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Staff, Council Members and Lay Leaders

Lead Pastor.....	The Rev. Stephen R. Schmidt
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Sean Bunger
Director of Discipleship Ministry for Children & Families	Jessica Dodson
Director of Music	Terri Meyer
Administrative Specialist	Ruth Dirlam
Bookkeeper	Ellen Young
Sexton.....	Bill Brentnall
President.....	Cathy Frost
Vice-President.....	Paul Anderson
Treasurer	John Robbins
Council Secretary.....	Liese Zitzkat
Discipleship Team.....	Penny Howell-Heller
Evangelism Team	Bill Kracke
Planning Team.....	Pastor Steve
Fellowship Team.....	Janis Vajdos
Facility Support Team	Doug Chapman
Ministry Team	Cindy Jones, Angela George
Councilors at Large	
Staff Support	Paul Anderson
Stewardship	Doug Meyer
Worship Team.....	Brad Dame
Memorial Committee	Elaine Remondi-Simpson
Memorial Garden Committee	Regina Donovan
Cash Receipts Clerk	Corrine Stevens
Disbursements Clerk.....	LeAnn Carr

**St Luke Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2010**

Call to Order – Approximately 12:30 PM

Prayer – Pastor Steve

Establish Quorum

Election of Secretary and Parliamentarian

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

Annual Congregational Meeting - January 25, 2009

Motion to dispense with reading of the minutes

Review and receipt of Officer, Staff and Committee Reports

Motion to dispense with reading of reports

Audit Report

Nomination and Election of Officers

From Nominating Committee:

President – John Robbins

Vice President – Paul Anderson

Treasurer – Jennifer Gilletti

Nominations from the floor

Nomination and Election of Councilors:

From Nominating Committee:

Dennis Sindel – expires Jan 2012

Doug Chapman – expires Jan 2012

Leigh Sammons - expires Jan 2012

Nominations from the floor

Nomination and Election of Nominating Committee

Mary Ellen Robeson

George Lang

Larry Wolfgang

Elaine Simpson

Kellie August

To be announced

Nominations from the floor

Surplus from 2009 of \$12,800 -

Resolution – Be it resolved that St. Luke Lutheran Church disperse the \$12,800 surplus from 2009 by tithing 10% - \$1,300 to be disbursed at the discretion of the Ministry Team, and the remaining \$11,500 be included in the 2010 budget.

Budget 2010 -

Resolution - Be it resolved that St. Luke Lutheran Church approve the proposed 2010 annual budget of \$517,500.

Resolution – Be it resolved that if there is a surplus at the end of 2010 the Treasurer is to repay any funds taken from the Staff Development Fund.

Furniture Bank Building –

Resolution – Be it resolved that St. Luke Lutheran Church approve the use of up to \$11,000 from the Building and Capital Appeals fund for the demolition and removal (including asbestos removal) of the Furniture Bank building.

Scrip program –

Resolution – Be it resolved that St. Luke Lutheran Church participate in the Great Lakes Scrip Center program on a one-year evaluation basis with a review and decision to continue or not at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Old Business:

Announcements:

Thanks to outgoing councilors – Bob Nelson

A SPECIAL thank you to John Robbins for all his hard work and dedication while serving as treasurer of the St. Luke Congregational Council for the past three years.

Other Announcements

Resolution of Thanksgiving:

Be it resolved that St Luke Lutheran Church thank our Lord and Savior for His continued presence and guidance in all that we do, our Pastors for their continued leadership and ministry, our staff for their dedication and commitment for the mission of the church, all our volunteers and leaders who donate their time and talents for St Luke and our church community, and our outgoing Congregation Councilors for their time and leadership in our congregation.

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer - Pastor Sean

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of
St. Luke Lutheran Church
January 25, 2009

Opening Activities

Council President Cathy Frost called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

Pastor Steve led devotions.

A quorum was confirmed with 81 congregation members present.

Charlie Anderson was elected the Parliamentarian for the meeting, and Debbie Eld was elected as the Secretary.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The motion was approved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and the reports.

The motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2008 annual meeting. The floor was open to discussion. The motion was made and approved to close discussion of the 2008 minutes. The motion was then passed to approve the minutes.

Review and receipt of Officer, Staff and Committee Reports

The motion was made to dispense with the reading of the reports. The floor was opened to discussion. ***The motion was made and approved to close discussion of the reports. The vote was then passed to dispense of the reading of the reports. The motion was made to receive the reports and then a motion was made and approved to close discussion on the reports. The vote was taken and passed to accept the reports.***

Audit Report

Treasurer John Robbins read a portion of the Audit Report. The results indicate that all operations are working very well. The only recommendation given was that the church should maintain a current listing of furnishings and equipment. The Audit Team has already complied with the report's recommendation.. ***The motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the Audit Report.***

Nomination and Election of Officers

1) The following officers were unanimously elected to serve:

President	Cathy Frost
Vice-President	Paul Anderson
Treasurer	John Robbins

The following members were unanimously elected to serve on the congregational council (Councilors), with terms expiring as shown:

Barclay Thomas	– term expires January 2011
Debbie Eld	– term expires January 2011
Ruth Chambers	– term expires January 2011

The following members were unanimously elected to the Nominating Committee for 2009 (all terms expire in 2009): Heather Frost, Bill Kracke, Doug Meyer, Wayne Stolle, Pam Suplicki, Felix Vajdos.

John Robbins presented the following resolution to the congregation:

Be it resolved that St. Luke Lutheran Church disperse the \$8,581 surplus from 2008 by tithing 10% - \$858 for local benevolence, up to \$2,500 for a new folding machine for the church office and the remainder of, at least, \$5223 to savings.

Cathy explained the resolution to the congregation as follows:

At last year's annual meeting, it was decided to put any surplus into the Staff Development Fund. \$4000 was used from this Fund this year, leaving a balance of \$10,000. Due to economic conditions, the Council felt that more money should go into a savings account, not into dedicated funds.

The church office is in need of a new folding table.

The council also felt we should tithe 10% of the surplus to local benevolences since the budgets were frozen in the fall. The Synod Support was suspended also, but we have since fulfilled our expected support.

Discussion followed;

A member stated that he agreed with the motion as presented, but that the council would need a congregational vote to withdraw money from a savings account. He suggested that the money be placed in the Long Term Contingency Fund. It was noted that there already is a general savings account, and we would just be adding to it. The council could appropriate from this fund up to a certain amount without congregational approval. Pastor Steve noted that the council wanted a savings account to handle a deficit to balance the budget. The Council Discretionary Fund is used if something comes up that was not budgeted for, such as a new program. The Council can spend up to 5% of the budget without congregational approval. A member supported an amendment to the motion, changing the savings account to the Council Discretionary Fund. The Long Term Contingency Fund is used for major repairs, such as the roof or parking lot for example. ***The motion was made and approved to close discussion. The vote on the original motion was passed with one member opposed.***

John Robbins presented the following resolution to the congregation:

Be it resolved that St. Luke Lutheran Church approve the proposed 2009 annual budget of \$525,835.

John noted that 2009 pledges were up 9% from 2008. The council used 90% of the pledges instead of the usual 95% for the budget. This budget is only \$1220 more than last year. Cathy added that the council held budget planning meetings this year in which the teams presented their budgets. The teams were physically sound with their budgets. The staff was given minimal raises, with the exception of two positions, the Director of Discipleship Ministry for Children, and Director of Discipleship Ministry for Youth, Families and Adults, since these positions have been held for only six months. Synod mission support was changed to 10% of anticipated annual revenue, which will be 10% of the monthly offering. A member questioned if this was a standard amount, and Charlie Anderson replied that he was not certain and would find out and provide that information. Charlie also noted that the Synod encourages the churches to give 10%, and they are receptive to the monthly tithe. In fact, this is what the Synod does for the ECLA.

Cathy reread the motion and the resolution was passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Cathy discussed the need to fill the council secretary position.

Announcements

Pastor Steve thanked the following outgoing council members for their service:

Councilors Tom Baudro, Carol Croteau and Brad Dame; Vice- President Mark Larson, and Secretary Debbie Eld.

Announcements

Ellen asked members to pick up their 2008 statements and envelopes.

Proposed Thanksgiving Action

Cathy Frost presented the final motion of the meeting:

Be it resolved that St. Luke Lutheran Church thank our Lord and Savior for His continued presence and guidance in all that we do, our Pastors for their continued leadership and ministry, our staff for their dedication and commitment for the mission of the church, all of our volunteers and leaders who donate their time and talents for St. Luke and our church community, and our outgoing Congregation Councilors for their time and leadership of our congregation. All were in favor.

