

New Members:

Tom Chaffee and Deb Strobel	May 17, 2015
Marilyn Jackola-Roetman	May 17, 2015
Chad, Susan and Bode Muellner	May 17, 2015
Chris, Erin and Elise Richards	May 17, 2015
Karen Savage	May 17, 2015
Khrissy Wald	October 11, 2015
Nick, Jazmine and Jeremiah Movern	October 11, 2015
Nyra Rustand	October 11, 2015
Tom and Cindy Schneider	October 11, 2015
Carol Spores and Katherine Spores	October 11, 2015
Josh (JJ) Zottola and Sierra Zottola	October 11, 2015

Transfers: (Those who have requested transfer to another congregation or moved away):

Elaine Blanchard, Shayauna Fields and Maleeya Fields, Natalia Watson
Adeline and Whidbey Fynskov Clark
Dave, Nancy, Elizabeth, Mitchell and Jake Dolter
Gavin (Jacobson) Hagen
Keith and Sandy Libby
Harvey and Connie Macheel
Sean, Ashley and Rylan Maloney, Carter Furlong

Deaths:

Sandra Reetz	February 23, 2015
Bruce Casey	March 15, 2015
June Doris Peterson	April 26, 2015
Shirley Slate	December 16, 2015

Council President's Report

2015 saw some major changes here at House of Prayer. Together we have seen our Faith Forward campaign moving ahead with the paying off of the loan for our new roof and our recent vote to begin the Phase 2 improvements with new computers, new telephone system and improvements in our A/V technology throughout the building. I am excited to see many new possibilities this step will open to us. I want to thank everyone for their commitment and support to each new step we take in the life of HOP.

While we look forward to the new steps we will take, we continue to support our traditional events. Our Community Festival was a success again this year (with the possible exception of the outcome of the bocce ball tournament). Trunk or Treat was another fun and successful event and a wonderful way to continue reaching out to the community. Our annual Christmas Community Breakfast is another example of reaching out and the community responded. Our community garden was new this year with 15 garden plots planted. Many of those involved were "first time gardeners". Fencing was moved from the unused playground area with some additional materials purchased through grants from Thrivent and the volunteers who worked on the project. Enough fencing was installed to allow for the addition of 10 more garden plots for the 2016 growing season. Thanks all!

We should all be proud that the House of Prayer spirit is being spread outside our walls through our involvement in the intern program. Early in the year we said goodbye to Bitta Fynskov Clark and family, then in late summer we welcomed our new intern, Kevin Hackney and his family, who will be with us for the next two years. Imagine the fun and pride we'll feel watching his growth during that time. Speaking of which, we/House of Prayer, are fast approaching our 50th Anniversary. We plan to install a committee of our members to work on ways to celebrate how we started, what we've accomplished, and where we want to go with God's lead.

Here's another anniversary to celebrate. As of August, Pastor Dan has been with us for 5 years already. We are blessed to have him and Monica as a part of our ministry which leads me to close by thanking the entire congregation for all the ways you pitch in to give of your time, talents, and treasure and give true meaning to our name, House of Prayer. You're all wonderful and my wish for 2016 and beyond is that you are all blessed through your faith in God as we grow into the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Libby", with a stylized, flowing script.

Dean Libby
President

Christian Education Committee

The children have both large and small group experiences every Sunday morning. The beginning of 2015 continued with the programs that started in September of 2014. The younger children (pre-K – 3rd grade) continued the lessons from the “Holy Moly” program, while the older children (grades 4-6) continued to learn with the “Connect” curriculum.

In August, the Committee reviewed the various offerings for the 2015-2016 school year and purchased the “Sparkhouse Online” program which follows the lectionary during the church year. It is an established program with activities and ideas for every age group, and has a lot of information available online.

The fall of 2015 was spent in learning how to develop a weekly plan that met the needs of our children as well as the teachers. Worship continues to be a very important part of Sunday School, led by our wonderful music team of Ginny Johnson, Penny Hults, and William Mills. Our new format includes more formal roles for assistants, parents, and other adults to help with this very important ministry. Roles include:

