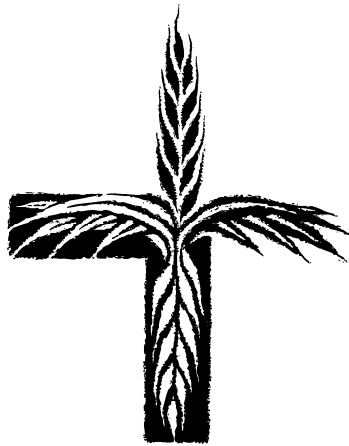


Book of Reports

Annual Meeting
January 29, 2017



Annual Congregational Meeting

January 29, 2017

Dining Room

11:15 a.m., or immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship service

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Declaration of a Quorum; appointment of Secretary and Tellers
- III. Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting on January 24, 2016
- IV. Presentation of Ballot and Elections
- V. Audit Committee Report
- VI. Financial Breakout Sessions
 - A. Finance Committee/Budget Discussion
 - B. Endowment Discussion
 - C. Benevolence Discussion
- VII. Presentation and Adoption of the 2017 Budget
- VIII. Election Results (if not approved by acclamation)
- IX. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2016

I. Call to order and opening prayer

Jen Debner called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm. Pastor Michael opened the meeting with prayer.

II. Declaration of a Quorum

Quorum was declared. Jen Debner and Jack Taral confirmed quorum at 40 voting members.

III. Appointment of Secretary and Tellers

Evan Boyd taking minutes; Jack Taral and Clair Anderson serving as tellers.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting on January 25, 2015

Minutes were presented in the revised book of reports on each table, and also made available prior to the meeting electronically. Minutes moved Bev Albert and seconded Brian Wisner for approval, and approved by acclamation as presented.

V. Presentation of the Ballot and Elections

Ballot reviewed by Jen Debner and Pastor Michael Fick.

Jessica Daniels requested to amend the ballot to include the second Synod Assembly Voting Member and change name to Jessica Daniels. Seconded. Vote passed.

Voted to approve the revised ballot through acclamation.

VI. Financial Matters

a. Endowment Committee Report

Report presented by Patrick Donnelly. Discussion of how the endowment committee will work to continue to improve their support of organizations that oftentimes do not receive heavy funding through granting agencies.

b. 2015 Fiscal Year Report

Mike Neff presented the treasurer's report and highlighted a couple of items. Total income was 7% under what was budgeted. Member giving was down 13%. Expenses

were 8% over budget, but can be partially accounted to projects paid for in 2015 but encumbered in 2014.

Capital campaign has achieved over \$100,000 in donations thus far.

New software has led to clarity and efficiencies.

c. Audit Committee Report

Evan Boyd presented the audit report. Discussion of internal policy revision recommendations that will be given to the finance committee and executive committee.

Reports accepted and approved through voice vote.

VII. Presentation and Adoption of the 2016 Budget

Dave Wood presented the 2016 budget.

Discussion ensued.

Karen Hammer; second Wes. Budget approved through voice vote.

VIII. Election Results

Ballot previously approved by acclamation.

IX. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 1:32pm

Evan Boyd

Recording Secretary

Pastoral Report

Pastor Michael Fick

2016 was a year of significant, yet constructive transition, in the life of Ebenezer Lutheran Church. I am grateful from the partnership of our outstanding staff: John Elmquist, Pr. Emily Heitzmann, Norm Cratty, Nathan Tolzmann, and Jesse Lopez. I have also been blessed by the able leadership of Jen Debner, Mike Neff, and the entire Ebenezer Council.

We reorganized the staffing model this year, eliminating the Parish Administrator position and welcoming part time Building Coordinator and Bookkeeper positions. We also bless into retirement our sister Michelle Knapp, while welcoming our new parish nurse, Marcia Smith.

These important changes have allowed us to continue to staff Ebenezer in important mission areas. A congregation of some 350 members, we welcomed 13 new souls by baptism, received over a dozen new adult members, and laid to rest three beloved saints: Alice Altwasser, June Albert and Yvonne Johnson. Two young adults, Luke Goelzer and Kate Clemenz, were confirmed.

As we continue to be encouraged by member support, it is my hope that we can return the parish nurse position to ½ time in 2018, while continuing to live into the new staffing configuration. Office volunteers have made this new reality possible, and I am encouraged by the growth of community connections in the use of the building, a robust Sunday experience with new vibrancy in our Community Hour offerings, and a growing congregation on the whole.

As Ebenezer begins its 125th year, I am reminded again of the beauty of Ebenezer's name and continuing identity: A stone of help. A place of safety and support. A rock and cornerstone on which to build. With Christ at the center, we continue to move outward.

In Peace,

Pastor Michael D. Fick

Congregational Council

Jen Debner

Ebenezer's Congregational Council serves as its governing body, and meets monthly. Serving on Council in 2016 have been:

- Jen Debner (president)
- Norm Dynneson
- Jack Taral
- Ben Thierry (VP)
- Jenn Cox (exec committee member at large)
- Mark Hicks
- Susan Ridihalgh (secretary)
- Kathy Cooper
- Betty Obendorf
- Chad Sohl

Council meetings get into the nitty-gritty of our day to day life. In the past year we have discussed questions such as, who are appropriate tenants for our building – and what happens if they are late with their rent? How do new regulations related to part-time work affect our staff? What does Michelle Knapp's retirement mean for the Parish Nurse program? We work to ensure that all the various ministries working within the congregation are aware of each other and informed of important matters, that the bills get paid, and that our various gifts (including the building) are appropriately cared for.

This is a very gifted group of people who care deeply about the life of the congregation, and I am so grateful to have served with them!