Pastor Sean closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Eld
Secretary

President's Report 2009

Dear Fellow Members and Friends of St. Luke,

As you are all aware, 2009 has been a financially challenging year for everyone. However, thanks to the many generous members who remembered St. Luke with a special Christmas Gift, we were able to end 2009 with a surplus.

Some highlights of our accomplishments in 2009 are:

Our Small Group ministry expanded to over 50 members committed to meet regularly to grow in the spiritual disciplines and support and uplift each other.

The Furniture bank building has outlived its usefulness and has now become a liability and needs to be demolished. The Furniture Bank of Southeastern CT is currently in the process of placing a shed on our property to house items needed for their tag sales. At the annual meeting the church council will be asking for your approval to remove the deteriorating building and create additional parking.

The Church Health Team conducted a survey and found our minimal factor to be "Passionate Spirituality". They have developed new strategies which include introducing prayer partners, an online Bible study (The Wired Word) on our website and growth in our small group ministry.

Our Sanctuary Taskforce Team has diligently been surveying the future needs of St. Luke related to our worship space and are developing a proposal.

As 2009 began, the council approved the creation of a focus ministry team to evaluate the position of Parish Office Administrator. After much investigation, this team developed a more comprehensive job description for a Parish Administrative Specialist in line with the current needs of St. Luke. After council approval, a job search committee was formed and Ruth Dirlam accepted the position the first of June.

At the beginning of August, the Council accepted the letter of resignation from Fawn DeMello as Director of Discipleship Ministry of Youth, Family and Adults. The Council appointed Jessica Dodson to an expanded role as Director of Discipleship Ministry for Children and Families.

The People Support team worked on our Continuing Resolutions to bring them in line with our revised Constitution. The Council approved five at our January 2010 meeting and will be finalizing the rest in the next few months.

St. Luke continued our adult and family mission trip to Honduras in conjunction with Niantic Community Church. Our youth continued their annual mission trip as well.

I appreciate the honor of serving as your president for the past three years. As St. Luke begins a new decade, I would encourage each of us to expand our ministry by reaching out to include others so they can experience God's love and grace in the fellowship at St. Luke.

Thanks to Pastor Steve, Pastor Sean, council members, staff, our many volunteers and all our members who make St. Luke such a caring and enthusiastic Christian community.

Cathy Frost
Congregational President

Annual Report for 2009

Pastor Stephen R. Schmidt, Lead Pastor

This past year has been a challenging one for many. The economy still has not recovered, many are without jobs, others are looking for new employment, families are feeling the pressure of tough times, and the church is not exempt from these pressures. Yet the state and the spirit of St. Luke Lutheran Church are upbeat and promising. We are the vessels of the Holy Spirit and accept the challenge of doing ministry together in this place even in the midst of difficult times. The greatest resource of our congregation is our members, those who have partnered with us to grow together in discipleship and in service to God and our neighbors. God never promised us that ministry would be easy, but that God would be present and that the harvest is plentiful. In the midst of a world that screams scarcity we are bold to proclaim a God of abundance.

Pastoral Ministry

In a recent sermon I talked about how important it was to allow the Holy Spirit to empower our lives for ministry. Too often in a parish this gets interpreted to mean developing more and more programs. While developing new outreaches and ministries through new programming initiatives is certainly part of a pastor's role, it is not the core. Pastor Sean and I continue to believe the primary focus for us as ordained ministers is to be pastors to the people of St. Luke. We have visited members, had prayer with many, offered pastoral counseling when it has been sought, sat in hospitals, celebrated births, performed weddings and mourned deaths in the past year. We regularly bring Holy Communion to our homebound. Much of this pastoral ministry cannot happen if we don't know about situations where a call or visit from me or Pastor Sean would be appreciated. So I again implore the congregation to call us when you are aware of such a situation or are concerned because you haven't seen someone for awhile at church.

2009: A Year in Review

Even in the midst of trying times the congregation has continued to "reach farther and serve better." New programs and ministries continued to be developed or expanded this past year. I've outlined below a few that, I believe, are particularly important and hold great potential as we move forward into the 21st Century.

Natural Church Development

We embarked on a bold initiative to take the pulse of our congregation as it relates to eight key characteristics for healthy congregations. The Congregational Council appointed a Church Health Team (a focused ministry under the Planning Team). They studied the Natural Church Development system, which found that if a congregation is healthy in all eight of the key characteristics, it will be a growing congregation. A survey was undertaken which found our "low" area to be "Passionate Spirituality." The team's next task was to determine why this was our minimal factor. The Church Health Team, chaired by Trudy Flannery, worked with a Church Development Coach, Dave Farabaugh, and met throughout the year. To keep the congregation informed of their work they presented Temple talks, sent out mailings to the congregation and provided relevant articles that were published in *The Scroll*. They developed new strategies including introducing prayer partners, supporting the addition of an online Bible study on our website, and encouraging the continued growth of our small group ministry. The Church Health Team hopes to begin to include a regular column in *The Scroll* where members can share their faith stories and how God is working in their lives. Later this spring a second survey will be taken; the results of this second survey will be used to help us focus on certain areas of the congregation's programming and ministry.

Continued Expansion of Small Group Ministry

What started as a single incubator group in 2008 gave birth in 2009 to several new small group gatherings where over 50 members of our congregation meet together on a regular and often weekly basis. These small groups have enabled members to move from just being acquaintances on Sunday to true friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, who gather to learn, share, support, and grow together. Joyce and I joined a small group and it has become an important part of our life and something we miss when the group skips a week. Small group ministry harkens back to the New Testament times when believers gathered in home groups for study, worship and ministry. As congregations grow larger they need to also grow smaller in focusing where ministry and support can be a vital part of a congregation's life. Small groups are but one way that opens up a whole new level of intimacy and ministry within a congregation. I want to thank Pastor Sean and Amy Wilson for their continued shepherding of this important ministry and for all the small group leaders who have opened their homes and lives. While I realize not everyone will want to participate in this sort of experience I would encourage everyone to prayerfully consider joining a small group for a year and see what a difference it can make in your own spiritual life. I know these small groups are making a difference in the life of St. Luke.

The Wired Word

A suggestion was made at one of the listening forums held by the Church Health Team that we might look into hosting an online Bible study. The feeling was there might be people who cannot attend one of the Bible studies we offer but would find an online study attractive. So in October I piloted *The Wired Word*, which is a weekly study that looks at a current issue and engages people in reflection and discussion. The discussion questions focus on how does a Christian approach such a topic and what does the Bible say that could provide us with guidance in such a situation? With input from the pilot group, and suggestions from several people familiar with on-line discussions, we went public with *The Wired Word* in November and moved it from a discussion group on Facebook to our own discussion forum hosted by our website. We currently have nineteen participants and one of the small groups is using the weekly issue as a springboard for discussion. This is our first entry into an online study and discussion forum and while there have been some startup difficulties it does hold promise for being another way to encourage Bible study/reflection as it relates to current real life issues or situations.

Honduras Mission Trip

We returned in April to Chachaguala, Honduras to work with Fr. Francisco Mendice and his congregation. We had 31 members of the mission team almost equally split between Niantic Community Church and our congregation. It was such a wonderful experience to get off the bus and be greeted by people we had worked with and fell in love with last year. I am grateful for Pastor John Nelson from Niantic Community Church who was a key member of our group this year, not only for the opportunity to get to know him but also for his excellent Spanish language speaking skills. Two main projects were completed this year. We purchased the supplies and helped to build 50 high efficient cook stoves for residents in Chachaguala and San Marcos. We also built and painted 50 double desks and benches for the public school. Children that were sitting on the ground to attend class when we arrived had desks and benches when we left. In just a single Sunday's request for help in funding this project we raised over \$2000 at St. Luke. Thank you to all who supported this project and our continued mission trips to Honduras. In 2010 I am exploring the possibility of having two consecutive weeks in April due to the number who have voiced interest in being a part of this mission team and realizing that 30-31 is too many to bring for a single week.

“Come Home for Christmas” Outreach

In December I invited the congregation to give me names of people they had not seen for awhile at St. Luke. From the names submitted by the congregation and those that Pastor Sean and I came up with, I mailed over 70 letters inviting them to come home to St. Luke for Christmas. We saw several of these folks at Christmas Eve worship and others have called me or emailed to thank me for the letter. I plan to follow up with these people through the year to see if they might become reconnected with our congregation.

Looking Ahead to 2010

I would like to work on the following initiatives during 2010. Some of these will be new programs while others will be programs that have been offered in the past.

