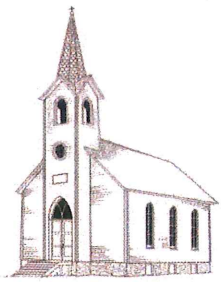
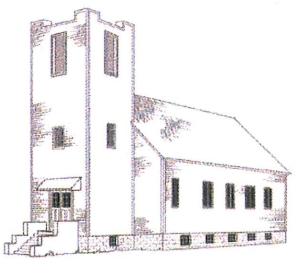
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

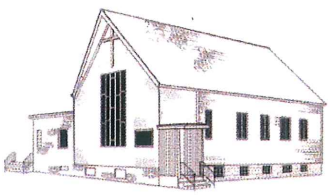
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

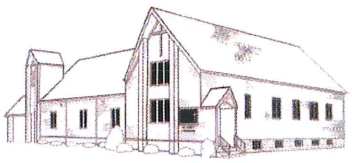
Burt, Iowa

2017 Annual Report









STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS

On this my first *State of the Church* address I am pleased to report that St. John's Lutheran Church had a perfect year last year. My assessment is not overstated. It is not misleading. St. John's is currently perfect. Let me explain. On Fifty-two Sundays and at various other times last year God's Word was read, preached, and taught at St. John's. Likewise sins were forgiven by Absolution, Christ's Body and Blood was eaten and drunk often, prayers were prayed, praises were sung, several were commended to the nearer presence of God, Christians were encouraged toward the love of God and neighbor, and all were strengthened to live holy lives as Baptized children of God.

St. John's is perfect, then, because she was made perfect by Christ. As Hebrews 14:3 says: "By a single offering [Christ] has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." You are the sanctified ones who, though sinful and broken as you are, have been forgiven, cleansed, renewed, yes even perfected by the shed blood of Christ. This is St. John's as a whole, who continues to live and grow up into Christ by the blood of Christ. As long as St. John's continues to live and work and measure our growth and success by the blood of Christ we will always be perfect.

St. John's is perfect, and yet we still have a lot of work to do next year. Our members need to be admonished and encouraged to share in Christ's perfection by receiving his gifts regularly. It to this end that this year we will begin to work toward our congregational goal of having every member receive God's gifts at least once every month. We all need grow in fear, love, and trust in our Lord by learning from His Word. To this end we will continue to enrich our already outstanding Sunday School and Religion School programs and to explore opportunities for people of all ages to learn from God's Word. We will also look this next year to live out our perfected lives by finding new and meaningful ways to love each other and to love our neighbor near and far through social events, mercy projects, and evangelism efforts. In all these projects we will continue to develop and utilize the benefits of our partnership with Trinity Lutheran church, recognizing that we are all the one body of Christ and are all running the same race looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

We don't know what sort of growth or loss, blessing or challenge, joy or grief St. John's will experience in 2018. But we do know that the Word and Sacraments of God will continue to be proclaimed and delivered. We know that these gifts will continue to forgive, renew, transform, strengthen, and energize all who receive them. We know that in Christ and by his gifts St. John's Lutheran Church will have another perfect year.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Thomas Cowell

Pastor Thomas Cowell
Anno Domini 2017

P.S. Hannah, Penelope, and I are deeply thankful for your overwhelming love and support throughout our move, ordination, and first Christmas here at St. John's. You are our church family in every respect.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pastor: Rev. Thomas J Cowell

- Pastor Office: 515-924-3388
- Email: pastor@stjohnsburt.org
- Cell phone: 319-464-5548

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Office Manager/Secretary: Rosann Shipler

- Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Church Office: 515-924-3344
- Church e-mail: churchoffice@stjohnsburt.org
- Church web page: www.stjohnsburt.org

Newsletter Coordinator	Linda Kerkove
Newsletter Printer and Assembler	Ann Heyes
Organist	Marcia Hanna
Assistant Organist	Kitty Bierstedt
Head Usher	Roger Lavrenz
Communications	Duane Peter, Lynn Bierstedt, Tony Hatten, & Vern Koestler
Janitors	Carol Cherland, Lone Rock
Assistant Janitors	Trustees: Randy Reimers, Steve Madsen, Mike Marlow & Joel Smith

- Contact the church office for rental of church basement:

Members	$10.00
Non-members	$20.00

Church Announcements Online

If you wish to receive the announcements each week by email, go to our web page www.stjohnsburt.org and click on contact us. Continue to the bottom of page and Click on receive email online and send the email to stjohnsburtnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

You can also read announcements on website under more... publications each week.

Worship by Phone

Did you know that St. John's provides a way for our shut-ins to worship with the congregation on Sunday morning? By dialing an unlisted number, home phones are connected to the church's PA system and the service can be heard via phone. Although this service was started for the shut-ins, it is also available to members who are home due to illness or inclement weather. If you think you might want to use this service, pick up a Worship-by-Phone card to place near your phone from the church office. There are 6 lines available but to be sure shut-ins that you won't get a busy signal, please wait until a few minutes after the starting time of the service before dialing the number.

Hearing Devices

Personal hearing assistance devices are available for anyone who has difficulty hearing the service. If you would like to use one of the four available receivers during the service, please ask an usher.

Lutheran Family Services
409 Kenyon Road Suite C
Fort Dodge, IA 50501.
515-573-3138 or 800-622-7285

Iowa District West Office
409 Kenyon Rd. Suite B
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515-576-7666

Camp Okoboji
Doug Kading
1531 Edgewood Drive
Milford, IA 51351-6001
712-337-3325

Good Samaritan Home
412 W Kennedy, Algona, IA
515-295-2414

Van Buren Terrance
520 S. Blackford, Algona, IA
515-295-4131

Huskamp Haven Assistant Living
330 W Riverview Dr., Algona, IA
515-295-3300

Trinity Lutheran Church – Rev. Tom Schlund and Rev. Eric Hauan
520 N Garfield, Algona, Iowa
1-515-295-3518
www.trinityalgona.org

Our Missionary Family
Pastor James May and Family
Togo Africa

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP

Funerals

Marjorie May Lavrenz
March 13, 1922-August 21, 2017
Service: August 26, 2017
Interment: Burt Township Cemetery
Officiant: Rev. Mark Lavrenz

Douglas Edward Reimers
December 16, 1956-December 18, 2017
Service: December 27, 2017
Inurnment: Burt Township – Later Time

