

2015 Annual Review



150 years

*Remembering
our history.*

*Renewing
our purpose.*



St. Paul's

Evangelical Lutheran Church
761 King Street Rye Brook, NY

From Pastor Jim

There's a long list of cool things that happened at St. Paul's this season and in many ways our candlelight singing of "Silent Night" is the annual highpoint. I think for me this year's highpoint will likely be the Sunday we went caroling. We've had so much fun with our young people: making a wreath of prayer cards with colorful paper and candles and sand. We had so much fun when they played music, dressed up and read the story of the Birth of Jesus at the outdoor Live Nativity and then at the pageant with kids in costumes as sheep and angels. Our young confirmands even made decorating and cleaning the church fun. As beautiful as Christmas Eve always is, getting there was where we had most of the fun. I think my highlight of all this will be the Sunday when members from ten years old to 89 years old piled into cars and vans to visit our home-bound members and sing carols and share the true spirit of love and community and care.

2015 was not always fun but this is the year we started working together to celebrate our 150th Anniversary in 2016. It's also the year we made a map of the diversity of our membership showing



first generation immigrants from every continent. It's the year we organized ourselves to make a photo directory to help us draw even more closely into community. It's the year we celebrated a trailblazing woman, Rev. Hyacinth on the eve of her 90th year. We are blessed with many, many volunteers; there is a spirit of cooperation and a joyful participation in the ministry which we feel we have been given to care for.

We also succeeded in working to create an interfaith celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King and worked with clergy and law enforcement locally and nationally on gun violence. We gathered with local clergy and civic leaders to mourn the shooting in Charleston and we came together to share our diverse experiences around racism with members of the larger community.

Whatever the year ahead and the decades ahead may bring we know that we have strengthened our fellowship to face it together.

Council President's Report 2015

Once again, St. Paul's had a very successful year both in terms of meeting our own financial obligations and goals as well as fulfilling the needs of the community. Indeed, it is no easy task to accomplish all that we do throughout the year. Just think of all those activities and events put on by the church and all the worthy causes and community programs that St. Paul's supports. But through all our hard work, we succeeded and fulfilled those goals.



As president of the council, I had the opportunity to see firsthand the effort that goes into the planning of each

activity or event whether it be a small pot-luck lunch after Sunday Service or a major fundraising event such as the Valentine's Dinner & Auction or Fall Fling. And all of these wonderful and successful events could not have taken place without the valuable time and expertise given so freely by so many volunteers at St. Paul's. But not only do you give your time and expertise, each and every one of you support St. Paul's with your generous contributions, all of which keep the church going from one day to the next. So, I congratulate all of you and thank you for all

your help in making St. Paul's as successful as it is in carrying out its mission.

In addition, I would like to especially thank the following for their wholehearted dedication, commitment and invaluable service to St. Paul's - - Laura Chen-Schulz, Barbara Tormondsen and Gary Sullivan. Time after time, each of them has stepped up to the plate to take on the difficult jobs (too numerous to list here) and bear the responsibility that goes with them. Without question, they make my job as president that much easier.

Finally, I would be remiss in not thanking our beloved Pastor Jim for all the extraordinary work and devotion he brings to St. Paul's. Without his leadership and passion and the strength he gives each of us, none of what we accomplish at St. Paul's would even be possible.

And so, we all look forward with great excitement to another successful year. Yes, we still have much to do and we will certainly face new challenges along the way but together, I'm certain, we can do it. And though there may be lots of hard work ahead, we also have much to celebrate . . . for 2016 is St. Paul's 150th Anniversary. To this purpose, our 150th Anniversary Committee is meticulously planning a number of events to take place during the year to celebrate and commemorate this milestone. Thanks to our 150th Anniversary Committee.

Sincerely,
Don Weber
Council President

Child Care Center Annual Report 2015

I am delighted to report that 2015 was an incredible year. Three of our four classrooms are full and our numbers are climbing as we enter 2016. It was very exciting to have Miss Gwen come on board as the full-time Assistant Director as of September. We were also able to promote some of our staff from Assistant Teacher positions to Head Teacher positions this fall.

Our two major fundraisers, The Dinner and Auction and Fall Fling, were both quite profitable in 2015. With our revenues from Fall Fling we were able to repair our walkways. The profits from the auction were able to pay for new computers, gross motor supplies for our outdoor space and for the multi-purpose room, a new shed for our bikes, a new grill to use at our events and 60 new folding chairs with carts for the Luther Room.

Our financials for 2015 were the best ever. We are able to give staff raises for 2016 and offer yearend bonuses to the staff.

Blessings,

Suzanne Newcomb
Child Care Director



150th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday April 24, 2016 Ecumenical Hunger Walk

Sunday June 5, 2016

Strawberry Festival with Rev. Bill Beljean

Sunday July 10, 2016

Cornerstone Anniversary & BBQ with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Sunday October 30, 2016

Festival Eucharist Gala Brunch

2015 Altar Guild Annual Report

The Altar Guild is entrusted with the privilege of preparing the chancel for worship. The ministry of worship is an important one, and meaningful worship does not simply happen. It requires reverent and thorough preparation by all who are involved in it. We are fortunate here at St. Paul's to have a truly dedicated group of women to carry out this mission. The responsibilities of the Altar Guild include seeing that the paraments are correct; preparing the altar for communion; cleaning up after communion; arranging the flowers on the altar and delivering them to the sick and shut-in; preparing for baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as decorating the sanctuary for Easter and Christmas. In addition to these responsibilities, the Altar Guild purchases the church flowers and altar supplies with donations received from the Altar Guild members and other congregants.

