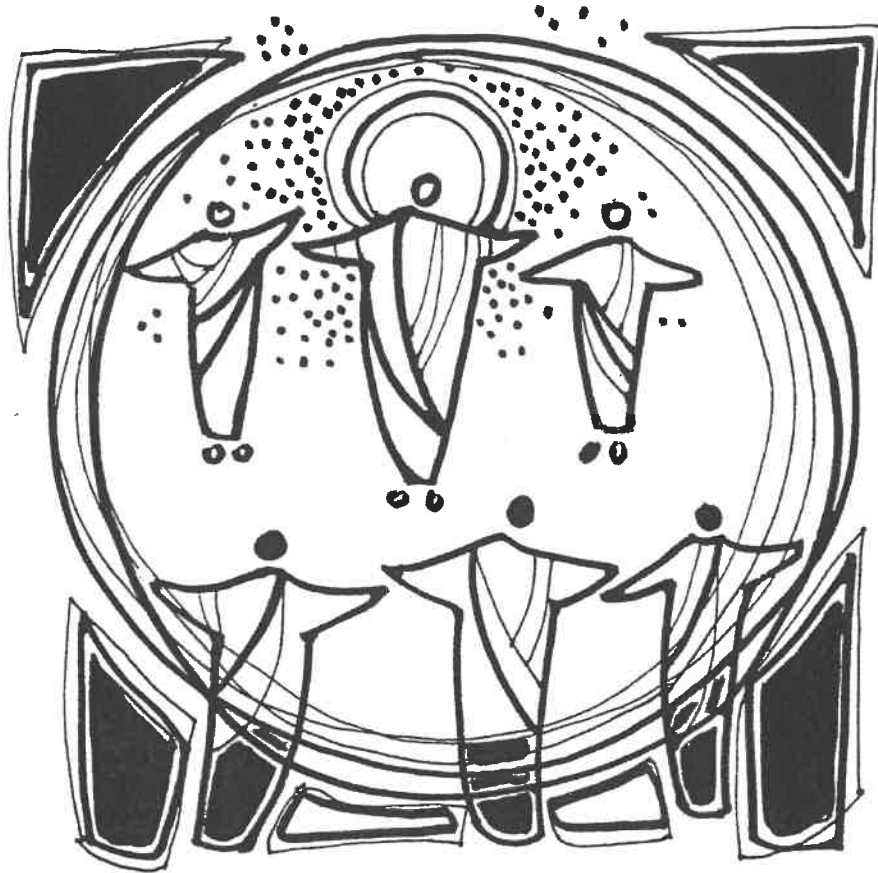


ANNUAL REPORT
2015



for the Lord our God is holy
P S A L M 99:9

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
550 Route 940
PO Box 228
Blakeslee, PA 18610
(570) 646-0309

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Minutes of Congregational meetings
3. Financial reports
4. Committee reports
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

2015

Deborah Anderson

Thomas Hutton

Philip Newlander

2016

Donald Childers

Barbara Fox

Sandy Spotts

2017

Michael Gillis

Barbara Monroe

Joan Vought

Appointed for 2016

Margaret Rapp – Treasurer

Theresa Siedlarczyk – Financial Secretary

Pastor Wayne R. Kaufman – Called

MISSION STATEMENT

By the Grace of God we are a caring family of Christian believers – worshipping and ministering in His mountain community of year round residents, seasonal residents and visitors to our area. Together we are learning and growing in Faith, striving for peace and witnessing to the love of Christ; we are using our many gifts to serve His church, our community and the world.

2016 Church Council President – Philip Newlander

2016 Church Council Vice President – Thomas Hutton

2016 Church Council Secretary – Deborah Anderson

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

2015

This past year has seemed to go so very fast that I had to really think about the year. In many ways there is very little that sticks out as being prominent. That may not be a bad thing, but maybe we need some extra work.

Highlights of the year begins with yet another amazing gift to our Mortgage Fund. Early in the year we received a \$ 30,000 gift from Henry and Lillian Keiper to pay on our Mortgage Principal. As we enter 2016 our Mortgage Balance is below \$ 144,000. In addition our Faith Fair and Apple Fest were both successes helping to further lower our Mortgage balance.

We also had an outstanding year ending 2015 with a positive balance in our Budgeted Operating Fund.

This fall we sent out a survey to our families with young children and changed the time of our Sunday School from 10:30 during worship time to 9:15 between worship time. We have a small but faithful group of children coming to Sunday School each Sunday morning.

Of course another highlight to our year was the addition of our new Music Director Beth Howden. This has helped us to build up two fantastic choirs one singing at 8AM and one at 10:30AM

Attendance at Sunday morning services continues to decline and this is an issue we will need to address in 2016.

Overall I think we had a good year!