Finance Team

David Wood

Two years ago, Ebenezer had a bad budget experience. We overestimated 2015 income by \$31,000 and underestimated expenditures by \$34,000. We ended 2015 \$65,000 in the hole, and we fell \$10,000 short of meeting our synod pledge that year. As a result, the budget for 2016 was extremely conservative. We cut our commitment to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod from 10% to 5% of member giving, and we asked the congregation to approve \$65,000 in enrichment fund transfers in 2016 knowing full well that the endowment fund cannot support recurring, annual enrichment transfers exceeding \$40,000. At last year's annual meeting, we promised the congregation that we would take the year to monitor our income sources, adjust our spending to fit within more reasonable income predictions, and come back in 2017 with a budget that is balanced, returns our synod pledge to 10%, and asks for an enrichment transfer of no more than \$40,000.

The executive committee, church council, finance team, committee chairs, pastor, and staff worked hard all year to do just that. In response to an excellent stewardship presentation in late 2015, identified member giving in 2016 was up and total income exceeded expectations by \$11,000. Spending in 2016 was a little more than we anticipated, but we ended 2016 with a surplus in the general fund of about \$10,000. We canceled contracts with service providers for offering envelopes and custodial supplies; we are trying to cover these services using staff and volunteers. We traded our office's big color copier for a big black & white copier. We cut back on staff costs where we think we can. Time will tell if we can get the things we want to do done by volunteers and the staff we now have.

The finance team continues to meet on the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months, January, March, May, and so on. Ben Thierry, Andrea Tolzmann, Chris Comella, Jen Debner, Patrick Donnelly, Pastor Michael, Mike Neff, and I serve on the finance team. (In case you're wondering, one of my church leadership mentors is convinced that people would rather serve on a *team* than a *committee*.)

The roster of folks who count the weekly offerings and deposit them in the bank changed a little in 2016. We appreciate the work done by Ben Thierry, Rich Cohrs, Tim Johnson, and Diane Hurles who left our counting team. We extend a special thanks to Chris Comella who retired this summer after serving as a Sunday head counter for many years. As we conclude 2016, Chris Thangaraj and Norm Dynneson count the offering on the first Sunday in each month, Sean Clemenz and Jen Debner count on the

second Sunday, Patrick Donnelly and Chuck Obendorf count on the third Sunday, Haley Hansen and Jenn Cox count on the fourth Sunday, and Andrea Tolzmann and I count on the occasional fifth Sunday. Dennis Sall continues to serve as Ebenezer's financial secretary who counts on Thursday or Friday the money stored in the church's vault that comes in during the week, mostly from people and groups that use our facilities. These counters perform important work that must be done regularly and accurately. Thank them when you get a chance.

Mike Neff just completed his second year as Ebenezer's treasurer. He is our resident expert with Shepherd's Staff, the church's new software package. He has been an integral part of dozens of executive committee meetings, congregation council meetings, and finance team meeting. Those of us who work with him can tell that he is becoming more and more comfortable and confident in his treasurer role. Almost every Sunday, you will also see Mike in one or more worship leadership roles. Ebenezer is fortunate to have such a dedicated, calm, talented, and caring church leader. Thanks, Mike!

Rejoining the company of Ebenezer finance folks is Nathan Tolzmann who returned to the bookkeeper's chair in August of 2016. He has made the treasurer's job easier by taking over much of the work of dealing with invoices, recording expenditures and member contributions, and assisting members and guests who visit the church office when he is there. Shepherd's Staff is new to Nathan, but he is very comfortable at the office desk in front of the church's business computer. Welcome back, Nathan!

Treasurer's Report

Mike Neff

Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Statement of Income and Expense by Minor Group

December of Fiscal Year 2016

Responsibility: All

Fund: 01 - General Fund

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income				
01-Member Giving	20,334.00	24,173.13	244,000.00	252,423.78
02-Special Giving	4,631.00	3,221.52	8,930.00	9,224.57
03-Community House	8,440.00	10,519.00	96,900.00	101,053.55
04-Miscellaneous	250.00	250.00	9,200.00	8,255.00
04-Miscellaneous Incom	397.00	5,698.98	74,789.00	72,569.85
Total Income	34,052.00	43,862.63	433,819.00	443,526.75
Expense				
01-Benevolence	1,377.00	100.00	18,544.00	19,639.03
02-Wages	23,257.12	20,627.91	261,939.44	257,991.74
03-General Ops	1,610.00	1,086.87	19,300.00	22,472.58
04-Church Property	7,466.00	13,079.41	88,580.00	98,360.01
05-Liturgy & Music	2,284.00	2,961.08	21,200.00	17,133.38
06-Christian Education	165.00	246.42	8,115.00	6,698.35
07-Outreach	428.00	732.99	5,220.00	3,646.69
08-Stewardship	138.15	192.76	1,645.80	1,798.96
09-Social Justice	265.00	0.00	3,700.00	1,159.70
10-Archives	109.00	0.00	1,305.00	-20.00
Total Expense	37,099.27	39,027.44	429,549.24	428,880.44
Income Less Expense	-\$3,047.27	\$4,835.19	\$4,269.76	\$14,646.31

Facilities

Patrick Donnelly

Mission Statement: Actively maintain, repair and improve the three Ebenezer structures and grounds to enable the ministry of the church to continue in this community.

Primary Leader: Patrick Donnelly

Who's involved: Dave Woods, Evan Boyd, Tim Johnson, Jen Debner and Pastor Michael Fick with Jesse Lopez

The Facilities team had a big year in 2016 with staff changes and building challenges. But after the staff reorganization and addressing the failing and soon to be falling down sections of the building we left 2016 a stronger and more efficient building and team. Jesse Lopez (Ebenezer's sexton) continues to use his skills to make permanent improvements and renovations that enable Ebenezer and her tenants to carry on with our mission in a safe, comfortable and (most of the time) warm environment.