Transfer Out

Ellen Hutchinson
Children: Hayden-B; Jackson-B
Addy-B & Emma-B
To St. John's Lutheran Church
Fenton, Iowa - July 5, 2017

Transfer In

Richard and Laura Knoll
From St. John's Lutheran
Fenton, Iowa
December 31, 2017

Affirmation of Faith

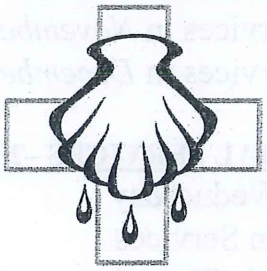
Caley Marlow
from First Lutheran Church
Algona, Iowa - November 8, 2017

Peaceful Release

Caley Marlow
to First Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Algona, Iowa – March 7, 2017

Clay Evans
To First Presbyterian Church
Paulliana, Iowa – March 28-2017

Paul and Roberta Jahnke
Children: Alexander-B; Alana-B
to Ramsey Reform Church
Titonka, Iowa – November 7, 2017



MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE

2016		2017	
247	Communicants	244	Communicants
53	Baptized Children	47	Baptized Children
300	Total Membership	291	Total Membership

SERVICE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IN 2017

Average attendance at Sunday Services	62	
Average attendance at Lenten Services	28	
Average attendance at Advent Services	40	(Advent I – Decorating)
Average attendance at Adult Bible Study	14	(Sept.-Dec. only)
Average attendance at Sunday School	7	

CHURCH ATTENDANCE AT REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

5	services in *January*	41-66-65-57-55
4	services in *February*	73-52-57-61
4	services in *March*	66-55-56-65
5	services in *April*	52-63-76-50-66
5	services in *May*	47-71-60-75
4	services in *June*	65-60-56-88
5	services in *July*	76-67-78-53-53
4	services in *August*	52-59-51-72
4	services in *September*	54-64-62-74
5	services in *October*	76-85-83-73-53
4	services in *November*	65-68-73-68
4	services in *December*	67-73-57-88-33

SPECIAL SERVICES –2017

Ash Wednesday	35
Lenten Services	31-25-30-31-23
Maundy Thursday	45
Good Friday	33
Thanksgiving Eve	54
Christmas Eve	126
Christmas Day	38
Pastor Cowell Ordination	200

SCHEDULED CHURCH SERVICES – 2018

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

Schedule: (Year round)

Service	9:00	am
Adult Bible Study	8:00	am
Sunday School	8:00	am

HOLY COMMUNION

On the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month

LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Ash Wednesday (Communion) – February 14, 2018	6:30	pm
Lenten Services – Wednesday, February 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 2018	6:30	pm
Palm Sunday – March 25, 2018	9:00	am
Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service (Communion) – March 29, 2018	6:30	am
Good Friday Service – March 30, 2018	6:30	am

EASTER – THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Easter Resurrection Service - April 1, 2018	8:00	am
LYF Breakfast	9:00	am

SPECIAL SERVICE

Graduation Sunday – May 20, 2018	9:00	am
LWML Sunday – October 7, 2018	9:00	am
Thanksgiving Day Service (Communion) – November 22, 2018	9:00	am
Confirmation Service – April 29, 2018	9:00	am

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Children's Program – December 24, 2018	4:30	pm
Christmas Day Service (Communion) - December 25, 2018	9:00	am

EDUCATION SUNDAY – September 9, 2018	9:00	am
RELIGION SCHOOL - Grades 3-8th - September 12, 2018		
Wednesdays – Dismiss: May – Resume: September	6:00-7:15	pm
PRESCHOOL – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – September – April	9-11:30	am
MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETINGS – (If needed- President will call)	TBA	am
QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETINGS – January, April, July, October	10:00	am

2nd Sunday of month - Following the church service

Special Council Meeting in December for Budget and Officers

ELDERS MEETINGS – As needed by the Pastor	TBA	
VOTER'S MEETING – Sunday following the Council Meeting – 3rd Sunday	10:00	am

*Depends on Time change when new Pastor comes

St Johns Lutheran Church - 2018 Board of Officers - Burt, Iowa

Office	*Officers*	*Term*	*Yr. Term Expires*
President (elected by the Council)	Jeff Schutjer	1yr	**2018**
Board Secretary	Jessie Parsons	2yr	2019
Treasurer	Pam Reimers	2yr	**2018**
Financial Secretary	Vern Koestler	2yr	2019
Elders (3-4)	Boyd Shipler	3yr	2020
	Jerry Koestler	3yr	**2018**
	Jeff Schutjer	3yr	2019
	Wendell Christensen Sr.	3yr	2019
Trustees (3-4)	Mike Marlow	3yr	2020
	Randy Reimers	3yr	**2018**
	Joel Smith	3yr	2019
	Steve Madsen	3yr	2019
Usher (1)	Roger Lavrenz	3yr	2019
	Elder - Boyd Shipler		
Board of Finance (2)	Dave Kerkove	1yr	**2018**
	Barb Schroeder	1yr	**2018**
	Don Madsen	1yr	**2018**
	Trustee - Joel Smith		
Sunday School Superintendent (1)	Stefanie Hatten	3yr	2020
	Elder - Jeff Schutjer		
Board of Education (2)	Barb Thilges	3yr	2020
	Brenda Schutjer	3yr	**2018**
	Stefanie Hatten	3yr	2020
	Elder - Jeff Schutjer		
Worship Committee (1)	Janice Reimers	2yr	**2018**
	Elder - Boyd Shipler		
Mission Board (2)	Lynn Bierstedt	3yr	**2018**
	Clark Christensen	3yr	2019
	Elder - Jerry Koestler		
Christmas Committee (4)	Wendell & Teresa Christensen Jr.	2yr	2019
	Terry & Vicki Briggs	2yr	2019
	Shirlee - Kelly & Jesse Fitzgerald	2yr	**2018**
	Clark & Allison Christensen	2yr	**2018**
	Trustee - Randy Reimers		
Preschool Board (4)	Betty Koestler	3yr	2020
	Vickie Madsen	3yr	2020
	Nicolle Marlow	3yr	**2018**
	Linda Kerkove	3yr	2019
	Allision Christensen	3yr	2019
	Trustee - Steve Madsen		
Audit Committee (3)	Duane Peter	1yr	**2018**
President Appoints Chairperson	Elder - Wendell Christensen Sr.		
	Trustee - Mike Marlow		
Nomination Committee (4)	Lynn Bierstedt	1yr	**2018**
President Appoints One	Pastor Cowell		
	Elder - Jerry Koestler		
	Trustee - Mike Marlow		

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

RELIGION SCHOOL

I was blessed to assume the superintendent responsibilities of a well-organized and well-attended Religion School program this year. With Rosann putting together the Christian Education Handbook, Karla coordinating the meals and communicating schedules with the parents, the parents cooking and serving meals, and Shirlee teaching the younger students, my only responsibility is to teach the Confirmation class.