- Work with the Evangelism Team to offer the course, “Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense”. Several years ago we offered the *Alpha Course* that was an introduction to Christianity. It was one attempt at trying to attract some unchurched persons to Christianity. This new course by N.T. Wright (Anglican Bishop of Durham) is written in the vein of C.S. Lewis’ *Mere Christianity* and wants to make the case for Christian faith from the ground up, assuming the participant has no knowledge of (and perhaps even some aversion to) religion in general and Christianity in particular. This course might begin with a shared meal and then a video lesson before breaking up into small groups for discussion.
- Make Pentecost Sunday, May 23, a “Faith in Action” Sunday, already endorsed by the Congregational Council. This will be the culmination of a four-week, church-wide campaign that incorporates daily devotional reading, weekly sermons and small group lessons—and concludes on Faith in Action Sunday, when regular worship services will be cancelled and the entire congregation has the opportunity to minister and perform community service. This will be a wonderful opportunity to invite non-churched people to join us in serving our community. We will return to share in a potluck supper and hold an evening Pentecost Celebration that will be highlight the servant ministry we were able to share in during the day.
- Complete my certification as a “Master Practitioner” for the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI).
- Use the MBTI as it relates to Team Building for the church Leadership Team and Congregational Council.
- Offer both the 201: Spiritual Disciplines course and 301: LifeKeys course during the year.
- To develop a course on spiritual gifts, which while part of the LifeKeys course, would perhaps be more attractive since it could be taken in just a single 90-minute class.
- Offer the Book of Acts as the Men’s Bible Study focus for 2010.
- Offer a discussion group on Joan Chittister’s book, *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully*. From the book flap it states: “Joan Chittister, one of our most celebrated spiritual writers, invites us to embrace older age as a natural part of life that is both active and contemplative, productive and reflective, and deeply rewarding. She encourages us to cherish the blessing of aging and to overcome its challenges.” As I near the sixth decade of my life it is a book that has come highly recommended to me and one that I would enjoy reading and reflecting upon with others.
- Continue the congregation’s annual mission trip to Honduras. Recommit myself to making two or three visits each month just to reconnect with members. Each month one of these visits will be specifically directed at a person/family who has reduced or stopped their participation in the congregation’s life.
- Continue to work with Pastor Sean in developing several sermon series during the year.
- Work with the Worship Team in introducing a new setting to the liturgy following Easter. Once learned, this will give us four different liturgies to be rotated throughout a year.
- Work with Ruth Dirlam, our Administrative Specialist, in a congregation wide appeal to update our database system with accurate information on our members.

Final Thoughts

I am now in my fourteenth year of service to St. Luke Lutheran Church. I continue to see my ministry to you as a “calling” and consider it a great privilege to share in our life together. I still enjoy getting up in the morning to come to work at the church and even when I am away find my prayers always include our ministry together.

For the past four years I have had the great pleasure of sharing pastoral ministry with my colleague and friend, Sean Bunger. It is becoming harder each year to even think of doing ministry without such a trusted colleague. I believe he has blessed not just my life but also the life our congregation.

We welcomed Ruth Dirlam to our staff this past year. She has transformed the church office into a welcoming center and provides not just me but the entire staff with support and encouragement. Jessica Dodson accepted the challenge of expanding her discipleship ministry to include families as well as children. She has brought the same dedication and vision to that area of ministry as she did in helping us introduce the SPARK curriculum for our Sunday School this year.

Terri Meyer continues to provide us with one of the best music programs in our Synod. Her dedication and caring for how music can enhance and enrich our worship experience is outstanding. Ellen, Bill, Michele, Corrine, Kathleen, and Heather all make important contributions to our life and ministry as they serve in their respective areas. The entire staff both paid and volunteer are essential to our life and ministry. They all deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Cathy Frost completes her third year serving as the Congregational President and chair of the Congregational Council. She has devoted hundreds of hours, often behind the scenes, as she has led our congregation. I want to thank her for her vision, her dedication and her commitment to take our mission slogan from just being a statement to a guiding path for the congregation as we *Reach Farther in Proclaiming God's Love and Serve Better in showing God's love.*

John Robbins also completes his tenure as our treasurer. He has been a wonderful Finance Support Team chair and I look forward to his continued sage advice and council as he continues to serve in a new role on the Congregational Council. I thank him for being the careful and watchful steward of the church's finances during the past three years.

Finally, I realize, though I do not publically thank her enough, what an important role my wife, Joyce, contributes. She is a trusted confidant and is able to not only encourage my ministry but also is the one who makes me (who too often tends to be a workaholic) take time off for the two of us and for my own “self-care.” She also endures many nights of being home alone while I am attending church meetings, continuing education events, visits to Wisconsin to deal with my aging parents, or on mission trips. Joyce is my most important support system. As we approach our thirtieth anniversary this June, I never stop thanking God for bringing her into my life and for her love. I am truly blessed.

May God continue to bless the life of St. Luke Lutheran Church and all of her members as we seek to be Christ's faithful disciples in 2010.

Together in Ministry,

Stephen R. Schmidt
Lead Pastor

2009 Annual Report of the Associate Pastor Rev. Sean M. Bungler

Greetings in the Name of Christ,

It would be safe to say that 2009 was a trying time for many people. With the downturn of the economy, unemployment affecting many in our communities, and a sense of fear about what the future holds, many might think that we wouldn't have much to celebrate. Even with all of these things, the life and ministry of St. Luke continues to play an important role in the lives of our members and friends. At a time when attendance at many mainline congregations is declining rapidly, to maintain a vibrant worship setting is something to celebrate and give thanks to God for. We are not without our challenges, but God is faithful and our members have been and continue to be generous and faithful as well. In this report I would like to highlight a few of the ministries that I oversee and point out how the Spirit is alive and moving in this place.

Small Groups

We have almost 60 people involved in small groups. What began as a single group in the fall of 2008 has grown to be an important part of the faith growth and development of those who have taken the opportunity to commit to such a group. We look forward to the potential of a few more groups starting in 2010.

Confirmation

The Confirmation program continues to grow in its scope and diversity. The 7th and 8th grade students meet on Sunday mornings each week in addition to the 14 weeks of Tuesday night classes. Thanks to Ken and Ruth Chambers who teach the Sunday morning class, we have been able to cover even more of the Bible during that time and focus on applying that knowledge in class discussions on Tuesday evenings. The 9th graders continue to be paired with mentors who talk and walk with them through their continued growth and learning on what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Youth Ministry

The j.walkers, our middle school youth program, have been gathering on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for times of fellowship and learning. Together we have developed some great connections that have allowed for a level of trust and friendship to grow, not to mention some great games of Sardines! The Senior High ministry has been enhanced by the addition of a Sunday morning gathering in a small group setting using a DVD based series that explores issues of faith and God for young adults. Thank you to Ben Collman and Amy Wilson for leading this effort. We continue to explore how to meet the needs of those teens in our midst, who long for deeper understanding of God in their life amidst their ever-busier schedules.

Social Ministry

I would direct your attention to the report of the Ministry Team to see how active we are in the community. Even in tough times St. Luke has responded with generous hearts to local, national, and worldwide needs.

I continue to give thanks to God to be called to serve with all of you at St. Luke. In the midst of troubling times St. Luke continues to listen to how God challenges us to grow and serve our friends and neighbors, both locally and globally. Many thanks go out to all of the members of St. Luke who support and encourage the staff in any way they can. I'd like to thank the members of the staff who work so hard in order that the ministry never stops and always strives to give God glory. Thanks to Pastor Steve for his friendship, encouragement, and support of my ministry as we continue to work toward deepening the faith lives of each individual that calls St. Luke home. Thanks to Terri, Ruth, Jessica, and Ellen for their ministries and the pride they take in what they have been called to do as part of the St. Luke staff.

I believe that this is a challenging time to be the church, but it is an exciting time to be the church as well and the Good News that we share is Good News the world needs to hear. May God continue to be active in all our lives as we live, worship, serve, and grow together for the sake of the Gospel and the world in which we live.

Christ Makes Life Wonderfully Exciting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Sean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director of Music
Terri Meyer

“Facilitating an Encounter with God”

Each musical group strives to facilitate the listener’s encounter with God. It couldn’t happen without the dedication and talent within St. Luke’s Music Program.

I would like to personally thank Pete Larson (Joyful Noise Hand Chimes and Festíva) and Leslie Woods (Children’s Choir) who have volunteered their time and considerable talent to direct. Tori Jones and Jessica Meyer have enthusiastically directed “Rock 4:12” (formerly Treble Makers.) Gina Williams has arranged countless beautiful pieces of music for instrumentalists, as well as sharing her vast talent on her own myriad of instruments. The Senior Choir continues to sing beautiful and inspiring anthems every Sunday. All of the ringers in all 7 bell choirs faithfully attend rehearsals, worship services and performances. The Celebrate Team rehearses and leads worship all year long. No successful, meaningful program could exist without this incredible level of commitment, and I believe that St. Luke is truly blessed.