Our major projects included:

- the emergency repair of the sanctuary roof
- the almost emergency replacement of the parlor ceiling
- the creation of the Ed Center Kitchenette (partially funded by Ebenezer's Endowment.)

Other, mission enabling projects we accomplished with the involvement of Crafty Lutherans in 2016 were:

- gutting and renovating of the 3rd floor Community House Balcony which provided a better learning environment for our Thursday night tutoring mission;
- hard wiring the entire Ebenezer compound with Ethernet cable enabling better internet connections from the Tutoring Balcony to the Ed center - *a special thanks to Brian Wisner and Evan Boyd for their tireless efforts to tackle the challenge of pulling wire throughout the entire compound.*
- Upgrading the space previously used by the UIC group, now used by the Native American group...

- Working on repairs to pews in the sanctuary (still in process... we would love to have helpers for this)

We continue in our efforts to be good stewards of the environment to curb our greenhouse gas emissions by consuming less electricity and natural gas - insulating our steam pipe system (courtesy of People's Gas) and converting many light fixtures to high efficiency fluorescents or LED light bulbs (courtesy of ComEd). Along with our efforts to be more energy efficient we also strive to provide tools for the staff to more efficient - in this vein we purchased a small clothes washer for the boiler room, enabling washing of mop heads and rags onsite instead of someone bringing them home to wash.

Worship and Music

Dr. John Elmquist, Director of Music

Every year, I sit down to comb through my memory and the memories of others to list specific things that made the year just completed different from (and hopefully better than) the year before. I can always come up with a list but what gets missed in such an exercise is that the truly special moments in worship and music come and go every week, are often subtle and always different from one another, but don't necessarily warrant special mention in an end-of-the-year report. These experiences can take the form of a certain song or piece, a certain prayer, a certain word from the sermon that shows up quite by accident somewhere else in the service or maybe just an overall lovely vibe. What made 2016 great was not the things that were out of the ordinary, but that week in and week out everyone kept getting together to sing and pray and experience a little bit of what it means to be the body of Christ. So, on one level, what made 2016 truly special in the life of the congregation is that it was pretty much just like 2015. Every week I think how beautiful it is to be together. Whether the anthem is a large special piece with lots of instruments that we've worked really hard on or a simple a cappella one we've done many times, and whether it is Easter Sunday or the umpteenth Sunday after Pentecost, the real "success" is in the steadiness of community and the trust in the Lord that is demonstrated by simply showing up. This line of thinking would then suggest that a worthy "goal" for 2017 would be to have it be pretty much like 2016!

I am in the habit of having a little devotion time during choir rehearsal during which I will share a poem or piece of scripture or item I've found in a magazine. Recently I read something my dad wrote in a report about the choir in a parish where he was a member. Instead of listing the names of the individual Ebenezer choir members, as has been my practice, I would like to describe them with his words:

"Now, as always, the choir can never sing without bringing before those who worship the reminder of how great is the cloud of witnesses by which we are surrounded - that mighty throng which no one can number, which has sung these hymns, these liturgies, and these anthems of praise and worship, in every generation, and in countless places, languages and situations. The choir members have the task of symbolizing the congregation linked to the church universal through this inexhaustible treasure of Spirit-filled song. No paid choir can do this as well as volunteers, who present their voices in this way as a part of their stewardship, without pride or apology, but as to the Lord, who honors the cheerful giver."

Women's Book Group

Vereen Nordstrom

The Women's Book Group met monthly in 2016, and will continue to do so in 2017. The following books will be read and discussed:

Ebenezer Women's Book Group List for 2017

- January 16– Case Histories by Kate Atkinson
- February 20– Evicted by Matthew Desmond
- March 20 – My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry
by Fredrik Backman
- April 17- Defending Jacob by William Landay
- May 15– The Nest by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
- June 19 - The Dali Mystery by Sue Swinger- Elbogen
- July 17– The Redbreast by Joe Nebo
- August 21– The Last Chinese Chef by Nicole Mones
- September 18– Woman of God by James Patterson
- October 16– Euphoria by Lily King
- November 20– Commonwealth by Ann Patchett
- December 18 - Atonement by Ian McEwan

Lutheran World Relief Ministry

Jackie Wood

Our Lutheran World Relief Quilt Ministry is alive and well at Ebenezer. I was excited to have Sue Swinger, an experienced quilter with an artist's eye, join this labor of love. We're encouraged that some young people have tried their hand at quilting, too, and hope to bring them on board this year.

On Quilt Sunday in October, we draped the pews with a total of twenty completed quilts, an increase of eight over last year's total.

We would love to have others join us in making quilts. If using a sewing machine seems too scary, we could use help in tying the quilts or in cutting fabric.

Many thanks to all who have donated fabric and encouraged us in our work.

Small Group Ministry

Darlene Erickson

Four Small Groups functioned this past year each following a general common goal.

The following is a description of the Small Group values, purpose and covenant.

These groups are open to anyone who wants make a commitment to their spiritual development as part of a small community. Our groups meet twice a month and include five to eight people in each group. Small groups at Ebenezer are intended to create small communities within the congregation for mutual support, spiritual development, and the joy of Christian community. Participants make a commitment to attend sessions, confidentiality, listening, sharing, and praying for one another and others.

Our four groups have a total of 26 persons committed to this process of learning and caring for one another. The leaders this year are Bev Albert, Janet Lundblad, Don McCrary, Peter Eckart and Darlene Erickson. If you are interested, talk to one of these leaders or Pr. Michael.

Adult Faith Formation

Pastor Emily Heitzman

Mission Statement: The Adult Faith Formation Team seeks to form adults in the faith and provide a place where congregants can openly seek and discuss faith questions, experiences, and thoughts.

Participants: Pastor Emily, Jack Taral, Ralph Conrad, Ken Otto, Kris May, Darlene Erickson, Judy Bianchi, and Don McCreary.