PARISH REGISTER 2015

Baptism

McKenze Andrews Kaufman – June 13, 2015

Molly Rose Slutter – June 21, 2015

Emma Dawn Newlander – August 16, 2015

New Members

Susan Hughes, Lloyd & Joan Vought – November 1, 2015

DEATHS

Doug Spotts – Feb. 9, 2015

Todd Williams – May 22, 2015

FUNERALS

Oswald P. Sinclair – Feb. 22, 2015

Richard Vought – June 13, 2015

Paul Wieand – June 16, 2015

Dean Bradford – August 23, 2015

Weddings

Transferred to Other Churches or removed at own request

Ron, Maria, Lisabeth Wieand – Feb. 24, 2015

Year	Baptized	Confirmed	<u>MEMBERSHIP UPDATE</u>			Average Attendance
			Confirmed Communing	Confirmed Contributing	Confirmed Cont. & com.	
2009	309	219	190	167	160	103
2010	314	223	171	154	154	112
2011	336	234	195	155	155	109
2012	334	206	188	143	143	110
2013	339	209	156	132	131	110
2014	182	160	158	128	128	95
2015	183	158	127	119	113	89

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Larson at 9:15 a.m.

Pastor Wayne Kaufman gave the opening prayer.

26 members of the Congregation of Faith Lutheran signed in to make a quorum present and voting.

On a motion made by Phil Newlander and seconded by Brenda Gillis, the Agenda was adopted as published in the Annual Report.

On a motion made by Shirley Fowler and seconded by Ruth Newlander, the Annual Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2014 were approved.

On a motion made by Brenda Gillis and seconded by Paul Frantz, the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting of November 30, 2014 were approved.

On a motion made by Pr. Wayne Kaufman and seconded by Peggy Rapp, the Financial reports were approved as printed in the Annual Report.

On a motion made by Phil Newlander and seconded by Peggy Rapp, the Committee reports were approved as printed in the Annual Report.

Old Business - none

New Business - none

There being no further business, on a motion made by Don Childers and seconded by Debbie Anderson, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Anderson
Council Secretary

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
November 29, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Larson at 9:15 a.m.

Pastor Wayne Kaufman gave the opening prayer.

36 Members signed in to make a quorum present and voting.

President Larson appointed Lois Childers and Paul Frantz as tellers to count the ballots.

The first order of business was to elect 3 Church Council members for three year terms. The Nominating Committee proposed the following persons: Nancy Croughn (who withdrew due to personal commitments); Michael Gillis; Richard Hubert; Barbara Monroe; and Joan Vought. There being no additional nominations made, a motion was made by Roberta Fisher and seconded by Robert Ray to close the nomination for Council members. Motion carried.

The second order of business was to elect Synod Assembly delegates; one male and one female. The Nominating Committee proposed Ruth Major. Mistakenly, Phil Newlander's name was placed in the letter sent to the congregation; however, Phil had already been to two consecutive Synod Assemblies. A nomination from the floor was made by Phil Newlander and seconded by Pastor Kaufman for Don Larson to be the male delegate. On a motion made by Pastor Kaufman and seconded by Roberta Fisher, nomination for Synod Assembly delegates was closed. Motion carried.

The third order of business was to elect 6 people for the 2016 Nominating Committee for a one year term. The Nominating Committee proposed the following persons: Robert Crownover; Roberta Fisher; Brenda Gillis; Elizabeth Larson; Cheryl Ruocco; and Judie Tim. On a motion made by Roberta Fisher and seconded by Phil Newlander, the nomination for Nominating Committee was closed. Motion Carried.

The fourth order of business was to elect one person for a three year term on the Audit Committee. The Nominating Committee proposed the following persons: Lauren Catrino and Ruth Newlander. On a motion made by Brenda Gillis and seconded by Jan Frantz, the nomination for Audit Committee was closed. Motion Carried.

The fifth order of business was to elect one person for a three year term to be the Endowment Committee. The Nominating Committee proposed that Mary Anne Boyer be elected. On a motion made by Phil Newlander and seconded by Paul Frantz, the nomination for Endowment Committee was closed. Motion Carried.

President Larson gave instruction as to marking the ballots; they were collected by the tellers and counted in the back of the church.

At 9:25 a.m. three more people came to the meeting (the ballots having already been collected) and signed in, making a total in attendance of 39.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
November 29, 2015

A motion was made by Jan Frantz and seconded by Peggy Rapp to approve the 2016 Budget as presented by letter dated November 13, 2015. Motion carried by a clear majority with no dissenting votes.

A Thank You was given to the 2015 Nominating Committee: Mary Anne Boyer, Bettie Green, Phyllis Nutt and Carrie Pohl for a job well done.

A Thank You from the congregation was extended to: Roberta Fisher, Beth Larson and Dennis Minicozzi for completing their terms on the Church Council.

Results of the tellers:

Church Council: Michael Gillis; Barbara Monroe; Joan Vought

Synod Assembly: Ruth Major; Don Larson

2016 Nominating Committee: Robert Crownover; Roberta Fisher; Brenda Gillis; Elizabeth Larson; Cheryl Ruocco; Judie Tim

Audit Committee: Ruth Newlander

Endowment Committee: Mary Ann Boyer

There being no further business, a motion was made by Phil Newlander and seconded by Paul Frantz to adjourn at 9:34 a.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Anderson
Council Secretary

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL 2015 REPORT

As 2015 ends, there are many people who have spent a great deal of time volunteering their services for Faith. We could never survive as a church without the many volunteers, some who work behind the scenes and prefer to do their work quietly.