We have had some wonderful experiences, both “at home” and out in the world... Some highlights from 2009 include:

- JuBELLation’s acceptance into the Bronze (highest) division for Festival/Conference (March)
- Special Music for Lent, Holy Week and Easter (March)
- Dragging the Christmas tree down from the attic (May) so that Doug Phillips could take a picture for the cover of Concert Handbell Choir’s CD to be recorded in the summer.
- JuBELLation playing (in the front row!) with 700 other ringers at Festival/Conference at UMaine, Orono (June)
- Concert Handbell Choir’s week-long retreat in the Barn at Calumet, preparing for our Christmas CD, including a handbell workshop for the day campers and a concert (June)
- “Hallelujah for Handbells – Songs of the Stage and Screen” Concert, featuring all 7 of our Handbell Choirs, complete with costumes and video (June)
- Choral Sunday, featuring the Children’s Choir and the Senior Choir’s Sermon in Song (June)
- Celebrate Sunday, featuring the Celebrate Team and Treble Makers (June)
- Ring Masters performing for campers at Summer Music Camp, Putnam Congregational Church (August)
- Senior Choir singing the National Anthem at a Defender’s Game (August)
- An intense weekend of recording for the Concert Handbell Choir CD, featuring Doug Phillips’ and Brian Roush’s saintly patience (August)
- Rock 4:12’s debut with a rockin’ version of “You Found Me” (October)
- Ring Masters participating in the High School Ring Out (November) in NH
- The exciting release of Concert Handbell Choir’s CD “Ring in the Season” (November)
- Fun, laughter and learning with a MOPS handbell class (December)
- JuBELLation performing for the Choirs and Creches exhibit at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (December)
- Belles and Beaux providing Christmas music at Brookside Senior Housing and the Westerly Adult Day Care Center (December)
- Another beautiful Lessons and Carols service and three wonderful Christmas Eve services (December)
- All of the laughs, hugs, tears, prayers and “goosebump” moments during rehearsals and worship (all year long!)

Thanks to Heather Pollin for sharing her talents with the Senior Choir, and to Kathleen Bartkowski for sharing her talents with, well, all of us. And finally, thanks to the Worship Team, especially Brad Dame for his leadership, the council and the congregation for supporting this unique program, both financially and with your kind words of encouragement. And to the many people involved, whether you ring, sing, play, direct, compose, run the sound system or projector, provide transportation, or enjoy from the pew, thank you.

My goal is to keep God in the forefront, and remember that always,
we perform for an audience of One.

Terri Meyer
Director of Music

2009 Parish Records
Ruth Dirlam, Administrative Specialist

MEMBERS

Transfer from ELCA

Jennifer Horkey
Madeline Horkey
Tanner Schlepp
Mari Welke
Michael Welke
Hewson Welke
Ella Welke
Julianna Welke

Affirmation of Faith

Robert Bradley
Krijsten Cote
Dale Horkey
Gary Huebner
Heather Huebner
Carla Moses-Bradley
Trevin Reeves
Veronica Rollinson

BAPTISMS

Noah Baker
Abigail Cote
Gavin Frost
Mitchell Graul
Dylan Horkey
Hadley Huebner
Nikolas Vajdos
Juleann Zegarzewski
Karinne Zegarzewski

YOUTH CONFIRMED

Randal Michael Brannon
Chelsey Elizabeth Fuller
Victoria Lou Jones
Kelly Cedar Nelson
Tayler Rose Wohlleben

TRANSFERS/ REMOVED

Transfer to other ELCA

Holly Jo Deltgen
Eric Deltgen

Transfer to Non-Lutheran

Anne Guevremont
Bill Guevremont
Devin Guevremont
Trenton Guevremont
Jimmy Rusk

Death

David Gilletti
Walter Kinney

Withdrew from Congregation

John Dirlam
Carter Gille
Matthew Gille
Nolan Gille
Taryn Gille
Ellen LaPlace
Caroline McKenna
Erik McKenna
Philip McKenna
Georgia Reay
Wayne Reay
Diane St. Laurent
Erica St. Laurent

Other/Statistical Adjustment

Jonathan Appleton
Julie Appleton
Kris Ayers
Kyle Baird
Katharine Barrow
Scott Barrow
Christine Bateman
Dale Bateman
Morgan Bateman
Cheryl Berker
Craig Brodhead
Daniel Brodhead
Laurie Brodhead
Brianna Campbell
Diane Campbell
Jed Campbell
Lydia Campbell
Samuel Campbell
Sandra Carpenter-Sawyer
Kienan Christianson

Kyle Christianson
Sandra Christianson
Vanessa Christianson
Aaron Cramer
Shelley Cramer
Todd Cramer
Zac Cramer
Kip Effman
Karen Fauccera
Luke Green
Amanda Hendricks
Emily Hendricks
Lorene Hendricks
Matthew Hendricks
Megan Hendricks
Steven Hendricks
Keith Hoopes
Terri Le Clair
Gwen McTigue
Carrie Melvin
David Melvin
Haley Melvin
Jack Melvin
Joseph Muir
Nancy Muir
Nicole Muir
Jeffrey Nolan
Julia Nolan
Ellie Parker
Amy Pearce
Barbara Pinkham
Norris Pinkham
Alexandra Polen
Cameron Polen
Chris Polen
Kristin Ramassini
Steve Ramassini
Zachary Ramassini
Becky Ramthun
Deborah Ramthun
Elijah Ramthun
Rick Ramthun
Bret Rusk
Colleen Rusk
Janis Rusk
Cameron Rysavy

Charlotte Rysavy
 Joe Rysavy
 Joseph Rysavy
 Alison Smith
 Forest Smith
 Brian Solt
 Erica Steinnagel
 Andrew Thomasson
 Rebecca Thomasson

Sarah Thomasson
 Steven Thomasson
 Elizabeth Toft
 Claudia Turner
 Errion Turner
 Jennifer Turner
 Lori White
 Jim Wolfgang
 Clark Woodmansee

Moved, No Transfer
 Brad VanHorn
 Sharmin VanHorn
 Tristan VanHorn

Membership Trend Report, 2005—2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
MEMBERS RECEIVED BY:					
Baptism:Children (under age 15)	15	19	16	7	9
Baptism: Adults	0	0	0	0	
Affirmation of Faith	28	45	25	8	8
Transfer from ELCA Congregations	7	5	14	9	9
Transfer from other Lutheran	2	0	0	0	2
Transfer from Non-Lutheran	1	1	4	0	4
Statistical Adjust./Restoration of Membership	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEMBERS ADDED	53	70	59	24	32
MEMBERS REMOVED					
Death	3	3	7	3	2
Transfer to ELCA Congregation	11	12	14	4	2
Transfer to other Lutheran	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Non-Lutheran	5	0	0	6	5
Other/Statistical Adjustment	4	5	7	2	100
TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED	23	20	28	15	109
MEMBERSHIP CHANGE	30	50	31	5	(77)
Baptized Youth Confirmed	17	6	7	8	5
Confirmed Membership	635	685	723	746	583

Director of Discipleship Ministry for Children and Families
Jessica Dodson

I am starting my annual report with a huge THANK YOU to my fellow team members, Fawn, Bob, Penny, Mark, Amy, Doug, Leigh, and Corrine for their support this year. Thank you to our teachers, children's music leaders, and Bobbi Jo, our superintendent, for their dedication. I feel blessed to take part in the leadership of our St. Luke children and families.

For what I view as my accomplishments of 2009 please refer to the detailed list of activities found on the Discipleship Team Annual Report.

My number one goal for this year was to initiate a new curriculum all grades could follow. Last year I wrote *"my goal for 2009 is for all grades have the same curriculum, with age/grade appropriate materials. As an educator, I know children learn best through experience. The aim is for the materials to be experiential, applicable, and relational. We need to equip our parents and children to go outside of Sunday and continue their relationship with God."* The SPARK curriculum lends itself to this goal. Positive feedback has been giving by parents, teachers, grandparents and students.

Each month from September through December I have provided a family activity; Meyerfire, Trunk-or-treating, Walk thru the Bible, and support with game night. In 2010, I would like to include more family ministry activities.

My goals for 2010 are:

- 1) Expand programs to include multi-generational participation,
- 2) Include a parenting workshop/seminar twice a year,
- 3) Draw parallels between the Spark curriculum and St. Luke's five purpose driven teams and incorporate them into our lessons, and
- 4) Provide more opportunities for families to be purposeful in their actions as Christians.

Jessica Dodson
Director of Discipleship Ministry for Children and Families

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Annual Report 2009

Through 11 Focus Ministries the Team worked to expand and enrich Christian education, youth and family ministries, and stewardship of God's gifts. Accomplishments in 2009 include:

EDUCATION – see Jess Dodson's annual report for accomplishments of 2009 and goals for 2010.