In the spring of 2016, the Faith Formation team led a series on “happiness,” a series on key figures in the Bible, and several lectionary text studies.

In the fall of 2016, the Adult Faith Formation team was happy for the new Community Hour time, which now takes place after worship rather than prior to worship. This has opened up the possibility for more people to attend faith formation discussions (who could not make it to church before worship) and has enabled the team to coordinate better with other ministry teams that wish to lead discussions or host events during that time. At the request of Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the Faith Formation team is leading a series of discussions on Luther’s Small Catechism to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that takes place in 2017. Don McCreary led several of these discussions in the fall and will continue to lead them in the spring of 2017. The team also hopes to lead a series on prayer later this spring.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped plan, lead, and participate in the faith formation discussions this year!

Parish Nurse Ministry

Michelle Knapp, RN, FCN

Mission of the Ebenezer and Immanuel Parish Nurse Program: To encourage and promote the development of wellness and healing ministry within the congregation and to bring wellness concerns and needs to the attention of the church leadership and the congregation membership.

The functions of the Parish Nurse have been identified as: integrator of faith and health; health educator; personal health counselor; referral agent and liaison with congregation and community resources; facilitator of volunteers; developer of support groups; health advisor. Though the emphasis on each of these roles varies even from day to day, my practice as the parish nurse is focused on them. Some of my accomplishments 2016 include:

<u>AT EBENEZER</u>	<u>AT IMMANUEL</u>
<i>Total # of individual contacts: <u>573</u></i>	<i>Total # of individual contacts: <u>509</u></i>
<i>Total # of individual contacts at Blood Pressure Screenings: <u>48</u></i>	<i>Total # of individual contacts at Blood Pressure Screenings: <u>71</u></i>
<i>Total # of individual contacts attending educational programs: <u>170</u></i>	<i>Total # of individual contacts attending educational programs: <u>165</u></i>
<i>Total # of individual contacts attending support groups: <u>40</u></i>	<i>Total # of individual contacts attending support groups: <u>33</u></i>
<i>Meetings attended: <u>27</u></i>	<i>Meetings attended: <u>42</u></i>
<i>Worship attended: <u>22</u> times</i>	<i>Worship attended: <u>20</u> times</i>

Monthly Newsletter Articles written - offering Health Information

1/16 "Nutrition & Your Health – from the Model for Healthy Living"

2/16 "Nutrition & Your Health"

3/16 "Nutrition & Your Health"

4/16 NO NEWSLETTERS

5/16 NO NEWSLETTERS

6/16 "Center for Disease Control: Guide to safe & healthy traveling"

7/16 NO NEWSLETTERS

8/16 "Center for Disease Control: Summer Wellness Information"

9/16 "Information on the importance of getting a flu shot "

10/16 "Importance of getting a flu shot"

11/16 "Preparing for Winter"

12/16 NO NEWSLETTERS

Health Information provided - Advocate Health Care Bulletin Inserts

1/16 "Donating Blood" & "Winter sports and brain injuries"

2/16 "Importance of dental care for children" & "Importance of dental care for adults"

3/16 "Caregiving in America" & "Caring for caregivers within faith communities"

4/16 "Autism Spectrum" & "Caring for people on autism spectrum and their families"

5/16 "May is Mental Health Month" & "How faith communities can support people with anxiety"

6/16 "Facing cancer: Getting a 2nd opinion" & "how the congregation can help people with cancer"

7/16 "What happens to your body when you exercise" & "4 tips to get kids moving"

8/16 " Be prepared for extreme heat" & "Heat stroke/heat exhaustion"

9/16 "25.3 million Americans experience pain daily" & "Music helps manage pain"

10/16 "Bipolar disorders" & "Coping with mental illness in your family"

11/16 "Diabetes on the rise" & "Reduce the risk of diabetes"

!2/16 "Depression in older adults" & "Many people with depression do not seek help"

Some Highlights for the Year

1/16 Led devotions at monthly parish nurse meeting in Downers Grove

2/16 Attended Immanuel Day retreat on prayer

4/16 Attended the 30th Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium held in Skokie, IL.

I believe this is the 27th I've attended!

5/16 -25 people from the 2 churches & community participated in our annual

Wellness Screening, held this year at Ebenezer

6/16 Led Immanuel's Woman of Spirit Spring retreat – theme "Mindfulness"

7/16 Helped at churches' joint Vacation Bible School

9/16 Groups at both churches restarting after summer break

10/16 Invited to and attended Clergy Appreciation Breakfast at Wesley Place

11/16 Led Immanuel's Women of Spirit Fall retreat:

"The Heart's Journey Through the Season"

12/16 Lots of parties and well wishes for my retirement!

Youth and Household Ministries

Pastor Emily Heitzman

EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER Youth Group is a joint youth group among Unity, Ebenezer, and Immanuel Lutheran Churches in Edgewater. The mission of Youth Group is to provide a safe, fun, and caring environment for youth in middle and high school and to grow and build disciples of Jesus Christ.

Leaders: At the beginning of the year, regular Wednesday night youth group leaders included: Jonathan Dodrill (Pastor Emily's husband), Kira Fieldstrom (Ebenezer), Cassie Kipper (Ebenezer), Peter Aldrich (Immanuel), and Lupe Bonilla (college student/former youth). Leadership changed when Cassie and Kira both moved out of state in April and Jonathan began teaching a Wednesday night class in the fall. This fall, regular leaders (for Wednesdays and special events) included: Lupe Bonilla (college student/former youth), Luz Colin (college student/former youth), Molly Castillo-Keefe (Immanuel), and Aaron Copley (Ebenezer). Additional leaders who have helped with youth group events throughout the year: Norm Dynneson (Ebenezer) driver/chaperone for the summer mission/service trip to Dubuque, IA; Dave Goeltzer (Ebenezer) driver/chaperone for the winter retreat at Lutherdale; Paul Johnson (Ebenezer) chaperone for the bowling event; Tim Johnson (Ebenezer) driver for the corn maze; Gennene Johnson (Ebenezer), John Damer (Immanuel), Pastor Monte Johnson (Immanuel), Marcia Smith (Immanuel/Ebenezer), and Ann O. Hicks (Ebenezer) cooks for a few youth group dinners; Rickey Spivey (Ebenezer) occasional youth group leader.

