**St. Mark’s Lutheran Church**

**Annual Report for 2017**



**424 Hyde Park Avenue**

**Waukesha, Wisconsin**

**Phone: (262) 547-8213**

**Church Staff**

Pastor D. Andrew Fetters

Discipleship Coordinator Marcia Marquardt

Music Director Jennifer Manvilla

Lookout Editor Sue Beranek

Church Secretary Sandi Pellicori

Marie Furrer

Nancy Mitchell

Financial Secretary Kelly Trautman

Custodians Stan Indermuehle, John Gennerman

**Church Council**

President Jim Plaster

Vice President Mark Stiles

Secretary Brian Trautman (Resigned 6/2017)

Mary Jo Christensen

Gather Barb Kehoss, Lester Shaw

Grow Cathy Hernandez

Go Laura Goralski, Sharon Collins

**Church Ministries**

Treasurer Tim NcKich (Resigned 3/2017)

Tom Beranek

Counter (Supervisor) Jeff Bjerke

Prayer Shawl Mary Jo Christensen

Quilters Vickie Friedeck

Ruth Circle Carole Wolter

Caring Ministry Rockie Matson

Men’s Ministry John Thompson

Stewardship Larry Nines

College Connection Suzanne Lorenz

Card Ministry Liz Carleton

Scholarship Fund Chris Christensen

Property Mark Stiles

**Mutual Ministry Personnel team Nominating**

Kristine Anderson Kevin Gorolski Mary Jo Christensen (Moved to Council) Gail Deitrich Bob Johnson (Resigned 3/2017)

Dave Hojnacki Suzanne Lorenz Lynn Delzer

Carrie Wagner Don Neitzel Terry Inman Rockie Matson Frank Remfrey Mavis McGrath

Carrie Wagner Larry Nines

**Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**

**St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**January 29, 2017**

* Call to Order: (Quorum of 48 members must be present)

Call to order was given by Jim Plaster. A head count was taken by Brian Trautman

and Lana DeCoto of voting members. There were 72 voting members present.

* Opening Prayer: Pastor Andy Fetters
* Introductions of those helping with the meeting:

Executive Team: President, Jim Plaster; Vice President, Lana DeCoto; Treasurer,

Tim Nekich and Secretary, Lisa Garber.

Financial Secretary, Kelly Trautman and Nominating Team lead by Brian Trautman with Deb Gerner and Gail Dietrich will be distributing, collecting, counting and reporting the results of the paper ballots..

* Jim Plaster requested people consider volunteering for the open Council positions.
* Reading of Rules of the Meeting Passed by Council\*: Lana DeCoto
  + Voting for Council Members and Nominating Team Members will require the use of ballots.
  + All other voting will require a simple majority vote by voice approval, except where noted beforehand.
  + Any motions made from the floor will be submitted in writing at the time the motion is presented to the Council Secretary for accurate record keeping.
  + Any discussion taking place will need to be done at a microphone after having provided your name, and will be limited to two minutes.
  + The discussion will be moderated at the discretion of the Council President.

* Reading of the Agenda of Business Items: Tim Nekich
  + Approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
  + Elect (5) new Council Members
  + Elect (6) new Nominating Team Members
  + Receive the Annual Reports
  + Approve the 2017 Budget
  + Vote to continue to establish governing documents for a St. Mark’s Endowment Fund.
  + Vote on the Constitution amendments.

No additions or objections were made to the agenda.

* Acknowledgement of gratitude for Council members whose terms are ending:

Matt Carleton, Lana DeCoto, Lisa Garber, Barb Geiger and Larry Nines.

Jim Plaster presented each person with a certificate showing a donation of an animal

made in their names.

* Acknowledgement of Nominating Team whose terms are ending: Brian Trautman, Sharon Collins, Deb Gerner, Gail Dietrich, Tracy Glover and Samantha Glocka.
* Business Items:

1. Vote to approve the 2016 Congregational Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the 2016 minutes was made by Terry Inman and seconded Jeff Bjerke. Motion approved.

1. Election of new Council members:

Several people spoke about importance of involvement and sharing talents.

Jim Plaster stated that the only name on the Ballot was Brian Trautman. Nominating Team passed out the ballots.

Nominations from the floor: A call was made to the floor for additional nominations. No additions were made and the nominations were closed.

The votes were cast and the Nominating Team counted the ballots. Results will

be reported later in the meeting.

1. Election of new Nominating Committee members:

Nominations from the floor: A call was made to the floor for additional nominations. Nominations from the floor: Mavis McGrath, Lynn Delzer,

Mary Jo Christensen and Terry Inman & Larry Nines.