Thank you to Terri Siedlarczyk, Peggy Rapp, Ruth Major and Barb Slutter for all the time they spend making sure our finances are kept in order and reconciled every month. Thank you to the Finance Committee: Terri Siedlarczyk, Pastor Kaufman, Barb Slutter, Bobbi Fisher, Peggy Rapp, George Bernardin and Beth Larson who meet monthly. Thank you to congregation who supported the Faith Fair, Apple Fest, Christmas Cookie sale and spaghetti dinner.

Thank you to Shirley Fowler and Barb Fox who were ready on Sunday mornings to provide the valuable ministry for our young people with Sunday School. Welcome to Jen Kalata and Karl Newlander who took taken over this vital ministry in the fall. Sunday School has changed their meeting time to 9:15AM-10AM and children ages 2 through Grade 6 are welcome.

Thank you to Bobbi Fisher who chairs the Care Team. Bobbi sends out cards in the name of the congregation to members of the congregation throughout the year and is in charge of receptions and other things that fall under the Care Team. Thank you to Sandy Spotts who handles the prayer shawl ministry. Sandy also keeps the Faith website: faithlutheranblakeslee.org up to date.

Thank you to Don Larson and his band of volunteers who keep up the property at Faith. The grass and weeds were kept at bay this year by Don Childers, Bob Ray, Bob Crownover, Ron Shiner and Rod and Dylan Blose. Mike Gillis, Tom Hutton, Phil Newlander and Don and Beth Larson as well as the AA groups kept up with the snow shoveling and salting.

This spring we welcomed a new Music Director: Beth Howden. She, as well as her family, has been a great addition to the music at Faith! Thank you to Louise Rauch for filling in while we searched for just the right person to take over the job!

Faith is a busy church. Tuesdays and Fridays we provide meeting space at noon for AA. This year we became one of the polling places for Tobyhanna Twp. We provide a meeting place for Girl Scouts. Every 5th week, Faith provides drivers for a 60 mile Meals on Wheels route. Members of the congregation volunteer monthly at the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council Food Pantry. Pastor Kaufman and Barb Slutter represent Faith on the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council.

For over 20 years at Faith, we have been blessed to have the spiritual leadership of Pastor Wayne Kaufman. His sermons and warm friendly manner draws people to Faith. Barb Slutter has also been a fixture in the office. Her expertise has kept the office running in top form. Thank you seems so little to say about these 2 wonderful individuals.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your representative on the Church Council for the past 6 years. Thank you to Dennis Minicozzi for serving 3 years on the Council and to Bobbi Fisher for her 1 year on the council. We welcomed Mike Gillis, Barbara Monroe and Joan Vought to the 2016 Church Council. I know that the 2016 Church Council will continue to follow God's Direction as they work in the best interest of the congregation.

Beth Larson 2015 Church Council President

**Faith Lutheran Church
Presentation Budget Report**

Friday, September 25, 2015

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Yr Beg 01/2015	Yr Beg 01/2016
4.001.000	budgeted operating	197,800.00	203,100.00
5.001.000	<i>Outreach ministry</i>		
5.002.000	Pocono Mission District	100.00	100.00
5.003.000	Ecumenical Council	200.00	200.00
5.004.000	Benevolence	10,200.00	10,800.00
	<i>Total Outreach ministry</i>	<i>10,500.00</i>	<i>11,100.00</i>
5.020.000	<i>Administration</i>		
5.021.000	Office supplies	2,300.00	2,300.00
5.022.000	Office equip maintence	4,000.00	3,000.00
5.023.000	new office equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.024.000	Postage	1,500.00	1,500.00
5.025.000	Kitchen/cleaning supplies	900.00	1,000.00
5.026.000	adjustments	0.00	0.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>9,700.00</i>	<i>8,800.00</i>
5.030.000	<i>Worship & Music</i>		
5.031.000	Bulletins	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.032.000	Altar Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.033.000	Organ/Piano maintenance	500.00	500.00
5.034.000	Miscellaneous Worship & Music	300.00	300.00
	<i>Total Worship & Music</i>	<i>2,800.00</i>	<i>2,800.00</i>
5.040.000	<i>Learning</i>		
5.041.000	Sunday Church School	400.00	500.00
5.042.000	Vacation Bible School	400.00	400.00
5.043.000	Confirmation/First Holy Communion	200.00	200.00
5.044.000	Sunday School Activities	500.00	500.00
	<i>Total Learning</i>	<i>1,500.00</i>	<i>1,600.00</i>
5.050.000	<i>Witness</i>		
5.051.000	Witness/Advertising	700.00	500.00
5.052.000	Care Team	300.00	300.00
	<i>Total Witness</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>	<i>800.00</i>
5.060.000	<i>Stewardship</i>		
5.061.000	Stewardship Materials	100.00	100.00
5.062.000	Offering Envelopes	500.00	500.00
	<i>Total Stewardship</i>	<i>600.00</i>	<i>600.00</i>
5.070.000	<i>Pastor's Salary & Benefits</i>		
5.071.000	Pastor's Salary	58,000.00	60,000.00
5.072.000	Pastor's residence Allowance	12,000.00	12,000.00
5.073.000	Pastor's Social Security	4,800.00	4,800.00
5.074.000	Pastor's Pension/Health	26,400.00	26,400.00
5.075.000	PACE	500.00	500.00
5.076.000	Pastor's Auto Reimbursement	4,000.00	4,000.00
	<i>Total Pastor's Salary & Benefits</i>	<i>105,700.00</i>	<i>107,700.00</i>
5.080.000	<i>Staff Salaries & Benefits</i>		
5.081.000	Secretary's salary	25,300.00	26,500.00
5.083.000	Organist Salary	9,000.00	9,600.00
5.084.000	Supply Pastor	800.00	1,000.00
5.085.000	Staff/SS & Medicare	2,900.00	3,100.00
5.086.000	Sexton Salary	3,500.00	3,600.00
5.087.000	Supply Organist	200.00	300.00

