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**2015 BETHEL LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**(The Bethel Lutheran Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order**  
**guide the conduct of business)**

**Call to Order:**

Jeff Johnson: "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."  
Congregation: "Amen."

**Opening Devotions**

Pastor Hagstrom

**Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting**

**Reports:**

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Pastor David Hagstrom's Report | Dr. David Hagstrom |
| 2. President's Report             | Jeff Johnson       |
| 3. Financial Secretary's Report   | Jenny Hansmann     |
| 4. Treasurer's Report             | Dale Stearns       |

**Presentation of the ballot of nominees for the Church Council election**

**Election**

**Approval of 2016 Proposed Budget**

**New Business**

**Election results**

**Adjournment and the Lord's Prayer**

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**2016 Nominating Committee** (persons whose Council terms have expired at the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings respectively): (2015) Terry Drewelow and Beth Van Lengen, and (2016) Jeff Jacobson, Jeff Johnson, Michelle Stearns.

**2016 Budget Committee** (persons whose terms expired at the 2016 Annual Meeting): Jeff Jacobson, Jeff Johnson, Michelle Stearns; and Jenny Hansmann, Financial Secretary, and Dale Stearns, Treasurer.

# Pastor David's Annual Report

## January 2016

*"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" – Jeremiah 29:11*

### Looking Back

#### Highlights from 2015

- During Lent, our evening services featured dramatic readings by Jim & JoAnne Schwarz, Dale & Candy Krohn, Randy Gorter, and Dana Hagstrom focusing on the last days of Jesus earthly life.
- After Easter we watched the movie "The Song," then followed that up with a series on love as we walked through The Song of Solomon.
- This fall we focused on "Thinking Like Jesus," considering in our messages, small groups, and Sunday classes what it means to integrate our key beliefs into our lives, truly living them from our heart.
- After that we began to consider acting like Jesus, integrating 10 key Christian practices into our lives. We'll be continuing that focus in the new year.

#### Did We Meet Our 2015 Goals?

The Council, as well as a Video Task Force, invested a huge amount of time into the four projects they proposed for this year: tuck-pointing, video for worship, improving worship sound, and carpeting the fellowship room. Two were affirmed by vote of our congregation.

So, we did about \$22K of tuck-pointing this year. In addition, we made major improvements to our sound system, including a beautiful new sound booth built by Dale Stearns. From this point, further improvements to our sound and even video could be modular, that is step by step improvements a piece at a time as funds are available. Completing these two projects did call for significant energy this year.

For 2015 I set forth a simple vision which provided a personal challenge for each and every one of us. Let us make every effort to become a congregation where:

- **Everyone worships weekly** – This one is most troubling as we note more people worshipping less frequently.
- **Everyone reads the Bible daily** – We have been listing regular suggested daily Bible readings in the bulletin and newsletter. I appreciate the positive feedback from those who are doing these readings.
- **Everyone connects in a small group** – In fact, we have had few people involved in our small groups this year for "The Song" and "Believe." We do give thanks for those who are connected in this way and encourage those who are not to join a small group as they get going again this month. It's great to see how our youth are connecting, not just in their Sunday class and activities at church, but especially in 15 youth/adults attending the LCMC youth Gathering in Wisconsin Dells and 7 youth/adults taking part in the weekend Recharge at Riverside Bible Camp.

- **Everyone gives generously** – Giving in the Spring was very generous for our facilities improvement projects and again at year-end to help with our cash flow shortfall. We need to work on consistent week to week giving. We greatly appreciate those who have moved to automated giving to help provide this consistency!
- **Everyone serves** – It’s encouraging to note the efforts of our social concerns team in organizing Relay for Life, Thanksgiving Meals, Operation Christmas Child, as well as our Youth working at the Food Bank. Of course, I realize that there are many others involved in serving with all our other teams as well!
- **Everyone invites** – Most encouraging this year has been the beginning of Kids InC, as one way to reach out to our community.