Brian Trautman explained the duties of the Nominating Team and frequency of meetings.

Motion to close nominations for Nominating Committee made by

Chris Fenner and seconded by Karen Handford

The votes were cast and the Nominating Team counted the ballots.

Results will be reported later in the meeting.

1. Receiving of Annual Reports:

\* State of the Church (Pastor Andy)

\* President’s Report (Jim)

\* State of our Finances (Tim)

\*Others

In a point of personal privilege, Tim Nekich recognized Mel Wagner for her

work and continuing work on the Stewardship committee.

Motion to accept the Annual Reports was made by Jeff Bjerke seconded by

Jon Schrantz. Motion approved.

1. 2017 Budget Vote: Motion to approve the 2017 Budget made by Jeff Bjerke and seconded by Mavis McGrath.

Discussions involved: Amount of Waukesha Charities, Pledged amount of income, Quilting and Prayer Shawls being moved from Benevolence to Faith Formation, Transparency on “Other Income” line item, Mission Trip and Green Lake, and Sabbatical Account.

Motion approved.

Jim expressed a special thank you to all the effort and hours that went into this budget.

1. Vote to continue to working on governing documents for St. Mark’s Endowment Fund: Motion to continue to establish the Governing Documents for a St. Mark’s Endowment Fund was made Bob Johnson seconded by Al Link.

Discussion Involved: Only exploration, Council will still need to give their approval. Can the committee remain the same, yes but committee welcomes new people. What progress has been made – Jon Schrantz read a statement of work the committee completed. 2016 Council’s recommendation was to only pursue another year of study. Request was made to clarify the results of a yay or nay vote to on the motion.

Calling the Question.

Motion approved.

New motion from the floor: Motion to dissolve the St. Marks Mission Endowment Fund and organizational Team as established on 1/31/2016 made by Lynn Delzer seconded by Eric Delzer.

Discussion: Forming another mechanism, putting more restrictions on more dollars. Just provides another vehicle to donate money that is not coming out of normal giving. Council is not recommending anything other than one more year

of study. Putting control of money in the hands of four or five people. Endowments normally hold the principle and only disperse the interest.

Committee asking for another chance to gather information to make document better. Work may be completed in less than one year.

Calling the Question.

Motion was read again.

Voice vote was taken and was too close to determine result.

Show of Hand Count: In favor - 22 Opposed – 25. Motion defeated.

1. Vote on the Constitution Amendments:

*Amendment to St. Mark’s Constitution required by ELCA Synod*:

Motion to accept the Constitutional Amendments made by Stan Indermuehle seconded by Jon Schrantz.

Discussion: None

Motion approved.

*Sabbatical Policy* – Policy was read aloud. Motion made to accept the Sabbatical Policy made by Stan Indermuehle seconded by Jon Schrantz.

Discussion: Sabbatical is in addition to Continuing Education and Vacations. Council and Pastor will work together on Timing. The Sabbatical also has to be run through the Synod.

Motion approved.

*Personnel Committee* – Brian Trautman highlighted the changes made to the policy and he also stated a correction to Section D: Strike the word “Officers” and add the words “Council and Executive Team”.

Motion made to accept the Personal Committee changes made by Stan Indermuehle seconded by Jon Schrantz.

Discussion: Are two evaluations per year too many? Keep communication open and review goals that are set for Staff.

Motion approved.

*Annual Meeting* – The Annual Meeting will now be held between October 10th to November 15th.

Rational for change – Raises, if given, could not be enacted until after budget was approved at the annual meeting. Once approved, there was a lot of rework in payroll for back pay.

Discussion: How will Council Terms be handled? Will the terms expire after the next annual meeting? Yes, Council terms for 2017 will expire at the next annual meeting.

* Results of Elections:

Jim Plaster read the results.

Council – Elected: Brian Trautman

Note: There were three write in names. One member declined and two members were not present. Nominees need to be present at the Annual meeting to be considered. Brian Trautman has been elected to Council. – There are several term lengths open and it was not determined which term Brian will be filling.

Question: What is the procedure to fill the four open positions. Council can appointing people and Nominating Team can work to find additional people.

Nominating - Elected – Larry Nines, Mavis McGrath, Lynn Delzer,

Mary Jo Christensen and Terry Inman.

* Jim Plaster announced the agreement to between Pastor and St. Mark’s:

A problem that was discovered and corrected in October 2016. The issue was Pastors Portico benefits were not being properly deducted from his pay and he was over paid from day one until October 2016, when it was discovered and corrective action was taken.