During the school year, Youth Group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Community meal begins at 6:15pm, program is from 7-8:30pm, and free time/open gym lasts from 8:30-9:00pm. The program includes group games, a faith discussion, and worship with communion. This year, 12-23 youth have consistently attended Wednesday gatherings. While many of these youth are members of one of our congregations, several youth are part of the Ebenezer or Immanuel tutoring programs or come from the neighborhood and have no or little church affiliation.

In addition to Wednesday night gatherings, the Youth Group attends special events or service projects about once a month. Some of these included:

- Bowling event with Ebenezer tutoring; 50 attended (17 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth, 4 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER adults)

- ELCA Metro-Chicago Synod winter confirmation/high school weekend retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp; 15 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth, 3 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER adult leaders
- End of Year BBQ and senior send-off; 16 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth
- Talent Show with North Shore Baptist Church; 16 youth attended (9 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth)
- Game night & IA trip Recap w/ North Shore Baptist; 29 youth attended (15 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth)
- Annual Back-To-School Barbeque; 21 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth
- Corn maze with North Shore Baptist Church; 49 youth attended (27 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth)
- ELCA Metro-Chicago Synod Ultimate All-Night Lock-In at Enchanted Castle (Lombard, IL); 24 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth, 4 youth leaders

14 youth planned and led the annual **Ascension Day service** in May, where the youth group and confirmation class lead the entire service, serving as readers, crucifer, music leaders, communion assistants, ushers, preachers, and the assisting minister.

I also planned, coordinated, and led 32 youth (10 EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER youth, 10 Ebenezer tutoring, 12 North Shore Baptist youth), a **mission/service and learning trip to Dubuque, IA** Saturday, August 6-Thursday, August 11. This was the second trip to Dubuque (the first was in 2014) for youth in grades 6th-12th from our youth group and a few other Edgewater congregations that participate in the **Edgewater Youth Coalition**. The youth began the trip with team-building activities during a high/low ropes course experience. Throughout the week, the youth partnered with its host church, leading worship on Sunday and helping lead VBS during the week. They also learned about and practiced service at several organizations in and outside of town (Catholic Worker Farm, Dubuque Rescue Mission, and Swiss Valley Nature Center.) The theme for the trip this year was “living out your calling” based on Matthew 4:12-23. Each evening, the youth worshipped together and learned about what it means to be “called” by God: to follow Jesus in his way of life that is centered around loving God by loving our neighbors and being good

stewards of all God's creation. Additionally, they reflected on what they did during the day and shared how this might be living into their call with their small groups. Since the youth connected so well with one another on the trip, several of the Ebenezer tutoring youth have joined the youth group and come consistently to Wednesday night gatherings and/or special events. Since the trip was such a wonderful experience for the youth, leaders, and our Dubuque partners, I am currently planning **another trip to Dubuque, IA for August 5-August 10, 2017.**

In addition to running youth ministry activities, I provide **pastoral care for youth and their parents/guardians** and have **attended a few of the youth's games and performances.** I also worked very closely with the **three seniors**, who graduated from high school in May. I helped them apply to colleges and scholarships, assisted them with college/financial aid prep, and took them on college visits. I continue to meet regularly (1-2 times a month) with one college student (who lives in Chicago) and another student who just graduated from Lincoln Tech College. Additionally, I connect with the two out of town college students every once in a while over the phone, in person during their breaks, or over social media. This year, I am working closely with one high school senior on college and scholarship applications and have and will continue to take him on college visits this year. The students who graduated from high school last May and college this fall are:

Luz Colin, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU campus housing scholarship)

Boyosa Frezar, Bradley University (Bradley University scholarship)

Kaleb Miller, Valparaiso University (Lutheran Leader Scholarship and Intern Program)

Graduating College Student:

Lupe Bonilla, Lincoln Tech College

I co-lead **confirmation** with the lead pastors at the beginning of the school year and at the end of each 6-week rotation. This has enabled me to get to know some of the confirmation students and to start bridging the gap between Confirmation and Youth Group participants. For instance, our youth-led Ascension service this year was co-led by confirmation students and youth. They gathered during the last confirmation class together and practiced for the service. Furthermore, three confirmation students attended the winter retreat last Feb. and two will be attending the retreat this Feb.

This year, I coordinated **Vacation Bible School**, which was - for the first time - a collaborative effort between our congregations: Immanuel, Unity, and Ebenezer. This was a great opportunity for me to get to know the children in all three congregations (as well as in the neighborhood) and for the children from the three churches and neighborhood to get to know each other better before reaching youth group age. 15 children participated in the program this year. We hope the numbers grow as we begin to plan earlier this year.

This year I continued to co-lead a **God on Tap** group that meets with Presbyterians and other friends once a month at a local pub to talk about God and theology. God Talk on Tap will continue to meet this year on the second Sunday of the month at Lady Gregory's from 6:30-8pm.

Finally, I have been thinking of new ways to develop some **intergenerational worship/gathering opportunities**, as I believe it is very important for people of all ages to get to know and support one another and worship/gather together. Last Holy Week, we opened up our annual interactive stations of the cross to the rest of our congregation members. This was such a success, so I decided to do the same thing this year during Holy Week, as well as during our Advent prayer stations event during youth group. We also have and will continue to have an intergenerational dinner before each of the events. Additionally, I am hoping to start an **EDGEWATER CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER Partners Ministry** this year, where interested youth and college students from the youth group and congregations can be partners with interested adults from the congregations. Partners will be paired and will commit to praying for one another regularly, sending each other encouraging notes and/or care packages, and possibly attending events together.