### **Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2016**

This Spring we continue our Believe sermon series, seeking to “Think, Act, and Be More like Jesus.” On Sunday evenings during Lent, our theme will be “40 Days with Jesus,” and we’ll witness a series of eyewitness accounts that dramatically retell the course of Jesus’ ministry leading up to his crucifixion.

I continue to encourage the Council, ministry teams, and members of Bethel to make every effort to become a congregation where:

- **Everyone worships weekly**
- **Everyone reads the Bible daily**
- **Everyone connects in a small group**
- **Everyone gives generously**
- **Everyone serves**
- **Everyone invites**

### **Conclusion**

I deeply appreciate the leadership and support provided by our Church Council. A special note of thanks goes to Jeff Johnson, our outgoing Council President. Thanks also to our other outgoing Council members, Michelle Stearns and Jeff Jacobson.

I am also grateful for our ministry teams, including Children’s & Youth Ministry, Outreach, Fellowship, Social Concerns, Worship & Music, and Property, as well as the musicians, custodian, Quilters, BLCW, Altar Guild, and all the other volunteers who carry out the ministry of our congregation. A special word of thanks goes out to our office volunteers Janet Stearns, Carol Chapman, Doralene Renken, Jenny Hansmann, and Julia Dudley.

I also have a deep appreciation for those who have carried forth the work of ministry here for many years and now continue your faithful support in prayer. Let’s all join together in prayer that God will deepen our faith and give us the courage, energy, and focus to follow Him faithfully in our life together.

In Christ,  
*Pastor David*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Three years ago when I was elected to Church Council again, I never dreamt I'd be President. I seriously considered rejecting the position. Maybe it was motivation from Pastor David's sermons or thinking it was time to step-up to the plate; today I'm glad I did it.

To be honest I haven't agreed with every issue passed at Council meetings. Everyone on Council tries to make honest decisions and represent the congregation's interest. Several Council members go above and beyond their call of duty. For this I say Thank you to all of them.

I want to thank Pastor David for his guidance, his leadership at Council meetings and patience encouraging his ideas to our congregation.

I want to thank the many volunteers who give their time, effort, and generous donations to keep Bethel Lutheran going strong.

Where can you go to be surrounded by Good people and many friends, than this congregation. I always come home feeling grateful in today's world for our many Blessings.

In future years at Bethel don't shy away when called to be a volunteer, invite a friend or family member to come worship with us, be willing to try new avenues during worship services, offer prayers to those who need help, offer friendship to the lonely and those in need.

Philippians 2:14-15

"Do everything without complaining or arguing. Then you will be innocent and without any wrong. You will be God's children without fault. But you are living with crooked and mean people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world."  
(New Century Version, EVERYDAY BIBLE)

God has a plan!  
Jeff Johnson

## 2015 BETHEL LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING

January 18, 2015

Call to Order: Jeff Jacobson called the meeting to order.

Opening Devotions: Devotions led by Pastor Hagstrom

Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting: The annual meeting minutes were reviewed. Corrections were made to the following:

- The nominating committee on page 2 should not include Michelle Stearns
- The loss of members on page 11 should not include "other ELCA churches"
- The Circle Ruth report on page 13 was submitted by Jan Stearns
- Balance 2013 on page 18 should state Balance 2014.

Diane Johnson made a motion, seconded by Jay Herter, to approve the minutes with the corrections. The motion carried.

### Reports:

1. Pastor David Hagstrom's report was presented by Pastor Hagstrom.
2. The President's report was presented by Jeff Jacobson.
3. The Financial Secretary's report was presented by Jenny Hansmann. Those present reviewed the report. Dale Hansmann made a motion, seconded by Darlene Johnson, to approve the report. The motion carried.
4. The Treasurer's report was presented by Dale Stearns. Those present reviewed the report. Pam Jacobson made a motion, seconded by Greg Carolus, to approve the report. The motion carried.