Until the 1-18-17 Special Council meeting this was a confidential matter. That is the reason you should just be hearing about it now. In resolving this issue we satisfied legal advice, the Bishop’s advice, Personnel Chairperson is satisfied, Pastor is satisfied and the Council passed the motion below 1-18-2017. This motion will be posted in the minutes of the January 18, Special Council meeting minutes.

Motion; “As Resolution to the documented over payment of Pastor D. Andrew Fetter’s benefits via an error in the way Portico payments were paid from date of hire through October 2016. It is moved that Pastors salary and housing be held at his 2016 rate for 3 years. 1-1-2020 his salary and housing will return to the appropriate level, 4 years higher than his existing level pre-established by Personnel Committee.”

Discussion: Request to reconsider the resolution. It was noted that all parties Synod, Pastor, Council agreed to settlement.

* Mission Statement: Gathered Together by God to Grow and Go out.
* Motion to Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn made by Kelly Colgrove and seconded by Mavis McGrath. Motion approved.

\*These rules were adopted by the 2016 Council

lmg 02/06/2017

**Pastor Andy’s Annual Report**

**November 2017**

“Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.” John 6:68-69

2017 has been a year of challenge and adaptation. So, I harken back to the challenge of John 6, a lengthy chapter where Jesus talks openly to the crowds and his disciples. I have this in the back of my mind because church attendance nationwide is dropping, even among mega churches. And here, the crowds gather, immensely. Yet, they leave just as quick. In his humanness, Jesus asks Simon Peter, his closest disciple - “Are you gonna leave too?” It is a heart wrenching scene. Peter’s words were familiar growing up, it was our offertory canticle for as long as I can remember. “Lord, to who would we go?” Peter articulates the faith in Christ even at its most difficult.

These words give me hope. They articulate following Jesus even when the crowds diminish, even when the road is difficult, and especially when the cross begins to emerge. Statistics on christian life in America seem dismal - 83% of Americans find themselves elsewhere on Sunday mornings. (I know you, you point out that we have a Wednesday night worship service, but Americans find themselves super busy during the week too)! Ranking the 50 States by attendance in worship, Wisconsin ranks 44th. 44 out of 50.

That is to point out that times have changes. Worship no longer is the motivating force for many Americans on Sunday morning.

HOWEVER, that means the mission fields are ripe for harvest. People who have not dawned the doorstep of a church are numerous. There are families who are looking for intimacy with God and Christ and are not sure where to start. The challenge is evident.

So how about the adaptation. I am amazed at the transformation I witness among the people of St. Mark’s, day in and day out. More importantly, this transformation happens because of the people of St. Mark’s. We are adapting to a permission giving community. Watching ordinary saints of God transform our community by simply seeing a need and filling it with a God sized YES! (Blessings in a backpack, cup of comfort, quilters, faith fermenters, bible study, discipleship huddles, OIKOS, on and on.) We are a church that is on the move, following Jesus. “Lord, you have the words of eternal life.”

-Pastor Andy Fetters

**Pastoral Acts for 2017**

**Baptisms Date**

Serena Schwendimann January 29, 2017

Emma Grace Scott March 5, 2017

Violet Juliane Menting March 19, 2017

Brynlee Paige Voss May 28, 2017

Jordan Bruce Jacob June 4, 2017

Madden Jo Powell June 18, 2017

Spencer Goodman July 16, 2017

Bennett Christopher Carleton July 23, 2017

Paxton Granec July 23, 2017

Charlotte Baumler September 10, 2017

Nolan Henrik Manvilla December 10, 2017

Eric Gabriel Schopf December 17, 2017

**Funerals/Memorial Services Date of Death**

Robert N. Green November 23, 2016

Roger Polly January 14, 2017

Tina Ellifson January 22, 2017

Harold J. Madden February 4, 2017

Sylvia Mather February 19,2017

Thomas C. Schunk February 25, 2017

Peggy A. Gizewski April 14, 2017

Doris Omsted April 22, 2017

Charles Barten September 9, 2017

JoAnne Dobbeck October 14, 2017

Donald Sheskey October 22, 2017

Andrew Russell November 6, 2017

Dorothy Myers November 29, 2017

**Marriages**

Brian Foster & Natalie Johnson February 25, 2017

Troy Christensen & Christina Schubert June 24, 2017

Romke deHaan & Kim Skarzynski June 24, 2017

**Confirmations**

**OIKOS**

Lana DeCoto

**New Members**

Timothy and Jennifer Rouse Children: Griffin, Taylor

Rodney and Hannah Brandenburg Children: Rodney, Emily

Brittany Krueger

Kathy Dennig

Christine Shander (Are James & Dawn Shander new members as well?) All live at same address

