

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

190 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

May 6, 2017

The Semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held Saturday, May 6, 2017. This book of annual reports is printed to help you prepare for the meeting.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Peter D. Kuritz, The Rev. Janell D. Wigen, Co-Pastors

Music Director: Ms. Sandra Keator

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Taryn Crayton

Sexton: Mr. Delwin Parsons

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THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CONGREGATION OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

This congregation learns, celebrates, and proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ and engages in a vigorous ministry to its members and to all people.

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Term Expires 5/31/2017

Gary Phillips (Second Term)
Dan Jacobs (First Term)
Debbie McGuinness (Fill Vacancy)
Tammy Ioanna (Fill Vacancy)

Term Expires 5/31/2018

Daren Bernecker (First Term)
Lynn Muchler-Stash (First Term)
Jane Newman (Fill Vacancy)
Harry Heck (Fill Vacancy)

Term Expires 5/31/2019

Kay Korb (First Term)
Molly Rance (Fill Vacancy)
Chris Casazza (First Term)
Gary Smith (First Term)

MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS

Administrative Ministry

Executive Committee

Faith Formation Ministry Team

Donna Smith
Melody Hawkey
Wilma Gardner
Daren Bernecker
Maggie Yeager
Libby Yeager
Chris Casazza
Debbie Dervinis

Connection Building Ministry

Team

Gary Phillips
Debbie Habib
Lynn Muchler-Stash (Chair)
Adrienne French
Darlene DeRonde
Carol Phillips
Dawn Gallagher

Fellowship Ministry Team

(Ad hoc of Connection Building
Ministry Team)
Bea Bryan
Lois Myers
Lynn Muchler-Stash
Harry Heck
Guy French
Wilma Gardner
Emma Lipfert
Melody & Barry Hawkeye
Wilmas Gardner

Witness & Service Ministry

Team

Tammy Ioanna
Debbie McGuinness (Chair)
Molly Rance

Worship Ministry Team

Liz Keator
Jane Newman
Kay Korb
Sandy Keator
Lois Myers (Coordinator-Communion Assistants 8:30)
Kay Korb (Coordinator-Communion Assistants 11:00)
Helen Johns (Coordinator-Lectors 8:30)
Melody Hawkey (Coordinator-Lectors 11:00)
Debbie Dervinis (Coordinator-Acolytes)
Diane Martin (Coordinator-Greeters 8:30)
Betty Derr (Coordinator-Greeters 11:00)
Evelyn Jones (Coordinator-Ushers 8:30)
Brian Yekel (Coordinator-Ushers 11:00)

Property Ministry Team

Brooke Yeager (Chair)
Gary Smith
Jane Hensley
Guy French

Outreach Ministry Team

Guy French (Chair)
Chris Casazza

Finance Ministry Team

Libby Yeager
Jim Parks
Dan Jacobs

Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic Board

Helen Johns

Family Faith Journey Staff and Assistants

Peg Wyda (Nursery Roll)

Wilma Gardner

Melody Hawkey

Daren Bernecker

Libby Yeager

Brooke Yeager

Fran Yekel

Lisa Martin

Debbie Dervinis

Youth Group Advisors

Lisa Martin

Jane Newman

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District Council

Jim Parks

Lynn Muchler-Stash

Altar Guild

Lisa Cardoni

Betty Derr

Kay Korb

Charlene Moules

Donna Yaple

Carol Phillips

Tammy Ioanna

Debbie Habib

Sandra Gorr

Wilma Gardner

Susan Patsko

Mary Alice Patsko

Bea Bryan

Chancel Choir

Joan Cardoni

Lisa Cardoni

Gary Phillips

Chris Burton

Kay Korb

Liz Keator

John Daley

Christopher Casazza

Lynn Muchler-Stash

Dick Myers

Michelle Saxe

Ariana Saxe

Pamela Snarski

Samantha Williams

AGENDA

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

May 6, 2017

1. Devotions
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes of Congregational Meetings
 May 22, 2016
 November 6, 2016
4. Printed Reports
5. Financial Report– 2016 Budget
6. Council Elections
7. Nominating Team Elections
8. Changes to the Constitution
9. For the Good of Good Shepherd
10. Adjournment

Semi Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church held May 22nd, 2016 in the Sanctuary

Meeting Called to order by Liz Keator @ 12:08 pm

Devotions led by Peter Kuritz

Motion to accept agenda made by Guy French and 2nd by Daren Bernecker Motion passed.