- a “Guide” to help the children go directly to the classroom from the Sanctuary (bypassing the adult treats!),
- a Game Leader to help the children move after sitting still through the first service,
- a “Scribe” to check in the children and make enough copies of the activity and family sheets for the day,
- Small Group assistant to keep the conversation going, help with crafts, and watch the time, and
- a “Healthy Snack Chef” to prepare and serve snacks at the end of Sunday School.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the members of the Christian Ed committee, through a process of trial and error, have learned a lot more about the Sparkhouse Online program and what it offers us. We believe that “many hands make light work” and continue to reach out to the many talented members of our faith community to make it work. We are creating a package for each lesson (a separate one for each grade) that makes preparation simple and clear for the teacher. Our goal is to have every committee member teach, recruit a partner, pass on the knowledge to their new partner, and team teach with them. The newest team member would then be able to recruit a new partner and pass on the process to them. We are off to a good start with this concept, but realize that we need a coordinator to share the knowledge in a consistent way. We are still learning about the many details involved in putting together the children’s ministry program.

Participating in Worship –

Every week the children learn about life in the church by helping Pastor with the sending message at each service. The children have also assisted in the service by pairing with siblings or parents to perform usher, lector, and prayer duties.



Special Events –

- November: Advent Fair – As always, this event in the Fellowship Hall was full of excitement, color and movement. Everyone was able to get into the Christmas spirit by creating cards for shut-ins, fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and create beautiful tree ornaments.
- December: The children learned special music and were an important part of the Christmas program on December 20th, which was filled with music specially selected to support the readings of the Christ story as told by families within our congregation. The children spent the Sunday School hour in December learning their special music which they performed in front of the congregation.

Other Notes:

Yearly First Communion classes are offered and Bibles are given to 3rd graders.

Confirmation students are able to provide service as they prepare and assist during the Sunday School hour as a small group assistant.

There was no Vacation Bible School program this summer.

The Sunday School office was recently cleaned and organized. Materials and supplies for Sunday School are located on the shelves and are newly labelled. Looking for a craft for your class? Take a look, you may get inspired here. Many thanks to the “clean-up” crew – Bev Buan, Deb Breister, Janet Pruden, and Kim Facile.

The council continued to discuss creating a “Little Free Library” on the church grounds. The Library will contain books and games from the Muffin Man Pre-School and would be maintained by the church. The committee is still seeking individuals to coordinate and build one of these very popular centers.

A huge THANK YOU to Janet Pruden, who retired from coordinating the Sunday School program after more than 10 years at the helm. She has been a steadfast servant in this role, and our children have been lucky to have her leadership!

We thank the many members who have volunteered to teach, help with music, and support us. A special thank you to all the parents and grandparents who trust us with your precious children. We continue to ask the entire congregation to pray for and support the children of House of Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Christian Education Committee by

Kim Facile

Community Garden Report

The community garden was new to us this past year. It came out of a brain storming session looking for ways to reach out to the community and to make us more visible to our neighbors as well as to make use of all the open property in a manner that would provide help to people who could benefit from a little sweat equity. Research was done on other community gardens and it was decided to start small the first year but to plan for future growth. With a grant from Thrivent we purchased two rain barrels and installed them at the front and back of the garage, and with some sweat equity we marked off 15 each 10' by 10' garden plots, removed the sod and tilled the plots. There was enough interest in the congregation and with neighbors to plant the 15 plots and most enjoyed the experience. Unfortunately the deer, rabbits, and geese also enjoyed themselves until we could move the fence from the unused playground area to the garden. With another grant from Thrivent we were able to put up enough fencing to allow us to add 10 more plots for the next growing season. Future plans may include a compost area and motion lights.

Several people were involved in the work it took to prepare the community garden. They didn't take on the project for recognition but I thank them all for their part in it. I would like to point out that Boy Scout Troop 515 helped with the sod removal as a community service project. Troop 515 is the Boy Scout troop that House of Prayer is happy to sponsor and we look forward to other ways to further our relationship. Thanks again to all those who helped and supported the HOP community garden. We look forward to others joining next year and plans are for any unused plots to be planted by volunteers and anything harvested to be donated to the North St. Paul Food Shelf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Libby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dean Libby

Global Mission Partnership Ministry Report

One of the great blessings we receive as members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church is our Companion Congregation in Ifunda, Tanzania. They are praying for us daily and have enriched our lives in many ways since our partnership began in 2000. Our promise to our partner congregation is to pray for them, to help them with church projects by sending \$1,000 (funded through our church budget) each year and to build relationships with our partners.