TOTAL BANK ASSETS – 2015

REGULAR ACCOUNTS:

Checking Account	\$ 40,019.50
Memorial Fund CD	\$ 12,268.60
MIF #3000000677	\$9,203.25
MIF #2000003518	\$3,065.35
Memorial Garden fund	\$ 4,388.83
TOTAL REGULAR ACCOUNTS	\$ 54,372.83

ENDOWMENT FUND:

Saving Account	\$ 497.62
CD's	\$ 5,630.46
MIF #20000002364	2616.40
MIF #30000162906	3014.06
TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUND	\$ 6,128.08
TOTAL BANK ASSETS	\$ 60,405.21

Account Number	Account Name	Period	Year to Date
101	ENVELOPES	\$151,966.80	\$151,966.80
102	LOOSE PLATE	\$18,622.07	\$18,622.07
103	SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$1.00	\$1.00
104	BULLETINS	\$540.00	\$540.00
105	INITIAL	\$152.00	\$152.00
106	SPECIAL GIFT	\$2,360.18	\$2,360.18
108	ASH WEDNESDAY	\$235.00	\$235.00
109	LENT	\$605.75	\$605.75
110	LENTEN COIN FOLDER	\$586.00	\$586.00
111	PALM SUNDAY	\$465.00	\$465.00
112	MAUNDY THURSDAY	\$171.00	\$171.00
113	GOOD FRIDAY	\$157.00	\$157.00
114	EASTER	\$1,038.00	\$1,038.00
115	ADVENT	\$574.00	\$574.00
116	CHRISTMAS	\$2,445.00	\$2,445.00
117	REFUND	\$347.81	\$347.81
118	BUILDING USE	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
123	B/O MISC	\$5.00	\$5.00
124	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	\$60.00	\$60.00
126	CHURCH CHANGE	\$349.53	\$349.53
127	ASCENCION THURSDAY	\$137.00	\$137.00
130	CHOIR MUSIC	\$75.00	\$75.00
134	THRIVENT CHOICE	\$2,076.00	\$2,076.00
135	SNOW REMOVAL	\$900.00	\$900.00
136	THANKSGIVING	\$20.00	\$20.00
138	WAWA COUPONS	\$404.00	\$404.00
142	CHRISTMAS COOKIES	\$211.00	\$211.00
	BUDGETED OPERATING:	\$186,204.14	\$186,204.14
301	MORTGAGE	\$27,552.20	\$27,552.20
302	ADDTL PRINCIPAL MORT	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
303	FAITH FAIR MORTGAGE	\$4,434.09	\$4,434.09
305	MEMORIAL MORT PRIN	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
307	APPLE FEST	\$2,366.10	\$2,366.10
	CAPITAL:	\$65,352.39	\$65,352.39
401	ALTAR FLOWERS	\$1,470.00	\$1,470.00
402	LILIES	\$420.00	\$420.00
403	GERANIUMS	\$150.00	\$150.00
404	POINTSETIAS	\$585.00	\$585.00
405	ROSES	\$233.50	\$233.50
408	CHRISTMAS TREE	\$65.00	\$65.00
	UNBUDGETED OPER:	\$2,923.50	\$2,923.50
501	MEMORIAL	\$1,595.00	\$1,595.00
	MEMORIAL:	\$1,595.00	\$1,595.00
602	CONCERT SERIES	\$2,088.00	\$2,088.00
	MISC:	\$2,088.00	\$2,088.00

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - BLAKESLEE PA 18610
Contribution Account Balances (January thru December 2015)

02/10/16

Page 2

Account Number	Account Name	Period	Year to Date
701	WORLD HUNGER	\$2,845.00	\$2,845.00
702	LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF	\$428.00	\$428.00
703	SOUPER BOWL	\$937.00	\$937.00
709	BIKE FOR WORLD HUNGER	\$550.00	\$550.00
717	BUCK A CHICK	\$268.00	\$268.00
720	SPAGETTI DINNER WORLD HUNGER	\$775.00	\$775.00
722	SC CHURCH VICTIMS	\$20.00	\$20.00
	SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE:	\$5,823.00	\$5,823.00
	WOMEN OF FAITH:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	ADDITION:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total:	----- \$263,986.03	----- \$263,986.03

Period: January thru December.