I would like to thank all of our youth group volunteers and Sunday School teachers for your continuous cooperation and commitment to investing in our children and youth! Your investment in our children and youth is so important! It's a joy to work with each of you!

Endowment and Memorial Committee

Patrick Donnelly and Dennis Sall

The total value of the Endowment/Memorial Accounts as 12/31/17 is \$599,709.

During January, a transfer was made from the Endowment Accounts (Music Endo - \$5000 and Health Ministry- \$250) to help support the operating budget. Settlement of the M.Shaw CD bequest was distributed \$10,000 to ELCA benevolence and \$3,907.48 reinvested into the Enrichment Accounts.

During February, an Enrichment transfer of \$10,000 was made to support the Operating Budget. The Endowment Committee agreed to a request from Ebenezer to refinance the "Boiler Loan", which has been increased to cover radiator system repairs. The balance of the original boiler loan, as of February is \$10,401.45. The loan is scheduled to be paid off in 19 months. We agreed to increase the boiler loan by \$6400 to pay for the radiator repairs. The increased "boiler loan" is \$15,079.33, with new monthly payments of \$800.00. The new monthly payments (\$800.00) will begin in February, 2016. The new boiler loan termination date is September 30, 2017.

During March, an Enrichment transfer of \$10,000 was made to support the Operating Budget. Total Enrichment transfers for the year - \$20,000. I was not able to deposit the March Boiler Loan payment (\$800) until April, so it is not reflected in the report. A lost grant check was reissued (\$750) to Ravenswood Community Services.

During April, no Enrichment transfer was needed.

During May, a 2016 approved grant for renovations to the Education Area kitchenette was paid out in the amount of \$6,000. No Enrichment transfers were made. As I was out of town, endowment deposits of \$1200, including a Boiler Loan repayment, were deferred until June.

During June, an Enrichment transfer of \$10,000 was made to support the Operating Budget. Total Enrichment transfers for the year - \$30,000. The final payment for Education Area Kitchenette renovations was issued \$1,992.

During July/August, an Enrichment Transfer of \$10,000 was made to support the Operating Budget. Total Enrichment transfers for the year - \$40,000.

During September, an Enrichment Transfer of \$5,000 was made to support Operating Budget. Total Enrichment transfers YTD - \$45,000. Endowment liquidated \$30,100 of Endowment Principal to fund Enrichment Account..

I have been away from Chicago since November 1st. I did not issue an October Statement. I have not been home to deposit any Endowment donation checks or boiler loan payments. During November, an enrichment transfer of \$10,000 was made to support the Operating Budget. Total Enrichment transfers YTD - \$55,000. A previously approved grant was processed, issuing a check for Worship Leaders robes - \$1330.

During December, an Enrichment transfer of \$5,000 was made to support the Operating Budget. Total Enrichment transfers YTD - \$60,000. Two Boiler Loan payments were processed leaving the Boiler Loan balance at year-end at \$7,079.33. The Boiler Loan will be paid off in September, 2017. We received a common stock donation during the month – 6 shares of 3M Company, with a value of \$1,071.89. The stock will be sold and a check for the proceeds transferred to the churches General Fund.

Endowment Account Values

	<u>9/30/13</u>	<u>12/31/14</u>	<u>12/31/15</u>	<u>12/31/16</u>
Endowment Account	\$559,721	\$578,968	\$497,132	\$498,665
Enrichment Account	\$ 27,280	\$ 32,659	\$ 65,717	\$ 34,746
Endowment CD's held	\$ 11,731	\$ 11,731	\$ 11,731	-
Music Endowment Acct.	\$ 50,645	\$ 63,485	\$ 54,297	\$ 52,557
Parish Nurse Health Acct.	\$ 6,788	\$ 7,005	\$ 6,912	\$ 6,662
Boiler Loan	<u>\$ 27,491</u>	<u>\$ 19,521</u>	<u>\$ 11,096</u>	<u>\$ 7,079</u>
Totals	\$683,565	\$713,369	\$646,885	\$599,709
Plus 3M stock donation				\$ 1,071

The Enrichment Account as of 12/31/16 is made up of the following accounts:

Scholarship Fund -	\$ 7,177	- Excludes donations to Frank Hoffman
ELCA – MIF	\$13,188	
Archives -	\$ 2,569	
Cash -	<u>\$11,812</u>	
Total	\$34,746	

Justice Team

Ann H. Hicks

Ebenezer's Justice Team focus for the 2015-16 was racism. We began 2016 with a program to heighten our awareness of structural racism with a training provided by a local justice partner, OneNorthside. We had a well-attended congregational book discussion on **The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander. We participated in a local protest march against police brutality. Seasonal congregational confessions focusing on racism continued from Epiphany through Pentecost. Special prayers were added from time to time centering on concern for racism and its effects on our society. Responding to the desire of people concerned with this topic, several discussions were held with Ebenezer's own minority members on their daily experiences as minority people. We held two general forums on racism.

We did an evaluation of the effect all of this had on the Ebenezer community. Most people felt that they had gained some new insights over the course of the year and wanted to continue the journey into increased awareness for the 2016-17 program year. We started this year with another book discussion of **Waking Up White** by Debbie Irving which centers on understanding White Privilege. We are looking forward to working with the synod's Anti-Racism Team in 2017.

The team thanks the congregation for their courage in looking racism in the face and wanting to address how we participate in racism's effects on the lives of all of us.