Presentation of the ballot of nominees for the Church Council election: Nominees for the three open Council positions were Jay Herter and Diane Buss leaving one open position. No other nominations were offered. Steve Brouwer made a motion, seconded by Jay Herter, for the nominations to cease. The motion carried.

Election: The ballots were passed out and election results were conveyed to members present. Members on the ballot were elected. Irene Senne made a motion, seconded by Dale Hansmann, to destroy the ballots. The motion was carried.

Approval of 2015 Proposed Budget: The proposed budget for 2015 was reviewed. Klint Knock made a motion, seconded by Diane Johnson, to approve the proposed budget. The motion carried.

### New Business:

1. Endowment Fund By-Law: The proposed by-law was reviewed by those present. Dale Hansmann made a motion for the by-law to be adopted as recommended, seconded by Dale Krohn. The motion carried 46-4.
2. Proposed Projects: The power point presentation for each project was presented by Pastor Hagstrom and reviewed by those present and then all were given the opportunity to discuss and ask questions. Diane Johnson made a motion, seconded by Dan Frey, to end discussion and proceed with the voting on each proposed project.

Election Results: Ballots were passed out and the election results were as follows:

1. Tuck Pointing Project: The project was approved 52-1
2. Sound System Project: The project was approved 38-15

3. Video System Project: The project was rejected 23-30
4. Basement Carpeting Project: The project was rejected 13-40

Irene Senne made a motion, seconded by Dale Hansmann, to destroy the ballots. The motion was carried.

Adjournment: There was no further business. Aaron Ellermann made a motion, seconded by Karol Ellermann, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Stearns, Church Council Secretary

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**Special Congregational Meeting**  
March 8, 2015

Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Pastor David.

Jeff Johnson explained the increase in premiums for Portico's Health/Benefit plan. When the 2015 budget was prepared, the Council was unaware of the premium increase. When the first increased bill was received, Dale Stearns immediately called Pastor David to review the statement. They then called Portico for an explanation. According to Portico, the increase is a reflection of actual costs. They also suggested the 2014 premium calculator on their website was used instead of the 2015 calculator.

Jeff also assured the congregation during the open enrollment period for 2016 they will make a point to get the correct rates as well as comparing the Portico plans with other benefit plans available.

The budget line for Medical/Dental should be \$19,512 which is an increase of \$2,686. The budget line for Pension/Benefits should be \$10,943 which is an increase of \$2,205.

JoAnn Schwarz made a motion, seconded by Dan Frey, to increase the budget amounts as listed above. The vote was conducted by hand and was unanimous. The motion was carried.

Dan Frey made a motion, seconded by Jeremy Paulson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Stearns, Council Secretary

**Special Congregational Meeting**  
August 23, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Johnson.

Karr Tuck-pointing completed the work covered by the first bid approved by the congregation at the annual meeting held in January, 2015. While completing the work they discovered additional stones that needed to be replaced which were missed in the original bid. Karr Tuck-pointing submitted an additional bid for \$7,405.00 to complete the project.

Dale Hansmann made a motion, seconded by Candy Krohn, to approve the new bid from Karr Tuck-pointing as well as allowing the Church Council to authorize any additional funds needed to complete the project if needed. Discussion was then held, led by Jeff Johnson. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

Beth Van Lengen made a motion, seconded by Dale Hansmann, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Stearns, Church Council Secretary

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**MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND SUMMARY**

Balance as of December 31, 2015: **\$5,608.18**  
This was placed in a 12-month CD as of April 6, 2010.

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**SEMINARIAN ENDOWMENT FUND SUMMARY**

Balance as of December 31, 2015: **\$7,715.32**  
This was placed in a 12-month CD as of April 6, 2010.