Motion to accept minutes as written from Semi Annual Congregational Meeting, December 15, 2015

Made by Chris Casazza and 2nd by Kay Korb. Motion passed

Motion to accept printed reports made by Deb McGuinness and 2nd by Jim Parks. Motion passed.

(Comment by Brooke Yeager that Property committee could definitely use some more help.

Any one passing by can feel free to pull some weeds-every and all little thing will be appreciated)

Motion to accept financial report made by James Serafini and 2nd by Chris Casazza.

Motion for nominations for Church Council to be open to the floor made by Guy French and 2nd by Kay Korb.

There are 8 openings to be filled @ this time.

We have 3 three year terms to be filled-these will be terms ending 5/31/19.

Kay Korb and Chris Casazza have been nominated to fill these 2 vacant seats.

There are 2 terms ending 5/31/17. Tammy Ioanna and Debbie McGuinness have been nominated to fill these two vacancies.

There are 2 terms ending in 5/31/18. Jane Newman and James Serafini have been nominated to complete these terms.

Daren Bernecker moved to close the nominations. Guy French 2nd.

All above nominees were voted to serve on Church Council.

Nominating Committee Elections

The nominating Committee should be 6 voting members

Motion to open nominations to the floor made by Daren Bernecker

Liz Keator and Guy French will be appointed to the committee as they are out going Church Council Members.

Jim Parks moved to close nominations and Chris Breisch.

Guy French and Liz Keator were voted to serve on Nominating committee.

Jim Parks presented the proposed changes to the Constitution.

Gray &
Smith →

These proposed changes will change the committee structure to Ministry Teams. These ministry teams will be less structured and they will have more independence. The names will reflect more of what the committee does.

This process is a 2 step process, today being the first to introduce the changes and the 2nd being @ the November 2016 Semi Annual Congregational Meeting when we vote to change the constitution.

Insert back of Letter.

XXXXXXXXXX

Motion to accept the proposed deletions, changes and additions made by Guy French and 2nd by Jane Newman. Motion passed.

Libby Yeager Respectfully requested to go back to Agenda to the approval of minutes. Motion made to change the date of the previous Congregational meeting to 12/15/15. . Daren Bernecker 2nd. Motion passed.

For the good of Good Shepherd

Pastor Peter Kuritz spoke to the proposed changes. They are not being made out of fear, but because things are percolating.

Council has identified all of the Good things that are happening through the Holy Spirit. We are seeing exciting possibilities.

- * Chalkboard ministry

- * Web Site ministry-we have had hits from 67 countries

- * Prayer Initiative

Motion for meeting to adjourn mad by Tom /Estus and 2nd by Deb McGuiness. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:43 pm

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – 11.6.16

Meeting was called to order by church council president Daren Bernecker at 12:07 pm. Motion to accept agenda as presented was made by Harry Heck, second was made by Liz Keater. Motion passed.

2017 budget was presented by treasure Libby Yeager. Motion to accept budget as presented was made by Kay Korb, seconded by Harry Heck. Motion passed.

Ratification of constitutional Changes Approved in May 2016 – Motion made by Liz Keator, seconded by Chris Casazza. Motion passed.

Changes to Good Shepherd's By-laws. Motion made by Harry Heck, seconded by Liz Keator. Motion passed.

Council Elections to fill vacant terms – Nominating Committee recommended Mollie Rance to fulfill vacancy, term ending in 2019 and Harry Heck to fulfill vacancy term ending in 2018. Motion made by Guy French, seconded made by Carol Phillips. Motion passed.

Audit committee – Discussion on the importance of getting audit completed.

Good Shepherd Center Property Updates – May rent the 1st floor completely. Many items will need to move to the tower. 3rd floor apartment is rented.

Renewing Our Ministry – Faith Ads on website to find interested individuals in ministry. Working on food distribution program. Crocheting and knitting group to provide items to those who need them.

For the Good of Good Shepherd – Thank you to all those already helping and participating in ministries.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Harry Heck, seconded by Chris Casazza. Motion passed meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm.