We sponsored 21 students with scholarships for Secondary Students in the Iringa Diocese. The gifts for education that you at House of Prayer have given over the past 15 years have blessed the families of Ifunda beyond measure. As our friends in Iringa like to remind visitors, given how extended families work in Tanzanian culture, each scholarship received has a ripple effect that directly impacts the lives of ten other people. Asante Sana (Thank you) to all for your generosity in walking beside these students and helping them to have a profound impact on the communities that they come from as well. Cost of education keeps rising in Tanzania as well. The cost to educate a secondary student is now \$400.

Our annual Community Christmas Breakfast raised \$3,402.00. It was a great day with over 200 people attending. Thank you to all the workers who cooked, served, donated to the silent auction or boutique, made crafts, helped with advertising, etc. Not only did we raise money to help our congregation in Ifunda but it was a wonderful time with family, friends and people from the community. All the money raised will be used to help our partners at Ifunda Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Is God calling you to be a part of this ministry? We are beginning to plan a trip to our partners in Ifunda. The tentative date is February 2017. Please let us know if you would like to hear more about this exciting, life changing adventure. An information meeting will be scheduled soon.

Gene and Pam Hults
Global Mission Partnership Ministry Chairs

Internship Committee

This past August House of Prayer welcomed Kevin Hackney as our intern pastor. Kevin will be with us for two years on a part-time basis. The Internship committee meets regularly, providing support and evaluation for Kevin. We use the Luther Seminary Lay Internship Committee Guide to aid us in this opportunity to influence the development of a future pastor.

The committee members include Nathan Bruun, Pat Edison, Julie Ham, Jan Odegard and Audrey Orf. We encourage all members of the House of Prayer congregation to share comments and feedback directly with Kevin.

Thank you all for including Kevin, Kendra and Zoe into our HOP family.

Bill Ham
Chair

Memorial Committee

In 2015, memorial money was spent on:

Red and purple paraments

Two adjustable tables for the sanctuary

20 padded folding chairs

A variety set of bell mallets

Two dining tables for the fellowship hall

The memorial committee wishes to thank the families who donated funds to House of Prayer in memory of loved ones. Monies given to memorials are used for the enhancement of worship and our church.

We are currently planning the purchase of a funeral pall and matching stole. If you have suggestions for purchases in 2016, please give them to any of the committee members: Pam Hults, Irene Kube, Dienne Wyland, or Mary Kay Meisner. Suggestions may also be given to Pastor Dan Streeper or council members.

To all the families who have remembered your loved ones through donations to the memorial fund, we wish to acknowledge your sorrow and join you in the celebration of lives well lived. Thank you for your gifts.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay Meisner

Property Committee

2015 was another remarkable year at House of Prayer.

The annual Spring Clean-up Day was a success with many members pitching in and helping with tasks that ranged from: cleaning the parking lot, washing windows, dusting and vacuuming the Sanctuary, removing unneeded items in the kitchen, testing the safety exit lights and the list goes on. Thanks to all who helped with all of these projects and a special thanks for the luncheon afterwards.

With the completion of the new roof in the fall of 2014 we had hoped that all of our roof leaks had been solved. That was not the case, however. During the winter of 2014 and spring and summer of this year we had the Fischer Roofing Co. come back three times to find leaks, twice for the Interns office which was very likely from the heating and air conditioning units on the roof. That has apparently been solved. The other roof leak was in the Nursery. That has been solved as well. I will say that the Fischer Roofing Co. has been very timely in responding to those problem leaks.

Two more water intrusion problems (**not** related to the new roof) were corrected this summer. One was a window in the Sunday school room. The parapet over that window had pulled away from the outside wall leaving a gap of 1". That opening had become a home for a nest of bees which seemed to be rather friendly. Augie Kiekhoefer and I flashed and caulked the opening with the bees looking on. I'm sorry to say, some didn't make it out. The other water problem was in the Altar Guild closet. Water was coming in from the foundation, usually after a rain. Bruce Johnson and I re-landscaped the outside area of the foundation to get the water away from the building. That has not been a problem since then.

A special thanks to Lori and Dean Libby and their crew taking care of the flowerbed. It looked wonderful! Also, to our grounds crew for trimming the shrubs and mowing the lawn all summer.

With the help of the Boy Scouts, Dean Libby plotted out a series community garden plots behind the garage. Most were snapped up and yielded a bountiful harvest throughout the summer. Thanks, Dean.

One of the highlights this year was the re-design of the cross by the Century Avenue entrance church sign. New rough sawn stained pine was attached to all four sides of the cross which made quite an improvement to the appearance of the cross. Thanks to the crew that attached the pine boards to the cross. It was quite a job. All of the materials for the project were donated.

