
WICKER PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



2014 Annual Report

Prepared for the 135th Annual Congregational Meeting

OUR MISSION

As a passionate, Christian community, we are committed to nurturing and building up the Body of Christ through welcoming, creative, and diverse ministries

OUR VISION

To be a thriving Christian presence in Metro Chicago, recognized as offering spiritual and social resources in our community.

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135TH ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 25, 2015; Wicker Park Lutheran Church

1. Call to order
2. Opening prayer
3. Approval of the minutes from the 134th annual meeting
4. Presentation of 2015 proposed budget
5. Vote on 2015 proposed budget and 2014 budget surplus recommendations
6. Volunteer recognition and commendation of reports
7. Election of new council members
8. Pastor's Report
9. Lord's prayer

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

For A Full Three Year Term:

- Nick Martz (eligible for one additional three year term)
- Mark Brusis (first three year term)
- Josh Schukar and Kristin Ayers (to a joint three year term with one person to serve per year)

For A Two Year Term:

- Nora Militz (to complete Adam Niermann's term; will be eligible for one additional three year term)

For A One Year Term:

- Brian Eaves (to complete Bekah Kinsella's term; will be eligible for two additional three year term)

Elections will be held by secret ballot and will be open to all voting members of the congregation.

134TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by: Megan Schliep, Secretary 2013

WICKER PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 26, 2014

Danyelle Andrews*	Rob Kosar*	Beth Shutters*
Eric Andrews*	Alex Larson*	Dan Shutters
Brian Eaves	Rose Lynch*	Jean Shutters
Maria Edstrom*	Valerie Martin*	Zechary Stigger*
Tammi Franke*	Cynthia Martz*	Cynthia Stevens
Jeff Fredericksen*	Nick Martz*	Marion Turner*
Lyle Harlow*	Adam Niermann*	Bailey Wallace*
Heidi Hedeker*	Jane Niermann*	Angela Whitaker*
Amy Herrold*	Megan Schliep*	Pastor Jason Glombicki
Stephanie Hoeman	Jen Shanmugam	*voting members
Mike Koepp*	Jason Shutters*	

Vice-President Mike Koepp called the 134th meeting to order at 11:40am. Pastor Jason Glombicki led the congregation in prayer. Attendance sheets were circulated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & AGENDA

No announcements were made. Agenda approved.

MINUTES FROM THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes from the 2013 annual congregational meeting were presented. Lyle Harlow made a motion to approve these minutes; Rob Kosar seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2013 REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Outgoing Treasurer Jason Shutters provided a 2013 year-end summary. Highlights are as follows:

- Financially, WPLC faced challenging times in 2013, and we finished the year with a \$3k shortfall. We started the year with our usual bare bones budget, but since a number of regular donors had left the previous year, so this was more of an aggressive budget. Then for most of the year, we incurred a monthly operating shortfall, because our regular giving from members and friends was less than budgeted.
- To mitigate this, we cut our expenses even further wherever we could throughout the year. We had outsourced our church cleaning to a contractor, accepted more gift-in-kind donations, and deferred some parsonage repair expenses to this year.
- We also rallied together on the income side. We raised the rent for our apartments in the parsonage building next door. We also experienced an unexpected surge in donations during the summertime with our building space usage. Specifically, more folks ask to have their wedding here, in our beautifully renovated sanctuary. And we ended the year with a dollar-for-dollar matching challenge.
- Current budget summary:
 - o Capital Campaign: \$15,868.77
 - o VanDemark Memorial Fund: \$4,069.13
 - o Zion Cristo Rey Gift: \$21,226.53

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

- Jason Shutters has completed his 7th year as treasurer. After a year of working as co-treasurer with Jason, council member Danyelle Andrews will be taking over as WPLC's treasurer. Thank you to Jason for his service.

Incoming Treasurer Danyelle Andrews reviewed the 2014 Proposed Budget. Highlights are as follows:

- Highlights/Budget Changes from 2013
 - Parsonage taxes (appeal in process)
 - Copier usage
 - Staff changes (music/cleaning staff)
 - Increase in parsonage rent
- Total Projected Support and Revenue: \$159,279.46
 - Offerings: \$99,214.46
 - Parsonage Usage: \$59,900.00
- Total Disbursements: \$159,279.46
 - Staff Disbursements: \$79,999.92
 - General Disbursements: \$49,197.47
 - Parsonage Disbursements: \$30,082.07

Motion to vote on the 2014 Budget Proposal made by Mike Koepp. Seconded by Adam Niermann. All in favor and budget approved unanimously.

2013 REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL

Vice-President Mike Koepp encouraged congregation members to view council reports in the annual meeting booklet.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

MK completed his second 3-year term and is not eligible for re-election. Adam Niermann and Megan Schliep completed their first full 3-year terms and both accept the nomination to run again. Beth Shutters is nominated for her first 3-year term and accepts the nomination. Congregational vote. Adam Niermann and Megan Schliep are elected to their second, 3-year terms. Beth Shutters is elected to her first 3-year term.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

- The Call Committee members were recognized for their service: Chair Jason Shutters, Maria Edstrom, Alex Larson, Valerie Martin, Lyle Harlow, Joy Petry, and Tammi Franke.
- Mike Koepp was recognized for his six years on council and service as Vice-President.
- Jason Shutters was recognized for his seven years as Treasurer.
- Lyle Harlow was recognized for his service in leading the Sanctuary Renovation Project.
- Thanks to ALL who have served WPLC—your time and talents are appreciated.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:10pm.

***At a brief council meeting following adjournment, the church council elected Megan Schliep as Vice-President, Danyelle Andrews as Treasurer, and Amy Herrold as Secretary.

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Submitted by: **Rev. Jason S. Glombicki, pastor and congregational president**

Dear Friends,

As I complete my first year as a pastor, I am continually thankful to God for so many wonderful opportunities. This past year has truly changed me and will continue to shape my lifelong ministry as a beloved and baptized child of God. There were complex transitions and awkward moments in 2014, but there were many more joyful and exciting experiences we had as a community of faith. I will forever remember this year. WPLC is not the ministry of one, instead it is a collective ministry to the world. Together we did great work to reach out to Wicker Park, Chicago, and beyond. Below are a few glimpses and highlights from our year that I would like to honor. I am blessed to serve among you and I'm excited for our potential ministry together. Thanks for your ministry, and I cannot wait for many more years of shared ministry together!