Student Education

Sunday school: classes during the Learning hour for ages 3-11 (grade 6). We kicked off a new curriculum SPARK! This is a Bible based program which follows the lectionary. Our focus is for families to be connected at every level possible. New Bibles were bought and are used with each lesson.

Youth Forum: 'WHAT' (Worship Arts Team) See Pastor Sean's Report

Nursery/Worship Support: the Congregation's youngest were well cared for Sunday morning by Michele Clements (paid attendant), parent and teen volunteers. Limiting the ages from birth to 4 years of age cut down on the need for extra volunteers.

Special Events and Family Ministry:

Annual Ronnie Robeson Book Drive: Sunday School students collected books for the drive. Books are distributed to local waiting rooms.

Calumet Family Weekend: Attended by 5 families. Enjoyed meals, skiing, tobogganing, games and worship. Looking forward to advertising to get more families to join this year. Jess Dodson will provide SS lessons for all children attending in 2010.

Lenten Series: This was our first year providing children with their own Wednesday Lenten Series. We followed the *Kingdom of the Son* curriculum which is based on the Lord's Prayer. Attendance and participation was great, about (8) 3rd grade and up, and around 20 younger kids.

Good Friday Programs: a multi-age children's Lenten program especially designed for the un-churched community...Crosses were the theme this year. Our WHAT team led by Fawn DeMello performed a "stations of the cross" skit. Crafts and snacks were enjoyed by about 60 children from St. Luke and the community.

Sunday School Closing Program: SS ended the year with a morning of looking back. All classes shared a part of their lessons from the year with the congregation.

Vacation Bible School: the ecumenical summer program was hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes during August 3rd -7th. Crocodile Dock Summer Camp focused on Lent through Easter and how God is ever-present in our lives. We had 88 children from the five area churches attend the camp and 40 volunteers.

Meyer Fire: Low attendance, but those who showed had a great time. Family fellowship around a campfire.

Halloween 'Trunk or Treat' Family Program: a program designed to engage whole families in the congregation and community. The crafts were great, treats yummy and the costumes were super. Will plan differently next year; shorter time, more trunks, more community involvement.

Walk thru the Bible: Good attendance, great food, and an awesome day learning how to be closer to the Lord through the Bible.

Movie Event: Instead of completely cancelling SS during a holiday weekend, we hosted a special screening of the new Veggie Tales movie: *Saint Nicholas-a Story of Joyful Giving*, to encourage families to still attend church.

Christmas Program: an inter-generational and inter-group play featuring God's Grandmas along with songs sung by the youngest Sunday school students. Simply put "All I want for Christmas is Jesus, an awesome inspiring message to set off the CHRISTmas week!"

Confirmation Program: see Pastor Sean's report for details

Adult Education

Learning Hour Discussion Groups: The women's group used a liturgy-based discussion guide to expand on each Sunday's sermon and lessons; the Adult Forum discussed C.S. Lewis' book 'Mere Christianity'; Pastor Sean led a class on Luther's Small Catechism.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: The group of 8 people meet weekly to study the lectionary with the upcoming Sunday's preaching pastor.

Men's Bible Study: 6-12 men met weekly to discuss the Book of Isaiah and the Gospel of Luke.

Women's Retreat: Discussions during the spring retreat focused on the book "The Power of the Praying Women" while the Book of Ruth spurred discussions at the fall retreat. About 12-16 women attended.

Christian Library: The library resources were reorganized to make books and tapes/DVDs more accessible to those who would like to borrow them. Amy Sindel will continue to help make this resource more user friendly.

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Stewardship: See Stewardship report.

YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRY (January 2009- August2009)

Youth Groups/Family Events:

Club507 (high school youth) and j.walkers (junior high youth) were involved in many activities this year. Both groups met on a monthly basis with social events as the annual ski trip in February at Gunstock, NH. They went candlepin bowling and galatic bowling. Had a sleepover/lock-in. Bible studies were held on Sunday mornings during the learning hour as well as the WhAT group continued sharing their own passion with the congregation with skits during the services earlier in the year.

In July, a group of high school youth and 3 adults went with NCC to the Adirondack Mountains in New York on a mission trip. They were able to work at a Kids Club, a couple of Adult Homes/Nursing Homes, seniors personal homes in painting, and other community help. During this week we also grew within our own faith and assist in others growing on their faith journey. Each of us grew in a different way.

Family Ministry

Events that took place this year were game nights, a treasure hunt to learn about different parts of our own church with the children decorating their own treasure box to collect items on their hunt, building a large ice cream sundae to be shared by all, plus lawn chair drive-in movies. People brought their dinner and sat in lawn chairs or on blankets to watch a movie with popcorn and drinks provided.

Emmaus

In 2009, the 9th and 10th weekend retreats involved 50-60 teens and adults each, including members of several local churches as well as those without a church home. Since the spring of 2005, over 160 teens and 100 adults from over 30 churches in Southeast Connecticut have gone on this journey which allows teens to experience a relationship with Christ by seeing other teens "walk the walk" not just "talk the talk".

CHEA ("Christ Holds Everyone Always") Teen Bible Study met weekly throughout the spring and summer with 10-15 high school students leading their own discussions and music.

DISCIPLESHIP PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET

EDUCATION

Sunday school	
Curriculum	\$3,420
Supplies	\$1,260
Confirmation Program	\$2,700
Adult Education	\$1,350
Special Events	\$ 630
Vacation Bible School	\$ 405
Nursery/Worship Support	---
Christian Library	\$ 135
SUBTOTAL	\$9,900

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Stewardship	\$ 900
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YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRY

Youth Groups/Family Events	\$2,475
Emmaus	---
CHEA	---

TOTAL **\$13,275**

Penny Howell-Heller
Discipleship Team Chair



STEWARDSHIP REPORT Annual Report 2009

St. Luke is a dynamic and vibrant community Reaching Farther in Sharing God's Love and Serving Better in Showing God's Love. This is evident in many ways. Despite very challenging economic conditions facing all of us, the congregation has expressed its support through the avenue of stewardship. I am very grateful for this support.

The fall pledge drive for 2010 yielded a pledge commitment from you at a level near that of 2009. At the time of this writing, the pledge commitment for 2010 was 95% of 2009 pledges. This reflects the challenges that many are facing with the economy, changes to our membership and our overall uncertainty. This 5% reduction in pledges will place some strain on our existing programs and outreach.

2009 ended with strong giving in December, reducing the gap between the budget and overall year income to within 2%. This is an indication of the congregation's support and the generous Christmas Gifts to St. Luke. Income for 2009 was 98% of budget. Giving in 2009 was 88% of the pledged amounts.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Stewardship Team members...Carol Croteau, Chad Frost and especially Bob Nelson for bringing his enthusiasm, organizational skills and experience to the effort. My thanks to Doug Chapman and the supporting cast of puppets that helped us understand Stewart's Ship and the spirit of giving. St. Luke was likened to the energy of popcorn, and thanks to those from the Discipleship Team that provided and served popcorn representing the flavor of the future for us. Both Ruth Dirlam and Corrine Stevens support the church and specifically the stewardship drive with skill and humility, providing countless hours of administrative services.

My direct involvement in the Stewardship process is transitional. The goal is to establish a team structure and coordinate the '09-'10 campaign. As spring approaches, Stewart's Ship will need more crew members and I ask that you give this avenue of service prayerful consideration.

May God continue to bless St. Luke and the mission we embrace.

Doug Meyer

EVANGELISM TEAM

2009 Annual Report

The Evangelism Team has had a relatively quiet year through 2009. We continued our existing programs: Power Visitor, Greeters, Welcome Team, and Advertising. We also started examining different alternatives for reaching out to the community.

In 2008 we started a pilot program with Welcome Wagon as a method to gain more exposure to people moving into our community. During the year with Welcome Wagon we did not get a single indication that anyone visited as a result of the Welcome Wagon program so the team determined that we could be better stewards of the Church's money by letting the contract lapse.

As part of the Welcome Wagon program we purchased Bibles that were to be provided to anyone bringing in the Welcome Wagon coupon. Since response was nil, we expanded that program to include any new visitor who did not have a Bible. Evangelism has also provided approximately one dozen Bibles for distribution at the New London Soup Kitchen. All were taken and members serving at the Soup Kitchen have reported that several have thanked us for the Bibles.

When the local layoffs, especially Pfizer layoffs, started, the Evangelism Team started a support group for those who lost their jobs. The New Life group, named to signify the start of a new work life, met for about three months. We had as many as 10 people meeting with the group and as people found work the group diminished in size. Of those 10 individuals, there were at least 4 who were not members of the congregation who had been invited by members and attended several meetings.