There have been many other items that have been repaired or replaced. The list is always being updated so there is always something to do.

Property Committee
Dave Bureau

Service Ministry

The Service Ministry members donate their time, creativity, and hard work to offer a variety of outreach and charity opportunities. These members, who help coordinate the projects, include Lori Libby, Mary Kay Meisner, Maren Nelson, Deb Seyfer, and Jan Stiles.

We want to thank you, the House of Prayer members,
for your participation and generous support of these ministries in 2015.

Caring Hearts Supply Drive for Homeless People - Sponsored by East Metro Medical Society Foundation and HealthEast Care System, we collected personal hygiene products, over-the-counter medications, and cotton socks for distribution by local programs to benefit homeless children, women and men.

North St. Paul Food Shelf – HOP members generously support this mission throughout the year, donating items and volunteering for the food shelf, with special focus in March, which is “Food Shelf Month.”

School Tools Outreach – We collected school supplies for local school children, to help them have a good start to their school year!

Operation Christmas Child – Children and adults at HOP worked together to fill colorful OCC gift boxes to be distributed worldwide. *Thank you* to everyone who donated gift items, filled boxes on their own, provide funds to offset the shipping costs, and filled our boxes.

Giving Tree – HOP members provided gifts for 19 people, including five families in the Kinship Care Program at Lutheran Social Service and two HOP families. You helped others have a blessed and Merry Christmas

Gifts for Seniors – Established in 1994, this group provides donated gifts and life-affirming personal contact to isolated seniors in the Twin Cities area. HOP members again filled more than a barrel with items for this effort.

Feed My Starving Children – Volunteers from HOP joined others for a two-hour shift to package meals for starving children around the world. We packed 147 boxes (equaling 31,752 meals), which will feed 87 children for a year.

World Malaria Day – HOP members donated \$183 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, helping provide life-saving malaria interventions in 13 countries in Africa.

God’s work, Our hands. was a dedicated day of service (September 13). We made 1,000 sandwiches for the *365 Days Food Program*; colored birthday cards and made fleece blankets for Camp Noah.

How wonderful that HOP members embrace these opportunities to carry on God’s ministries in our community and around the world! This report is a reflection of a congregation that shows much generosity and a true giving spirit. We will continue to carry out God’s work through 2016 and beyond.

God Bless You!

Service Ministry Committee

Women of Hope

God's Blessings! to all the creative and generous women at House of Prayer! **Thank You!**

Women of Hope plays a key role in hospitality-related ministry at House of Prayer by maintaining the kitchen, including stocking it with supplies; and additional service to the church and its members as needs arise, providing refreshments for church functions not covered by any other ministry. In 2015, a Farewell Potluck was held for Pastor Bitta; and a Welcome Potluck was held for Pastor Kevin. Regular hospitality commitments included hosting receptions after funerals (set-up, serving, clean-up); lunch for the Annual Congregational Meeting; refreshments and supplies for Sunday social hour; Lenten Soup Suppers; and dinners for First Communion training and New Member Orientation. WOH funds come from family donations for funeral receptions; free-will offerings for Sunday social hour and at other church events; and the annual Bake Sale. WOH members disbursed funds to support efforts within the church, in the local community, and internationally.

What is Women of Hope?

*As a community of women,
created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus
Christ, and empowered by the
Holy Spirit, we commit
ourselves to ...*

*Grow in faith,
affirm our gifts,
support one another
in our callings,
engage in ministry and action,
promote healing and
wholeness in the
church, the society
and the world.*

Bev Buan (Chair) and Pam Hodges (Co-Chair) coordinate hospitality activities for Women of Hope, securing food donations and kitchen workers; and ensuring that the Fellowship Hall is color-filled, with flowers in vases beautifully complimenting the tablecloths.

WOMEN OF STRENGTH was the theme for the 28th annual **Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Spring Convention**, held May 1-2, 2015. The theme verse was "Be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God." {Romans 12:1-8}

East Central Cluster, of which House of Prayer is a member, again held meetings for women from its member churches. These Cluster meetings provide an opportunity for fellowship. Besides a business meeting, there is a guest speaker.