Pamela Hebert

Patricia Simmerman\* Deceased

**Transfer**

David & Kirsten Cerroni Children: Anna, Nora

**Inactive members**

114 Members Voluntarily Removed



**St Marks 2017 Congregational Council President Report**

As the end of 2017 approaches, (maybe a bit too fast) I take a slight pause to reflect on the changes that have occurred and the changes we hope may occur. Very soon a proposal from the Sanctuary Needs Team will be presented that covers many areas of the Church building, please attend one of the information meetings and share in the excitement of change. It has been 35 years since the present Sanctuary was constructed and there are many updates that are in need of being done. With a vote to move forward at the Annual Meeting, St Mark’s could soon start a Reformation of its own.

I would like thank everyone for their support this year and the past years. The past 6 years as a Council member have been one of the most rewarding growth experiences of my life. I have learned, God does not call the equipped, but equips the called. That allows us to grow and gain comfort outside our comfort zone and see what God’s plan might be for us as we move Forward with Him.

The Council recently voted to start the process of lowering the required minimum number of members for the Council and the Nominating teams. Both of these Teams have operated with less than the required number of members all or most of the year. This will be voted on by the Congregation during the November 19, Annual Meeting. At the 2018 Annual Meeting it will need to be ratified as a change to our Constitution.

St Marks is currently operating at a budget deficit, with that being the trend the entire year. The goal of our Stewardship campaign for this year is to help us all transform our thoughts about the “Duty” of giving to support our mission, into the ability to see and feel the “Delight” of giving in supporting Gods’ mission through St Mark’s.

While my time on the St Mark’s Council is about concluded, I am wondering what other Opportunities await me, what friends I have yet to meet as I endeavor to help St Mark’s live into its mission statement, “Gathered together by God, to grow and go out”.

Yours in Christ,

James A Plaster

2017 Congregational Council President

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Psalm 32:7

Jap 10-22-17

**Council Secretary Report**

The Church Council meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm.

All Council meetings are open to members of St.Marks. Team meetings are now scheduled, as needed, by Team Leaders. The Council Secretary is responsible for

recording the Church Council minutes and posting them in Fellowship Hall.

**Council action highlights for 2017**

Election of Officers (Executive Team): President-Jim Plaster, Vice-President-Mark Stiles, Treasurer-Tim Nekich, Secretary-Brian Trautman. Tim Nekich resigned in March and Brian Trautman resigned in July, This left openings on council which were filled by appointment of the council. Lester Shaw and Cathy Hernandez were appointed in March and Laura Goralski and Mary Jo Christensen in April. Mary Jo took over as Secretary and Tom Beranek was appointed as Treasurer as a non-council position.

The Personnel team members: Don Neitzel (committee chair), Gene Geiger, Luis Hernandez, Bob Johnson, and Frank Remfrey. Gene and Luis's term were complete in July and were replaced by Kevin Goralski and Suzanne Lorenz.

The nominating team updated members: Lynn Delzer, Larry Nines, Mavis McGrath, and Terry Inman.

Mutual Ministries team update: Kristine Anderson, Gail Dietrich, Dave Hojnacki, Rockie

Matson and Carrie Wagner.

The Audit Team update: Chris Christensen, Chuck Helling and Julie Baumler.

Leadership Retreat was held on April 21and 22nd and September 29th and 30th, 2017.

Sandi Pellicori announced in April that she would be retiring in June and moving to Harrison, Wisconsin after being church secretary for 12 years.

Marie Furrer was hired as Administrative Assistant on May 8th and resigned after 2 months. Nancy Mitchell was hired as Administrative Assistant and started July 24th.

Chris Fenner gave an update on the Sanctuary Needs Team and is working on it.

Jennifer Manvilla, Music Director, has announced the news of her baby due October 30th. Jennifer has scheduled all musician coverage and special music for the 6 weeks she will be on maternity leave. It was decided that Jennifer is a valuable part of St.Marks and it would benefit all to give her time off from November 12 to December 10 at her normal salary. She will use 2 vacation days as the other part of her leave.