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**MEMORIAL FUND REPORT**

<b><u>CHECKING</u></b>		<b><u>SAVINGS</u></b>	
Balance January 1, 2015	\$1,176.83	Balance January 1, 2015	\$12,155.88
Income: Interest	.60	Income: Interest	12.16
Balance December 31, 2015	\$1,177.43	Balance December 31, 2015	\$12,168.04

Submitted by Diane Buss



**2015 FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**CURRENT FUND**

Envelope Offering .....	\$77,639.51
Designated Current .....	30,308.76
Christmas Catch-up .....	15,542.00
90% from Special Services .....	2,764.08
Confirmation Line #530 .....	35.00
Thrivent Contributions .....	707.00
Interest from Checking Account .....	<u>3.07</u>
TOTAL CURRENT FUND .....	<u>\$126,999.42</u>

**REVOLVING IN** ..... \$5,133.50

**BENEVOLENCE FUND**

Envelope Offering .....	\$8,626.50
Designated Benevolence .....	611.25
10% from Special Services .....	1,005.12
Food Bank .....	25.00
Mission Offering .....	25.00
World Hunger .....	<u>31.00</u>
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE FUND .....	<u>\$10,323.87</u>

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENT**

Sound System .....	\$5,807.12
Tuck-Pointing .....	<u>\$11,645.00</u>
TOTAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENT .....	<u>\$17,452.12</u>

**GRAND TOTAL** ..... \$159,908.91

**Two loans, from Lincoln Savings Bank, are not reflected  
in the figures shown above:**

**\$8,000 and \$7,405, for a total of \$15,405.00**

# 2015 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

## Bethel Membership Statistics

	2013		2014		2015	
	Baptized	Confirmed	Baptized	Confirmed	Baptized	Confirmed
<b>Membership: Jan 1</b>	432	264	271	177	242	163
<b>Members Received by ...</b>						
<b>Baptism: Children</b>	2		1		2	
<b>Baptism: Adults</b>	1	1				
<b>Affirmation of Faith</b>					1	1
<b>Transfer</b>	15	11	4	4	1	1
<b>Total Received</b>	18	12	5	4	4	2
<b>Confirmed this Year</b>		4		2		2
<b>Members Lost to ...</b>						
<b>Death</b>	3	3	4	4	4	4
<b>Transfer to LCMC</b>					1	1
<b>Transfer</b>	4	4	14	8	4	4
<b>Inactive List</b>	172	96	16	8	8	6
<b>Total Losses</b>	179	103	34	20	17	15
<b>Membership: Dec 31</b>	271	177	242	163	229	152

### Received into Membership

- By Baptism:** Wyatt David Jacobs, Bexlee Miah Paulson
- By Adult Baptism:** None
- By Youth Confirmation:** Nora Mann, Morgan Knock
- By Transfer from LCMC Congregations:** None
- By Transfer from other Lutheran Churches:** None
- By Transfer from Non-Lutheran Congregations:** Bob Patterson
- By Affirmation of Faith:** Lista Sinele (Patterson)