Mental Health Group

Ashley Frigerio

The Mental Health Sub-committee continued its efforts to educate those attending Ebenezer, with the hopes of eradicating stigma against those with Mental Health Conditions. We did this in several ways.

We started a Legislative group, who are fed links to encourage those in political power to stand up for those with Mental Illness.

At our request, Pastor Michael added, prayers, links, and inserts to worship and other media venues. This included a link to a speech by Bishop Eaton on Suicide.

Reference cards, with green ribbons and pins, were given to all at the morning service. Everyone wore their ribbon throughout the service. It was very moving to see.

We began a program designed by a local Presbyterian Pastor to create a safe place for the spiritual needs of individuals with mental health conditions, their families and friends. **Faith Hope & Recovery (FHR)** uses the spiritual practices of mindfulness, journaling, reflection, scripture, wisdom literature, and blessings. Through the **FHR** group process, participants come together to experience hope, which can grow into faith, as they accompany one another on their paths towards wholeness

A presentation on Mental Illness and the New Testament was presented over two Sundays. Those in attendance were very interested in the subject matter and its presentation.

Tutoring Program

Norm Dynneson

We are grateful to the following people who tutored or otherwise supported the program this past year:

Tutors

Emily Allen

Cheryl Bombay

Paul Cheresh

Ann Clements

Aaron Colpey-Spivey

Jay Dillon

Norm Dynneson - facilitator

Georgian Hadley

Grace Huffman-Gottschling

Jim Eisenbart

Zoe Grubbe

Yesenia Guererra

Claire Maby

Gianna Marshal

Ellie Marquis

Libby Pokel-Hung

Lindsay Kislaitis

Jim Rottman

Karin Scoott

Chris and Joyce Sweet

Meal Providers

Carolyn Bertagnoli

Kristen Huffman-Gottschling

Barb Tokar

Jess Daniels – Pat Donnelly

Teri Langston

Pastor Michael and Charlie P

Pam and Dennis Sall

Anne K-Igoe

Dave and Jackie Wood

Sandra Navas

Anne Goeltzer - coordinator

Megan Lott

Vereen Nordstrom

Jim Bedinger

Peter Toth

Cory Lu

Frehiwet Negassi

And many valuable substitutes

Purpose:

The tutoring program promotes learning by supporting neighborhood children with homework assistance, tutoring, development of computer skills and reading/writing activities. The program seeks to expose children to learning and cultural experiences outside the immediate community and traditional learning settings. Through these activities tutors develop a mentoring role with students and their families.

Accomplishments:

Ebenezer's tutoring program met weekly from September to June with forty-four students from 18 area schools. Tutors worked with students on homework, enrichment activities and reinforcement of skills. During the year, church members provided suppers for the students and some of the tutors. Close and supportive relationships developed between students, tutors and the families of the students. Increased internet access has enabled students to easier complete homework and research for projects. School supplies were donated by students and staff from Emerson Middle School in Niles. Communication has improved between students' CPS teachers and tutors and most students have shown real progress on their report cards this year. Tutors have attended school open houses, staffings, IEP meetings and students' sporting events. Crafty Lutherans and some tutoring students completed the renovation of the Community House balcony. Five current or former students received help from the Frank Hoffman Scholarship Fund in the amount of almost \$3500. A weekly 30-minute lesson is taught to the teens in the program covering issues of adolescence and life events. A highlight of the year was the final Thursday in May when students' parents prepared an ethnic feast for the tutoring family. This two-hour event was a real celebration of the bonds we have developed with our neighbors and friends.

Georgian Hadley, Karin Scott, Peter Toth and Jay Dillon provided valuable leadership for the program.

Goals for the upcoming year:

1. Continuing the enthusiasm and strength of the program
2. Continue constant tutor/child pairs or small groups to enhance relationships and improve the quality of tutoring.
3. Explore resources for a group reward for the children's work, i.e. an outing or baseball or soccer game tickets, etc.
4. Continue to meet the needs of the individual children and help families find outside support when needed
5. Continue to develop partnerships with resources and businesses in the area.
6. Foster a mentoring relationship with students and be aware of needs of the families who send their children to tutoring each week.
7. Continue to explore resources to support the Frank Hoffman Scholarship Fund
8. Provide systematic support for student transitions from 8th to 9th grade and from high school to post-secondary plans. Purchase Chrome Books for students to use during tutoring.

Spirituality Retreat

Darlene Erickson

The best description of our retreat in February, 2016 was written by Jody Kretzmann. I will use his good words as a basis for describing the retreat experience.

"Nearly 45 Ebenezer members and friends gathered at our annual Spirituality Techny Retreat, a time to connect with each other and celebrate our faith. Dr. Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, led us in an exploration of creative readings in the New Testament, particularly Gospel of John. Barbara used humor and discussion to encourage us to reconsider our insights. Relaxed and thoughtful, the retreat once again provided the Ebenezer community with a powerful opportunity to connect with each other and celebrate our community." Thanks, Jody, for these words. Yes, we sang, laughed, talked and got to know our Ebenezer friends. Using the theme "Abundant Life, Enhancing Life", we explored God's abundance in a world of technology.

Watch for the publicity for the 2017 Retreat, February 3 starting at 7 PM through February 4, ending at 4 PM. Our leader will be Anthony Bateza from St. Olaf College, talking about "Love and Friendship - Beyond Nice".

Children's Education and Sunday School

Kris May

Chris Korn, Karen Miley (Sunday morning Coordinators); Kris May (Supplies and Staffing)

Mission Statement : The goal of children's education at Ebenezer is to help kids explore what the love of God looks like, sounds like, and feels like.