This year the Religion School students are learning how God uses certain elements in His creation such as trees, water, and food to teach us about Jesus and our salvation. Shirlee has taught these lessons with great care and skill, modifying the lessons to the abilities and attention spans of the students when I have naively assigned material that is too long or complicated.

The Confirmation class is learning from a book called *Lutheran Catechesis* by Peter Bender. This book uses Bible stories to teach about the six chief parts of the Small Catechism. Along with these lessons students are learning the Catechism by heart with their parents at home and completing some more "hands-on" assignments such as researching and reflecting on sanctuary architecture, writing their own prayers, designing Baptismal fonts, and participating in an almsgiving project. Pending completion of their assignments and their public examination, St. John's will confirm the faith of six students this Spring.

RELIGION SCHOOL STAFF

Grades 3rd - 6th – Shirlee Alt
~ Superintendent- Pastor Thomas Cowell
Board of Education: Brenda Schutjer, Barb Thilges, Stefanie Hatten

The **Altar Guild** is made up of faithful volunteers that take care of the preparations before each worship service. Their job at St. John's is to be sure that Holy Communion and Baptism is set up at appropriate times, flowers available weekly, linens, permanents and candles are changed for all Sunday Services and major festivals. Thank you to these dedicated people.

Worship Chairperson: **Janice Reimers** (elected office)
Orders all worship materials during the year.

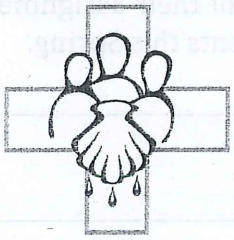
Holy Communion: **Janice and Pam Reimers, Donna Haase and Rosann Shipler**
Set up and remove communion ware and prepare linens for services.

Holy Baptism: **Ann Heyes**
Embroiders Baptismal napkins for each child's baptism
Debra Steven - Medallions given and engraved by Thrivent

Flowers: **Cheryl Batt**
Contact Cheryl for ordering and displaying altar flower

Paraments: **Pam and Randy Reimers**

CRADLE ROLL



This year we didn't have any newly baptized members at St. John's. Through Baptism God has added Penelope Cowell to our Cradle Roll. Other Children on the Nursery Rolls are: *Rialyn Marie Heyes, Reid Cory-Laine Briggs, Brooklyn Leigh Griffin, William Kent Griffin.*

Each new member baptized is presented a hand embroidered napkin (by Ann Heyes), candle, and a Thrivent Baptism Medallion with each child's birth and baptism date on it. The medallion is engraved and paid by Thrivent and Debra Steven has those done for each child. Starting in the middle of the year each parent receives a book entitled *"The Baptism of Your Child"* and the child receives a book for parents to read to them entitled *"God Makes Me His Child in Baptism"*.

Periodically during the year as the child grows materials are sent out to each child to remind them of their baptism and to the parents to help them with bringing them up in the Christian faith.

Debra and Mary Steven, *coordinator beginners program*

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM PRESCHOOL

On September 5th 2016 Kids of the Kingdom began our 2017-2018 school year with six children enrolled. The children have done many activities from the beginning that helps in recognizing their names. Not only recognizing, but also learning to spell and write them correctly. Fine motor and large motor skills are among some of the things that are included into our everyday routine. Most of the time the children don't even realize they are working on certain skills but simply having fun! Holidays are always a special and fun time in the classroom. Halloween and Thanksgiving are a fun time with the MANY crafts and activities. Our favorite holiday is Christmas. Jesus is the Reason for the Season! We also continue to walk up to the library once a month to enjoy "library time" with Mrs. Boyd. The month of October hosts fire prevention week and along with that we take our annual trip to the fire station. There they give us a tour of the many different fire trucks used when helping to put out fires. Many questions are asked as they all LOVE going there! We are well into winter now with the hopes of it warming up a little for us to get outside to enjoy the snow. Continue to look for the many different projects, crafts and worksheets that can be seen on display in our classroom which features our letter, number, shape and season that we are working on. Children are a blessing from God!

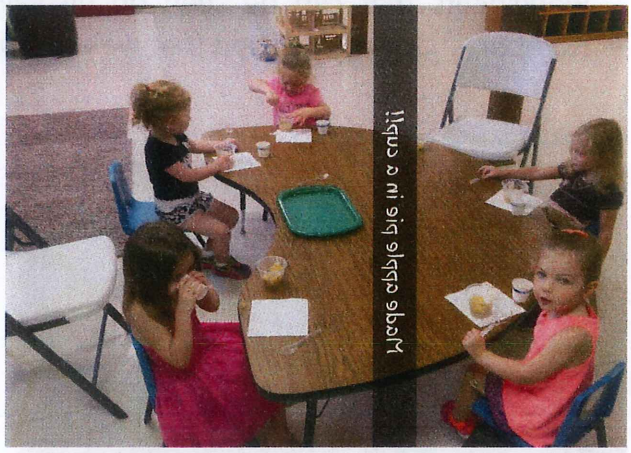
Jessie Parsons, *Teacher*
Donna Haase, *Assistant Teacher*

Front: Riley Rhunke
Middle: Juliannia Kopitzke & Emery Jahnke
Back: Amelia Hingston, Hayden Waltman & Brenna Bollig

PRESCHOOL FUN

Merry Christmas

Fire Station Trip



Making Apple Pie

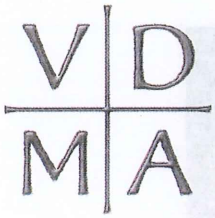
Soup Fundraiser Preschool Board

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School began on September 10, 2017. We are using Concordia's traditional Growing in Christ curriculum again this year.

On the first Sunday, Pastor Cowell led us to each Sunday School room where we read a Bible verse, prayed and Pastor Cowell blessed each Sunday School room.

Each Sunday, we begin with opening where Pastor Cowell teaches us about the special days in the Church year. One of the first special days was the Reformation.