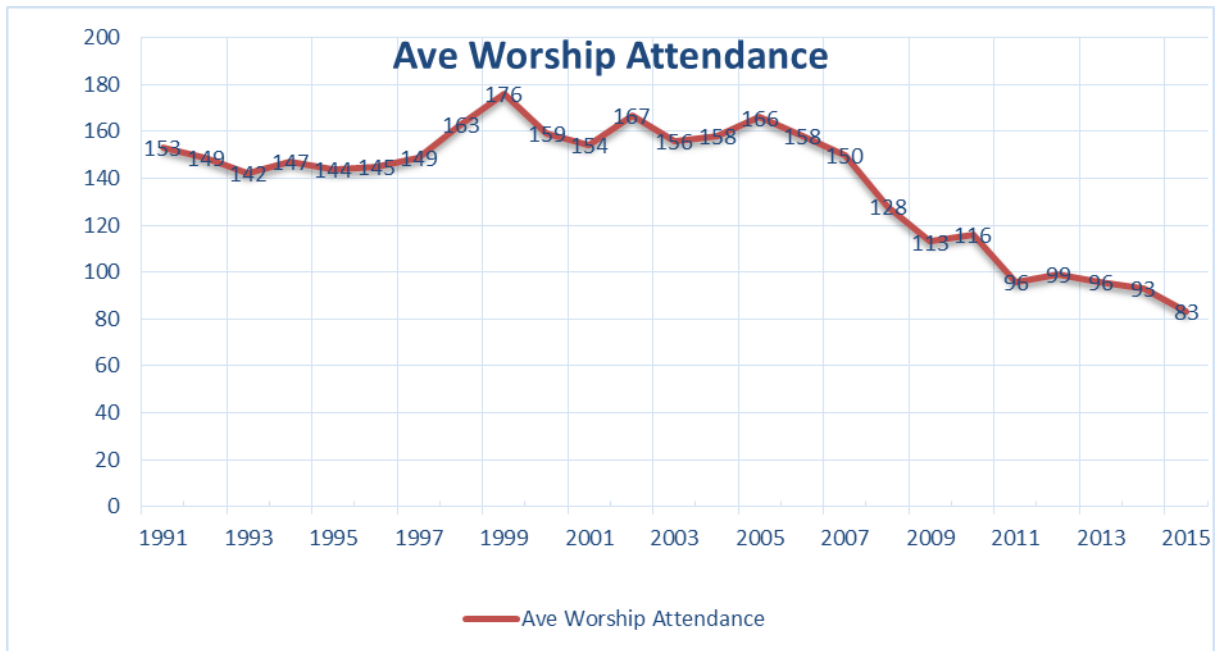
### Losses from Membership

- By Death:** Emma June Rule, Babe Simon, Gertrude Thorne, Irene Waltermann
- By Transfer to LCMC Congregations:** Mark Freed
- By Transfer to other Lutheran Congregations:** Gail Gosch, Patricia Gosch, Donald Fleshner, Tamara Fleshner
- By Transfer to Non-Lutheran Congregations:** None

## Other Bethel Statistics

	2013	2014	2015
<b>Average Sunday Attendance</b>	96	93	83
<b>Average % Sunday Attendance</b>	35%	34%	34%
<b>Ave. Special (Lent/Holy Wk) Att.</b>	45	49	43
<b>Total Christmas Services Attendance</b>	162	127	128
<b>Number of Households</b>	133	123	121
<b>Weddings</b>	3	1	1
<b>Funerals</b>	6	4	2

## Average Worship Attendance Last 25 Years



## **CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

After a great year of organization in 2014, our team was able to meet less and keep the ministry alive and well. The Children's and Youth Ministry Team (CM/YM) members include: Tiffany Asche, Adrian Bernard, Dana Hagstrom, Nina and Chris Sweeney. Michelle Stearns was also part of this group as council liaison, and her term will now end. Pastor David also attends or is apprised of the Team's planning.

In general, the CM/YM Team is in charge of maintaining the integrity of discipleship of all Bethel members through high school.

This year, the CM/YM Team helped plan and/or organize the following:

- Confirmation Banquet: The team assisted Pastor David with details of the confirmation service such as ordering robes and corsages, decorating for the banquet, and assisting the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade families with serving at the banquet. Decorations purchased in 2014 were used for this event.
- Vacation Bible School: Bethel again teamed up with other Parkersburg churches for the community VBS in July which was held at the Catholic Church this year. Bethel members helped by volunteering and providing items for props and snacks.
- Rally Sunday: Games and food were available for Bethel families to enjoy following worship to kick off the new Sunday School year, and back by popular demand we had Dale Krohn's hayrack for rides around town!
- Christmas Program: For the third year in a row the Children's Christmas Program was held during worship. Ten children took part with singing and speaking parts, and two middle school students helped with narration. Sharleen Hubbard helped with music.