Both Council and the Nominating Team have operated most of this year short at least one member. The Council has voted to recommend changes to the Constitution wording reducing the number of members for both. Next step is a vote at the Annual meeting 11-19-2017. Council minimum would go from 9 to 7 members, maximum from 12 to 10 members. Nominating would go from 6 to 4 members.

Breeze software was installed in June and is being used.

The Annual Meeting will be held on November 19, 2017 with informative meetings held on the two Sundays and Wednesdays prior the meeting.

Mary Jo Christensen

Council Secretary

**Treasurer Report (2017)**

I’d like to thank the Finance team for their participation and input as we have thoughtfully considered several requests throughout the year.  The most recent and significant proposal is for the sanctuary renovation, led by Christine Fenner.  We have provided our support for this project to be presented to the Council, and ultimately to the congregation for their review and consideration.  This is a wonderful opportunity to update our facilities to help us to continue to attract new congregational members who share our mission to grow and go out.

 Although our expenses have exceeded our donations by approximately $31,700 through 9/30/17, we expect this deficit to reduce considerably during the 4th quarter, which historically we have seen the highest rate of giving.  Our balance sheet remains very strong with current assets at $113,900 and our mortgage at just $45,532.

 I’d like to also thank all of the leaders and members of the groups who needed to submit projecting needs for 2018 in this shortened budget season.

It has been an extremely rewarding experience being part of this year’s stewardship campaign, known as “Duty & Delight”.  Personally, it has been very enlightening to personally explore our family’s giving history, and identify areas of immediate and near future growth. My hope is for all families to take advantage of this opportunity of personal growth, and I look forward to continue to grow and go out with our fellow congregational members.

 In Christ’s service,

Tom Beranek

Treasurer

**St. Mark’s Counting Team**

**2017 Annual Report**

The counting team is responsible for counting all monies received from offering, memorials,

gifts, activities, and fees. The counting is performed weekly by two team members and takes

about 2 hours or until finished. The counting teams are scheduled to provide coverage for 52

Sundays per year.

St. Mark’s Counting Team consists of Lead Counters and Assistant Counters.

Lead Counters responsibilities on their scheduled Sundays are:

 Work with one or more assistant counters.

 Count and record (offering envelopes, loose offering, gifts, memorials, and fees).

 Take the deposit to the bank.

Assistant Counters responsibilities on their scheduled Sundays are:

 Work with the lead counter.

 Verify and balance the content of the offering envelopes with what is written on the

envelope.

Contact me if you are interested in serving on the Counting Team.

Thank you counting team members for providing this service to St. Marks.

Jeff Bjerke

414-534-1305

**Personnel Team**

The Personnel Team consisting of five members was formed in July, 2013 and is appointed by the Church Council. The term of office is three years, with election of one or two members each year to provide staggered terms.

The duties of the Personnel Team are to evaluate staffing needs, conduct performance evaluations and reviews, make compensation recommendations, maintain staff vacation calendar and respond to any other issues pertaining to staff.

This past year we completed our job search and hired our new Administrative Assistant, Nancy Mitchell. Other projects for 2016/2017 will be to update the job descriptions for the staff positions at St. Mark’s. Our goal is to maintain communication among staff members in helping enable them to perform their duties at St. Marks. We also work closely with Pastor Andy to keep all doors of communication open.

A special thank you to Gene Geiger and Lou Hernandez who completed their three years of being part of the Personnel team ending July 1st. We welcome our two new members Kevin Goralski and Suzanne Lorenz as they share their talents as part of the Personnel team joining Bob Johnson, Frank Remfrey and myself.

The Personnel Team is still a work in progress as we move forward to better serve the members of St. Mark’s. We ask for your prayers as we move forward into the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Neitzel

**Nominating Team Report  2017**

Members: Lynn Delzer, Mary Jo Christensen, Terry Inman, Mavis McGrath, Larry Nines

Duties of Nominating team. To nominate persons to fill positions on Church Council and Nominating Team to be voted on at the Annual meeting. To nominate persons to be recommended to council for approval for Personnel, Audit, and St. Mark’s representatives to Synod Assembly in June.

Nominations made for 2017

February... team nominated for approval by Council, Cathy Hernandez, Sharon Collins, Lester Shaw to fill empty Council positions.

May…. Laura Goralski, Mary Jo Christensen, were nominated to fill Council positions.  Mary Jo Christensen resigned from the nominating team at this time.

Personnel nominations... Suzanne Lorenz and Kevin Goralski were submitted to Council

Audit nominations... Chuck Helling and Julie Baumler were submitted to Council.

Nominations for Annual Meeting in November 2017 .

