

Annual Report of the Congregation 2019



St Thomas
Lutheran Church

Rev. Heather K. Oberlin, Pastor

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**ST THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH
GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN 2019**

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Bill Stevenson
VICE PRESIDENT	Brian Long
SECRETARY	Tammy Davis
TREASURER	Kent Kujala
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Carol Cameron

CHURCH COUNCIL

<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2020</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2021</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2022</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2023</u></i>
Cheryl Finazzo	Betty Ruck	Rebecca Arndt	
Karen Kujala	Bill Stevenson	Linda Hinzmann	
Tammy Davis		Brian Long	
Joe Davis (Youth)			

*Pending approval by the congregation.

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Heather Oberlin
Adm. Assistant: Carol Cameron
Audio/Video Director: Betty Ruck
Custodian: Shelley Creutz
Director of Youth and Family Ministry: Darcie Bammer/Lori Bartos
Director of Hospitality: Linda Landis
Pianists & Music Leaders: Karen Skrocki & Jeff Kline
Musicians: Bob Krzeczkowski, Erin Shelton

PASTOR'S REPORT

Looking back, 2019 was a pretty amazing year. I am so thankful for all of the ways we do ministry together! Here are some highlights:

Youth leadership in worship: Early in 2019, I began asking our youth of all ages if they would light the candles on the altar prior to worship. When we went to doing intinction with two chalices on each side, they also began holding the grape juice chalice. Additionally, the older youth are in the rotation of readers. It has been such a delight to watch them get more comfortable helping lead worship! It's often said that "kids are the future of the church." In my opinion, the kids are the church, no matter how old or young!

During Lent, we participated in the 40 Days of Generosity challenge. As part of that, we distributed plastic eggs filled with a cross and chocolate to residents of local nursing facilities. On our final one, the youth groups went and had a fantastic time, followed by a pizza party at church.



Last summer, I started a midweek game night on Wednesday nights. We had between 8 and 15 people each week. It was great fun to have water fights, play games, draw with sidewalk chalk, and more. The kids and adults got to know each other better. Wednesday night quickly became my favorite night of the week. We ended the summer with an outdoor picnic/cookout. At the end of it, I invited the kids to smash whipped cream on my face.



Here I am, questioning ever decision I've ever made in my life. ☺



Andrea and Bill Stevenson, Cheryl Finazzo, and Linda Hinzman worked to help us reconnect with our sister congregation in Mbulu, ending in a fun, authentic Tanzanian auction at the end of worship on August 26. We even had a live chicken to auction off....Having a chicken in church was definitely a first for me in twenty years of ordained ministry. Ha!



Between the Pancake Supper on Fat Tuesday and the auction, we raised about \$1500 for Dongobesh Secondary School and our sister congregation in Mbulu. Thanks to Andrea and Bill, we also had two wonderful presentations about life in Tanzania, and we were able to tie information into Vacation Bible School that week.

Huge thanks to Darcie Bammer for her years as our Director for Youth and Family Ministry, who retired. I would also like to thank the staff, council, and leaders for their faithfulness and service, especially want to thank our out-going council members: Tammy Davis, Cheryl Finazzo, and Karen Kujala.

In God's grace,

Pastor Heather

2019 COUNCIL REPORT

Dear St. Thomas Family and Friends in Christ,

As we look back at the year of Our Lord, 2019, we are thankful for the many blessings bestowed upon us, both individually and as a congregation. As a part of our calling Pastor Heather Oberlin to be our spiritual leader, the congregation identified three primary goals for our success: to enhance the worship and mission life of the congregation; to improve individual stewardship, including identifying and using spiritual gifts as well as the discipline of giving; to improve volunteerism across the congregation for essential tasks at church. Our successes or challenges are a result of working together as the Body of Christ to advance the work to which God has called us.

Throughout the year, we were able to provide opportunities for the spiritual growth of our youth. Regular Sunday School, weekly middle school catechism, and twice-monthly Youth Nights for elementary and high school students were offered. Summer game nights for families proved to be a new and popular outreach. Vacation Bible School was open to the entire community and well-attended. For the second year in a row, Pumpkin Palooza helped raise money for the Rev. Ted Aller Scholarship fund, given to a number of our high school graduates to advance their educational goals. The fall Hay Ride and Bonfire was a great family event. St. Thomas youth and adults continued to work at ChristNet, providing aid to the homeless.

Our congregation continued to support programs for mission and ministry. Pastor Heather serves as the Chaplain for Grosse Ile Police and Fire. The winter coat drive for southwest Detroit's Grace in Action saw more than 200 garments delivered for those in need. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, prepared by those in our youth program, raised funds for a Dongobesh Secondary School scholarship for our Mbulu, Tanzania educational partner. Coinciding with VBS' theme of "Roar: Life is Wild, God is Good," we rekindled our relationship with our sister congregation, Basotu, Tanzania through a lecture series, and an authentic African auction which generated more than \$1000, which was delivered to Basotu in November.