In God's loving peace,
Rev. Jason S. Glombicki

Transitions and Communication

As an initiative of the call committee, a new **Transitional Committee** met a few times this year. They provided support to me in my role as a pastor by offering advice, giving perspective on the history of the congregation, and giving feedback as I transitioned into this new call. A special thanks to Jason Shutters (chair), Valerie Martin, Tammi Franke, and Joy Petry for serving on this committee.

As a part of my first year in ministry we celebrated my **ordination** into the ministry of word and sacrament at St. Luke's in Park Ridge on February 23rd along with my **installation** as pastor of Wicker Park Lutheran Church on May 4th. Both rites were administered by Bishop Wayne Miller.

This year we improved our communication by adding a monthly **e-newsletter** on January 14th. The importance of the newsletter was emphasized when we quickly moved to a weekly release. At the end of 2014 we had 139 individuals who received these weekly updates. A special thanks to our grammatical editor, Maria Edstrom, and our layout designer, Nora Miltz, for their hard work each week.

Engaging the Universal Church

The church is about more than those gathered at the corner of Hoyne & LeMoyne, it's about a global boundless response to God's love. As such, this year I have worked with **The Lutheran Volunteer Corps** (LVC) to review and interview applicants, perform a site visit to Augustana College, and helped to mentor the Logan Square LVC house during monthly sessions. I also presented to the **Conference of Bishops** on my experience going through the call process as an openly gay pastor - this was an enjoyable and humbling experience for this newbie pastor. During the summer I also worked with Proclaim to help create a **First Call Guide for LGBTQ Candidates**. This guide has been distributed across the denomination to help those navigating the waters of first-call as a LGBTQ individual. In May I attended the **Synod Assembly** with our two voting members, Lauren Martin and Joy Tournoux. We were able to hear a variety of amazing stories about how our work and support goes a long way to help the many churches across this city and across the globe.

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

At WPLC we received the gift of what it means to be a global church when **Muhlenberg Lutheran Church Campus Ministries** from Harrisonburg, VA held their alternative spring break March 8th -13th in Chicago. After some long delays getting to Chicago, we held an impromptu pizza party for their arrival. The group served at Lincoln Park Community Shelter, visited with Lutheran Volunteer Corps and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago representatives, and helped to repaint our nursery/Sunday school room. Many thanks to Chris Ramsey and Paul Feaser who were pillars in helping to make their stay a success. Also, a special thank you to Bailey Wallace and Lauren Martin for helping with these projects.



We also welcomed the **Josephinum Academy** to engage in community service in the winter, summer, and fall this year. They helped to clean, organize, pull weeds, and get items in order for our Advent season.

Finally, we welcomed the **Lutheran Choir of Chicago** to WPLC on May 31st with a special reception. Special thanks to those who helped including Valerie Martin, Heidi Hedeker, Emily Grimm, and Dan Shuttters, and a huge thank you to Lyle Harlow for coordinating.

Leadership Development

Our congregational council is the backbone for helping to lead and guide our congregation between congregational meetings. Our **council retreat** was held on June 28 and we had a productive time to look at our past, present, and future. Asset mapping was employed to help us engage and develop programs for the future of the congregation. Many thanks to St. Luke's in Logan Square for hosting our retreat. Also, a very special **thank you to our council members** Adam Niermann, Amy Herrold, Bekah Kinsella, Danyelle Andrews, Beth Shuttters, Heidi Hedeker, Maria Edstrom, Megan Schliep, and Nick Martz for their insight, hard work, and vision setting this year.

Fellowship: The Gathering of God's People

For our 2013 **annual meeting** we held a lively brunch before the meeting. On Transfiguration Sunday, WPLC held a **shrove Sunday brunch** coordinated by Lyle Harlow. Other special social events this year included a special pastor's **installation luncheon** coordinated by the call committee, a reformation themed **homecoming Sunday** coordinated by Tammi Franke, Michael Held, and Rachael Bruketta. Of course, we can't forget our fellowship time hosts who help to foster space to be together as God's people each week. Please see the Report of the Volunteer Coordinator for more information.



Building Ministry

This year we welcomed a variety of new groups to our space as we engage our building ministry. In the city where space is a premium and more community space is being converted into apartments in our neighborhood, our building stands as a pillar for community gathering. In addition to our pre-existing relationships with six weekly Anonymous groups, Wicker Park Choral Singers, and Dance to Evolve, we added the following reoccurring **space use groups** this year: "To Thy Self Be True" a trans-specific anonymous group, Marion Consort, Fitzgerald's Martial Arts Wicker Park karate classes, and First Floor Theater. We also welcomed a variety of single use events from community groups and our congregation.

The building committee began meeting regularly again this past year and you can see more information about their actions in the Building Committee Report. One thing this committee did was to help develop a **building use policy** - many thanks to the building committee and Tammi Franke for this development.

Outreach

This year was rich with some new community outreach initiatives. To increase awareness of WLPC's events **publicity/outreach** on Yelp, Foursquare, and Facebook was updated and increased. We advertised on Facebook for Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Christmas Eve services and new individuals found us through these mediums. We became a member of Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce which increased our networking and gave us advertisement and outreach outlets. Additionally, Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber designated WPLC a WPB Green organization based on the green practices we already employ – CFLs, reusable mugs, vermicomposting, rain barrels, etc. What an honor for us!

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

We launched a new initiative engaging the community connecting spirituality, the arts, music, and community. We held two events one in September and one in November. Our September event entitled **Arts Sanctuary: Mercy, Unity, and Restoration** had an estimated 65-70 total participants. We had close to a dozen artists, live jazz, Cup & Spoon coffee shop's presence, we raised support and funds for Youth Futures, and we shared our brew and talked up Brew & Bible. Our November program was called **Arts Sanctuary: Acceptance & Hope** and we paired with Wicker Park Choral Singers with an estimated 100 people throughout the night.



This November event raised money for The Night Ministry. There are far too many people to thank for this event, but I'll try, they include Cathi Schwalbe, Kristin Turpin, Amy Herrold, David Tournoux, Ben Pera, Justin Glombicki, Megan Schliep, Brian Eaves, Mark Tomasino (director of Wicker Park Choral Singers), the Wicker Park Choral Singers, Emily Grimm, Kristin Ayres, Chris Ramsey, Josh Schukar, Rose Lynch, Lauren Martin, Jason Shutters, Youth Futures, Tammi Franke, and many more!

Liturgies

This year saw countless **baptisms, weddings, and new members**. See the Church Register Report for more information. In February and March we tested a few different **bulletin** designs, including a service booklets with individual inserts and a shorter eight-page bulletin. Eventually most individual found the eight-page bulletin to be the best change to reduce costs and be more environmentally friendly. Special thanks to both Lyle Harlow and Lauren Martin who helped to create our bulletins and service books for this year's liturgies.