The motto of the Reformation was *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum,* which means: The Word of the Lord Endures Forever. This motto described what Luther believed and defended, that God's Word is the final authority and it endures throughout the ages, forever. We learned that many people actually had the motto sewn into their sleeves! Learning God's Word in Sunday School and at home, we can receive the blessings God has promised to us, now and always.

What is darkness? The dictionary defines darkness as: the partial or total absence of light.
Isaiah prophesied when he wrote, *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."*

Pastor Cowell taught us that Epiphany is the season of light in the church year. We learned that we celebrate the Magi coming to worship the King – Jesus. They followed the star to Bethlehem and brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gifts fit for a King.

Just as we need light to see in a dark room, as sinners Jesus IS the Light for our salvation. Our hope is found only in him. The Salvation story continually amazes us each time we learn more and more of all that it means for us!

YOU ARE INVITED
to **Sunday School!**
Sundays at 8:00 AM

Come and hear the truth about Jesus! We would love to have you!

In the upcoming weeks, we will be studying Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus as well as Peter's miraculous escape from prison. We will learn about Paul's missionary journey along with Lydia and we will find out about Paul and Silas' in prison. What do all of these Bible stories have in common? They are all true!

OUR DEDICATED STAFF

Nursery/Kindergarten Class	Debra Steven Assistants: Mary Steven
Primary Class (1st – 5th)	Jessie Parsons/Karla Schutter
Preteen/Upper Level (6th-8th)	Stefanie Hatten
Sunday School Opening	Karla Schutter
Sunday School Supt.	Stefanie Hatten
Substitutes:	Brenda Schutjer & Tony Hatten
Board of Education 2017-2018	Brenda Schutjer, Barb Thilges & Stefanie Hatten

Christmas Eve Children's Program

Pastor Cowell Sunday School Opening & Religion School Games

Treasure Trek

Discovering the TRUTH about Jesus in the Bible!

Vacation Bible School was held on Monday, August 7, 2017 – Friday, August 11, 2017 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Eighteen children from the area came to hear the truth about Jesus!

Chant: ***THE BIBLE IS A TREASURE OF TRUTH ABOUT JESUS!***

Each night began with music and then on to a treasure trek! The Red and Blue teams would search inside the church and outside for clues about where we would begin our lesson. We learned that the stained-glass windows are more than just beautiful. They are pictures that tell us stories from the Bible about Jesus. The first clue given to the teams was about which stained-glass window would contain the riddle.

See if you can find the window from this clue:

**Find the picture that tells the story of worried Martha while Mary sits at Jesus' knee...*

**You will find it right next to Peter walking, walking...then sinking, sinking...on the sea.*

Our first night, we began where all things began – The Garden of Eden. "IN THE BEGINNING ELOHIM created the heavens and the earth." Pastor Cowell taught us a Hebrew word, Elohim, which means God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We learned that the Trinity was at creation doing the creating! This was the foundation that we built on for the rest of the week. God created all things good and we – His highest creation – ruined it by sinning. But God promised to make all things right between Himself and man.

The second day we answered the question: "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?" We went to the stable in Bethlehem and we heard the amazing story of Jesus' birth! We learned that Christmas is more than Jesus' birthday - it is a promise kept. God kept his promise made in the Garden of Eden, to send a Savior to take away our sins. Jesus left the Glory of Heaven to keep that promise.

Day three found us on the Sea of Galilee in the middle of a great storm! But, Jesus said Phimow which means BE SILENCED and the sea quieted down and became calm! It was the disciples that asked, "Who then is this that even the wind and waves obey him?" Looking back to the story of creation, we learned that Jesus could calm the storm *because he made it*!

Day four started off very sad. We learned that Jesus died and was placed into a tomb. Before our lesson, we went through the garden and found the tomb where they laid him. We went in and saw the cloths that were wrapped around him but Jesus was gone! Two angels came and spoke to us. They said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen just as he said!" Shirlee taught us the Good News! Jesus was no long in the tomb because God raised him on Easter morning!

He is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!**

On Friday, Pastor Cowell taught all of us our last lesson during our VBS program. We began the week this truth from the Bible – God created the Heavens and the earth. And we ended the week with another truth treasure from the Bible.

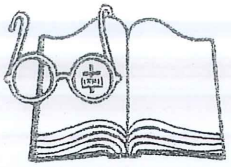
St. John described this final treasure in the book of Revelation. "After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

Pastor taught us Jesus' last great treasure – that he is coming back again to give us eternal life with him! We learned that we do not have to wait to share in this treasure. Each time we come to worship we get a glimpse of that truth. When Jesus forgives our sins on Sunday, we share in the promises that when Christ comes again in glory he is going to completely erase all sin and sorrow!

As we wait in anticipation of Christ coming in glory to take us home, we will faithfully continue to share the truth of Christ until he comes!

Karla Schutter, *VBS*

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN MISSIONARY LEAGUE



St. John's Lutheran Women's Missionary League held 6 monthly meetings in 2017 with an average attendance of 5 members. Bev Skadburg led 2 Bible Studies and Pastor Reimers let the LWML Day of prayer service. Our new pastor Thomas Cowell led us in 3 Bible Studies beginning in September from the book "A Simple Way To Pray" by Martin Luther.

Highlights of 2017:

- College Students were given gift Certificates for Easter.
- Members attended the Spring and Fall Zone Rallies.
- Donations were made to Camp Okoboji Quilt Auction in June, the North East Zone, LWML District Convention at Camp Okoboji, The LWML International Convention, L.A.M.P. (Canada) Vacation Bible School, Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa and Ioway Missions.
- Memorial was given to North East Zone in memory of Marge Lavrenz.
- LWML Sunday and a coffee after church was held the first Sunday of October.
- A Day Trip was held in Bancroft with lunch was held at the Wrangler Restaurant with Nursing Home Resident, Ruth Nerem as our guest. We spent the afternoon with Ruth at her Stonebridge Asst. Living home for fellowship with her.
- LWML Sunday was observed in October
- Our LWML Christmas Coffee was held in December following the church service with cookie plates delivered to the shut-ins and Care Centers Residents.
- Christmas Monies were given to Pastor Cowell and Missionary Pastor James May, the Kossuth Food Pantry, Kossuth Care Team.
- Pizza was furnished for the last night of Religion School.
- Thanks Offering was collected.