Count: 91

Respectfully submitted
Theresa Gudlaugh
Financial Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church
Actual to Budget 2015

income	ACTUAL 1-1-15 /12-31-15	BUDGET 1-1-15/12-31-15
Operating budget		
Budgeted operating	186,204.14	197,800.00
Expenses		
A. OUTREACH MINISTRY		
Benevolence	10,200.00	10,200.00
Ecumenical Council	200	200
Pocono Mission District	0	100
Total	10,400.00	10,500.00
B. ADMINISTRATION		
Office Supplies	1,291.17	2,300.00
Office Equip. Maintence	3,812.25	4,000.00
New Office Equip	0.00	1,000.00
Postage	1,214.15	1,500.00
Kitchen/cleaning supplies	780.42	900.00
adjustments	45	0
Total	7,142.99	9,700.00
C. WORSHIP & MUSIC		
Bulletins	839.12	1,000.00
Altar Supplies	309.97	1,000.00
Organ/Piano maintenance	134.38	500.00
Misc. Worship & Music	363.6	300.00
Total	1,512.69	2,800.00
D. LEARNING		
Sunday Church School	108.59	400
Vacation Bible School	308.93	400
Confirmation/Frist Holy Comm	0	200
Sunday School Activities	262.67	500
Total	680.19	1500
E. WITNESS		
Witness/Advertising	55	700
Care Team	98.8	300
Total	153.8	1,000.00
F. STEWARDSHIP		
Stewardship Materials	99.62	100
Offering Envelopes	417.99	500
Total	517.61	600

	ACTUAL 1-1-15/12-31-15	BUDGET 1-1-15/12-31-15
G. PASTOR'S SALARY & BENEFITS		
Pastor's Salary	58,000.00	58,000.00
Pastor's Residence Allowance	12,000.00	12,000.00
Pastor's Social Security	4,830.58	4,800.00
Pastor's Pension/Health	26,662.08	26,400.00
PACE	500.00	500.00
Pastor's Auto Reimbursement	3,484.21	4,000.00
Total	105,476.87	105,700.00
H. STAFF SALARIES & BENEFITS		
Secretary's salary	25,076.80	25,300.00
Hickory Run worker	0.00	0
Organist salary	5,977.50	9,000.00
Supply Pastor	943.02	800
Staff/SS & Medicare	2,658.11	2,900.00
Sexton Salary	3,180.27	3,500.00
Supply Organist	1,946.00	200.00
Hickory Run worker mileage	0.00	0
Total	39,781.70	41,700.00
I. TRAVEL		
Synod Assembly	704.65	800
Total	704.65	800
J. PROPERTY/UTILITIES		
Church Electric	3,974.10	5,000.00
Church Telephone	2,115.12	2,400.00
Church Propane	3,650.00	7,000.00
Total	9,739.22	14,400.00
K. PROPERTY/MAINTENANCE		
Carpet cleaning	1,104.66	1,400.00
Church Maintenance	2,455.89	3,000.00
Trash Service	1,015.00	700.00
Exterminator	218	400.00
Alarm System	321	400.00
Snowplowing	1,260.00	
Total	6,374.55	5,900.00
L. TAXES/INSURANCE		
Workmen's Comp	1,150.00	1,000.00
Property Insurance	2,203.00	2,200.00
Total	3,353.00	3,200.00
NET INCOME (LOSS)	186,041.90	197,800.00

Faith Lutheran Church

Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.001.001	Budgeted Operating Balance	3,489.15	186,204.14	186,041.90	0.00	3,651.39
3.300.000	Capital Balance	8,117.52	65,352.39	64,828.44	0.00	8,641.47
3.400.000	unbudgeted operating Balance	306.18	2,923.50	2,933.00	0.00	296.68
3.500.000	memorial Balance	23,559.41	1,595.00	80.93	0.00	25,073.48
3.600.000	concert series Balance	2,676.10	2,088.00	2,407.62	0.00	2,356.48
3.700.000	miscellaneous balance Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.900.000	special benevolence balance Balance	0.00	5,823.00	5,823.00	0.00	0.00
Total		<u>\$38,148.36</u>	<u>\$263,986.03</u>	<u>\$262,114.89</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$40,019.50</u>

Altar Guild Annual Report for 2015

The dedicated staff of the Altar Guild works in small groups and serves on a monthly basis to get the altar ready for church services. There are 5 sub-committees, and they are as follows:

Flowers, wine, juice, linens, and bread

Anyone willing to chair one of those sub-committees is more than welcome, so please let me know!

Thanks also to all of our bread bakers, returning and new, who do a great job providing bread for every Sunday and holiday.

A thank you also has to go out to all of our Altar Guild volunteers from this past year. There have been a lot of changes and we have had a lot of members at the 10:30 service move or no longer be able to serve and so we appreciate those at 10:30 who have stepped up to fill the void.

We would like to remind everyone that we are still always looking for new members and helpers for linen washing, grape juice purchasing, and of course being a monthly altar guild member!!

Please do not hesitate to volunteer! It is a small commitment that makes a big difference!

Anyone willing to volunteer for altar guild may contact me at (570) 606-5322.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Evans
Chairwoman of Altar Guild
2/10/2016

2015 Annual Report for Care Team

The Care Team continues to do the following activities for the member of Faith Lutheran Church as well as friends: sending cards, distributing Prayers Shawls, making telephone calls and other things that may be ask of us. We know that these activities are truly appreciated by the responses that we have received and thus it is important for us to continue our work. We are grateful to those who spend their time, talent and supplies doing these activities.