With Pastor Steve's assistance we now have a short Evangelism page on our Web Site that contains some links to the ELCA Web Site for information regarding Christianity and Lutheranism. We are planning to expand this more over the next year, incorporating additional links for first time Bible readers and additional information for "seekers".

We are currently examining several programs that have potential for being used for "refresher courses" on Christianity for members and introductory courses for "seekers", those people in whom the Holy Spirit has awakened a need to discover more about Christ.

In Christ,

Bill Kracke
Evangelism Team Lead

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

2009 Annual Report

The fellowship team has served the St. Luke Community in a variety of ways this year to foster a supportive environment of close friendships. In addition to our routine offerings, we were able to add a few new fellowship opportunities this year. In 2009, we hosted 4 game nights, 2 funeral receptions, 8 soup Sundays, an Ash Wednesday potato supper, 5 Lenten soup suppers, a Seder meal (new this year!), Easter breakfast, a Progressive dinner, a Ladies Tea, a Golf Tournament, Sundae Sunday, the Church Picnic, a Defenders Baseball game (new this year!), Rally Day lunch, Oktoberfest, Confirmation breakfast, catering services for the Walk through the Bible seminar (new this year!), Thanksgiving Eve dinner and the Advent Festival.

The fellowship team is composed of Dennis Sindel (Council liaison), Janis Vajdos (team chairperson), Corri Bradley, Bobbi Jo Cini, Crystal Dame, Jessica Dodson, Tara Fauth, Louise Larson, Mary Ellen Robeson, Corrine Stevens, and Dick Swiontek. The events listed above could not have happened without the people who have volunteered their time to cook meals, clean up or set up the fellowship hall. An enormous thank you to you all!

For 2010, we are dividing the many fellowship roles among the team members. Each role or event will have a lead person to coordinate the event or responsibility. This reorganization will hopefully reduce the responsibilities for any one person and ensure that all the jobs are being done well. Also, we hope to attract more volunteers if the responsibilities are more limited and require shorter time commitments. The individuals responsible for each role are listed below. Please contact them for information about how to volunteer.

Dennis Sindel (Council Liaison) will write monthly reports to the Council.

Louise Larson will manage the fellowship budget and authorize spending requests.

Janis Vajdos will coordinate receptions for funerals, confirmation breakfast, new member receptions and any impromptu luncheons. She is also the lead contact for the church picnic.

Corri Bradley is responsible for maintaining the kitchen area and supplies.

Bobbi Jo Cini is responsible for keeping the freezers and refrigerators clean.

Jessica Dodson is the lead contact for soup Sundays, game nights, and the Rally Day lunch.

Tara Fauth is the lead contact for Sundae Sunday.

Mary Ellen Robeson is the lead contact for the Ladies Tea.

Corrine Stevens will coordinate the potato supper, the progressive dinner, and the Thanksgiving Eve dinner.

Dick Swiontek will coordinate Easter Breakfast, the golf tournament, Oktoberfest and the Advent Festival.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Vajdos,
Fellowship Team chairperson 2009

MINISTRY TEAM

Annual Report 2009

The Saint Luke Ministry Team continues to be a very vital part of our congregation. It is a collection of groups and individuals who support and lead outreach ministries within our congregation, the community and global missions throughout the world. Each of these focus ministries does a specific good work and we are grateful for their time and talent. Even in these uncertain economic times, we continue to minister those touched by hunger, poverty, homelessness, illiteracy, social injustice, addiction or abuse in our world. Your amazing generosity, time and talents have allowed St. Luke to be considered a caring community

There are many agencies within the Southeastern Connecticut regions who ask for our financial support during the year. With the congregation funds budgeted to the Ministry Team, we have try to focus on two areas of need for food and shelter. We will continue to support Habitat for Humanity, Martin House, Bethsaida Community, local food lockers and shelters in nearby communities. The Ministry Team is committed to service to others and we need your support and prayers in 2010.

Furniture Bank Report to the Ministry Team

During 2009, the Furniture Bank received major donations of furniture and beds from the Mystic Marriott hotel, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and Homebound Treasures (New London). The Marriott pickups, accomplished with the assistance of volunteers from St. Luke, yielded 33 beds, 22 hide-a-beds, and 8 chairs. In addition, over 1200 furniture items were donated by individuals. Through these furniture donations and \$25,000 in monetary grants from eight foundations (Dime, Liberty, Chelsea Groton, Putnam, Palmer, Bodenwein, Gernon, and Pfizer), tag sale proceeds totaling over \$9200, \$1750 in matching funds from Thrivent, \$1000 from St. Luke, \$1090 from LICEAF, \$200 from Malta, \$250 from the Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors, \$100 from Randall Realtors (in honor of our president, Jack Kelly), a \$450 donation from the United Methodist church, and \$1000 in donations from individuals, we were able to assist 258 of the more than 500 families and individuals referred to us by social service agencies and churches.

Mike and Karen Wuesthoff

Alternative Gifts Program

Through the generosity of St. Luke members, the "Gifts for Jesus" alternative gifts program provided over \$1900 to charitable programs. You provided 130 Christmas gifts to 52 Martin House residents, 11 Katie Blair residents, and ten furniture bank families. We were blessed by being able to deliver these gifts to their grateful recipients, and proud to be the representatives of such a generous congregation! Thanks and God bless you!

Mike and Karen Wuesthoff

New London Meal Center Soup Kitchen Ministry 2009

The Ministry team purchased, prepared, and served an evening meal at the New London Community Meal Center on the first Sunday of every month in 2009. An additional meal was served on New Year's Day. Each month a crew of 15-20 volunteers, ranging from teens to seniors, served 65-150 people in need of a hot meal and a comfortable place to eat and enjoy the company. With an average of 90 meals served each month, well over 1000 meals (often with left-overs for the next day or so) were produced by St Luke's volunteers in 2009.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Sunday of every month. As always, anyone is welcome to join us or drop in with your knitted items to be collected for members or friends of the

Congregation with illness or other concerns. Throughout the year, 20 knitted/crocheted shawls and blankets were given out to individuals plus several baby blankets at baptisms.

This year we sewed "Quillows" (fleece quilts that fold up into pillows for young children) and delivered 12 to the Mystic shelter, MASH and 15 more to Madonna House in Norwich. Each quillow had a plastic bag filled with toiletries and a card with best wishes from St. Luke's. The fleece and toiletries were generously donated by our ministry members and from members of our congregation. We also used the left over flannel from last years project of receiving blankets, to make about 20 quilted tops for baby blankets. We will be working on completing these blankets in 2010.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of sewers, knitters and crochet-ers includes, Penny Heller, Anita Stolle, Ginny Jacobson, Kathy Swope Ann Walker, Amy Seidel, Suzanne Etris and is led by Jean Wolfgang.

Jean Wolfgang

MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers ministered to 15 moms last year. While our children played with nursery volunteers, moms enjoyed uninterrupted faith and fellowship time with fellow moms. Speakers included, Jess Bunger-children's ministry, Norman Bowman, Jess Dodson's father, speaking on the flip side of what us Navy spouses go through. (Most of us moms are married to military men), Barb Anderson- nurturing child development and Terri Meyer allowed us to express ourselves through bell ringing. Our service project for the year, Single Mother's gift bags, was a hit with single mothers in our community as well as a few out of town moms. One of those mothers joined a MOPS group in her area. I was able to attend the MOPS conference to build my faith and learn skills to help other moms strengthen their relationship with our Lord. I am looking forward to continuing to reach out into the community so no mother feels she is alone.

God Bless, Jess Dodson

The Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition

The Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition is a group of community leaders, local business owners, school and law enforcement personnel, parents and students who are working to collect and publicize data on substance use by Ledyard teens and to implement environmental and policy changes that will lead to a decrease in tobacco and alcohol use. The Coalition surveys parents and kids in Ledyard about their use of alcohol and other substances and also their perceptions about how much/often Ledyard teens are drinking. Since many people underestimate the amount of teen drinking, the Coalition works to help people understand that this is a very real problem in our community. The Coalition also works to help parents understand that underage drinking is a bad thing; some parents think that taking away the keys is enough and don't realize the harmful effects alcohol has on developing brains. The Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition looks beyond education and programming to identify influences in our community which may lead to increased use of substance by teens and works to implement lasting changes. The Coalition appreciates the support St Luke Lutheran Church provides to the young people of Southeastern Connecticut through our vigorous music and education programs, youth clubs and activities like Emmaus.

Jen Muggeo

Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Products

The LWR Fair Trade Coffee Project ensures that more of the money you spend on coffee reaches the farmers who actually grow it. Fair trade coffee is a simple solution that means the difference—quite literally—between surviving and not surviving for small-scale coffee farmers.