The Knitting Group at HOP, with some funding through Thrivent Financial, produced warm and colorful hats, mittens, scarves, and prayer shawls. Cowern School, the Food Shelf, Refugee Services and the Kinship Care Program {the latter two are part of Lutheran Social Services} were recipients of these much-needed items, given 1-2 times in 2015. Also, lap robes and prayer shawls were taken to Waters of Oakdale's memory unit.

Officers: Bev Buan (President), Irene Kube (Vice President), Julie Burau (Treasurer), Deb Seyfer (Secretary), Rose Marie Flannigan and Audrey Orf (Purchasing), and Rosemay Jensen (Historian). All will continue to serve in these roles in 2016.

WOH CONTACTS:

Bev Buan 651-748-2917 bevbuan50@gmail.com

Deb Seyfer 651-398-6115 debann2695@yahoo.com

Irene Kube 651-739-1450 gikube@hotmail.com

Faith Forward Capital Campaign Ministry

It is wonderful to report that in 2014 we completed Phase 1 of our Capital Campaign projects which included the installation of a new roof over the main House of Prayer building and that we now have dry facilities. This project constituted \$100,000 of the pledged \$265,000 for this campaign.

This past year in 2015, we have been raising funds for Phase 2 of our Faith Forward campaign (see financial figures below). This phase includes the upgrade of our building technology. Components include both office computers and phones, as well as, sound, visual and lighting for our sanctuary and other parts of our building. In a special meeting held on Sunday, November 15, 2015 (see page 7 for minutes of this meeting), due to an increase in expenses and because we have not yet raised the funds needed to complete Phase 2, it was resolved that we proceed with the office computers, phones and sanctuary audio visual upgrades leaving our sanctuary lighting upgrades for the Phase 3 project. As of January 11, 2016, the company doing these upgrades has placed the orders for this equipment and will work with the Council to begin installation as soon as it arrives in January and February of 2016.

As we look forward to 2016, we have much work to do if we are to complete the original plan and upgrade of our facilities prior to our 50th Year Anniversary in 2017. Phase 3 will now include the Sanctuary lighting improvements, flooring and ceiling improvements throughout the building and much needed bathroom renovations. The 'front' bathrooms are the original bathrooms since the building was first build in 1969. The final components for Phase 3 also include debt reduction and a portion of our overall income to be donated to a charity or ministry of the congregations choice.

In 2015, contributions totaled \$69,776.25 bringing the total raised to \$168,006.17. In addition, the Designated Roof Fund balance of \$2,132.00 was added making the total \$170,138.17.

Expenses through 2015 which have been paid:

Roof Replacement	\$96,740.00
Audio/Visual down payment	29,400.00
Computers	3,265.27
Capital Campaign expenses	5,976.38
Loan Interest	<u>693.42</u>
Total Expenses	\$136,075.07

The Faith Forward Capital Campaign Fund as of December 31, 2015 is \$34,063.10.

Community Festival Financial Report

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	\$ 310.10
Income	\$ 1,174.15
Expenses	<u>\$ 1,019.91</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	\$ 464.34

Financial Ministry Report

Balances as of November 30, 2015

Dain Rauscher Investment Account	\$ 190
Stock Equities Market Value	\$37,670

Global Mission Partnership Ministry Financial Report

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	\$4,688.94
Total Disbursements	\$4,000.00
Total/Income/Deposits	<u>\$4,092.00</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	\$4,780.94

Deposits to this account include breakfast proceeds, other fund raisers and donations by individuals (some outside the congregation from family and friends). Monies raised are used for financial support for our partners in Ifunda. This account is also used for travel to Tanzania. Individuals pay their own expenses to this account. No donations are ever used for travel.

Love Fund Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$1,189.38
2015 Donations (credits)	\$3,135.54
Help for those in need (debits)	<u>\$3,247.54</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	\$1,077.38

During the 2015 year we ministered to 29 different families or individuals through the Love Fund. This year the bulk of our Love Fund disbursements went toward assisting families with rent payments or for assistance with other bills to prevent them from becoming homeless. Often in these situations there is a medical situation or unexpected expense that causes additional bills beyond a typical monthly budget. Some monies were raised to help one single parent family with driving lessons. We provided a number of bus passes for families without transportation while they were seeking work or caring for ill family members. As you know, this fund was used to gather money to assist the Ooko family with their son's surgery in Kenya and \$500.00 was raised for that effort. All other assistance helped cover minor emergency needs through the use of Cub Food, Target, or Holiday Gas Station Fuel cards. I would like to thank everyone who participates in this important helping ministry through added special donations!