Leaders: Chris Korn, Karen Miley, Kris May

Who else is involved:

Students: Kaline Adams, Waverly Adams, Hannah Clemenz, Arlyn Cooper, Gunnar Franklin, Elin Ganschow, Hudson Ganschow, Brody Ganschow, Nia Gore-Vandervort, Jon Igoe, Alexander Korn, Benjamin Korn, Cassidy Miley, Drew Miley, Wade Miley, Clara Mueller, Georgia Fournier, Dane Fournier, Sophia Petrof, Anna Petrof, Noah Smith, Frances Urban, Isis Urban, and Annika (Joyce Sweet's granddaughter).

Adults: Tina-Marie Adams, Clair Anderson, Laura Bowers-Hadley, Haley Hansen, Kristin Clemenz, Darlene Erickson, Stephanie Frank, Kirsten Ganschow, Karen Hammer, Mark Hicks, Shannon Huneryager, Gennene Johnson, Francois Jolie, Pam Sall, Karin Scott, Joyce Sweet and daughter, Becky Szajna, Dion Walton.

In 2016, this ministry contributed to Ebenezer's mission in the following ways:

We welcomed all kids from PreK/age 4 through Grade 6/age 12. We provided weekly instruction about how God's Word shows us the power of God's love. Also, kids learn how God works within a community to show love and forgiveness. After some discussion, we decided to use the Spark curriculum with the Upper Elementary group as well as the Middle and Lower groups. This is a Lectionary-based curriculum that both challenges our kids and connects their instruction with the main worship service.

In 2017 this Ministry will seek to:

- Involve kids from preschool to grade 6 in creative, student-centered Bible lessons that attempt to support as many different learning styles as students have.
- Maintain and increase student enrollment/attendance in our 3 classes. We average 10-18 students per week.
- Actively recruit both parents and non-parents in teaching roles. Our mini-session scheduling model allows volunteers to teach for short stints of 4-6 weeks.
- Maintain and improve our physical space, acknowledging the challenges of sharing space with a diverse group of tenants.

Worship Leadership

Bev Albert

Mission Statement

LITURGY is "the work of the people." Worship on the weekend prepares us for our "liturgy" during the week in job, home, and all interactions with others. Good worship draws on the gifts of all the assembled people, and worship leaders help equip the people to go out and do "liturgy."

Primary Leader (with assistance from Ann O Hicks)

Bev Albert

2016 Leaders

Albert	Bev	Johnson	Gennene
Aldridge	Wes	Johnson	Joe
Anderson	Clair	Johnson	Tim
Benson	John	Knapp	Michelle
Bertagnoli	Carolyn	Korn	Chris
Clemenz	Sean	May	Kris
Clemenz	Kate	McClimen	Kerri
Clemenz	Kristen	McDonald	Ada
Comella	Chris	Minor	John
Conrad	Ralph	Neff	Mike
Cox	Jennifer	Otte	Joanne
Daniels	Jessica	Rodin	Kristin
Eckart	Peter	Sievenpiper	Tali
Erickson	Darlene	Smith	Jim
Frigerio	Ashley	Sohl	Chad
Goeltzer	Anne	Stuckey	Rick
Goeltzer	Luke	Sweet	Chris
Hammer	Karen	Taral	Jack
Harrison	Denise	Thierry	Ben
Hedin	Carol	Thulin	Kendra
Hicks	Ann H.	Tolzmann	Nathan
Hicks	Ann O.	Walton	Dion
Hicks	Mark	Wisner	Brian
Huneryager	Shannon	Wisner	Elise

Roles

Assisting Minister	Bread Baker
Cantor	Communion
Crucifer/Acolyte	Preparer
Lector	Anointing Minister
Communion	Brass Polisher
Assistant	Linens/Worship Albs

In 2016, this ministry contributed to Ebenezer's mission in the following ways

- Continuing
 - Worship leaders prepare and lead worship liturgies to share word and sacrament to members and the community.
- New
 - Ordered new worship albs through Endowment grant.
 - Recruited new leaders

In 2017 this Ministry will seek to:

- Provide a worship leaders training event for current and prospective leaders.
- Continue to recruit leaders.

Capital Campaign

Jessica Daniels

Name of the Ministry: Caring for the Home Where All Find Caring Capital Campaign

Mission Statement (if applicable): fundraising to reach our financial project goals; build awareness among the Ebenezer congregation for the many ministries which rely on our commitment to have a warm, dry, safe, accessible building and spaces throughout it.

Goal: To raise the funds needed to complete major capital projects in and around the Ebenezer campus in order to ensure a safe, sturdy future for our ministry home base.

Primary Leader(s): Jessica Daniels

Who's involved: Mike Neff, Patrick Donnelly, Jen Debner

In 2016, this ministry contributed to Ebenezer's mission in the following ways:

As a three-year campaign to raise funds for immediate use on necessary repair and improvements around the Ebenezer church campus, we celebrate that in summer 2016 the first major project for this campaign - tuckpointing the bricks and steps all around the three buildings of the Ebenezer campus - was completed! This project ensures that the entrances are safe and the buildings are efficiently dry, warm and leak-resistant through the wet, cold, stormy months.

In 2016, this ministry imagined new ways to serve or carry out its ministry:

In consideration of the remainder of the amount pledged and possible projects, the Congregational Council approved the formation of a working group including Jessica Daniels, Jen Debner (Council), Patrick Donnelly (facilities), John Elmquist (stewardship), Mike Neff (treasurer), Dennis Sall (endowment), Dave Wood (finance). The group returned to the Council in September with proposals for use of the expected funds.

This campaign will be part of the ongoing conversation about ministry, stewardship, generosity and finance. The complement of volunteers (see names above) and collaboration with staff will help to make that possible. This campaign has consistently emphasized the importance of "place" for ministry.

In 2017 this Ministry will seek to:

- Confirm with the Council and Facilities committee how the remainder of the funds will be used and communicate with the congregation when work begins on the next project.
- Continue to be a part of the effort from the congregational council, finance and stewardship committees to change perspectives about money and ministry.