Church Council

3 year terms Mary Jo Christensen, Jenna Gapinsky, Laura Goralski,

2 year terms Sharon Collins, Marilyn Timper

1 year term Cathy Hernandez

Nominating Team 1 year term

Deb Gerner, Darlene Markle, Jenny Pavlovich & Jim  Plaster

**Nominating Team Policy and Procedure** passed May 16, 2017: Any member of the Nominating Team may not become a nominee for any nominated position at St. Mark’s during their term on the Nominating Team.

All records, minutes, charts for Nominating Team will be kept in folder at St. Mark’s.

**Gather Ministry Report**

As 2017 evolved, so did the scope of the Gather Ministry. It began as the Worship and Music teams which is a major part of Sunday morning and Wednesday night worship.

The Worship and Music team include people who assist in the Liturgy, the Greeters, the Ushers, the Communion Set Up team and the Communion Servers and the Lay Readers. The Sacristy Team and the Assisting Ministers too are now in this group that make our worship very special. Also included is the Prayer Ministry, the Cup of Comfort, the Greeting Card Ministry and Our Coffee Hour group which provide services to all.

This group also includes the St. Mark's Dartball Team which is ready for their fall and winter season to begin and the College Connection that is getting all addresses of new freshman so we can support all of our college students with cards and best wishes.

Our Gather Ministry continues to grow and change as our church grows and changes. We would like to thank everyone who volunteers in all these events.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Kehoss and Mary Jo Christensen

**Worship and Music Annual Report**

The Worship and Music Team plans the worship experience for our Sunday and our Wednesday Worship Services. Members of this team coordinate the Greeters, Ushers, Communion Teams, Assisting Ministers and Readers. We review and select the liturgy for each new church season. This year we added Children’s Worship Bags at the back of the church and we updated the Hearing Amplification Devices at the Welcome Center.

The Sacristy Team is a part of the Worship and Music Team. It coordinates details relating to the preparation of worship that include supplies, the care of paraments and the care of Pastor’s robe. Also included are flowers and decorations that you enjoy each week and especially during Christmas and Easter. We always appreciate those who give flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones.

A huge thank you to all that have helped make our Worship Services a wonderful part of our week. There are many details to attend to, and we couldn’t do it without so much help. There are many opportunities and there is always a spot for you.

Barbara Helling

**Music Director- Annual Report 2017**

First, I continue to be church pianist and accompanist.  This includes playing for Wednesday and Sunday church services, Advent and Lenten services, accompanying soloists for special music, choir rehearsals, funerals and weddings.  I also maintain the position of director of choirs, including adult choir, the A-Men choir and the newest group of ladies who have been singing together for worship.  The adult choir rehearses one to two times per week when we are in our seasonal schedule, and the A-Men Choir sings at least twice per year.  Additionally, I choose music and hymns for all worship services.  I find and present liturgies to the worship and music team, based off the needs of that season.  Finally, I coordinate special music, wherein I seek out and schedule the many talented people St. Mark’s has to sing or play for special music.

I enjoy adding in guest musicians to the services, including vocalists, flute, guitar, cello, violin and trumpet players who are friends and colleagues of mine.

My hope for St. Mark's is that we keep growing in our music ministry by adding members to choirs and special music.  I also pray that through music, we are able to give glory and praise to God.

Jennifer Manvilla

**Property 2017 Annual Report**

The church and its property are in good shape thanks to many caring members giving time to help maintain the church.

Highlights are:

1. Had annual safety inspections of the heating, cooling, and elevator.
2. Installed donated coffee system in kitchen and modified instructions.
3. Replaced noisy blower motor in East entrance wall heater. Blower donated to church.
4. Continued effort to upgrading / updating electrical done by Bob Krause. This included replacing a breaker sub panel in one of the boiler rooms.
5. New lawn mower donated to church to replace current one that required costly repairs.
6. Working on adding motion sensing to all the main bathrooms.
7. Repaired damaged parking lot fence. Cost covered by snow plowing company.
8. Rekeyed the church main entrance doors.
9. Exterior painting started on lower levels and is a work in progress. This required repair to the soffit above pastor’s office.
10. Implemented and documented a flag display policy for property.
11. Birch tree removed and all other trees trimmed by arborist. Cost covered by donation.
12. Toilet installation started 10/16/2017 to repair leaky toilet in women’s main floor bathroom. Remaining 4 toilets to be installed this year. All toilets donated.
13. Jim Plaster is currently working with Christiansen Roofing to work on a solution to fix an issue with the deficiency of the seal between the roof and flashing around the glass steeple.