During the past year there were 21 Prayer Shawls and 132 cards sent out. There also 14 curtains made for Paul's House which shelters and helps Veterans.

Members also set up, baked, served and cleaned up after one memorial service.

A check for \$25.00 was sent to two of our college student member. The money was taken from our budgets account.

We always will welcome any new member who would like to help us with our endeavors by contacting the church office or me. The committee will continue our help in whatever way we cn to support the mission o Faith Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Fisher

Faith Lutheran Church Concert Committee
2015 Annual Report

The 2015 Pocono Mountain Summer Concert Series continued to give Faith Lutheran Church a unique way to reach out to the families of our community. This season provided five family friendly performances by area musicians who enriched our lives with their God given talents.

This year's series featured the youthful energy of Pocono Mountain West Show Choir in May; Mixed Company brought us back to High School memories in June; July we enjoyed the return of The Hyssongs with their inspirational gospel music; Long Time Comin', a local crowd pleaser, delighted us in August; and Elizabeth Knecht dazzled us with her show tunes in September.

The committee is pleased to report that this activity remains afloat with 2015 income of \$2,588 less Expenses of \$ 2,912 leaving a balance of \$2,351 for our 2016 line-up. We were able to offer five performances at an average cost of \$582 per show to include a gift to our church of \$700 to offset facility and piano tuning expenses.

On behalf of the entire community who enjoyed our series this year, we wish to express our deepest gratitude for the enthusiastic support of our congregation and sponsors who make this free family activity possible and hope that we can count on you all in the future as we gear up for 2016!

If anyone is interested in teaming up with our committee or wish to recommend musical talent to whom we may extend an invitation to perform in our series, please leave your name, email address and phone number in the snail mail box for Michael & Brenda Gillis or contact the church office. We welcome your ideas and gratefully value your continued support of this activity.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The principal balance in the Endowment Fund on January 1, 2015 was 5,766.40

The Principal balance on December 31, 2015 was 5,766.40 consisting of CDs in the Mission Investment Fund plus \$150 in the Savings account at First Northern Bank.

The Income balance on December 31, 2015 was \$ 361.90. The Endowment Committee agreed not to distribute the income at this time.

The Fund seeks gifts in any of the following manners, specifying The Endowment Fund of Faith Lutheran Church.

- An outright gift of cash or convertible asset.
- A bequest in a will
- Beneficiary designation from a retirement account.
- Beneficiary designation from a life insurance policy.
- Designated remainder beneficiary in a charitable gift instrument.

Pastor Kaufman

FAITH FAIR

The annual Faith Fair was held on August 8, 2015. It was a great success! The Bake Table, Lunch table, and Flea Market all did very well. The fellowship was wonderful! People volunteered to work on Friday evening, all day Saturday and into the evening for the fair! We sold 184 tickets for the Pig Roast dinner which was delicious and filling! At the end of the day we raised \$3261 for our Mortgage Fund.

So many people make the Faith fair a huge success! It is a chance to sell things, buy things, eat delicious food, buy delicious food to take home, visit with people we haven't seen since last year, friends, neighbors, members and visitors.

Thanks to all who helped! Seems such a small thank you, but it couldn't be done without YOU!

Barbara Slutter & Pastor Kaufman
Chairpersons

FINANCE COMMITTEE 2015

As the song says "it was a very good year". That was our 2015 story. We ended the year in a positive position with a balance of \$3,856.00 in budgeted operating. Thank you everyone!

Special projects in addition to our envelope commitment helped us keep current with all our bills.

1. Church change raised \$349.53
2. Thrivent Choice raised \$2,076.00
3. WAWA Hoagie coupons raised \$404.00
4. Christmas cookies raised \$211.00

We appreciate your active support.

In 2015 we began with a balance of \$200,827.48 due on our mortgage. We received a \$30,000 gift from Lillian & Henry Keiper to lower our principal. Trish Spotts also donated \$1,000 in memory of her husband, Doug to lower the principal. Our principal balance at the end of 2015 is \$145,864.43

We held several functions to reinforce the mortgage account:

1. The annual Faith Fair in August raised \$3,261.48
2. The annual Apple Fest in October raised \$2,062.27

These fund raisers in addition to weekly support allows us to have \$8,641.47 in our Capital account.

The audit was completed in 2015 with no problems. Thank you to Ruth Newlander, Barbara Kresge, and Brian Berger.

A special thank you to Peggy Rapp, our treasurer for her many hours spent keeping our bills paid in a timely fashion. It's not an easy job and we are very grateful. Barbara Slutter has our new program running smoothly and we appreciate her continuing to teach us to interpret all the data. Thank you very much for your efforts.

Again, thank you tellers for all your time and dedication on Sundays and holidays to get the money in the bank!

- Head Tellers: Debbie Anderson, Pastor Kaufman, Beth Larson, Phyllis Nutt, Barb Slutter
- Tellers: Bobbi Fisher, Barbara Fox, Bill Hunter, Don Larson, Dennis & Ronnie Minicozzi, Jim Nutt, Arlene Sinclair, Ida Taylor

Thank you to the members of the finance/stewardship committee, you do a great job. Thank you George Bernardin, Bobbi Fisher, Pastor Kaufman, Beth Larson, Peggy Rapp and Barb Slutter.