PASTOR PETER KURITZ – ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Five hundred years ago Martin Luther defined the church not as a building, but as a community of believers gathered around hearing God's Word and sharing in Christ's sacraments. Word and sacrament are central to our Lutheran understanding of the means of God's grace. That is still true in our community of faith here at Good Shepherd. What does change is the world in which we live. In our own life time we have all experienced how our society has changed. There are now more people in our community that have never been inside a church or have heard about God and Jesus than in recent memory. How to engage our neighbors with God's grace and the good news of Christ is our challenge as a faith community today. This past year we have tried new ways in which to "tell the old, old story".

In Sunday worship, our bulletins have been changed to be more user friendly, especially to the constant stream of visitors we receive each week. The liturgy itself is changed more frequently to bring fresh insights into our worship experience. Guests are actively greeted and introduced.

Our Sunday school program, Family Faith Journey continues to teach principles of our faith by seeing the entire family as a unit. What families learned together here is more easily remembered and practiced when they return home. The once-a-month Family Faith Worship Service is a casual, kids-friendly, all-ages-welcome worship service that also teaches the key parts of communal worship through Word and Sacrament.

FAITH ADS are a way to share a creative idea for ministry and to enlist persons who would like to organize it. It can be a one-time event, or an on-going ministry that speaks to a need in our congregation and / or community. This is a key part of our response to what God does for us. As we understand the depth of God's love for us, we in turn share that love with others. There is really no limit to these ministry ideas. It's all based on member's interest and energy.

Technology is assuming a greater amount of influence in all aspects of our daily life. It can also be an effective tool to share the gospel also. The use of social media is also an outlet that Good Shepherd continues to develop. We have a website and Facebook page that is a source of news, information, announcements, and faith messages.

Our new "photo-banner" is a creative way that long time members, and newly joined members who have found a spiritual home here at Good Shepherd can begin putting names to familiar faces. As we get to know one another better, our passion for sharing God's grace will grow accordingly.

We began the year by changing our organizational structure from "committees" to "ministry teams". This change to "team" underscores that we are called by the same Lord for the same purpose:

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Mission – God's Mission.

PASTOR JANELL WIGEN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

In this pivotal year for Lutheran's as we are on the brink of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation when the namesake of our church, Martin Luther, made that fateful blow as he nailed the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg,¹ Germany, on October 31, 1517, Good Shepherd has been experiencing its own process of rebirth and regeneration.

In the early part of this 2016 year, the congregational council was taking a serious look at where we are heading as a congregation. The elected leadership did this by taking a couple Saturdays to explore our vitality and sustainability as a congregation. Energized through these morning discussions, the council moved to have Good Shepherd's leadership structure changed from committees to ministry teams. This new title embraces that the work God is calling us to do is reflective in our ministries and happens not as individuals but together as a team, the body of Christ. This change to our constitution occurred as the result of being voted on at both the May and November congregational meetings. With this change as the spring board, leadership has continued to meet and envision ways God is calling us to be His genuine people at the corner of South and South Main Streets. And leadership has recognized in this visioning process that a key component to our renewal is building our relationships so as to get to know one another better. One way this will be happening is through an inspired banner that is now in the process of being created that will display on a rotating basis members of our church along with pertinent background information. So whether you attend the 8:30 or 11:00 service, you will be able to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ here at Good Shepherd.

As reflected in the exciting new developments happening here at Good Shepherd, as one of your co-pastors, I continue to be inspired in this calling for which I am privileged to serve. Pastor Peter and I also serve St. John's through a contractual service of agreement, therefore each Sunday, one of us is either leading worship at St. John's or Good Shepherd. I have particularly enjoyed leading the Family Faith Worship Service on the first Sunday of the month. It has been a Spirit led worship experience for families with children being the worshipping body who sings God's praise.

A top priority for both myself and Pastor Peter in our calling at Good Shepherd is making visits to members in their homes, those who are hospitalized as well as in nursing homes. These visit often with communion mean the world to those faithful members who for whatever reason are no longer able to make it to church.

The ministry teams that I attend as well as provide pastoral support at the various ministry events that they sponsor include the Faith Formation Ministry Team, Witness and Service Ministry Team, Connection Building Ministry Team and the Fellowship Ministry Team which is an ad hoc ministry team to Connection Building. In terms of this ministry team I take an active role in the planning of the Fellowship Fest.