Officers of St. John's Lutheran Women's Missionary League for 2017 are:

Janice Schaeller, President — Caradene Parsons, Secretary

Pat Eimers, Vice President — Bev Skadburg, Treasurer

Mary Gifford , Christian Life Chairwomen.

Caradene Parsons, *secretary*

2017 MITES

Ladies Aid & Evening LWML

LWML Mites Collected	Total	$ 315.94
Memorial-Marge Lavrenz		10.00
Mites		233.0
World Day of Prayer		72.00
Balance January 1, 2018		$ .94

The Mites are collected once a month at coffees and meetings. Mites are used for many mission projects of the National LWML

Thank you for your support to our St. John's Mites!

Bev Skadburg, *mite treasurer*

CARD CART

Receipts

Ladies Aid	$93.25

Individual cards (fifty cents each) are available in the back of the Church on the North Wall. You may also purchase a box of cards (price marked on the box) and they are in the usher's cabinet in the back of the church. You can pay in the Church office or card Chairman Mary Schmidt.

Mary Schmidt, *card chairman*

ST. JOHN'S LADIES AID FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE ON HAND December 1, 2017	$ 524.00
RECEIPTS	
Dues	$ 206.00
Memorials	200.00
Rent	10.00
World Day of Prayer Offering	72.00
Greeting Cards	93.25
Thank Offering	322.00
Total Receipts	$ 903.25
DISBURSEMENTS	
LWML Memorial	10.00
Yearbooks-Rosann Shipler	45.00
Word Day of Prayer/Zone	72.00
College Students – Pam Madsen	15.00
Camp Okoboji/Auction	50.00
Quarterlies	75.00
Lutheran Family Services	75.00
Lutheran Hour	30.00
Pastor Cowell /Christmas Gift	100.00
Pastor Cowell/Card	52.12
Missionary Rev. James May	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Care Team	50.00
Ioway	30.00
Lamp	50.00
Mission Goal	50.00
LWML Coffee	20.00
Total Disbursements	$ 903.25
BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 10, 2018	$ 544.13

Beverly Skadburg, *treasurer*

EVENING LWML

Evening LWML was organized in 1988 and is a part of St John's Ladies Aid.

Due to low membership numbers this group has decided to no longer hold regular monthly meetings.

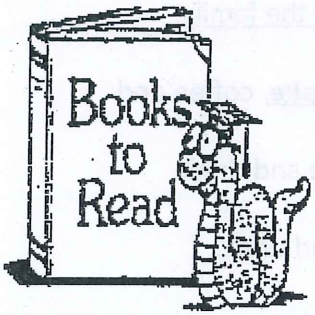
In 2017, we assisted with the many coffees that were held during the year. We furnished cookies for the Christmas Coffee and the cookie plates that were distributed to the Homebound and Care Center members.

Once again we held the annual 'Kitchen Improvement Festival' in May and wiped down all the cupboards inside and out and cleaned the appliances. We also removed any 'mysterious' items from the refrigerator.

We invite any women of the congregation who would like to be part of our group to contact the church office. We would love to be an active group again.

Linda Kerkove, *secretary*

LIBRARY NEWS



Some of the new books to the church library this year include:

Non- Fiction:

- **The Reformation** by Cameron Mackenzie;
- **Biography of a Reformer**: Luther;
- **Formation Essays for Future Pastors**;
- **Bible on CD – 15 Cd's on the New Testament**;
- **God's No and God's Yes**, the proper distinction between Law and Gospel by C.F.W. Walther;
- **Faith on the Farm** by Duane C Meisner;
- **The Story of Luther** by W. G. Polack;
- **Fighting Cancer with Faith** by Scott Schmieding;
- **The Hammer of God** by Bo Giertz;
- **Martin Luther's A Simple Way to Pray**, translated by Mattew C. Harrison

Adult Fiction:

- **A Sister's Wish** by Shelley Shepard Gray (Large Print)

Children's Section:

- **The Berenstain Bears 5 minute Inspirational Stories** by Stan and Jan Berenstain;
- **Inside Noah's Ark** by Charles Reasoner

Mary Steven and Deb Steven, *librarians*

FUNERAL POLICY

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

BURT, IOWA

In the event of a death of a **MEMBER** of St John's Lutheran Church, one of the Funeral Committee: **Ann Heyes, Jessie Parsons, Mary Schmidt** will contact the family on serving the lunch.

- The committee will then contact members of St John's congregation to furnish salad, jello and cakes as well as to work at the specific funeral.
- If the family requests the meal be catered, St John's will provide the workers to serve the meal.
- The Ushers for the month will help set up and take down the tables and chairs
- The committee will be reimbursed for all paper goods and plastic serving utensils.
- The Funeral Home will reimburse the committee for all bills.
- Any funeral of a member of St John's held off-site will be catered and St. John's funeral committee will serve as needed.
- Former members who remain in the Missouri Synod can be treated as members.

ST. JOHN MEMBERS:

Underscored items are donated by the congregation and rest paid for by the family.

Choices are:

1. A noon meal of scalloped potatoes and ham, buns, **salad** or **jello**, **cake**, coffee and drink.
2. A noon meal of Hamburger Hot Dish, bun, **salad** or **jello**, **cake**, coffee and drink.
3. A noon meal of sandwiches, salad, **cake**, coffee and drink.
4. Afternoon lunch of sandwiches and **cake,** or **jello** and **cake**, coffee and drink.

NON-MEMBERS:

The committee will meet with the family of NON-MEMBERS and advise them of our policy:

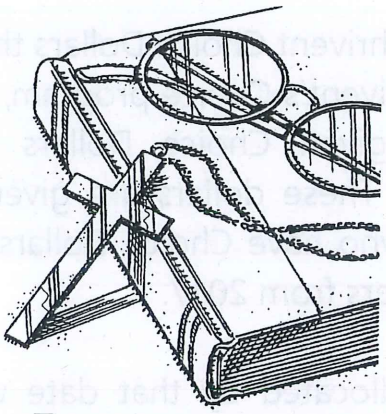
- The family is responsible for all food: Catered or furnished by the family.
- The Committee will serve all food furnished by the family.
- If workers are provided by the church a donation or fee will be asked for our service and the use of the church.
- If workers are provided by the family, a funeral committee member will help work with them to serve the meal.

GREETERS

It is the Greeters responsibility to switch with others on the list if you are unable to Greet on a given Sunday. Please contact the church office when you make a switch.