It was a great year primarily due to each and every one of you and your support on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Siedlarczyk,

Finance Chairperson/Financial Secretary

MEALS ON WHEELS

Faith Lutheran is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels 3 days every fifth week. We deliver on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of our assigned week. The whole route can take up to 3 hours although it varies depending upon the day. We pick up the food at the American Legion on Old Route 940 and return the coolers back to the Legion. The meals are all pre-packed with the client's name on them. Very detailed directions are included to go from client to client on the route. When we deliver, we deliver as a 2 person team. The ideal thing would be to have enough people to send out 2 teams of 2 people each on each day so the routes are able to be split. The drivers pay for their own gas and are treated to the smiles of the 16 -19 clients we serve. Thank you to our very dedicated volunteers! If you are interested in finding out more about Meals on Wheels or might like to ride along to see how it works, please contact me at 570-722-1905, bethdon@ptd.net or see me at church.

Beth Larson

Faith Lutheran Church Meals on Wheels Coordinator

MEMORIAL GARDEN

The memorial garden committee worked this year on maintaining the memorial garden. Grass mowing is taken care of by the regular grass cutters. Mulch is an ongoing project every year as well as the constant deer be gone spraying for the plants. Thank you to those who quietly go about working on the plants and the spraying in the garden! The Memorial Garden has become a place of beauty and peace for the remains of those "Saints of God who have gone home to glory". The names of each of these "saints" are memorialized on the plaque in the garden. If you are interested in pre-arranging a place in the memorial garden, please contact the church office. The memorial garden is open to members and non-members as well as members of the community.

Music Ministry Report 2015

It is a blessing and honor to serve as the organist and choir director at Faith, and I sincerely thank the Pastor and congregation for the warmth and sincerity extended to me. The liturgy and singing here are skillful and a joy to be a part of. I greatly appreciate the choirs, not only for their willingness to give their time and gifts, but for their friendship and support. We have learned many new anthems and everyone seems to enjoy them. With money budgeted for the choir, I have been able to purchase new booklets with several nice pieces. We are always happy to receive new choir members!! Instrumental and vocal soloists are also welcome to share their gifts. Once again I am grateful and happy to serve here at Faith Lutheran.

In Christ,

Beth Howden

2015 PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

The winter of 2015 left us exhausted with shoveling and snow blowing. It took many hands to clear the church decks and walkways. Thank you to AA who handles the front deck shoveling on Tuesdays and Fridays. If I began to name the many people who took part in the winter cleanup, I'm sure I would miss someone.

I received some nice complements on the look of the grounds this past year. We had a great lawn care crew. Thank you to Don Childers, Bob Ray, Bob Crownover, and Rod and Dylan Blose. Our weed whacker specialist was Ron Shiner. He was able to do an even better job with the purchase of a new weed whacker. Thank you Fellsa!

2105 was the year of tree removal. Thank you to Kevin Spotts, Ron Shiner, Lloyd Vought and Don Larson for taking down a potentially problematic tree near the shed. With the help of Kevin Spotts, Don Childers and Don Larson, we took down an old dead huge pine tree near the edge of the parking lot. The wood was taken down to the Veteran's Sanctuary in Jonas for use in their outdoor wood furnace.

Thank you to Steve Slutter for repairing the sagging ceiling in the kitchen. I'm sure there are many other jobs Steve quietly does around the church. Thanks, Steve!

Other than having the alarm fixed several times and changing light bulbs and filters, the building is still standing.

Winter has made a slow start but the snow shovels and snow blower are at the ready.

If you see anything that needs to be taken care of, please let me know.

Don Larson
Property Chairman

STEWARDSHIP 2015

“Celebrate Faith, Here, There and Everywhere”

This was a year of celebration in our stewardship campaign. Peggy Rapp prepared inserts for our bulletins with “Stories of Faith in Action” to support our campaign. These inserts included pictures of several members.

A sumptuous brunch was served on October 25th at 9:30AM. Invitations were mailed inviting everyone. A good time was had by all attendees.

Thank you to the Finance/Stewardship committee for their hard work and cooking/baking skills. Thank you George Bernardin, Bobbi Fisher, Pastor Kaufman, Beth Larson, Peggy Rapp and Barbara Slutter for their efforts all year.

Our campaign resulted in 52 responses totaling \$119,996 committed to Budgeted Operating and \$20,572 to the mortgage.

We appreciate all your support. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Siedlarczyk

Finance Chairperson/Financial Secretary

SYNOD COUNCIL 2015

The NEPA Synod Council is the governing body of our Synod. The Council consists of the Bishop, and elected clergy and lay members from throughout the Synod. The Council meets 4 times each year at various churches throughout the Synod. In October, we met at St Paul, Summer Hill, which is outside Pottsville, in January at Christ Lutheran in Allentown and in March will be meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran, Emanuelsville.

The Council hears reports on the various ministries of the church, such as Bear Creek Camp, Mission Interpreters and LAMPa, which reported during the meeting in October. The Council also makes decisions concerning On Leave from Call requests, retirements, appointments, church closings and financial loans and grants.