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Dan

Women of Hope Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$1,468.98
Income	\$1,074.80
Expenses	<u>\$1,830.18</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 713.60

Youth Financial Report

HOP Youth Savings Account

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	\$2,311.59
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	\$2,307.74

HOP Youth Checking Account

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	\$3,585.54
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	\$3,987.03

12:44 PM

01/03/16

Accrual Basis

House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2015

	<u>Dec 31, 15</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	66,771.12
Community Festival Checking	464.30
Evangelical Checking	1,720.94
Love Fund	1,845.38
Total Checking/Savings	<u>70,801.74</u>
Other Current Assets	
Mission Investment Loan deposit	100.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>100.00</u>
Total Current Assets	70,901.74
Fixed Assets	
Building	1,086,000.00
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	80,000.00
Garage and Contents	29,000.00
Land	185,169.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,380,169.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,451,070.74</u></u>

12:44 PM

01/03/16

Accrual Basis

House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2015

LIABILITIES & EQUITY**Liabilities****Current Liabilities****Accounts Payable**

Accounts Payable

-492.72

Total Accounts Payable

-492.72

Other Current Liabilities**Designated Funds**

B. Toulee Children Immigration

1,395.00

Beautification

679.12

Bell Repair & Supplies

307.92

Community Events In House Needs

4,356.45

ELW Books

-577.28

Evangelical

3,402.00

Faith Forward

33,893.43

Funerals

25.00

HELP Orphanage

1,822.00

HOP Flooring

1,594.56

HOP musicians

250.00

Hymnals/Bibles

660.00

Memorial

3,308.18

Operation Christmas Child

35.00

Sanctuary Enhancement

1,228.57

Tanzania Scholarships

7,050.00

WAPO

39.00

Worship & Music Guitar

402.02

Total Designated Funds

59,870.97

Payroll Taxes Withheld

-51.01

Total Other Current Liabilities

59,819.96

Total Current Liabilities

59,327.24

Long Term Liabilities

Mortgage

312,344.03

Total Long Term Liabilities

312,344.03

Total Liabilities

371,671.27

Equity

Opening Bal Equity

884,559.16

Retained Earnings

200,395.79

Net Income

-5,555.48

Total Equity

1,079,399.47

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**1,451,070.74**

2015 / 2016 Budget Information

Operating Income

	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Envelopes Current	216,500	212,635	213,500
Loose	5,000	15,214	2,300
Facility Use	1,600	2,040	1,700
Envelopes Other	200	4,455	5,000
Thrivent Choice	1,200	655	500
Other		928	
Total	224,500	235,927	223,000
Faith Factor	-38,713		-38,389

Other Income

Benevolence from Other Income

Community Festival	5,537
Designated Income	9,310
Food Shelf	375
Lent Special	1,742
Love Fund	2,796
Thrivent Match	1,000
Ifunda Ag Proj/Ifunda Support	292
Tanzania Scholarships	7,050
Total Benevolence	28,102

Total Operating Income 264,029

Pass Through Income

Easter Flowers	404
Christmas Flowers	300
Faith Forward	69,781
Total Pass Through Income	70,485
Total Income	334,514

Operating Expense

	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Benevolence Expense			
Saint Paul Synod	22,375	22,375	22,375
Love Fund Reimbursement		1,081	
Seminary Scholarship	1,000		1,000
WAPC Membership	756	600	756
Cowern School (Lenten Special)		871	
Companion Congregation	1,000	5,120	1,120
ELCA World Malaria		183	
Operation Christmas Child			
Food Shelf / World Hunger		3,133	
ELCA Good Gifts (Lenten Special)		871	
Lutheran Social Services		2,758	
Total	25,131	36,992	25,251

\$1.50 per baptized members (504)

SPAS Annual Commitment

Operating Expense (Continued)

Executive Committee

Mortgage	31,200	31,086	31,200
Utilities	13,000	11,829	13,000
Insurance & Assessments	6,500	6,694	7,000
Designated Expense		12,322	
HOP Bookkeeping	5,900	5,808	6,500
Supplies & Postage	5,000	4,376	5,000
Community Festival Expense		1,020	
Copier Maintenance	3,700	3,896	3,900
Telephone	1,450	1,259	1,450
Synod Assembly	400	345	400
Technology	700		700
Pastor Continuing Ed	700	425	700
Christ In Our Home	250	243	250
Lutheran Magazine	180		180
Discretionary	1,000	80	1,000
Council Retreat	150		150
Bank Charge	110	91	110
Fill-in Pastor	450	675	700
Miscellaneous			