The members of the altar guild are: Barbara Tormondsen (President), Anita Charleswell, Margrit Fakundiny, Patty Gawle, Barbara Giorgi, Lillian Johnson, Kay Lawless, Elaine Makowski, Heather Paul, Helga Steinhuebel, and Pat Williams. Our small membership continues to be a major concern, especially the lack of younger congregants who could assume leadership roles in later years. As president of the Altar Guild, I continue to find the slow grow in new members a pressing issue for the future of this committee.

Financially, The Altar Guild is sound. (Please see annual report below.) The cost of flowers continues to be our biggest expense with our Sunday bouquet costing \$48.00 per week. This year our income exceeded our expenses by \$248.80. We thank all of you who gave to the Altar Guild through memorial donations, Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias, and we ask those of you who may not be giving to the Altar Guild to consider a small donation in 2016.

In closing, the Altar Guild is truly appreciative of all the support we have received this year from the congregation, and we encourage more of you to become part of the Altar Guild. Serving our Lord in this capacity is a truly rewarding experience.

Altar Guild Financial Report Fiscal Year ending 12/31/2015

by

Balance of December 31, 2014		3836.56
2015 Income:		4301.35
Flower Donations	3993.00	
Other Inc (Dues,etc.)	308.00	
Bank interest	.35	
2015 Expenses:		4052.52
Flowers	3275.87	
Supplies	776.65	
Ending Balance (12/31/2015)		4085.39

Prayerfully submitted,
Barbara Tormondsen

Annual Report of the Financial Secretary

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
PLEDGES									
Number of Pledges	32	31	34	36	40	38	29	31	33
Amount Pledged	\$ 123,202	\$ 117,014	\$ 125,899	\$ 116,084	\$ 122,273	\$ 107,745	\$ 99,130	\$ 78,480	\$ 101,180
Average Pledge (Annual)	\$3,850	\$3,775	\$3,703	\$3,225	\$3,057	\$2,835	\$3,418	\$2,532	\$3,066
REGULAR OFFERINGS									
Pledged	\$119,782	\$135,300	\$120,790	\$120,171	\$116,254	\$101,073	\$77,338	\$91,798	
Offerings vs. Pledge	102%	107%	104%	98%	108%	102%	99%	91%	
Unpledged	45,905	26,539	29,740	30,467	28,743	34,616	49,185	55,203	
Sub-Total: Pledge & Unpledge	\$165,687	\$161,839	\$150,530	\$150,630	\$150,638	\$144,997	\$135,689	\$126,523	\$147,001
Loose Offerings	4,058	3,944	5,162	5,162	3,055	4,897	4,598	2,074	3,708
Total Regular Offerings	\$169,745	\$165,783	\$155,692	\$155,692	\$153,693	\$149,894	\$140,287	\$128,597	\$150,709
SPECIAL OFFERINGS									
Lenten Season	1,577	1,400	1,716	1,827	1,245	1,460	1,022	1,194	879
Easter	1,640	1,545	1,827	1,827	1,885	1,485	1,397	2,163	1,616
Christmas	3,347	3,866	6,325	6,325	4,178	3,174	2,695	2,867	1,821
Other (Bapt. Wedd. Funeral)	1,075	85	180	180	130	160	135	116	151
Total Special Offerings	\$7,639	\$6,896	\$10,048	\$10,048	\$7,438	\$6,279	\$5,249	\$6,340	\$4,467
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$177,384	\$172,679	\$165,740	\$165,740	\$161,131	\$156,173	\$145,536	\$134,937	\$155,176
DESIGNATED OFFERINGS									
Improvement Fund	11,741	8,579	10,086	12,914	10,870	13,091	10,996	17,342	
Memorial Fund	645	2,075	3,060	2,055	13,493	2,145	5,298	5,905	
Lutheran Social Services	83	65	131	68	313	220	275	331	
Other	-	100	-	100	232	850	45	-	
Total Designated Offerings	\$12,469	\$10,819	\$13,277	\$15,137	\$24,908	\$16,306	\$16,614	\$23,578	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME									
Facilities, Farm Mkt, AA (not CCC)	\$ 5,220	\$ 5,300	\$ 4,325	\$ 7,849	\$ 4,943	\$ 3,693			

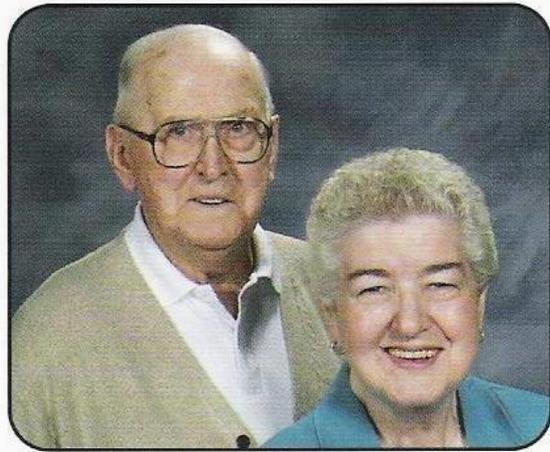
Robert P. Trenck
Financial Secretary



We said goodbye to Ginny French, Ronda Mutz, Hans Moeller and George and Ann Lutzel and Nick Alfano.



MUTZ, Ronda & Donald



George & Ann Lutzel





Junior camp counselors

Dads in the kitchen



Detroit Youth Trip Reunion

Some of the local New York youths who gathered with 30,000 people in Detroit in July for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering got together at St. Paul's for a reunion of some of the new friends we made.



Bishop Elizabeth Eaton traveled to meet with Syrian Refugees.
Learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our
national church.
www.ELCA.org