Further, members of the congregation actively participated in Thursday Bible Studies, the Men and Women's lunches, the Boar's Head Festival, and the interfaith Thanksgiving Eve worship service. Our quilters continue to meet and sew hundreds of beautiful quilts distributed through Lutheran World Relief. Gently used medical equipment and supplies have been donated to World Medical Relief.

In May, 2019, St. Thomas embarked on a Capital Funds Campaign, "Taking Care of God's House," with the goal of raising \$150,000 over a three-year period to complete necessary repairs beyond the scope of the annual budget. To date, we have \$137,000 pledged, and work has been completed on several phases of the project. (See additional report on Capital Funds Campaign). As always, your Church Council takes its fiduciary responsibility seriously, and prudently manages the resources so generously provided.

Through memorial donations, we were able to replace our worship furniture. (See additional report on Memorials). We pray for and remember those members of the congregation who have passed away this past year in the blessed rest of everlasting peace, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

May the year 2020 see us grow in Faith, Hope, and Love as we advance our mission and ministries as Real People, in Real Life, with Real Faith.

Yours in Christ,
Bill Stevenson
2019 Council President

2019 STATISTICAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Child members beginning of 2019		116
Accessions with parents	0	
Accessions by baptism	<u>2</u>	
	2	
Child members confirmed	(2)	
Other losses	<u>(0)</u>	
Total losses	(2)	(0)
Child members end of 2019		116

Confirmed members beginning 2019		394
Accessions by baptism	0	
Accessions by confirmation	2	
Other accessions	<u>0</u>	
Total accessions	2	
Losses by death	(5)	
Other losses	<u>(0)</u>	
Total losses	(3)	0
Confirmed members end of 2019		391

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY BY YEARS

	1963	1973	1983	1993	2003	2008	2009	2011	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Conf.	58	184	229	308	320	310	301	322	346	356	378	392	394	394	391
Children	42	79	76	92	87	80	76	90	101	99	108	109	116	113	116
Total	100	263	305	400	407	390	377	412	447	455	486	501	510	507	507

Finances through the years - total financial giving (does not include building use)

	<u>Program Grant</u>	<u>Reg. Ben.</u>	<u>Other Benevolence</u>	<u>Good Sam</u>
1963 - \$ 7,960	\$3,600	\$1,488		
1973 - 25,480	<u>1,800</u>	2,813		
1983 - 68,059		6,028	142	72
1993 - 154,352		15,200	377	1,083
2003 - 221,257		22,756	8,697	850
2007 - 249,206		25,540	6,948	(Incl. Good Sam.)
2008 - 213,860		20,312	2,527	1,084
2009 - 196,319		13,522	1,385	902
2010 - 207,549		17,352	1,463	691
2011 - 227,341		15,000	2,832	1,688
2012 - 219,167		10,000	6,507	1,816
2013 - 236,312	\$74,309 (Cap.)	12,123	4,252	1,190
2015 - 227,148	\$51,970 (Cap.)	14,004	3,050	1,116
2016 - 211,864	\$26,508 (Cap.)	14,004	2,075	1,758
2017 - 204,746		7,224	2,625	1,077
2018 - 205,807		6,000	-0-	817
2019 - 198,342	(Cap.)	4,996	1,650	1,010

Not included above: gifts given in kind, special giving such as memorial gifts or gifts given in kind, ChristNet, or local outreach.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (average)

	1972	1992	2003	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013	2015	2017	2018	2019	Ave. Att.
Jan.	78	110	138	107	95	75	117	154	116	117	82	84	1982-105
Feb.	81	115	114	98	89	88	127	129	121	115	72	94	1998-144
Mar.	94	128	130	107	90	76	116	139	134	136	90	83	2006-126
Apr.	102	151	152	109	107	93	150	140	130	142	88	103	2007-119
May	95	123	144	100	89	97	116	141	132	136	99	89	2009-87
June	79	117	110	112	70	88	121	119	100	113	81	99	2010-98
July	58	87	95	79	62	76	100	109	96	65	73	83	2011-116
Aug.	62	91	85	67	61	93	93	107	101	64	86	113	2013-129
Sep.	81	120	117	150	71	106	132	126	117	73	84	80	2016-117
Oct.	83	131	146	124	102	112	135	127	117	80	93	86	2017-103
Nov.	91	135	134	105	96	120	135	129	124	97	84	80	2018-87
Dec.	107	153	140	125	101	125	147	134	113	102	104	98	2019-85

2019 TREASURER'S REPORT

Year in Review – 2019

St Thomas was blessed to have received \$198,342 for ongoing ministries through the faithful and generous giving of our congregational members.