As part of the Faith Formation Ministry Team, I share my pastoral talents through teaching confirmation along with Pastor Peter, facilitating the WELCA Bible Study, providing leadership in the coordination of Good Shepherd's dynamic V.B.S. Program as well as the Bear Creek Day Camp that was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in 2016.

The V.B.S. Program in 2016 was a retro experience as we went back in the archives and did my first V.B.S. at Good Shepherd in the year 2000 entitled, "Holy Word Studios." We took a team approach to this year's V.B.S. as the result of not having a director. But, out of this vacuum, God provided abundantly as Donna Smith has stepped forward to be the V.B.S. Director for 2017. Through her inspired leadership, Donna has actually written her own curriculum based upon the story of Noah's ark, entitled, "God's Promise: Where Kids Trust in the Word."

In the community, my involvement includes serving on both the Wyoming Valley Interfaith Council and the Downtown Ministerium. I also serve on the Witness and Service Ministry Team for the NEPA Synod of the ELCA. In closing, it is a privilege to serve you!

Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Janell Wigen

PASTORIAL ACTS 2016



Baptisms

Wynter Balbuena
Anaya Butler
Christian Edwards
Izia Estus
Michael Gavalla
Judson Heinz
Ava Jones
Jackson Keiser

Paisley Kovach
Chloe Lloyd
Audrina Martin
Noelle Nallon
Liam Vandermark
Zirrel View
Emma Ward
Declan Watkins



First Communion

Emilee French
Ophelia Gischel

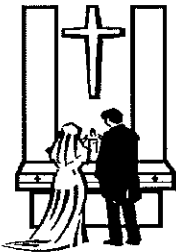
Audrina Martin
Madalyn McGuinness
Elizabeth Perkins



Confirmation

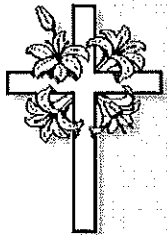
Brendan Greene
Alan Gribble Jr.

Tionna Manigo
Nikolas Williams
Viktoria Yeager



Marriages

David & Jennifer Watkins



Deaths

Mildred Andreas
Loretta (June) Evans

Nancy Jescavage
Larry Ostroski
Charles Pliskatt

New Members/Affirmation of Faith
Dawn Gallagher

Removals by Council Action

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	12/31/11	12/31/12	12/31/13	12/31/2014	12/31/2015	12/31/2016
Baptized	627	606	591	609	676	637
Confirmed	391	372	362	364	394	394
Communing *	273 (62)	323 (72)	319 (71)	325 (74)	275 (40)	243 (36)
Active Confirmed **	204	197	247	249	214	200
Associate members***	4	4	4	4	3	3

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Average Weekly Worship	112.579	103.25	104.77	104.937	107	96.96
Sunday Church School	34.35	35.41	37.46	38.95	30.6	29.41

SPECIAL SERVICES

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Palm Sunday	166	158	121	143	154	151
Easter	277	306	266	290	265	264
Christmas Eve	334	304	310	322	227	255
Christmas Morning	21	17	24	17	10	27

*Communing membership is the number of confirmed members who communed during the calendar year. The figure in parenthesis is the number of unconfirmed members who communed during the year.

** Active Confirmed Membership is the number of confirmed members who communed **AND** contributed during the calendar year.

*** Associate members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership, but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.

Worship & Music Committee
Annual Report 2016

Another year gone already. Where *does* the time go?

Four liturgical settings returned this year - # 3 through 5, & 10.

During the past year, we saw a variety of special services, on Sundays and during the week:

- Ash Wednesday, February 10th – worship services at noon and 7:30 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday, March 24th – worship service at 7:30 p.m.
- Good Friday, March 25th – worship service at 7:30 p.m.
- The Vacation Bible School program, "Holy Word Studios", on June 26th.
- The Sunday School Christmas program, on December 18th.
- Christmas Eve, December 24th (Saturday) – worship services at 3 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 10:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day, December 25th (Sunday) – worship service at 10 a.m.
 - For the last Christmas Eve service and the Christmas Day service, we decided to continue with the alternative formats introduced last year. These will continue to be evaluated year by year.
- A variety of Gospel Dramas and other presentations, with Sunday School children, older youth, & various adult participants

Other schedule changes included holding just one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. during the Sunday School's summer hiatus.