2018 GREETERS

Jan.	Melvin & Donna Haase Mike & Barb Schroeder Ervin & Pat Eimers Lyle & Karen Karels	May	Nicolle Marlow & daughters Rolland & Joan Peymann Wendell & Esther Christensen Lynn & Kitty Bierstedt	Sept.	Larry Behnkendorf Ken McFarland & Mary Gifford Tony & Stefanie Hatten Lucas & Jessie Parsons Pam & Randy Reimers
Feb.	Dave & Linda Kerkove Gordon & Mary Shipler-Oleson Terry & Vicki Briggs Vern & Joan Koestler	June	Jeff & Brenda Schutjer Clark & Allison Christensen Floyd & Tish Lavrenz Don & Pam Madsen	Oct.	Chris & Amanda Heyes Kelly & Jesse Fritzgerald Terry & Wanda Tieman Steve & Vickie Madsen
March	Cheryl Batt/Lavonne Boderius Mike and Amy Marlow Gene & Marcia Hanna Joel Smith & Bev Skadburg	July	Don & Janice Reimers John & Wilma Smith David & Lisa Haase Shirlee Alt & Barb Thilges Dick & Laura Knoll	Nov.	Mike & Amy Bierstedt Joe & Tina Heyes Barb Harms Wade & Dvyn Briggs
April	Jerry & Betty Koestler (Easter) Duane and Ann Heyes Bud & Mary Lou Marlow Cheryl Batt/Lavonne Boderius Darrel & Mary Schmidt (Confirmation)	August	Roger & Marilyn Evans Boyd & Rosann Shipler Craig & Deb Steven Wendell & Teresa Christensen	Dec.	Duane & Linda Peter Doris Blocker & Mary Steven Larry Manus & Harold Lavrenz Karla Schutter & Christie Roger Lavrenz



Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Hebrews 12:2

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™

Reported by Deb Steven

Advocates for the St. John's in 2017 are: Debra Steven, Darrel Schmidt, Doris Blocker, Vern Koestler, Clark and Allison Christensen. We have space for an additional advocate if any of our church Thrivent members are interested in joining this group.

This year's funds were used to:

- Donate to the adopt the family
- Donate to the church Christmas fund
- Purchase a new camera
- Purchase a new projector

Projects still in progress is the confirmation picture display case.

These projects are funded by Thrivent Choice Dollars that are directed to us from our members. Under Thrivent's Choice program, members who meet minimum requirements are given Choice Dollars to allocate to the organization of their choice. These dollars are given at no cost to the member. Thrivent members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2018 to allocate dollars from 2017.

Choice dollars that are not allocated by that date will be lost. Please consider allocating your Choice Dollars to St. John's or to the Kids of the Kingdom Preschool. Both are registered as eligible recipient for choice Dollars. In order to see if you have Choice Dollars available and to allocate those dollars, call 1-800-THRIVENT (1-800-347-4836) or access your account through Thrivent.com. Your Choice dollars need to be allocated each year or they will be lost.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

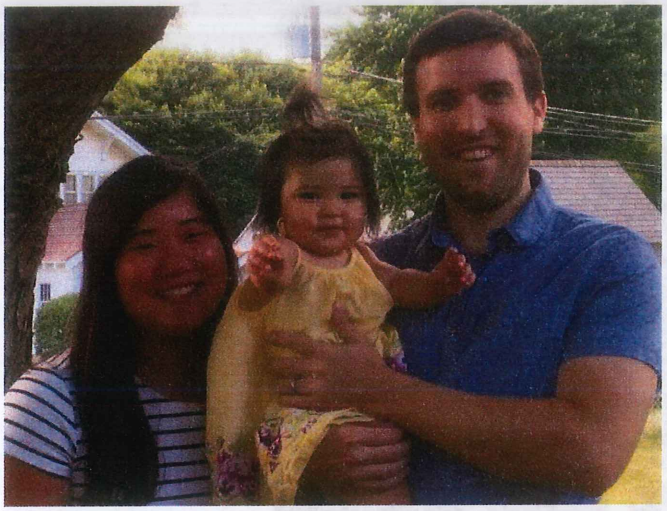
Ordination of Rev. Thomas J Cowell
June 25, 2017

On Sunday, June 25, 2017 Rev. Thomas J Cowell was Ordained into the Holy Ministry at St. John's Lutheran. On that same day he was Installed as Partnership Pastor at St. John's, Burt and Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona. Pastors from the Northwest Circuit were in attendance. Rev. Tom Schlund, Senior Pastor at Trinity was the Liturgist and Rev. Duane Miesner, father-in-law of Thomas was the Preacher for the day. The Rev. Paul Egger 2nd Vice President of Iowa District West was the Ordinator and Installer.

Following the service of Ordination and Installation a light lunch was served in the church basement with fellowship time. St. John's congregation held a Card Shower for Pastor Cowell his wife Hannah and daughter Penelope to welcome them to St. John's.

In this partnership, the three pastors, Rev. Tom Schlund, Rev. Eric Hauan and Rev. Thomas Cowell will be on a preaching rotation. Pastor Cowell will be at Trinity once a month to preach while Rev. Hauan or Rev. Schlund travels to St. John's to preach.

New Pastor at St. John's Lutheran, Burt and Trinity Lutheran Algona



Pastor Thomas Cowell was born and raised in Reinbeck Iowa. His parents, Nick and Kathy, now live in Omaha. His oldest brother and sister-in-law, Nathan and Amanda, and their two boys, Mason and Ryder, live in Glenwood. His second older brother, Charlie, lives in Des Moines.

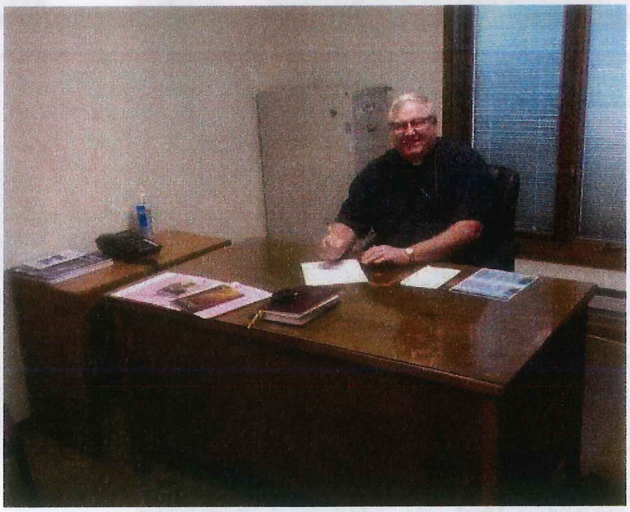
Hannah's parents, the Rev. Duane and Tammy Miesner, live in Kingsley where Duane is the pastor of First Lutheran Church. Her older sister and husband Sarah and Tyler, live in Des Moines as does her older brother and his wife, Kenny and Abby.