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

During each liturgical season we've worked to create **liturgical space "feels."** During Lent we created a liturgical wilderness, during Advent we journeyed towards Christmas with a few more decorations appearing each week, during Easter the space was lit brightly and white banners adorned the nave, and during our common Time after Pentecost and Epiphany the space looked, well, common.



In March a **children's quiet play space** was added with a rug, a few tables, toys and rocking chairs. This place of welcome also included the addition of **children's quiet bags** to be used in the pews. Special thanks to the Niermanns, Heidi Hedeker, and Ashley Hutti with help on these projects. During an active **Holy Week** we began Palm/Passion Sunday with a procession of the palms and added the important liturgical activity of foot washing during our Maundy Thursday service. In May we held a **Worship Conversations** session focusing on The Time After Pentecost. This group gave suggestions for using images in sermons, choosing the continuous readings for Time after Pentecost, and gave good thought to our liturgical engagement. In response to this conversion, we welcomed three new icons into our space in June - "Christ of the Desert," "Come to the Table," and "Mother of God: Mother of the Streets." These icons were specifically chosen as representations of people of color to help allow the images in our space best reflect our diverse community. In August we celebrated our **135th Anniversary** with a fantastic liturgical celebration. And October included a well-attended **Homecoming/Reformation Sunday** (annual picture on page 1).



Music Ministry

This year two outstanding musicians, Lyle Harlow and Ben Pera, filled our interim **church musician** position. I am deeply grateful to them both for their ministry and gifts as we transitioned to a permanent church musician. We also completed a search and extended an offer for a permanent church musician this year. Many thanks to the search committee, which includes David Tournoux (chair), Emily Grimm, Michael Koepp, Rob Kosar, and Val Martin for their work! Special thanks to all those who lifted up their musical talents this year during our liturgies. See the Music and Arts report for more information on all the exciting music that was made this year.



Serving Others

Our service to the community is an expression of thanks to God. We served our neighbors in love this year at WPLC. We give special thanks to Maria Edstrom and Lauren Martin for helping to lead **The Night Ministry** outings this year. See The Night Ministry Report for more information. We engaged in a variety of

special service projects this year. During our **Lenten Project** we donated items from gift cards to shower curtains to school supplies as we helped support The Night Ministry's homeless youth shelter. For **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday.** we created 12 kits for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' Community Support Team Colbert Program to support those with mental illness moving from nursing home care into their own housing. Our **Advent Project** was a huge success when we raised \$697 for ELCA's God's Global Barnyard project.



Christian Education

We gathered with the Bible and our experiences to understand our God's presence more fully through our Christian Education programs this year. We give thanks for Bailey Wallace, Joy Petry, Katie Crane, and Ashely Hutti who taught our **Sunday School** students this year on Sundays beginning at 10 a.m. in the basement's education room. During Lent this year we held **Gospel Chats** where Pastor Jason led an in-depth Bible study on the Gospel reading from that Sunday. In June we held **Stories from Synod Assembly** where our voting members Joy Tournoux and Lauren Martin gave reflections on their experiences.

Brew & Bible was held July through November with attendance over 20 at each event. At this event, we connected the flavor profile of the beer with a bible story in a fun afternoon event where we brewed beer together. A special thanks to Joe and Cheryl Glombicki for providing lunch along with our main brewers David and Joy Tournoux all of whom have made Brew & Bible a success. Our final Christian education event was called **Creating Space: An Intergenerational Advent Series** where we talked about the topics of joy, love, peace, and hope pairing it with a fun activity for both adults and children alike.



Children's Ministry

Children are an important part of our ministry at WPLC. As such, we hosted a variety of fun events throughout the year. On Palm/Passion Sunday we held an epic **egg hunt** in the church. Throughout the Time After Epiphany Sunday services often included **children's messages**, including a special message illustrated with magic on Homecoming Sunday - special thanks to Rev. Daniel Shutters. This year our congregation partnered with four congregations



(Luther Memorial, Ebenezer Lutheran, Holy Trinity, and Resurrection Lutheran) to host a joint **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**. Luther Road Traveling Day Camp provided this five-day VBS program. **Boo-pooloza** was held in Wicker Park with an estimated attendance of 3,000 people on October 25th. We were one of many booths and had both games and crafts on a beautiful autumn day. We give special thanks to Heidi Hedeker, Amy Herrold, Katie Crane, and Ashley Hutti. In December we held **Deck the Halls** where Josephinum Academy welcomed children to come and make ornaments for our church tree and children's tree at home. Finally, after much interest,

a **Parents Group** began with an initial conversation held by Jane Niemann. The group decided to check-in monthly after service on the first Sunday of the month. They would also organically share free activities to join in together through their e-mail list.

CHURCH REGISTER REPORT

Submitted by: Rev. Jason S. Glombicki, pastor

These are the official pastoral acts performed on behalf of Wicker Park Lutheran Church for 2014.

Baptisms (12)

Alice Claire Conley (1/12)

Virginia Ann Fiffick (1/19)

Lauren Kay Martin (2/16)

Natalie Grace Kosar (4/27)

Beatrix Quail Kolecke (5/25)

James Fredrick Niermann (8/3)

Thomas Joseph Niermann (8/3)

Avary Lauren Andrews (9/15)

Rylie Nicole Andrews (9/15)

Felix James Kwesi Mensah Turpin (9/21)

Emilia Ilona McSteem (9/28)

Henry Robert Muszynski (11/16)

New Members Received (31)

Nicholas Ziech

Whitney Hohman

Rev. Daniel Shutters

Jean Shutters

Kristin Ayers

Joshua Schukar

Hannah Carlson

Geoffrey Owusu-Appianti

Katie Crane

John Stahl IV

Mark Brusius

Ashley Hutti

Chris Ramsey

Megan Lewis

Brian Eaves

Nora Miltz

Alissa Gemeny

Rev. Jason S. Glombicki

Stephanie Hoeman

Benjamin Conley

Laura Conley

Lauren Martin

Juliana Sohn

Kirsten Muszynski

Thomas Muszynski

Katy Scrogin

Emily Grimm

Michael Held

Linda Morris

Sten Turpin

Kristin Turpin

Marriages (12)

David Kostelnik & Rebecca Schaefer (3/29)

Joseph Slomka & Katie Smith (4/12)

Robert Drummond & Lesley Cameron (6/15)

Gregory Stopka & Cherise Lopez (7/26)

Kris Trick & Kara Fadden (8/9)

James Boston & Christina Grosskopf (8/23)

Jeffery Hendry & Justyna Kalinowska (8/31)