Goals for 2018 are:

1. Recommend replacement of the two 5-ton AC units at a cost of $14K. Last maintenance showed one unit is getting close to end of life. Current units are using Freon, which is obsolete.
2. Completion of roof repair.
3. Continue painting of the outside trim and siding of the church.
4. Develop a plan on weed control behind the wall of the parking lot.
5. Continue effort to move maintenance / repairs from reactionary to preventive.
6. Installation of security cameras at church with donation from Mavis McGrath.

Thanks:

I would like to give thanks to Bob Krause. He has given many hours in his efforts to maintaining / upgrading the electrical at church.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Szwalkiewicz

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

In 2017 our Prayer Shawl Ministry has touched many lives. As of October we have made 50 prayer shawls. These have been shared with many members and friends in need. We are planning for the Blue Christmas in December. We were privileged to make 40 fleece prayer shawls for Project North Pole and 70 prayer shawls for Healing Hearts. We were honored to knit and crochet 9 baptism shawls for our youngest members. Many prayer patches were also made and shared with those in need. We continue to meet the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall and welcome anyone who knits or crochets or wants to learn. It is a fun, relaxing way to spend an hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Miller and Mary Jo Christensen

**Quilters Annual Report for 2017**

During the past year, from October 17, 2016 to October 16, 2017, St. Mark’s Quilters completed ­­­­­­­­­385 twin-sized quilts and 102 small quilts for children and nursing home residents, for a total of 487. In addition to meeting on Mondays, several quilters spent many hours at home cutting fabric and sewing squares together for tops. All are welcome to join in this service project on Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Quilts have been donated to Lutheran Social Services, Salvation Army, Christmas Clearing Council, Women’s Center, Hebron House (4 shelters), Hope Center, Nehemiah House, Joy House, Linden Grove Rehab, Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Parents’ Place, Lutheran World Relief, and hurricane relief in Florida.

Here at St. Mark’s, quilts were given to our graduates and to friends and family of our members needing comfort. Each service veteran in attendance at the Elks’ annual Veterans Day Dinner received a quilt. Quilts were donated for fundraising activities at Lutherdale Bible Camp, Hope Center, Zonta, Blessings in a Backpack, and many others.

The Quilters would like to thank St. Mark’s members and all those who supported this mission during the past year with monetary donations for batting and backing fabric. Thank you to the generous people who gave cotton material for tops. We could not do this work without your help. Special thanks go to John and Stan for setup and cleanup, and to Al Jones for cutting all those squares.

Each quilt has a sticker attached with St. Mark’s address and a quote from Matthew 19:26, “With God all things are possible”. The goal of St. Mark’s Quilters is to continue this mission of service that began with a small group of women in 1978, giving warmth and hope to our community and beyond.

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors…” 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Friedeck

**Faith Formation Annual Report**

Our Faith Formation Team is dedicated to providing opportunities for all ages to grow deeper in

faith, to learn more about the lifelong journey of growing in our discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Opportunities to grow in faith together, and to celebrate milestones in our faith community

included:

 **JaM** (Jesus and Me) events for children age 3 to Grade 5 - Three JaM sessions were held

this year, centered around Love and Forgiveness, Growing in God, and the Greening of

the Church.

 **Sunday School Classes** - **4K/5K and Grades 1-5** were organized in units corresponding

to the lectionary calendar used in worship services to help to provide continuity between

Sunday School and family worship. **Grades 6-8** met to study a curriculum specific for

that age level. Sunday School students begin and end their time of worship with their

families, including taking part in communion, prayer, hymns, and blessing.

 **J-Walkers** (Grades 9-12) attended Green Lake Retreat and met for several seasonal

events.

 **Bible Study** - Groups now meet twice per week, Thursday mornings and Wednesday

afternoons, to explore the worship scriptures for the following Sunday. Participants learn

how to apply God’s word to their lives.

 **Graduation Sunday** – High school and college graduates were celebrated on June 18th.

 **Cross+Generational Event - Family/La Familia**, was held on Aug. 13th. Invitations

were shared with families in our church neighborhood to come and celebrate what makes

us a family. We listened to a bilingual scripture lesson on how we have been adopted into

God’s family, played games together, ate popcorn and popsicles and created a group art

project.