Total	70,690	80,149	72,240
--------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Staff, Musicians, & Nursery

Pastor Base & Housing	60,466	60,466	61,675
FICA	4,626	4,626	4,718
Pension & Insurance	18,000	17,817	18,000
Auto Reimbursement	2,100	572	2,100
CYF Intern			
MDIV Intern	11,200	9,038	11,200
Music Director	9,284	9,275	9,284
Other Paid Staff Salaries	30,652	28,690	31,852
FICA	3,055	2,721	3,147
Musicians	12,374	12,109	12,374

Total	151,757	145,314	154,350
--------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

Committees

Property	7,000	660	2,000
Worship & Music	2,910	932	3,000
Christian Ed	2,950	474	1,948
Stewardship	1,000	982	1,000
Outreach	625	903	850
Social Ministry	400		400
Youth	500	112	250
Community Garden	250	48	100

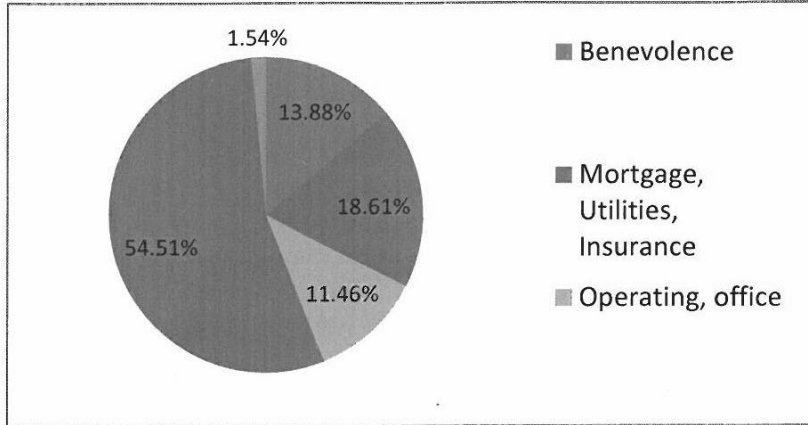
Total	15,635	4,111	9,548
--------------	---------------	--------------	--------------

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	263,213	266,566	261,389
--------------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

OPERATING INCOME OR (LOSS)		-2,537	
----------------------------	--	--------	--

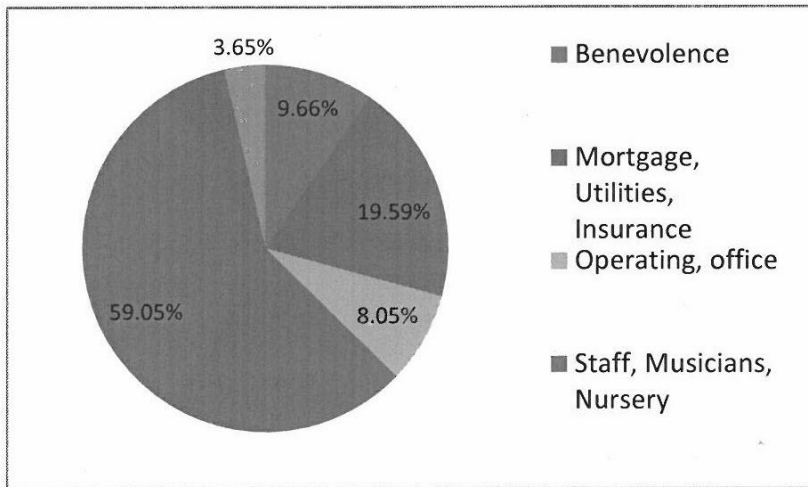
Total from Profit & Loss Report		337,052	
---------------------------------	--	---------	--

70,482	Pass Thru expense
70,485	Pass thru income
3	Pass thru net impact (income > exp)
266,567	Check vs. Total Op Exp



2015 Actual Expenses

\$36,992.00	13.88%	Benevolence
\$49,609.00	18.61%	Mortgage, Utilities, Insurance
\$30,540.00	11.46%	Operating, office
\$145,314.00	54.51%	Staff, Musicians, Nursery
\$4,111.00	1.54%	Committees
\$266,566.00	100.00%	



2016 Budgeted Expenses

\$25,251.00	9.66%	Benevolence
\$51,200.00	19.59%	Mortgage, Utilities, Insurance
\$21,040.00	8.05%	Operating, office
\$ 154,350.39	59.05%	Staff, Musicians, Nursery
\$ 9,548.00	3.65%	Committees
\$261,389.39	100.00%	

Resolution to Amend the Constitution

WHEREAS, the Council at its June 9, 2015 meeting approved to amend Section C13.04.05, which was restated and approved as follows:

C13.04.05.a Finance Ministry Terms of Office

Appointment to the Finance Ministry shall be for two years. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. During the first year of the Ministry Board at least one appointment shall be a one year appointment so that terms on this ministry will be staggered.