Jon Gogolak & Melanie Gonzalez (9/20)

Kyle Bada & Lisa Huyett (9/25)

Duncan Anderson & Yoko Kawaguchi (11/15)

Matthew Sirotzki & Christine Barnes (11/29)

Patrick Seavitt & Jacy Gabriel (12/13)

Confirmations

none

Funerals/ Memorial Services (4)

Doris Harland (6/16)

Howard Lee Morton (6/18 at Irving Park Lutheran Church)

Avary Lauren Andrews (10/12)

Rylie Nicole Andrews (10/12)

Members Removed by Transfer (3)

Garrett Smith (10/16) to Edison Park Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL

Charity Smith (10/16) to Edison Park Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL

Beckett Crowley (11/11) to St. Paul's Lutheran in Wheaton, IL

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Submitted by: Megan Schliep, congregational vice-president 2014

Dear Friends,

We celebrate another year of growth and community at Wicker Park Lutheran Church. We are thankful as we end our first full year of worship in our beautifully restored sanctuary and for the welcoming space it has provided us as we worship and work together. The new and familiar faces that fill the sanctuary are a blessing, and the hands that come together in prayer and service allow us to continue to grow and strengthen our church, neighborhood, and Chicago communities.

As we begin 2015, we are blessed by the involvement of members and visitors, new and old. It is this involvement that allows us to begin the year on solid footing and ready to support and multiply our ministries. These ministries include our staff, our programs, and our community giving. We will soon be welcoming new musical ministries, increasing administrative and pastoral support for our ministries, and continuing to support our members and community through our education and outreach programs.

Thanks to each of you for your involvement in the WPLC community--your presence, commitment and service strengthen us and offer us continued hope and renewal as we begin a new year together.

Megan Schliep

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Submitted by: Amy Herrold, congregational secretary 2014

Wicker Park Lutheran Church (WPLC) Council met a total of eleven times in 2014. There were ten WPLC Council meetings and one WPLC Council retreat. The highlights of these meetings are described below.

WPLC Council Meeting – January 13, 2014

- Discussion was given to balancing the budget in preparation for the annual congregational meeting.
- Thanks were given to Mike Koepp for his 6 years of service on the council and 4 years serving as Vice-President.

WPLC Council Meeting – February 17, 2014

- Possible expansion of Night Ministry to twice monthly, with service to Wicker Park itself.
- Council moves forward on renovating Pastor's Study.
- Approval to seek funds for sound system upgrades in church.
- Campus ministries from Muhlenberg Church, in Harrisburg, VA to visit WPLC from March 8-13, 2014 to work on church projects.

WPLC Council Meeting - March 30, 2014

- Resolutions were made on handling repairs to the organ in preparation for Easter service.
- A policy was created to obtain a minimum of two quotes on expenditures of over \$300 and a minimum of 3 quotes on expenditures of over \$1000. This will be applied to non-emergencies.
- The WPLC Council approves advertising for a wedding coordinator outside of the congregation and for a building supervisor within the congregation for events.

WPLC Council Meeting – May 4, 2014

- WPLC staff positions for church musician and administrative assistant were discussed. This discussion involved the needs of the congregation and what WPLC can afford.
- The WPLC Council agreed that we would ask David Tournoux to serve as the chair of the search committee for the new permanent church musician position.
- Plans for the council retreat were discussed. The council retreat will be held at St. Luke's in Logan Square on Saturday June 28, 2014. One and two-year goals will be discussed as well as Capital Campaign planning.

WPLC Council Meeting – June 8, 2014

- The council strategized and decided on new lease amounts for the parsonage. New leases will be sent to the tenants of the parsonage that will include updated amendments.
- David Tournoux agreed to serve as church musician search committee chair.

WPLC Council Retreat – June 28, 2014

- The topic of the congregational life cycle was discussed.
- The topic of the church purpose was discussed. This included references to the purpose written in the constitution and the mission site profile.
- Asset mapping activity was conducted by Council members facilitated by Pastor Jason.

WPLC Council Meeting – July 13, 2014

- The building committee was invited to the meeting in order to discuss using Fulton Grace as a new property management company. Recent property manager Marko Beric resigned. The decision was made to contract with Fulton Grace as the new property management company for the parsonage.
- The decision was made to purchase and install a door between the fellowship hall and sacristy.
- It was decided that a building use policy needs to be created and was referred to the Building Committee.

WPLC Council Meeting – August 24, 2014

- The council discussed the topic of stewardship and referenced a reading from the book *Not Your Parent's Offering Plate* and the Synod's Open Hands, Open Hearts campaign.
- Strategies for engaging the congregation in future stewardship campaigns were discussed.

WPLC Council Meeting – September 14, 2014

- A Worship Team Continuing Resolution, Church Musician Job Description and Church Musician Job Posting were presented by David Tournoux. The Church Musician Job Description and Job Posting were adopted.
- Stewardship Guide / Abundant Giving Campaign goals and strategies were discussed. The campaign will be focused on multiplying staff, programming and building, and giving back to organizations and the synod. The stewardship campaign will be the focus for October.

WPLC Council Meeting – November 9, 2014

- Updates on the Church Musician Search Committee were given by David Tournoux.
- The WPLC discussed the budget in preparation for the annual meeting which was led by Danyelle Andrews.
- Results of the Abundant Giving Campaign were discussed. The WPLC Council strategized on the best use of incoming funds.

WPLC Council Meeting – December 14, 2014

- The WPLC Council decides to put forth an offer to the chosen candidate for the Church Musician position.
- The WPLC discussed the budget in preparation for the annual meeting which was led by Danyelle Andrews.
- Council membership composition was discussed including ideas for new council members to replace outgoing council members.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Submitted by: Danyelle Andrews, congregational treasurer 2014

Year End Report 2014

		Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Q3 Total	Q4 Total	Year End Total	2014 Budget
				INCOME			
	Offerings						
	Current	13,662.66	17,633.00	13,911.46	31,763.40	76,970.52	73,168.54
	Loose	1,400.00	2,023.00	1,426.00	1,758.00	6,607.00	6,158.00
	Flowers (wkly & special)	230.00	120.00	100.00	169.22	619.22	600.00
	Memorials & Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Foundation Grant	1,672.62	1,695.45	1,714.44	1,714.44	6,796.95	6,277.92
	Space Usage	2,103.00	2,251.00	3,325.00	7,431.50	15,110.50	11,210.00
	Miscellaneous	87.00	1,230.00	77.60	240.79	1,635.39	1,800.00
	Total Offerings	19,155.28	24,952.45	20,554.50	43,077.35	107,739.58	99,214.46
	Parsonage Usage						
	1st floor	4,650.00	4,650.00	4,850.00	4,950.00	19,100.00	19,300.00
	2nd floor	4,200.00	4,575.00	4,825.00	4,950.00	18,550.00	19,000.00
	3rd floor	5,400.00	5,400.00	5,450.00	5,475.00	21,725.00	21,600.00
	Total Rent	14,250.00	14,625.00	15,125.00	15,375.00	59,375.00	59,900.00
	Interest Income	17.19	17.16	16.75	16.43	67.53	165.00
	TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	33,422.47	39,594.61	35,696.25	58,468.78	167,182.11	159,279.46