The CM/YM team has been meeting bi-monthly this year to monitor the education needs of the children and youth at Bethel. We are using the Believe curriculum to fit in with the main church emphasis and will soon be exploring other options for the next school year (2016 to 2017). Preschoolers and Elementary students have their own sessions geared for their developmental level. Middle School Confirmation Students have Sunday School attendance expectations, and Nina and Chris Sweeney have been leading that. High Schoolers are encouraged to help with Elementary and Preschool Classes.

Kids InC is a new ministry designed as outreach into the community where all children (ages preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are welcome to attend. It is held after school, one Wednesday per month and kicked off in November after a community-wide fall festival event on Halloween evening. A subgroup consisting of Dana Hagstrom, Sharleen Hubbard, Pam Jacobson and Janet Mennen met for several months of planning. A new logo was designed by Sarah Redman.

The Youth Ministry is being led by Chris and Nina Sweeney and continues to bring excitement to youth ministry. The Sweeney's are expecting a second child early in 2016, so changes are in store for them as a family and for youth ministry as well. In February 2015, fifteen youth and adult leaders went to the LCMC youth gathering in the Wisconsin Dells. In November 2015, the Confirmation class attended a Recharge at Riverside Bible Camp. Other youth group events throughout the year include game nights, volunteering at the food bank in Waterloo, and a fun trip to Adventureland. For fundraising, the youth sold coffee from Javesca in March, and served CINNAMON ROLLS once a month. Thanks to the congregation for your support! The youth group also sponsors a child from Compassion International. Increased fundraising efforts will be needed to maintain this level of involvement.

Submitted by Dana Hagstrom on behalf of the Team

FINANCIAL REPORT OF YOUTH GROUP ACCOUNT

	Savings Account	Checking Account
Opening Balance January 1, 2015	\$1,001.62	\$1,300.07
Receipts	88.95	2,110.71
Expenses	18.00	4,045.25
Transfer to checking	(900.00)	900.00
Closing Balance December 31, 2015	\$172.57	\$265.53

Receipts include interest, income from selling cinnamon rolls, income from the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, income from coffee sales, gifts from members, and weekly offering during Sunday School.

Expenses include monthly adoption fee for Compassion child, cinnamon rolls supplies, soup supper supplies not donated, Eclipse ad for soup supper, registration fee for LCMC youth gathering, registration for Riverside Bible Camp, mileage reimbursement for chaperones, paint supplies (youth room), and bank charges.

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**APLINGTON-PARKERSBURG QUILTER'S REPORT**

The **Aplington-Parkersburg Quilters** have completed 108 quilts and the following organizations have received them:

Dumont Nursing Home	11
Ewalu Camp Fund Raiser	1
Friends of the Family	12
Grundy Center Nursing Home	11
Hope Cancer Center Iowa City	9
Parker Place	18
Relay for Life	2
Ronald McDonald House	25
Social Concerns	4
Bethel Church Family (includes 2 graduates)	15

The quilters would like to thank everyone who donated fabric, yarn, sewing machines, and Thrivent Financial. Thank you .....

Submitted by Carol Warneka

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN REPORT**

Our Sunday morning BLCW meetings following worship seem to be working well. At several of the meetings a delicious brunch and fellowship was enjoyed. We are always brought up to date on prayer concerns, etc. Our fundraisers continue to be the Bakeless Bake Sale in October and the Cookie and Candy By the Pound Sale in December. All women of Bethel are members of the BLCW. They are also on servings groups which are asked to help and or provide food for funerals, Lenten coffees and other things which may come up during the year. Thank you to all who have helped in any way. If you have any ideas or concerns please come to one of our meetings or contact Diane Buss or Jan Stearns.