The coffee kiosk is typically set up monthly at St. Luke and sells approximately \$300 in Equal Exchange products. Judy Ward has coordinated this effort for the past several years and we thank her. Anyone interested in coordinating sales during 2010 is urged to contact the Ministry Team.

Literacy Volunteers

St. Luke is well represented with Literacy Volunteers. June Barrack and Judy Ward are volunteering for this local ministry. They meet with one or more students who they teach and support in the client's quest to improve their English through conversation and learning to read.

Chikumbuso Women & Orphans Project

Throughout 2009, the members of St. Luke continued to support and pray for the Chikumbuso Women and Orphans Project in Zambia, Africa.

The sponsorship of children at Chikumbuso is one way we support this ministry. In addition to the 2 children who are sponsored through the Social Ministry Team, there are 26 others who are sponsored by members of St. Luke and the larger surrounding community.

In August, Linda Wilkinson, the founder of the Chikumbuso Project, held an informational meeting at St. Luke to give an update on the progress of the project and to share stories of how the support received has changed peoples' lives.

St. Luke also supports Chikumbuso by purchasing products made through the widows' microfinance business. In the fall, members of St. Luke collected plastic shopping bags and a box was sent to the widows to be used to crochet their beautiful bags. In December, sneakers were placed on the "Alternative Giving Tree" as a way to share the Christmas spirit with those at Chikumbuso. A total of \$18,469 has been sent to the Chikumbuso Project from individual members of St. Luke in 2009.

On behalf of the Chikumbuso Widows and Orphans Project, I would like to thank the people of St. Luke for their continued support and prayers which have given hope and help to the widows, single moms, grandmothers and children in need.

Jeanne Steinnagel

Meals for Those With Concerns

This wonderful ministry of volunteers who prepare comforting meals is made up of approximately 18 members of the congregation. This past year over 40 meals were delivered to several individuals and families who were touched by medical issues, grief or other concerns.

If you are interested in being added to the meal preparation volunteer list, please call.

Suzanne Etris

Other important and on-going work of the Team includes:

- American Red Cross Bloodmobile at St. Luke is coordinated by Donna Kuklis to help blood drives give the gift of life.
- Crop Walk in October 2010 when nearly 20 St Luke walkers raised pledges over \$2500 for supporting hunger relief in our community and abroad. This participation allowed a \$770 Thrivent match to help the Gales Ferry churches walk to be a success.

Cindy Mason-Jones and Angela George
2009 Ministry Team Co-Chairs:

WORSHIP TEAM 2009 Annual Report

The Worship Team meets on a monthly basis with the Senior Pastor, the Associate Pastor, and the Director of Music to discuss, review and plan the worship items of the congregation. The team is responsible for overseeing the worship experience and music program at St. Luke. Many persons take part in the planning and implementation of services throughout the year. In addition to team members and staff members, there are also coordinators for focus ministries such as acolytes, altar guild, communion deacons, lay readers, and ushers.

The Worship Team met nine times in 2009. Besides the pastors and Director of Music, regular attendees of the meetings were Ruth Chambers (the Worship Team liaison to the Congregational Council), Brad Dame, Cathy Hanson, Mary Robinson, Mitch Robinson, Jean Swiontek, and Dick Wimmermark. Barb Anderson and Paul Anderson also contributed to some of the meetings. Items discussed in meetings over the course of the year included the following:

- The future place for Youth Sundays as a part of worship.
- Applause in worship, including soliciting the congregation for opinions.
- Review of the team's focus ministries.
- Worship in times of public health concerns.
- Sanctuary renovation items as related to worship.
- Potentially adding a new liturgy.
- Adding contemporary worship to fourth Sunday late services.
- Reviewing and updating worship-related continuing resolutions, including job descriptions.
- A proposal for a slight change in the Sunday worship schedule and/or learning hour items.

These and other topics were discussed along with the regular items involving worship events and schedules, music program events, and worship-related focus ministries.

The face of our congregation's worship experience lies in the leadership of our pastors. The team would like to thank both of our Pastors, Steve Schmidt and Sean Bungler, for their role in leading meaningful worship services each week. Their energy, enthusiasm and ability to lead our congregation in such a manner week after week is a blessing to all who worship at St. Luke.

The music program continued to flourish under the leadership of Terri Meyer, the Director of Music. In addition to overseeing the music program for the church, Terri directs seven of the music groups that bless our worship experience throughout the year. The remaining groups are all led by dedicated volunteers, who we are truly blessed to have. (See the Director of Music's annual report for a list of these talented people.) Kathleen Bartkowski remains on staff as the Organist and Celebrate Team Accompanist and is a truly professional and wonderful musician. Heather Pollin continues in her staff role as the Senior Choir Accompanist. The team would like to thank Terri for her continued strong direction, energy and enthusiasm in leading the music program, along with all the other musician staff members and volunteers—both leaders and group members—for their contributions.

While the music program is a very significant part of worship life at St. Luke, it is only one of many components of worship. Following is a list of worship focus ministries outside of the music program and the person who oversees them:

- Acolytes – Leigh Sammons
- Altar guild – Cathy Hanson
- Assisting ministers – Pastor Steve Schmidt
- Communion deacons – Dick Swiontek
- Lay readers – Sandy Wimmermark
- Ushers – Dick Wimmermark

A big thank you to all of these individuals and those they oversee for contributing to functions that make each worship service possible. Thanks also to Travis Turner, who oversaw the communion deacons for several years until this past fall.

A special thanks to Heather Frost and the rest of Dave Gilletti's family for their contribution in Dave's memory to purchase new bell table covers. Thank you also to Doug Chapman, who rebuilt the platform and the tables, including adding electrical outlets.

Worship at St. Luke is a wonderful and meaningful experience because of the contributions of so many dedicated people. Thanks to all contributors for supporting another great year of worship at St. Luke.

Brad Dame, Chair

PROPERTY & GROUNDS Annual Report 2009

Hello from the wonderful world of the church support group known as "Property & Grounds". 2009 was a year of change, a year of planning, a year most people are glad to see go. We welcome 2010 with open arms, high expectations and giddy anticipation! This is going to be a year of miracles, so keep your eyes open, you're not going to want to miss one moment!

Last year, in keeping with St. Luke's purpose driven church theme, we implemented purpose driven teams. The thought behind this was to open up the opportunity for more people to be able to get involved in the service of maintaining the building and property. We have established the following teams:

Floor Team- charged with semi annual stripping and waxing of all tile floors in the building. Shampooing of carpets within the building. Annual sealing of concrete walkways at the exterior of the building.

Paint Team- charged with painting of exterior and interior of building as needed.

Landscape Team- charged with lawn maintenance on a weekly basis in season. Semi-annual cleanup of property and parking lot. Maintaining all planting area's including supporting the Memorial Garden team in their tasks.

Project Team- these are the folks who tackle whatever is not covered by any of the other teams. Plumbing, electrical, heavy equipment operation, demolition, whatever it takes.

Disaster Cleanup Team- these folks follow closely behind the project team when the project team gets in over their heads.

This year we are hoping for the completion of two large scale projects, the re-staining of the exterior of the building and the painting of the sanctuary. Smaller projects that are in the works are the removal of the old furniture bank building, which will afford us some additional parking and the installation of a storage shed to be used by the furniture bank.

Our long range future planning includes a solar panel array to help us lead the way into the "Green". More to come on that once the state releases the funds it has been saving up for that purpose.

There is plenty of room on all these purpose teams for more volunteers. Our projects always are planned with an emphasis on fellowship. Get to know your fellow church members while participating in exciting and worthwhile projects. And did I mention many of our projects involve food!?

Hope to see you all during the coming year. God Bless, and make sure you turn out the lights if you're the last one leaving.

Doug Chapman
Chairman
P&G

PEOPLE SUPPORT TEAM

Annual Report 2009

This past year (2009), the members of the People Support Team worked to implement and update policies to support the rostered leaders and staff members of St. Luke Lutheran. The Administration Group members of Paul Anderson, Mark Larson, Marty Wood, and Bob Erickson developed a written policy for vacation and sick leave for rostered leaders; updated the building key control policy, and had many discussions to update vacation and sick leave for non-rostered staff members. Area churches and other “large” congregation churches within the New England Synod of the ELCA were consulted as to their policy(ies). Work will continue into the next year with this document. In addition, the Administration Group worked to update St. Luke Lutheran Church’s Continuing Resolutions so language matched St. Luke’s Constitution and By-Laws.