C13.04.05.b Leadership

The Financial Secretary shall be Chair of the Finance Ministry. The Council Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Pastor shall have the authority to make transactions on this account.

C13.04.05.c Meetings

The Council recommends that the Finance Ministry meet quarterly. Additionally, a meeting can be called at any time, and can be requested by the Chairperson or any other member of the Financial Ministry team. A simple majority of members is needed for a quorum to conduct business.

C13.04.05.d Conflicts of Interest

A Finance Ministry member who has donated stock should recuse oneself and not participate in discussions or decisions concerning particular gift(s) of stock which the member has made.

WHEREAS, the Council at its November 10, 2015 meeting approved to amend Section C13.04.04, which was restated and approved as follows:

C13.04.04 Christian Education Ministry

The Christian Education Ministry, in association with the pastor, shall promote the deepening of our relationships with God / Jesus Christ / Holy Spirit through our educational programs including Sunday School, Confirmation, Faith Matters (adult education), and Bible studies for all age groups; it shall seek **to strengthen** ~~an increase in~~ Sunday and weekday events; seek to **strengthen** ~~increase~~ our mission field beyond our own members; and seek to **strengthen** ~~increase~~ inter-generational mentoring for people of all ages. One of the primary aims of the Christian Education Ministry shall be to deepen discipleship opportunities in the world to the attention of all persons of the congregation.

WHEREAS, the Council at its December 15, 2015 meeting approved to amend Section C13.04.11, which was restated and approved as follows:

C13.04.11. Personnel Committee

A Personnel Committee shall consist of the President, Pastor, immediate past-President and 3 members appointed jointly by the President and the Pastor. **The immediate past-President shall serve as chairperson of the committee.** The term of office shall be two years, with one member appointed the February following a presidential election and two members appointed the following year. The Personnel Committee shall assure that all staff have an annual review with their supervisor. They shall establish necessary policies and advise supervisors of policies, employment laws and best practices. Any paid or non-paid staff person may meet in confidence with the Personnel Committee without the presence of the Pastor and/or the supervisor of that person upon request. The Personnel Committee shall also provide feedback opportunities for the Pastor. The Personnel Committee shall report and be responsible to the Executive Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Council recommends these proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Resolution to Install the 50th Anniversary Committee

WHEREAS, House of Prayer Lutheran Church was organized on October 29, 1967 in the community of Oakdale, Minnesota, as growth and expansion from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in North St. Paul.

WHEREAS, 84 members signed the original charter, with Genny Peloquin and Roger and Dienne Wyland as current active charter members.

WHEREAS, October 29, 2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of House of Prayer Congregation.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in anticipation of its 50th anniversary in 2017, the House of Prayer Church Council recommends the formation of a committee which will determine appropriate activities to celebrate our history.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this committee should be comprised of a minimum of 4 members; should elect/select a chairperson; meet monthly; and report to the At-Large Church Council contact and provide a monthly report of its progress.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this committee has authority to prepare and submit a budget request for the 2017 anniversary year as part of the 2016 budgeting process.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, since, St. Mark's is its parent congregation, the committee is charged with including St. Mark's congregation in our planning and celebration.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, since relationships have deepened with Saint Paul Area Synod, Ifunda Iringa Congregation, Cowern School, the North St. Paul Food Shelf, Lutheran Social Service and other area agencies, the committee is encouraged to strive to include and honor these partnerships as part of our celebration.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this committee will cease upon concluding its responsibilities following all 50th anniversary activities.

2016 Church Council Elections Ballot

All positions are two year positions.

Vice President:

- ☐ Lynne Johnson
- ☐ _____

Treasurer:

- ☐ Dave Buan
- ☐ _____

At Large #1:

- ☐ Bill Ham
- ☐ _____

At Large #2:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Notes