Submitted by Diane Buss

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**BLCW TREASURER’S REPORT**

Balance, January 1, 2015	\$322.47
Income	1,160.41
Expenses	1,001.14
Balance, December 31, 2015	\$481.74

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Funeral Donations	\$75.00	Augsburg Fortress Publishers – Christ In Our Home Devotionals	\$109.20
Lenten Coffees	239.10	Concordia Publishers - Portals of Prayer Devotionals	214.75
General Meeting Offerings	184.00	Altar Flowers	86.00
Cookie-Candy Sale	219.00	Kitchen Supplies	105.32
Thankoffering	161.16	Confirmation Gifts	96.11
Bakeless Bake Sale	282.00	Graduation Reception	5.94
Bank Interest	.15	Guest Speaker Gift Card	25.00
		Deluxe Checks	27.00
		Donations:	
		Jayne Luhring Fundraiser	\$100.00
		Cedar Valley Friends of Family	\$50.00
		Kaitlin Marlette Mission Trip	\$50.00
		Lutheran Chaplaincy UI Hospital	\$100.00
		Parish Service Co.-	
		Thankoffering Boxes	\$31.82
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$331.82</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,160.41</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,001.14</b>

<b>SAVINGS ACCOUNT</b>	
Balance, January 1, 2015	\$743.05
Interest	.75
Balance, December 31, 2015	\$743.80

Submitted by Jan Stearns

**FELLOWSHIP TEAM REPORT**

Members: Pam Jacobson, Beth Van Lengen, Pastor David and Council Liaison Jim Schwarz

The Fellowship Team: We organized a Spring Movie night in April and showed the movie “The Song.” We served popcorn and water during the movie and had dessert and coffee after the movie. We had two small groups (approximately 15 people) and Pastor David used the movie and book “The Song of Solomon” for his messages.

Bethel Lutheran Church participated in the Parkersburg parade this past summer. We had several people help us by driving the vehicle, carry our banner, pass out candy along with Bethel brochures. Come join us next year!

Our Fall Small Group Sessions were based on the Bible Study “Believe.” In September we had our Fall Kick-off and showed a video in church. We had two small groups and the Sunday School also used this material for the fall curriculum, and Pastor used this material for the basis for his sermons. We had approximately 15 people in two small groups.

We are now organizing Winter Small Groups to start in January; these small groups will be a continuation of the “Believe” Bible study material. We hope you will join us.

We are still looking for a couple of new members; if you are interested please see Pam or Beth.

Submitted by Beth Van Lengen

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**WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM REPORT**

Members: Diane Buss, Dana Hagstrom, Sharleen Hubbard, Dale Krohn, Janet Mennen, and Angie Ellermann, Council Representative

The Worship and Music Committee meets to choose hymns for the worship services throughout the church year. Hymns for the services are chosen to complement each Sunday's Bible readings and Pastor Hagstrom's sermon texts.

Worship services at Bethel consists of traditional service on the first and third Sundays and a contemporary service on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. If a month has five Sundays, a hymn sing format is used and enjoyed by all. If you have ideas or suggestions to further enhance our worship services, the Committee welcomes your input.

Bethel was blessed to have two special musical groups be a part of our worship services - a Brass Quartet from Wartburg College in Waverly and The Sweet Adelines from the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. JoAnne Schwarz is a member of the group and we thank her for helping arrange for their visit.

Bethel Lutheran is blessed to have so many wonderful and talented people. We encourage everyone to share your God-given talents in some way.

Submitted by Sharleen Hubbard

## **OUTREACH TEAM REPORT**

Members: Steve Brouwer, Janet Mennen, Jenny Hansmann (Council Representative) and Pastor Hagstrom

Our purpose is to reach out to visitors, prospective members, and non-active members to welcome them into the life of Bethel Lutheran so all might grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and with other believers.

Because we understand how important outreach is, we realize that a committee of two or three is not adequate to accomplish this task. It takes an entire congregation reaching out to those they meet – their neighbors, friends, or acquaintances – to carry out our purpose. Many of you already do this beautifully, which is why we often see new or familiar faces sitting in our pews from time to time. We challenge everyone to do the same. Invite someone to come to church, talk about how you've been touched by a sermon you've heard, or tell someone how God is working in your life. With all of us reaching out, we can help Bethel Lutheran become a Light to those who need to know Jesus!