As part of the ongoing measures to "go green", we continued to re-use and recycle the bulletins and the associated inserts from the various worship services.

The Family Faith Journey is the transformed Sunday School Program that began in the Fall of 2014. An important component of this Christian Education program is the Family Faith Journey Worship service, which happens on the first Sunday of the month at 9:45 a.m. (the same time as the Family Faith Journey). This worship experience is child-centered, as reflected through the interactive sermon and music. The Family Faith Journey Worship also incorporates youth who play the music during the service.

I would like to extend a word of thanks to our Director of Music, Sandra Keator, the members of the Chancel Choir, the instrumentalists, and to all of our worship volunteers, for helping to make our worship services such a rewarding experience, both for our congregation's members and for our visitors.

As always, we invite members of the congregation to come to our meetings and share in the planning of future worship services and events, but especially now as we explore new ways to Renew and Grow Together.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Keator

Faith Formation Ministry Team

Faith Journey (Sunday School) continues to grow and flourish under the leadership of Libby Yeager and Deb Dervinis. Each week each family goes over a Bible passage and has a craft to do. For older children we have the Lego room where bible stories are created using Legos.

The Faith Journey Worship held the first Sunday of each month has a growing attendance also.

This summer a new program will begin!! We are planning to have a creative kids club on Wednesday nights. All the details are still being worked on.

This year's Palm Sunday procession went well.

We are always looking for ways to help all members grow in their faith. Have an idea pass it on.

Our VBS director Donna Smith has been very busy with creating an exciting program based in the story of Noah.

Faith Formation Team Members

Libby Yeager, Maggie Yeager, Wilma Gardner, Pastor Janell Wigen, Viktoria Yeager, Melody Hawkey.

Yours in faith,

Guy French

THE 2016 FELLOWSHIP FEST REPORT

The 2016 Fellowship Fest happened on Saturday, September 24, from 11-4 PM. This is a one day event in which Good Shepherd literally allows our ministries to spill out onto the streets of Wilkes-Barre, specifically South Street, which we get permission from the City of Wilkes-Barre to close down for the day.

A great success for the 2016 Fest was the Silent Auction that benefited the Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic. Thanks to the able leadership of Debbie McGuinness, we had over 40 baskets in which the highest bidder had the pleasure of acquiring the basket. \$600.00 was raised for the Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic through the Silent Auction and the Fest. Another beneficiary of the 2016 Fest was, Making a Difference Ministries, whose coordinator is Stephen Perillo who helped provide the Christian Bands for the Fest. This year's music included Good Shepherd's own Ron Figel, who played the accordion, David Griffith on guitar with Christian music and Alan Rosenbaum and Friends Band who played a wide selection of Gospel music as well as classic rock. Making A Difference Ministries also coordinates a number of youth and family programming that Good Shepherd attends throughout the year. Making a Difference Ministries received \$200.00. The third beneficiary is Sister Lucille Brislin's Mercy Service Program so as to send children from her program to the Bear Creek Day Camp that takes place at John's Lutheran Church. The Bear Creek Day Camp received \$300.00. The money raised from the 2016 Fellowship Fest will be distributed at the 9:30 worship service on Sunday, June 25th. The Fellowship Fest Committee also bought a new outdoor barbeque grill from donations which can be used for outdoor barbeques around the church, like the Fellowship Fest, as well as at the church picnic.

The Rummage Sale was coordinated in 2016 by Lynn Stash. As the result of having permission from the Property Committee to store rummage sale items over the summer in the tower there was more stuff to sell. The Friday night sale continued this year from 5-8 PM, with a large crowd coming from the community that night.

The craft sale was coordinated by both Bea Bryan and Lois Myers. The Craft Sale was beautifully presented in the Good Shepherd Center. The bird houses were a big hit.

Emma Lipfert and her team of phone callers who included Dorothy Petroski and Evelyn Jones inspired many members to donate delectably delicious baked goods. There was a large selection of baked goods for people to purchase.

Thanks to the hard work of Harry and Elizabeth Heck, along with Harry's brother, Mike, the food that was sold at the fest was delicious. Everyone especially enjoyed the haluski. The new grill was a great addition to making the outdoor cooking go much more smoothly.