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Q3 Total	Q4 Total	Year End Total	2014 Budget
			EXPENSES			
Staff Disbursements						
Pastor Salary and Benefits						
Base Salary	5,697.18	5,712.30	6,662.62	6,796.26	24,868.36	22,788.67
Housing Allowance	6,000.00	5,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	20,500.00	24,000.00
Social Security Allowance	894.84	894.84	894.84	894.84	3,579.36	3,579.33
Pension & Benefits	3,587.64	2,985.93	3,009.60	3,009.60	12,592.77	10,424.32
Reimbursable Expenses	103.66	1387.43	55.13	110.95	1,657.17	2,067.60
Total Pastor Salary and Benefits	16,283.32	16,480.50	15,122.19	15,311.65	63,197.66	62,859.92
Music Director/Organist	1,100.00	1,925.00	1,300.00	1,400.00	5,725.00	9,500.00
Supply Musicians	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	1,800.00
Parish Assistant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Secretary	365.00	300.00	90.00	0.00	755.00	1,560.00
Nursery Attendant	330.00	360.00	330.00	330.00	1,350.00	1,560.00
Supply Pastor	0.00	150.00	311.20	380.00	841.20	1,020.00
Employer Tax Expense	148.09	158.41	17.33	141.04	464.87	1,700.00
TOTAL STAFF DISBURSEMENTS	18,426.41	19,373.91	17,170.72	17,562.69	72,533.73	79,999.92
General Disbursements						
Church Repair and Maintenance	677.89	246.07	0.00	856.92	1,780.88	2,882.00
Church Cleaning	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,615.00	2,400.00	7,015.00	6,000.00
Church Management	438.75	293.00	0.00	0.00	731.75	1,797.00
Benevolence, Synod	1,251.00	1,251.00	1,251.00	1,251.00	5,004.00	5,000.00
Benevolence, Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	374.63	374.63	1,000.00
Education	239.74	29.40	139.70	321.08	729.92	500.00
Fellowship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
Art & Liturgy	337.37	557.92	92.96	618.87	1,607.12	1,000.00
Flowers (Wkly and Special)	252.29	370.45	0.00	146.92	769.66	600.00

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

		Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Q3 Total	Q4 Total	Year End Total	2014 Budget
General Music Expenses							
	Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
	Licenses	0.00	104.40	395.00	0.00	499.40	511.00
	Instrument Maintenance	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00	850.00
<i>Total General Music Expenses</i>		165.00	104.40	395.00	0.00	664.40	1,611.00
Utilities							
	Electricity	320.00	480.00	640.00	527.00	1,967.00	2,300.00
	Natural Gas	1,644.00	2,854.00	2,060.00	1,560.82	8,118.82	5,000.00
	Phone & Internet	264.79	339.71	240.22	303.24	1,147.96	1,200.00
	Water & Sewer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	560.00
<i>Total Utilities</i>		2,228.79	3,673.71	2,940.22	2,391.06	11,233.78	9,060.00
Insurance							
	Comm'l Multi-Peril Policy	3,390.06	2,835.60	2,835.60	945.20	10,006.46	9,982.47
	Workers Comp Policy	648.50	220.25	324.25	0.00	1,193.00	1,405.00
<i>Total Insurance</i>		4,038.56	3,055.85	3,159.85	945.20	11,199.46	11,387.47
Landscaping/Snow		405.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	495.00	700.00
Cleaning Supplies		0.00	10.17	73.97	0.00	84.14	150.00
Office/Copier		849.04	1,026.64	776.15	996.98	3,648.81	4,500.00
Website		74.02	127.07	35.49	40.44	277.02	200.00
Payroll Company		1,394.54	303.95	300.45	260.50	2,259.44	1,260.00
Miscellaneous		348.31	247.09	981.23	650.46	2,227.09	1,300.00
TOTAL GENERAL DISBURSEMENTS		14,200.30	12,886.72	11,761.02	11,254.06	50,102.10	49,197.47

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Q3 Total	Q4 Total	Year End Total	2014 Budget
<i>Parsonage Disbursements</i>						
Utilities-Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.41	58.41	0.00
Utilities-Natural Gas	2,525.75	1,896.61	205.98	1,359.41	5,987.75	5,000.00
Utilities-Water	19.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.81	210.00
Real Estate Taxes	5,107.60	0.00	4,304.57	50.00	9,462.17	9,286.54
Parsonage Repair and Maintenance	1,593.74	681.37	160.00	792.67	3,227.78	6,111.00
Parsonage Exterior Repair/Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Property Management Co & Leasing	1,021.75	1,023.75	717.50	1,076.25	3,839.25	4,193.00
Insurance- Comm'l Multi-Peril Policy	436.20	364.86	364.86	121.62	1,287.54	1,281.53
TOTAL PARSONAGE DISBURSEMENTS	10,704.85	3,966.59	5,752.91	3,458.36	23,882.71	30,082.07
Net:	-9,909.09	3,367.39	1,011.60	26,193.67	20,663.57	

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2014 SURPLUS

The congregational council recommends the following action for the 2014 surplus:

1. Joyfully give \$2,500 to 2014 ministry partners (12% of surplus) as a sign of thanks and gratitude for God's provisions, including \$500 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, \$500 to The Night Ministry, \$500 to ELCA World Hunger, and \$1,000 to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod
2. Allocate \$5,000 for deferred parsonage maintenance budgeted in 2014 but not completed
3. Hold \$6,000 in our savings to help offset salary costs for 2015, if needed; otherwise to remain as additional savings
4. Use \$1,000 to help offset costs to secure new green liturgical paraments
5. Transfer the remaining \$6,163.57 to the Capital Campaign account, with the recommendation for the building committee to use it to help upgrade the bathrooms