Thomas and Hannah both attended the University of Northern Iowa. They first met while attending services and activities at College-Hill Lutheran Church. Thomas graduated in May of 2013 and Hannah will be graduating this summer. He began his seminary studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne the summer of 2013.

Thomas and Hannah were married May 30, 2015. A few weeks later Thomas began his vicarage year at St. John Lutheran Church in Wheaton, Illinois. Shortly after vicarage ended, on August 5, 2016, their daughter Penelope was born. Penelope (Penny) was baptized by her grandfather Pastor Miesner on August 28,2016.

Thomas graduated seminary on May 19, 2016. Thomas is grateful for the invaluable education he received from the professors at seminary. He is excited to put his pastoral training to use as he begins his service to Christ's people at St. John's and Trinity Lutheran Churches,

Vacancy Pastor Russell Reimers



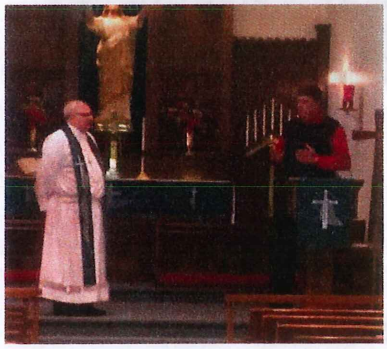
The following article was written for the July/August Parish Messenger by Pastor Reimers:

As God's people the greatest blessing that we have is the work that was done by His Son at the cross of Calvary. In that act of love and in the blood that was shed, each and every one of us have been given the blessed joy of eternal life by faith. A faith that has been given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, sustained by the Holy Spirit, and a faith that is kept safe by the power of the Holy Spirit. In fact we do nothing at all, not even one thing that makes this faith possible Paul put it best in Ephesians 2:8 which said: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."* This is the greatest blessing.

Rev. Russell Reimers

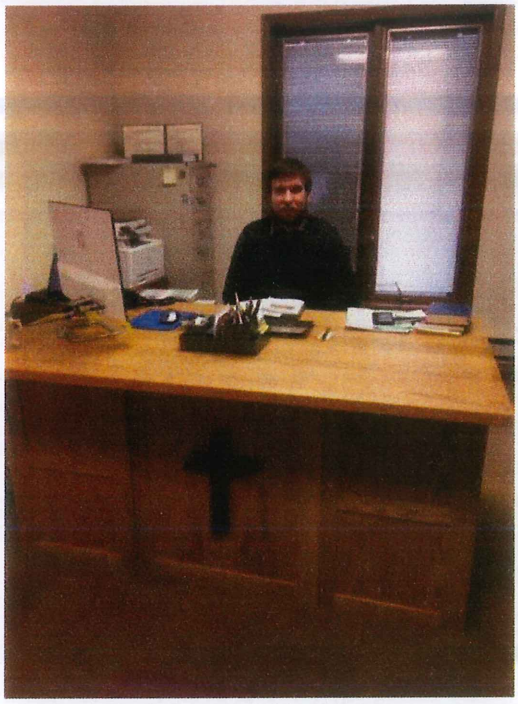
Thank You!

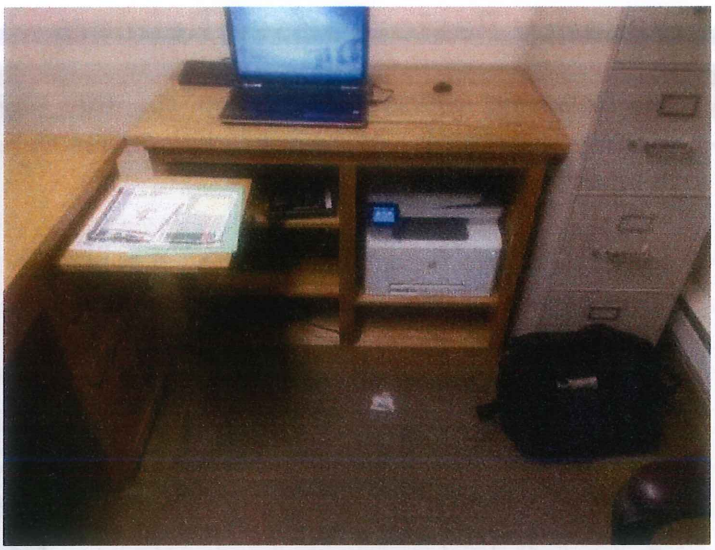
A Heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Rev. Russell Reimers for the many trips to Burt on Sunday morning to Preach the Word to us at St. John's. Thank you Pastor Russell Reimers for all the services you conducted for us including, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and all the others in between. Thank you so much for all the help to set up the new partnership with Trinity, Algona and coming to the many meetings to get the paperwork in order. Your love and dedication for St. John's is truly appreciated. Doing all this and serving three churches at one time and traveling an hour to get to us is truly love for us and for your Lord and Savior. Thank You Pastor Russell Reimers!!



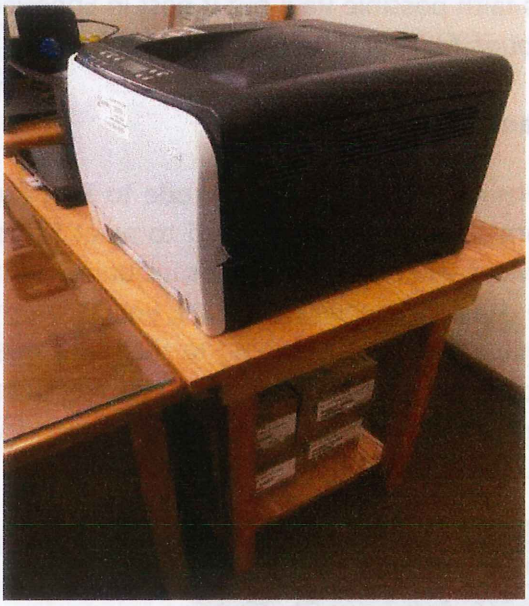
St. John's held a morning of appreciation for Rev. Reimers, Sue, Jewel and Alacha on Sunday morning, June 25, 2017. This was his last Sunday with us. Following the service, President Jeff Schutjer presented him with a Gift Card of $500 and words of appreciation. A fellowship time of coffee/juice and rolls were served in the back of the church following the service. Members of the congregation showered the Reimers family with cards and gifts.