Melody Hawkey, along with her husband Barry, always come up with really creative ideas for the kid's activities for the Fest and 2016 was no exception. All the children enjoyed making the fall shadow boxes. Thanks to Eileen Bernecker and friends for doing the face painting. And, of course, the Bounce House was a big hit at the Fest.

Thanks to Wilma Gardner who is my right hand woman in terms of the coordination of the Fest. Wilma always does a great job getting the word out into the community concerning the Fest.

There were well over a hundred people who made some kind of contribution to make the Fest possible. Between baking delicious baked goods, bringing in rummage, making beautiful crafts, manning stations or setting up and/or taking down, there are many members who work together to make the Fellowship Fest happen each year.

The Fest will be taking a new direction in 2017. Stay tuned to the newsletter for updates.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Janell Wigen

PARISH MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The year began with 30 volunteers UNDECORATING THE TREE on 1/9/16. Refreshments were served afterwards. Committee noted many Chrismons were in need of repair/ replacement.

This year's theme for FASTNACHT was "Making a Splash at the GSC Beach Party". The event was on 2/9/16 in the fellowship hall. Committee provided wimpies, hot dogs, rolls, condiments, pb&j sandwiches, tater tots, chips, popcorn, iced tea, and other beverages, as well as donuts. Pastor Peter obtained a grant from Thrivent to cover the cost of refreshments. Guests were asked to bring their favorite side dish. Gary Phillips did a great job as MC, Carol Phillips wowed us with decorations, Darlene made an awesome poster, and Pastor Janell handled the publicity. Approximately 80 people were in attendance. Thanks to all of the committee your tireless efforts.

On 2/27/16 and 5/21/16 we had our second and third CHRISMON WORKSHOPS in the GSC. A dozen participants were given a choice of two different ornaments to make. Materials were purchased with a grant from Thrivent sponsored by Betty Derr.

The Spring CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was convened immediately after the 11:00 service in the sanctuary. After business was conducted, an informal coffee hour was held in the fellowship hall. Congregation was asked for donations of baked goods.

The annual CHURCH PICNIC was on 7/31/16 at Kirby Park. An informal service as at 12:00 with guitar accompaniment by Alan Rosenbaum and Gary Phillips. The Heck Family used our new grill to cook the food. Kids big and small enjoyed games Pastor Peter obtained a Thrivent grant for the refreshments. Approximately 75 people attended. It was noted that next year we need to bring more tables.

SUNDAE SUNDAY was on 10/2/16 after the 11:00 service in the fellowship hall. Ice cream with all the toppings were provided as participants created their own sundaes.

The CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY was on 10/22/16 from 2-4 in the fellowship hall. Thanks to Debbie Habib who applied for a Thrivent grant, as well as planning and chairing the event. About 75 children of all ages enjoyed the games and refreshments.

CHRISMON WORKSHOP on 11/5/16 was attended by 10 women of the congregation. Kits were pre-assembled and provided to the participants. It was decided that those who chose to would present an explanation of a Chrismon at each of the church services for the 4 Sundays in Advent. Pastor Janell organized the program.

Fall CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was on 11/6/16 with the meeting in the sanctuary followed by a coffee hour in the fellowship hall.

The ADVENT WORKSHOP was on 11/27/16 during Family Faith Journey from 9:45 -11:00. This year's project was a hymnal angel. (We still have cases of old hymnals in the balcony). We planned for 24 families, we were pleasantly surprised to see more attending. It's a good thing we had extra materials and tables!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING at Washington Square Apts. on 12/3/16 had around 40 participants. Everyone met at the fellowship hall at 4:30 to practice our songs, then we walked to the apartments. We were treated to cookies and drinks by the residents. Many thanks to Alan Rosenbaum for accompanying us on the banjo. It sounded great!

Adrienne and Darlene organized our annual COOKIE CALL for shut-in members. Donations of baked goods were requested beginning on 12/4/16 and they assembled them which ere then delivered by the pastors.