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2014 Budget	Year End 2014	2015 Budget	2015 Assumptions
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Offerings				
Current	\$73,168.54	\$76,970.52	\$91,076.04	83,876.00 pledged, estimated 7,000.00 additional non-pledgers
Loose	6,158.00	6,607.00	6,600.00	Consistent with 2014 actuals
Flowers (Weekly & Special)	600.00	619.22	600	Consistent with 2014 budget and actuals
Memorials & Bequests	-	-	-	
Foundation Grant	6,277.92	6,796.95	6,796.95	consistent with 2014 actual
Space Usage	11,210.00	15,110.50	15,760	Weddings \$7000, AA \$2760, Jazzercise \$1200, Choral Singers \$600.00, Marion Concorc \$500.00, Karate \$2200.00, 1st floor theater \$1500.00. Not included: filmings, one time usage.
Miscellaneous	1,800.00	1,635.39	2,000	Special Services, Benevolence, Thrivent, Art Sanctuary, others
Total Offerings	\$99,214.46	\$107,739.58	\$122,832.99	
Parsonage Usage				
1st Floor Rent	\$19,300.00	\$19,100.00	\$20,215.00	Full rental (7 payments at \$1650.00, 5 payments at \$1733.00, 5% increase). Lease ends July 31
2nd Floor Rent	19,000.00	18,550.00	20,464.00	Full rental (4 payments at \$1650.00, 8 payments at \$1733.00, 5% increase). Lease ends April 30.
3rd Floor Rent	21,600.00	21,725.00	22,446.00	Full rental (6 payments of \$1825.00, 6 payments \$1916.00, 5% increase). Lease ends June 31.
Total Rent	\$59,900.00	\$59,375.00	\$63,125.00	
Interest Income	\$165.00	\$67.53	\$67.00	Consistent with 2014 year
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$159,279.46	\$167,182.11	\$186,024.99	

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

	2014 Budget	Year End 2014	2015 Budget	2015 Assumptions
EXPENSES				
<i>Staff Disbursements</i>				
Pastor Salary & Benefits				Based on 100% time.
Base Salary	\$22,788.67	\$24,868.36	\$39,549.00	
Housing Allowance	\$24,000.00	\$20,500.00	19,000.00	
Social Security Allowance	3,579.33	3,579.36	4,479.00	
Pension & Benefits	10,424.32	12,592.77	15,375.92	
Reimbursable Expenses	2,067.60	1,657.17	2,062.40	
<i>Total Pastor Salary & Benefits</i>	<i>\$62,859.92</i>	<i>\$63,197.66</i>	<i>\$80,466.32</i>	
Church Musician	\$9,500.00	\$5,725.00	\$9,000.00	Per contract
Supply Musicians	1,800.00	200.00	1,800.00	5 sundays coverage at 150/wk, plus mileage. 1000.00-additional musicians 10 at 100 per service
Sexton	0.00	-	-	Position eliminated as of 2015 budget creation
Parish Assistant	0.00	-	7,800.00	10hrs/wk x \$15/hr x 52 weeks
Secretary	1560.00	755.00	-	Transition to parish assistant
Nursery Attendant	1,560.00	1,350.00	1,560.00	Assumes \$30/srv, then \$30 * 52 wks
Supply Pastor	1020.00	841.20	1,920.00	Assumes 6 services x \$150 + \$20 travel exp; \$900.00 other preachers
Employer Tax Expense	1,700.00	464.87	1,000.00	Average between 2013 and 2014 actuals, account for added employees to payroll this year
TOTAL STAFF DISBURSEMENTS	\$79,999.92	\$72,533.73	\$103,546.32	

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

	2014 Budget	Year End 2014	2015 Budget	2015 Assumptions
<i>General Disbursements</i>				
Church Repair & Maintenance	\$2,882.00	\$1,780.88	\$2,742.33	Consistent with 5 yr historical average
Church Cleaning	6,000.00	7,015.00	7,800.00	Assumes \$150/wk x 52 wks
Church Management	1,797.00	731.75	-	position eliminated. Money budgeted here in 2014 allocated to parish assistant
Benevolence, Synod	5,000.00	5,004.00	6,500.00	3.5% of budgeted income, 1500.00 increase from 2014 offering, up from 3.15% and 200.00 increase between '13 and '14.
Benevolence, Other	1,000.00	374.63	1,500.00	TNM \$1000, Arts/Sanctuary \$500.00
Education	500.00	729.92	700.00	2014 actual
Fellowship	250.00	-	250.00	
Art & Liturgy	1,000.00	1,607.12	2,400.00	
Flowers (Weekly & Special)	600.00	769.66	600.00	Consistent with 2014 budget and flower expected income (2014 included late reimbursements from 2013)
<i>General Music Expenses</i>				
Music	\$250.00	-	\$250.00	
Licenses	511.00	499.40	511.00	Sundays&Seasons & CCLI
Continuing Education	-	-	300.00	Church Musician benefit
Instrument Maintenance	850.00	165.00	850.00	1 piano tuned twice/yr (2x \$175) Organ tuning \$500
Total General Music Expenses	\$1,611.00	\$664.40	\$1,911.00	
<i>Utilities</i>				
Electricity	\$2,300.00	\$1,967.00	\$2,300.00	Consistent with increasing historical actuals
Natural Gas	5,000.00	8,118.82	8,000.00	Consistent with increasing historical actuals
Telephone & Internet	1,200.00	1,147.96	1,200.00	Consistent with increasing historical actuals
Water & Sewer	560.00	0.00	300.00	
Total Utilities	\$9,060.00	\$11,233.78	\$11,800.00	

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

	2014 Budget	Year End 2014	2015 Budget	2015 Assumptions
Insurance				
Com'l Multi-Peril Policy	\$9,982.47	\$10,006.46	\$10,212.01	Actual cost per Church Mutual
Workers Comp Policy	1,405.00	1,193.00	1,257.00	
Total Insurance	\$11,387.47	\$11,199.46	\$11,469.01	
Landscaping / Snow Removal	700.00	\$495.00	\$700.00	Includes plant replacement, mulch, snow removal + salt; \$110/ >2" \$130 >6" snow
Cleaning Supplies	150.00	84.14	150.00	cleaning company to supply; budget item for incidentals
Office / Copier	4,500.00	3,648.81	4,500.00	IL paper 954.12/year contract, CIT 2,793.84/year, 750 OTHER office needs
Website	200.00	277.02	-	Merged with community outreach
Children's Ministry	-	-	500.00	
Pastors Fund	-	-	500.00	business lunches, homeless assist, pastors discretion
Community Outreach	-	-	1,200.00	advertising, FB, signs, new member/visitor drinks, new member gifts - previously in misc. and website
Payroll Company	1,260.00	2,259.44	700.40	Negotiated Rate\$52.50/month plus \$74 W2 fee (assume 4 W2 plus \$50 fee)
Miscellaneous	1,300.00	2,227.09	1,000.00	(\$340 Vanco invoice, \$660 other misc)
TOTAL GENERAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$49,197.47	\$50,102.10	\$56,922.74	