The Staff Support Group helped with the transition from Parish Office Administer to Administrative Specialist and the transition of Director of Discipleship of Children and Family Ministry. I would like to thank Staff Support Group members Carolyn Kracke, Helmut Steninnagel, Judie Suplicki, and Mark Larson for their service this year. Thanks also go to Mark Larson, Marty Wood and especially Bob Erickson for their help with the Administration Group.

Plans for next year include the development of a staff handbook, supporting Purpose and Support teams as they update job descriptions for each staff position, and clarify the non-rostered staff vacation and sick policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Anderson
Vice President
People Support Chair

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Annual Report 2009

The Memorial Committee received six memorial gift donations to St. Luke in 2009 in memory of David Gilletti. Grateful acknowledgments were sent to the generous donors who lovingly gave them for the benefit of God's work within our congregation.

David Gilletti.....	\$307.00
Total	\$307.00

Memorial money of \$662.96 was used to purchase lateral filing cabinets for music storage in memory of Nina Johnson. A sanctuary AV cart was purchased with \$228.09 of memorial funds. Four pieces of music were purchased at the cost of \$258.60 in memory of Ruth Barrows. They are: 1) The Old Rugged Cross, 2) Come Follow Me, 3) Christians We Have Met to Worship, and 4) Shepherd, Do You Sleep?. At this time, memorials have not been selected for the gifts given in memory of Pearl Lee, Gertrude Higbee, Betty Kilgus, and David Gilletti.

No other monies were expended in 2009, resulting in a balance of \$8,444.37 on December 31, 2009.

Elaine Remondi-Simpson

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE
Annual Report 2009

Current Funds \$1610.76

No additional funds requested for the 2010 year.

Sidewalk to be repaired by Spring 2010

All materials, equipment, and time will be donated by Regina Donovan and her husband Scott.

Discussion to move rocks behind garden and place along current small line of rocks that face Rte. 12. Garden crew will discuss this in spring time.

Garden crew will also review the current plantings for over growth to determine removal or transplantation. We will also discuss possible additions to the garden that may include a small tree.

In early spring we will also be looking for additional people to join the “gardeners” to assist with upkeep.

There are currently 14 parishioners interred in the Memorial Garden.

Current Members:

Sue Anderson, Regina Donovan, Joanne Erickson, Kari Hammen, Donna Kuklis, Dottie Mallon, Sue Moran, Elaine Remondi-Simpson, Lynn Tarozzi, and Ellen Turley.

Thank you,
Regina Donovan
Memorial Garden Chairperson

“A Memorial Garden is a garden on the grounds of a church which serves as a repository for ashes of parishioners.”

**St. Luke Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
For the year ended December 31, 2009**

To follow is a Statement of Financial position as well as a proposed budget for 2010.

Please refer to the Financial Report for specific information concerning 2009 Deposits, Investment Activity and Outstanding Loans. Additionally, please take into consideration the following:

Copier Loan

St. Luke continued to repay the Building & Capital Appeals fund, which financed the copier. Note that the remaining balance is \$987.69.

Organ Loan

In March of 2008, St. Luke secured a \$30,000 loan through Thrivent Financial to use towards the purchase of a new organ. I hope that all agree that this was a worthwhile acquisition. The loan is for a term of 10 years at a rate of 6.375%. In addition to the monthly installments, quarterly principal-only payments were made from the New Organ Fund, which nicely paid down the principal balance by another \$4,853. Many thanks to those who contributed to this effort.

Designated Funds

The Designated Funds account reflects those amounts that are earmarked by the contributor for a specific purpose within the church. This might be for the Soup Kitchen, the Chikumbuso Project, Honduras Relief, the Music Program, or the Organ Fund. The balance as of December 31, 2009 was \$40,054.

Annual Audit

The year 2008 audit has been conducted under the direction of Marcia Marien, CPA using elements from the ELCA's audit program. The audit not only reviews the activity for the year under audit, but also looks at the ongoing activity for the current year, in this case 2009. As of the writing of this report, I'm told that all of the teams' workpapers have been turned into Marcia. As soon as the information is compiled and a report becomes available, the results of the audit will be made known to the Congregation.

Moving On

As many of you know, 2009 will be the last year of a three year term during which I have served as your Treasurer. I have had the pleasure of working with some terrific people, both as a member of the Planning Team and the Council, and have come to know many members of the congregation better. I thank them all for their service, guidance and support. I would encourage members of the congregation who have not done so, to consider serving in one capacity or another. Maybe there are some veterans out there who are ready to return in some role.

As one who watches the numbers, I hope you can understand when I say that I've experienced some ups and downs during these past 3 years. Now, having said that, I've also learned to have faith and to not worry too much, for I have witnessed this congregation respond time after time with its generous giving.

In closing, it's important to stress that a volunteer Treasurer could never, ever, do this job alone. My sincerest thanks once again go out to Ellen Young and all of the members of the Financial Support team, whose continued dedication and attention to detail keep the business activities of this Congregation running smoothly. Please remember to thank Ellen, Corrine Stevens, LeAnn Carr, Doug Meyer and his team of counters, for their outstanding service once again this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Robbins
Outgoing Treasurer and Financial Support Team Chair

St. Luke Lutheran Church Financial Report 2009

DEPOSITS

MONTH	GENERAL	BUILDING	MEMORIAL	TRANSIENT	TOTAL
January	35,942.39	125.00	0.00	7,129.99	43,197.38
February	36,644.24	125.00	92.00	23,009.04	59,870.28
March	47,906.95	145.00	215.00	24,434.46	72,701.41
April	45,280.32	125.00	0.00	13,790.65	59,195.97
May	44,301.21	275.00	0.00	11,286.43	55,862.64
June	37,303.81	275.00	0.00	13,255.17	50,833.98
July	36,060.10	325.00	0.00	3,077.66	39,462.76
August	49,153.06	225.00	0.00	3,002.16	52,380.22
September	37,662.63	325.00	0.00	3,849.69	41,837.32
October	41,762.00	230.00	0.00	3,505.36	45,497.36
November	44,876.48	130.00	0.00	7,352.94	52,359.42
December	56,365.72	125.00	0.00	7,215.18	63,705.90
TOTALS	513,258.91	2,430.00	307.00	120,908.73	636,904.64

INVESTMENTS

	Balance 12/31/2008	Interest / Dividend Income	Fees	Deposits	Withdrawals	Unrealized Gain/Loss	Balance 12/31/2009
TD Ameritrade	1,048.61	40.13	2.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	1,110.74
Computershare: Comcast	0.00	9.93	0.00	769.30	9.93	56.84	826.14
Computershare: Excelon	82.80	3.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	-8.83	77.19

LOAN BALANCES

	Balance 12/31/08	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Balance 12/31/09
CHURCH MORTGAGE	350,859.17	21,524.84	14,259.16	336,600.01

This mortgage is a 20 year loan at 6.25% APY which matures on March 15, 2024

ORGAN LOAN	28,536.00	1,645.20	7,275.41	21,260.59
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This mortgage is a 10 year loan at 6.375% APY which matures on April 1, 2018

COPIER LOAN	3,902.85	64.32	2,915.16	987.69
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This is an internal loan from the Building Fund which matures on April 1, 2010

**St. Luke Lutheran Church
Benevolences 2009**

	Balance 1/01/09	Received	Expended	Balance 12/31/09
Blankets	100.00	20.00	100.00	20.00
Budgeted Benevolences	68,808.00	0.00	64,174.08	4,633.92
Chachahuala Children	3,761.02	7,768.50	5,301.99	6,227.53
Chikumbuso	2,354.00	18,221.00	18,689.00	1,886.00
Good Samaritan Assistan	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Habitat for Humanity	280.00	1,170.00	1,280.00	170.00
Heifer Project	315.00	175.00	315.00	175.00
Honduras Relief / Hope	0.00	10,576.92	9,146.92	1,430.00
Soup Kitchen/Food Bank	4,370.37	788.64	1,077.99	4,081.02
Synod Benevolence-dona	5.00	100.00	105.00	0.00
World Hunger	1,530.00	3,435.00	4,465.00	500.00
TOTALS	81,523.39	43,455.06	104,654.98	20,323.47

**St. Luke Lutheran Church
Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Fund Balances
For the Year Ending December 31, 2009**

Assets

Cash	145,652.50	
Investments	2,014.07	
Land, Building & Equipment	1,918,224.00	
		2,065,890.57

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Accounts Payable	12,291.85	
Mortgage	336,600.01	
New Organ Loan	22,473.75	
Copier Loan	987.69	
Water assessment	4,506.26	
Building fund	7,747.76	
Capital appeals	5,575.68	
Long term contingency fund	9,409.09	
Memorial fund	8,444.37	
Gifts fund	8,087.38	
Staff development	11,016.47	
Fund Balances	1,638,550.26	
		2,065,690.57