TREE DECORATING was on 12/18/16 after the 11:00 service. About 12people helped decorate the sanctuary and were treated to refreshments after wards. HAPPY NEW YEAR! Submitted by Lynn Muchler-Stash

PROPERTY TEAM (COMMITTEE)

Annual Report

2016

Members: Jane Hensley; Guy French; Gary Smith; Pastor Peter; Brooke Yeager (Chair)

For most of 2016 the third floor apartment in the GSC was vacant. A tenant was found in October.

Mary Ann Saylor continues to use a room in the GSC for string lessons on Thursdays or Fridays.

The Storefront of the GSC is being used by the NA groups. This seems to be working well.

The confirmation class painted "Faith Statements" on the wall of the North stair tower.

Committee (team) set in motion a plan to replace the aging church computers (most are over six years old). "Computer Information System Policy" was updated to cover remote access. External hard drive was purchased to have an offsite back-up.

Mother Theresa Haven used the Fellowship Hall the first two weeks in November.

External security lights were installed to provide better lighting on both sides of our building. LED light bulbs and new dimmer were installed in the balcony.

The external steps near the elevator were repaired.

Domestic Violence Center is still interested in renting the first floor of GSC. They have some internal problems that need clarification. No starting date has been suggested.

The Property Committee would like to thank all volunteers who helped with snow removal, cutting the grass, weeding the garden and generally helping to keep the church property in good repair.

Maintenance of the Church and its property requires many hours of volunteer labor and all volunteers are welcome. If you have skills and are willing to volunteer some time to the upkeep of the Church Property, please contact Pastor Peter.

Brooke Yeager

Stewardship/Witness and Service Report

Our new ministry team had a very successful Sunday in October with the theme of sharing.

We try every year to come up with new ideas to inspire our congregation to give their time, talents and treasure. We need new and fresh inspiration to continue this very important ministry for our Church. Please consider helping us with the new version we have coming up this year.

Yours in Christ

Deborah McGuinness

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the altar and the chancel for worship each week by changing paraments for each season, filling candles, setting up communion vessels, etc. We also provide clean linens for the altar and maintain communion supplies. In addition, the altar guild strips palms for Easter, decorates and undecorates the sanctuary for holidays, and performs the stripping of the altar during Maundy Thursday service. Through Susan Patsko, we also provide baptismal napkins and coordinate flowers for weekly services and holidays.

We are currently reorganizing our cycles and are looking for more volunteers to help provide this important service. Most of our work takes place after the 11 a.m. service when we wash vessels and prepare for the following week. Women (and men) are welcome. Please see Kay Korb or Wilma Gardner if you would like to join us in this ministry.

Submitted by Kay Korb Wilma Gardner

Women of the ELCA
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2016 Annual Report

Good Shepherd's Women of the ELCA meets from September through May on the second Tuesday of each month at the Good Shepherd Center. Our meetings start at 10:30 am with a Bible study led by Pastor Janell Wigen. We use the Bible study provided in "Gather" magazine, which is published by the Women of the ELCA. From January through April, we studied Philippians, May was on Mary and Elizabeth as found in Luke, and from September through November, we learned why God "Forgives the Guilty" and "Chooses the Unlikely".

Following the Bible study, we have a brief meeting to discuss coming events.

This past year, our group, along with other women from Good Shepherd, provided sandwiches and helped with the set up serving and clean up for one of the luncheons that follows the mid-week Lenten service held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkes-Barre.

We invite all women of the Parish to join our WELCA group and enjoy some outstanding Bible discussions led by Pastor Janell.

Women of the ELCA
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Financial Report 2016

Balance
01/01/2016 \$256.60

Income 2016
Offerings \$15.00
Total Income 15.00 271.60

Expenses 2016
Church Women United, Contribution \$15.00
Total Expenses 15.00 256.60

Balance 12/31/2016 \$256.60

Jane D. Hensley, Treasurer

In Loving Memory of

June Evans given by

Mildred Abraham
Janet & Mike Enos
Carole & Justin Machamer
Bonnie Trempel
Emma Firda
Emily Gibson
Sylvia Abraham

Mildred Andreas given by

Betty Martin

Nancy Jescavage given by

Richard Raspen
Jane Hensley
Betty Martin
Brooke and Libby Yeager

Paul Reese given by

Brooke and Libby Yeager
Emma Lipfert
Jane Hensley

Jack Lipfert, John Lipfert, Margaret

Nicely, Ethel and Bill Matthew given by

Emma Lipfert