 **Bible Sunday –** Bibles were given to third graders on October 15th.

 **OIKOS** is a faith formation opportunity for all generations. This year we have three

families participating. Lana DeCoto will finish her journey of 40 weeks of faith

formation, blessing her on October 29th, 2017. We continue to gather at incarnation

reality gatherings, exploring faith through movies like “The Shack,” traveling to the

Islamic Society of Milwaukee’s Mosque in Brookfield, serving meals at the Hope Center,

and a yearly event at Lapham Peak.

 **Women’s Retreats** were held in spring and fall. These retreats give women of all ages

the chance to renew their faith with women from other congregations and explore God’s

calling in their lives.

 **Small Group Studies –** Small groups met to discuss such topics as: *Wade in the Water*

*(March, April, May), Generosity* (June and July, September and October),

*Reconfirmation – a study of Luther’s Small Catechism* (March and April, June and July)

 **Faith Fermentation** met monthly to brew different kinds of beer and to share food and

devotions around Scripture.

St. Mark’s is blessed to have dedicated teachers and leaders to facilitate these groups. We invite

all members to join us in planting, nurturing, and growing the seeds of faith here at St. Mark’s.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hernandez

**Senior Connection – Annual Report**

As part of the Care Ministry, the Senior Connection has provided an opportunity

for our senior (and almost senior) members to socialize, pray, sing and share a

meal on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from September to May. Each event

includes some form of entertainment, educational or informational experience.

This past year we have learned about pre-planning for death & funerals, how to

keep our brains healthy, celebrated Super Bowl week with a Soup-er game day,

enjoyed the skits and songs presented by the Senior Players from Waukesha Civic

Theatre and had a lively presentation on one room schoolhouses provided by the

Waukesha Museum. We also hosted a group of residents from Luther Manor and

enjoyed getting to know them while playing bingo and doing crafts. It has been a

rewarding experience to lead the Senior Connection for 3 years and I look forward

to more events in 2018. Thank you, St. Marks, for the opportunity and for

supporting this ministry.

Rockie Matson

**Sanctuary Needs Team Annual Report– 2017**

The Sanctuary Needs Team has spent the past three years addressing the primary issues that

the congregation identified as vital to enhancing our worship space and services. New lighting,

updated audio/visual, and new flooring were the primary needs that were researched and have

received estimates. Like any home improvement project, the scope expanded as other

possibilities presented themselves. Moveable seating, handicap accessibility, and raising the

Narthex ceiling to make the entrance more welcoming, are several ideas that have also been

explored and included.

The Team’s proposal, “Restore & Renew” was approved by the Finance Committee and the

Council in October. The proposal is being brought before the congregation for a vote at the

Annual Meeting on November 19, 2017. Its approval will mean taking the next step to fundraise

the necessary monies, finalize details, and then begin work on these long-awaited

improvements.

It has been thirty-five years since the Sanctuary addition was built. Nothing has been done to

update it during that time. It’s time to *“Restore & Renew”,* so that our outer image matches

our inner spirit!

*“****Restore*** *to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.”*

*“****Renew*** *a loyal spirit within me.” Psalms 51: 12, 10 NLT*

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Fenner, Chair

## **Pastor James and Nadine Wilch Scholarship Fund**

This endowment Scholarship Fund was established in June of 1984 to honor the then

35 years of service that Pastor and Nadine Wilch gave to St. Marks, and today, this scholarship continues to honor their commitment to St. Mark’s Church and to the congregation. The purpose of the Scholarship continues unchanged today to reward

and assist graduating seniors of St. Mark’s Church, who are going on to post high school education including college, vocational school or any other accredited advanced education.

This tax-free endowment is funded through the gifts from the members of St. Mark’s and others who are dedicated to the continued education of our young people. As an independent tax free legal entity, those generous donations permanently remain in the endowment fund. The scholarship awards are derived from the low risk investments of those gifts that are governed according to State and Federal statutes and are controlled by a Board of Directors who are members of St. Mark’s Church.

The 2017 directors and officers are:

President: R. T. “Chris” Christensen

V.P. Terry Inman

Secretary: Sue Beranek

Treasurer: Tom Badger

Board Members: Sara Cortichiato

Council Representative Lisa Garber

The first scholarship was presented in 1986 and to date over 100 scholarships totaling

more than $25,000 have been awarded. These scholarship awards are based on service

to St. Marks, service to the community, and involvement in school activities, scholastic achievement and academic awards, grade point averages and future goals.

In 2017, the scholarship was awarded to two members of St. Marks.

They are:

Matthew Colgrove Waukesha North High School

Jacob Beranek University Lake School

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to each of them in their academic pursuit.

Respectfully submitted,

R. T. “Chris” Christensen, President

Board of Directors