In 2015 . . .

- Cards were sent and phone calls were made to visitors, welcoming them to Bethel Lutheran.
- Bethel members were contacted to serve as Greeters throughout the year.
- The Women's Bible study that began over two years ago to "reach out" to Bethel ladies, continued to meet once a month to study God's Word. We would love to have many more ladies join us for wonderful discussions and lots of great fellowship! Please watch the Beacon and Sunday bulletin for scheduled times or call the church office or Janet Mennen (319-269-9674) for Bible study dates.
- Members of the Outreach Team worked alongside the Children's Ministry and Fellowship Teams and other Bethel members to start Kids Inc., reaching children in our community with the message of Jesus Christ.
- We also worked together with the Fellowship Team to decorate the bulletin board throughout the Church year. Anyone interested in helping is welcome anytime!

Submitted by Janet Mennen

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## **SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM REPORT**

Members: Jan Stearns, Janelle Gorter, Ruth Zacharias, Sherry Brouwer and Jeremy Paulson, Council Rep.

In 2015 we sponsored the "Soles From Bethel" Relay for Life Team which again raised over \$1,000.00 for the American Cancer Society. Thank you to all who helped with that event. We continued our Noisy Nickel Collection each month and this money is for donations that the committee makes to fund raisers in the communities and expenses which the committee has during the year. We again provided Thanksgiving meals for three area families in need. In 2015 we tried a new Christmas project -- Operation Christmas Child. A total of 32 shoeboxes were picked up by members of the congregation to fill with Christmas gifts for needy children both in the USA and abroad. In the end, 14 of those boxes were returned. If you still have a box at home you can start filling it now and turn it in for Christmas 2016. Thanks to all who participated in this project and for your support in any way of our projects over the past year.



Balance January 1, 2015	\$386.74
Income	1,190.46
Expenses	1,197.85
Balance, December 31, 2015	\$379.35

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Noisy Nickels	\$382.44	American Cancer Society:	
Relay for Life Luminaries	260.00	Relay for Life Team Registration	\$100.00
Relay for Life Team T-Shirts	390.00	Relay for Life Luminaries	260.00
Relay for Life Root Beer Float Sales	141.00	Relay for Life Team Shirt Profit	130.00
Relay for Life Pop Bottle Change	16.85	RelayforLifeRootBeer Float Sales	141.00
Bank Interest	.17	Relay for Life Pop Change	16.85
		Relay for Life Noisy Nickels	100.00
			\$747.85
		Operation Christmas Child Postage	\$28.00
		The Print Place – Relay for Life Team T-Shirts	322.00
		Kaitlin Marlette Mission Trip Donation	50.00
		Kickin' It for Kevin Kalkwarf MS Walk Team Donation	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,190.46</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,197.85</b>

Submitted by Jan Stearns

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**PROPERTY TEAM REPORT**

Members: Jeff Johnson, Jeff Jacobson, Ken Van Lengen, Dale Stearns, Jay Herter

Greetings from the Property Team, I would like to thank all the team members and volunteers who have helped this year. We have had several people come forward to take care of the mowing, seeding and fertilizing of the church lawn this past year. Thank you.

We have had a big project of tuck-pointing this year. The total was over \$22,000. A big thank you to all who participated in the fundraising to get this job done. We have begun an energy audit that we are looking to tackle this coming year to see if we can save money on energy going forward. Thank you to all those who are patient as we change lightbulbs, filters, and all of the other things throughout the year!

Also a special thanks to our custodian. She has done a great job keeping the church tidy.

Friends in Christ, Jay Herter

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**Former CIRCLE RUTH REPORT**

Savings account at MidwestOne Bank was closed and in March 2015 the balance of \$894.12 was given to the church to go toward the Sound System improvements.