2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

	2014 Budget	Year End 2014	2015 Budget	2015 Assumptions
<i>Parsonage Disbursements</i>				
Utilities - Electricity	2300	\$58.41	\$300.00	based on credit amount used in 2014
Utilities - Natural Gas	5,000.00	5,987.75	5,000.00	Consistent with increasing historical actuals
Utilities - Water	210.00	19.81	254.00	Consistent with 2013 actuals
Real Estate Taxes	9,286.54	9,462.17	9,500.00	Consistent with 2014 actuals
Parsonage Repair & Maintenance	6,111.00	3,227.78	4,769.19	Consistent with 4 yr historial actuals
Parsonage Exterior Repair & Maintenance	4,000.00	-	0.00	
Property Management Co. & Leasing	4,193.00	3,839.25	4,418.75	Assumes same rate of 7% of parsonage income
Insurance - Commercial Multi-Peril Policy	\$1,281.53	1,287.54	1,313.99	Actual cost per Church Mutual
TOTAL PARSONAGE DISBURSEMENTS	\$30,082.07	\$23,882.71	\$25,555.93	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$159,279.46	\$146,518.54	\$186,024.99	
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$159,279.46	\$167,182.11	\$186,024.99	
EXCESS/(DEFICIT) OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER DISBURSEMENTS	-	\$20,663.57	-	

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

Month	Worship/ Sunday School / Nursery	Month	Worship/ Sunday School / Nursery
Jan	49/3/4	Aug	49/2/1
Feb	43/2/2	Sept	58/3/2
March	43/3/2	Oct	57/0/2
April	53/6/2	Homecoming Sunday	89
Easter Sunday	148/8/6	Nov	64/1/3
May	61/2/2	Dec	41/1/5
June	46/4/3	Christmas Eve 4:30pm	121/0/0
July	45/2/1	Christmas Eve 9:00pm	87/0/0

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Balances	Year Start	Year End	
Checking:*	47,064.94	65,674.38	
Savings:	65,357.39	65,422.53	
Cap Camp	15,867.77	13,162.81	(Expenses for 2014: refinishing office hardwood floors \$1,092; organ restoration \$2,045; hot water heater \$132.54)
*Checking balance includes: Operating balance, Zion, VanDemark, and Pastor's Fund			
VanDemark:		430.22	
Zion Cristo:		17,300	
Special Ministry Fund:		901	
Pastor's fund end of Year:		297.19	
Operating Balance:		46,745.97	

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

Submitted by: Adam Niemann, stewardship chair 2014

This year's Abundant Giving campaign was a great success. Much work was put into updating the directory of members and friends over the last three years that allowed WPLC to conduct our first ever e-mail based campaign with great results. Thank you to all members and friends of Wicker Park Lutheran who pledged their financial resources to the church.

Our Goal

To seek commitments that would allow WPLC to grow our budget revenue by \$20,000 in 2015—an 11% increase from the prior year.

Why this is important

- This increase in budget would allow us to:
- Increase Pastor Jason from 80% to full time
- Allow the church to hire a much needed part-time administrative assistant
- Better support current ministries and create new ministries like the Brew & Bible, Parents Group, and more
- Begin making long over-due plans to upgrade our bathrooms
- Financially support local organizations in our community and the synod's mission

The Results

71 members and friends pledged \$83,986 for an increase of \$10,818 over total budgeted offerings for 2014, almost half of our stated goal.

What is most notable

Looking at just the 71 who pledged, they collectively increased their individual giving by more than \$32,959 compared to the year prior!

What does this mean?

With such strong support of pledges for 2015, it allows WPLC to make confident plans for the upcoming year. Armed with this knowledge, we can fully support our mission, knowing that we will be financially secure and setting the stage for growth of our congregation and our ministries.

Thank you again to all who give to support WPLC. I am grateful for your many gifts and heartened by the bright future we have ahead of us as a church community. Special thanks to Pastor Jason for his creation, support and leadership in the stewardship effort; to Jeff Fredericksen for his tireless efforts in updating our directory and financial reporting; and to Nora Militz, Amy Herrold, Josh Schukar, Lauren Ayers, David Tournoux, Joy Tournoux, and Dan Shuttars for helping to send the Abundant Giving e-mails and letters.

Respectfully submitted,



Stewardship Chair

REPORT OF THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Submitted by: Beth Shutters, volunteer coordinator 2014

Our worship services would not be possible without the many volunteers who help lead worship, serve communion, and serve behind the scenes. A big thank you to those who have volunteered in 2014:

Assisting Ministers: Michael Held, Mike Koepp, Megan Schliep, Jason Shutters, Zechary Stigger, Nick Ziech

Communion Ministers: Sarah Allen, Michael Held, Amy Herrold, Stephanie Hoeman, Whit Hohman, Mike Koepp, Lauren Martin, Megan Schliep, Jason Shutters, Zechary Stigger, Joy Tournoux, Nick Ziech

Sacristans: Sarah Allen, Emily Grimm, Amy Herrold, Stephanie Hoeman, Bekah Kinsella, Alex Larson, Lauren Martin, Beth Shutters, Joy Tournoux

Lectors: Sarah Allen, Tammi Franke, Alissa Gemeny, Heidi Hedeker, Michael Held, Amy Herrold, Alex Larson, Nora Militz, Linda Morris, Kirsten Muszynski, Adam Niemann, Megan Ramsey, Katy Scrogin, Beth Shutters, Jay Stahl, Zechary Stigger, David Tournoux, David Wicik



Ushers: Mark Brusius, Brian Eaves, Michael Held, Rob Kosar, Lauren Martin, Nick Martz, Chris Ramsey, Dan Shutters, Juliana Sohn, Rob Vrshek, David Wicik, Nick Ziech

Greeters: Kristin Ayers and Josh Suchakar, Michael Held, Linda Morris, Kirsten and Tom Muszynski, Dan Shutters

Fellowship Hosts: Tammi Franke, Rob Kosar & Maria Edstrom, Heidi Hedeker, Michael Held, Amy Herrold, Alex Larson, Lauren Martin, Valeria Martin, Nora Militz, Kirsten and Tom Muszynski, Beth Shutters, Dan and Jean Shutters, Juliana Sohn, Marion Turner, Kristin and Sten Turpin

To learn more about volunteering, email the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@wickerparklutheran.org.