Always remember to think of the great love that God had for us and how this brings smiles to each of us. We are reminded of the verse "John 3:16 that says *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* God's love for us was seen in that one act of love that came to a climax at the cross of Calvary for you.

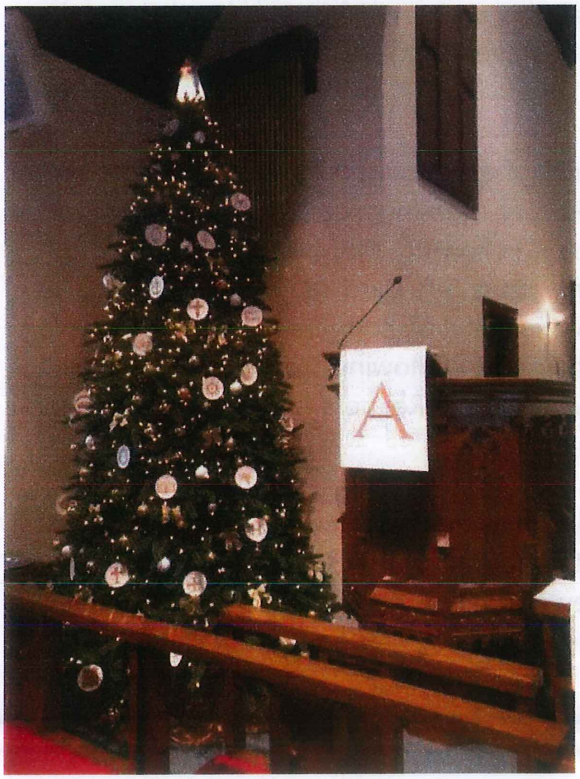




Pastor Thomas Cowell's new desk and side table made by a member of the congregation.



New Copier Stand Secretary Office



New Christmas Tree

St. John's Lutheran Church

Budget vs. YTD

	2017 BUDGET	2017 YTD
MISSIONS		
Synod - 75%	$ 4,500.00	$ 5,674.50
Pass It On Project -- 25% to Pastor May	1,125.00	1,891.50
LFS	800.00	800.00
Camp Okoboji	800.00	800.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	$ 7,225.00	$ 9,166.00
PASTOR'S SALARY & EXPENSES		
Pastor	$ 38,000.00	$ 36,999.96
Housing Allowance	11,100.00	5,550.00
1/2 Social Security 7.65%	3,756.15	1,878.12
Concordia Retirement 8.7% of Base Salary	4,271.70	2,503.46
Disability 2.25% of Base Salary	1,104.75	647.42
Health Insurance (Choice 2000)	21,408.00	12,262.00
Health Reimbursement - Deductible	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL PASTOR'S EXPENSE	$ 81,640.60	$ 61,840.96
PROFFESSIONAL EXPENSES: (car allowance, books, conf...)	$ 4,800.00	$ 3,643.28
IDW MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE FUND	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00
SALARIES		
Office Manager/Secretary	8,424.00	8,424.00
Organist ($72 /SERVICE [70])	5,040.00	4,824.00
Janitor Services -- Carol Cherland	3,000.00	2,362.73
Guest Speaker ($150 per service plus mileage)	1,200.00	300.00
FICA Taxes	1,030.00	1,013.47
TOTAL SALARIES	$ 18,694.00	$ 16,924.20
TELEPHONE (Elevator Line - $412.41)	$ 1,900.00	$ 1,898.32
OFFICE EXPENSE		
Machine Mainteance Usage	$ 800.00	$ 1,151.46
Machine Replacement Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00
Postage	250.00	225.42
Copier Paper	400.00	431.68
Advertising	100.00	0.00
Annual Report	240.00	139.54
Miscellaneous Office Supplies	400.00	176.14
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	$ 3,390.00	$ 3,324.24
WORSHIP MATERIALS		
Elders -- Communion Wine	$ 200.00	$ 74.83
Altar Guild -- Communion Supplies & Candles	400.00	743.25
Baptismal Supplies	75.00	0.00
Bulletins	1,200.00	925.10
Music	200.00	226.00
Portals of Prayer	420.00	548.40
Offering Envelopes	180.00	169.29
Miscellaneous Worship Material	300.00	80.56
TOTAL WORSHIP MATERIAL	$ 2,975.00	$ 2,767.43

	2017 BUDGET	2017 YTD
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	$ 300.00	$ 287.10
EVANGELISM & SOCIAL MINISTRY		
Mission Board	$ 200.00	$ 0.00
Contingency Fund (Pastor's Use Only)	300.00	0.00
TOTAL EVANGELISM & SOCIAL MINISTRY	$ 500.00	$ 0.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
Lutheran Witness ($158.90 reimbursed)	$ 300.00	$ 250.74
Library Books	125.00	22.49
Adult Bible Class Material	100.00	151.49
Delegates Expense to Convention	200.00	0.00
TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	$ 725.00	$ 424.72
YOUTH		
Sunday School & Jr. High Bible Class	$ 1,300.00	$ 1,304.43
Vacation Bible School ($160.00 donations)	900.00	317.09
Christmas Program ($ donations)	150.00	74.00
TOTAL YOUTH	$ 2,350.00	$ 1,695.52
CONGREGATIONAL PROPERTY		
Property Insurance	$ 4,500.00	$ 5,660.00
Utilities -- LP Gas	4,000.00	2,092.77
Utilities -- Lights, Water, Garbage	3,500.00	3,299.18
Maintenance -- Lawn Mowing	400.00	275.00
Maintenance -- Snow Removal	800.00	770.00
Repairs & Upkeep	2,000.00	2,964.32
TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL PROPERTY	$ 15,200.00	$ 15,061.27
SUBTOTAL 2017 BUDGET	$ 140,699.60	$ 118,033.04
LESS PARTNERSHIP SHARE - PASTOR'S SALARY/BENEFITS	$ (21,710.15)	$ (12,370.05)
TOTAL 2017 BUDGET	$ 118,989.45	$ 105,662.99