The 2016 Synod Assembly will be held June 17th and 18th at the PPL Arena in Allentown. Each congregation of the NEPA Synod elects 2 voting members to attend the Synod Assembly but everyone can attend. If you attend Assembly you will hear reports from all the ministries of the Lutheran Church within NEPA Synod, our nation and throughout the world. It is an inspiring opportunity to learn of the effects the Church has all over the world.

Respectively submitted,
Ruth Major

Sunday School January to June 2015

Barb Fox and I were prepared and present on Sundays. We rarely had any children. Fortunately we had not spent any money for new materials.

Shirley Fowler

Sunday School September – December

In the summer church council sent a survey out to parents of Sunday School age children. Based on the survey results, Sunday School was changed to 9:15-10AM. Jennifer Kalata, Kharl Newlander and Judie Tim volunteered to teach each week. They now have 8 children that attend. Many thanks to everyone!

The children participated in the Hanging of the Greens service in December, singing a song, and then re-creating the nativity scene for us. Then Christmas Eve they sang at the 7PM service. Any children age 2 thru grade 6 are welcome to join us on Sunday morning.

Vacation Bible School 2015

July 27-July 31 6:30PM to 8:30PM

We had 13 children including the 3 boys from Norfolk VA. This was their fourth year with us for VBS. Their mother indicated that we could expect them back in 2016.

The Gospellight Son West Roundup material worked well. The music DVD kept that part of the evening program lively with its action songs.

The western theme meant mustaches, bandannas, and sheriff badges for the children. (See poster in the narthex.) We were loaned a lasso, a bale of straw, and a BULL HEAD so that the children could have their pictures taken "riding" a bull.

The Bible material dealt with Moses, from the burning bush to the complaining in the desert. There were ways to involve the children in the stories.

This is the fourth year that we have used the Gospel Light material. We've done Son Rise National Park, Son Surf beach Bash, and Son Quest Rain Forest as well as the Sonwest Roundup. The fun themes have worked well. The Bible stories have sometimes required some tweaking. We have NOT ordered pupil workbooks. The samples of them have not been impressive, and we have not known actual number of various age groups of children until the last minute.

Carrie Pohl and Mary Anne Boyer worked with the youngest children. Barb Fox did the crafts. Pastor Kaufman was in charge of music. Beth and Don Larson ran the games. I did the stories and Barb and I worked with the older children.

Shirley Fowler

TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL FOOD PANTRY

The Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council Food Pantry is a ministry of the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council. Faith Lutheran is one of the six churches represented on the Ecumenical Council. The pantry is housed at Five Loaf House in Pocono Pines and is supported by state and community funds. Members of the Faith congregation donated \$937 through the Souper Bowl of Caring this past year. Weekly people put food donations in the baskets located under the tables at church. Monetary donations from congregation members as well as the food donations have helped the pantry keep afloat during the Pennsylvania Budget Crisis. 250 to 275 families representing over 800 individuals are served monthly by the pantry. 10 or more members of the congregation volunteer at the food pantry. Thank you for all you do to help those in need of food on the Top of the Mountain! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Beth Larson at 570-722-1905 or bethdon@ptd.net or see her at church.

Women of Faith Applefest
October,2015
Submitted by Lois Childers

Applefest Report

The annual Applefest was held on October 10th, 2015. The following sub-committees were:

Baked Goods

Christmas Crafts

Crafts

Attic Treasures

Gift Basket

Everything Apple

Baked Goods

The congregation donated a delicious assortment of baked goods, Ex. Pies, cakes, breads, cookies etc. We also purchased frozen pies, baked and sold them. This was a profitable venture.

Christmas Crafts

Ladies/men made crafts at home and donated them to the craft table. There was a large variety of handmade products including wreaths, bibs, table runners, dolls, ornaments, etc.

Attic Treasures

Church members donated gently used items that were sold at a very reasonable price.

Gifts Baskets

The congregation took baskets and filled them using a theme, Ex. Baking and the church ladies wrapped them in cellophane and decorated them with a bow. They were sold. There were about 25 plus baskets donated.

Everything Apple

The congregation donated a variety of items related to apples for sale.

Lunch

Pastor Kaufman volunteered to make hot dogs, hamburgers and pork BBQ to sell at lunch, along with assorted chips, soda, coffee, water and apple crisp with ice cream, for dessert. Soup was sold again and was a popular item on the menu.

Miscellaneous

Ladies volunteered to be cashiers, assist in the kitchen, sell goods at the tables, bake, make crafts and set-up the day before and clean-up afterwards. Brenda Gillis took the responsibility of publicity and Beth Larson made fliers that were displayed around the local communities. Beth Larson prepared the sign hung by Rt. 940 advertising the Applefest.

The Applefest was a great success, making a profit of \$2,062.27 that was donated to the church mortgage fund. The joint efforts of the church ladies and the congregation's support and donations are the reason for the success! We are most grateful.

The "Women of Faith" the ladies continue to attend organizational meetings and continue support and participate in fund raisers including the; the Faith Fair, the Christmas Cookie Sale, the Souper Bowl, and Buck a Chick.