THE NIGHT MINISTRY REPORT

Submitted by: Maria Edstrom, The Night Ministry coordinator 2014

"The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization that works to offer housing, health care, and human connection to members of the Chicago community struggling with poverty or homelessness. With an open heart and an open mind, we accept people as they are and work to address their immediate needs while affirming their sense of humanity." [Source: The Night Ministry's website]

WPLC works together with The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus to serve meals to the poor and homeless. 2014 was another good year for WPLC's Night Ministry participation. We continued to meet the fourth Thursday of every month for most of the year, preparing meals for the Pilsen location. Toward the end of the year, The Night Ministry changed its Health Outreach Bus schedule, and we subsequently moved our Pilsen event to the second Sunday of each month. Around the same time, further to increased volunteer interest, we decided to add a second monthly event, which involves preparing and serving meals for the Wicker Park stop (very close to the church). Meal preparation for this stop takes place on the fourth Thursday of the month. We generally make 100 bag meals for the Pilsen stop and 50 for the Wicker Park stop. We estimate the average number of guests at the Pilsen stop to be around 40 people, with 20–30 guests coming to the Wicker Park stop, which means those who want them can get seconds and sometimes thirds.

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules in 2014 to help out with this activity. Your contributions are very much appreciated, both by us (the coordinators) and by those we serve.

MUSIC AND ARTS REPORT

Submitted by: David Tournoux, chair Church Musician search committee

2014 has been a year of transition for WPLC when it comes to Music and Arts. Ranging from new programs, extended relations, and a search for a Church Musician, we've seen a lot of change.

We hosted our first two Arts Sanctuary events for Wicker Park First Fridays on September 5th and November 7th. At each First Friday, we hosted local artists and musicians to show their work and perform. We had Live Jazz music and even a mini concert from the Wicker Park Choral Singers. These performances took place at the church where the public could come in and enjoy the music, art and church brewed beer from the Brew & Bible program.

We had the fortune of having two local musicians serve as Interim Church Musician during our search for a permanent Church Musician. Lyle Harlow held the interim position until July 5th and Benjamin Pera took over from then until we bring in our new Church Musician, Sam Walker Reese, in January of 2015. A huge thanks to Lyle and Benjamin for their commitment and contributions to the music and worship at WPLC. We have found a new Church Musician who will begin in January of 2015. We look forward to having Sam Reese work with Pastor Jason and the congregation to continue strengthening our worship with incredible music.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by: Nick Martz, building committee chair 2014

Introduction

Comprised of building and project minded volunteers, the building committee helps to plan, manage, and implement church projects related to all church property along with council direction. Projects are funded by the General building project funds and the capital improvement campaign account depending on the scope of the project. Portions of our tithing can be deferred to either or both of these funds at your discretion. Anyone who would like to participate and have a voice in the building committee is welcome to join meetings. Additionally any and all volunteers are welcome to participate in the church "workdays" where many of the small scale DIY projects get done.

Committee Summary

- Thanks to Lyle Harlow for leading the building committee over the majority of the year. During that time he led the majority of building committee projects and spearheaded there execution and coordination. Lyle stepped down as acting chair mid-year and the committee went through a transitional period throughout the second and third quarter of the year. Nick Martz is now the Building Committee chair and you can contact him or the pastor if you are interested in joining or participating with the Building Committee meetings and projects.
- We are meeting as a group again after a long stretch with no formal meetings. A formalized and prescheduled bi-monthly meeting has been set by the committee for the first Wednesday of even months (February, April, June, etc.) at 7:30 p.m. at the church.
- The committee has compiled and prioritized a list of goals into major and minor projects
- Cosmetic upgrades to the general office and sacristy made it possible to transition into Pastor's office and a church office with sacristan storage. Hardwood floors were revealed and resurfaced under the tile and were refinished, plasterwork and paint have made the much used pastor's office warm and inviting.



2014 Annual Report for Wicker Park Lutheran Church

- This year we hung the remaining entryway lights to the narthex repurposing globes from the nave's interior. The Van Dermark memorial was installed giving thanks to Pastor Ruth and the commitment of all the saints who have gone before us.
- During an alternative spring break, students from Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg, VA stayed with us at WPLC. Students volunteered throughout the city and helped to upgrade the education rooms. Plaster work, paint, removal of built in cabinets, waxing of the floors, and general cleaning was accomplished during their week-long stay.
- Hot water heater was replaced after an emergency leak was discovered and is now up and running. Ongoing plans are in the works to make the heating of the water more efficient and readily available in the restrooms.

Transitioned to new Building Property Management

- Council along with the Building Committee made the decision to shift from a relatively new and small property management company to one that was much larger and more experienced after the former management company resigned. With the new management we feel like there is no longer the need to micromanage.
- Council, with the guidance of the new property management team, decided to increase the parsonage apartment monthly rents to align more with local market value.

Basement Projects

- A basement library has been set up and continued organization is in the works.
- Restrooms have been cleaned up and winterized. Small plans have been discussed to make the restrooms more comfortable and appealing.
- The Committee along with Council produced a schematic plan to make both the church and the basement restrooms accessible for anyone living with a disability. The narrative, along with the plans, were compiled for a grant application in the spring. The grant was to help with a portion of the construction work. When the design was completed and the budget came in for the entire scope of work, however, the grant money would have only covered a small portion of the overall construction cost which made the project unachievable at that time (estimated cost of \$310,730), therefore, the grant application was not pursued. We now have a viable design in place with a project budget to work towards and present to the congregation to make our church accessible to the public.
- With a few more work days we can get the stage and storage closet cleaned and organized. Please keep your eyes and ears opened for those dates and participate as you can. These smaller DIY projects will really help get the basement up to a more attractive and usable level for the church and its users.

Thank You

A special thanks to all the building team members for 2014: Chris Ramsey, Brian Eaves, Lyle Harlow, Mike Koepp, Paul Feaser, Dan Shutters, Nick Martz, Jason Shutters, Josh Schukar, Sten Turpin, Tom Muszynski, and Mark Brusis.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 CHURCH COUNCIL

Terms Ending January 2015

Maria Edstrom (2nd full three year term)
Amy Herrold (completing three year term of Bruce Hendrickson)
Nick Martz (completing three year term of Jason Shutters)

Terms Ending January 2016

Danyelle Andrews (1st full three year term)
Heidi Hedeker (1st full three year term)
Bekah Kinsella (1st full three year term)

Terms Ending January 2017

Beth Shutters (1st full three year term)
Megan Schliep (2nd full three year term)
Adam Niermann (final three year term)