Our Capital Campaign received \$137,400 in pledges and \$ 98,184 has been received to date. Facility improvements expenditures total \$60,539 to date.

The mortgage principle was reduced by \$14,083. The remaining balance on the mortgage is \$219,760.57.

Submitted by: Kent Kujala

2019 CAPITAL FUNDS CAMPAIGN

Your Church Council has always prayerfully considered the overall needs of the church. We acknowledge that our building is aging and in need of repairs that go beyond the ongoing maintenance of our facilities. At a special meeting, called on April 24, 2019, the Council unanimously approved a recommendation to present to the entire congregation, per our Church Constitution, a proposal to begin a capital campaign to meet our facilities infrastructure needs.

On Sunday, May 19, 2019, the congregation by acclamation approved a capital funds campaign, "Taking Care of God's House," to raise \$150,000 over a period not to exceed three years. Work was to be completed by phases:

PHASE I

- Remove, repair, and paint steeple
- Repair leaking steeple roof
- Remount steeple with new supports
- Flash and shingle main roof
- Replace all three flat roofs

PHASE II

- Replace broken concrete and steps
- Add curbs to protect concrete walkway
- Mudjack/caulk concrete by handicap door
- Tuck point/repair brick wall by education wing entrance
- Update microphones to be FCC compliant

PHASE III

- Resurface asphalt parking lot

*Any remaining money will be added to our maintenance fund for future needs.

As of this writing, \$137,400 have been pledged. \$98,184 have been received to date.

Phase One work has been completed at a cost of \$55,800. Parts of Phase II have been completed with mudjacking/concrete leveling for \$700. The microphone receiver installation was finished at a cost of \$4,039.

The balance as of 1/12/2020 is \$37,645. Work on the remaining items in Phase II and Phase III are dependent on weather, continued issues with the bridge access to Grosse Ile, and the ready availability of funds.

As we move forward in faith, may we continue to do God's work in Building to Serve.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

With God's Blessing,
Your St. Thomas Church Council

2020 DRAFT BUDGET

		<u>2019</u>	
	<u>2020 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>
<u>Income:</u>			
All Sources			
	Current - Total		
415	Envelopes \$153,840	\$189,250	\$158,663
420	Loose Offering \$2,700	\$2,500	\$2,755
425	Special Services \$4,300	\$4,000	\$4,326
435	Miscellaneous Income \$2,500	\$2,400	\$2,504
445	Interest Income \$500	\$600	\$495
	Building Use -		
464	Montessori \$28,200	\$28,800	\$28,200
463	Building Use - All Other \$1,400	\$1,000	\$1,400
	Total Income		
	\$193,440	\$228,550	\$198,343
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Ministry of the Pastor			
501	Salary \$46,570	\$46,270	\$46,570
505	Social Security \$5,225	\$5,223	\$5,223
520	Pension, Health, Life Ins. \$14,210	\$21,968	\$14,209
521	Pastor's Bus. Ex. \$1,850	\$3,000	\$1,844
550	Housing Allowance \$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
	Total Ministry of the Pastor		
	\$89,855	\$98,461	\$89,846
Church Bldg. & Property			
601	Utilities - Church \$11,700	\$12,500	\$11,686
605	Telephone internet - Church \$3,820	\$3,300	\$3,820
610	Property & Liab. Ins. \$4,555	\$4,550	\$4,555
	Repair & Maint. -		
625	Church \$5,000	\$15,000	\$15,058
626	Custodian \$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,750
640	Mortgage Interest \$7,198	\$7,500	\$8,030
641	Mortgage Principle \$10,262	\$15,000	\$14,083
	Total Bldg. & Property		
	\$46,135	\$61,450	\$60,982

Budget

Expenses Continued:

Parish Administration

701	Clerical Wages & Benefits	\$18,000	\$18,075	\$18,075
705	FICA	\$3,120	\$3,280	\$3,121
710	Postage, Print., Paper	\$1,000	\$2,810	\$3,018
715	Financial Supplies & Bank Fees	\$1,455	\$1,750	\$1,455
720	Repair & Maint. - Office Equip.	\$1,430	\$1,400	\$1,427
730	Misc. Expense	\$750	\$500	\$742
741	Youth & Family Wages	\$3,900	\$4,680	\$4,485
743	Sound Tech Wages	\$1,200	\$1,020	\$1,220
744	Hospitality Wages	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,400
Total Parish Admin		\$36,055	\$38,715	\$38,943

Ministry of Worship

801	Benevolence - Synod	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,996
805	Bulletins, Inserts, Certificates	\$50	\$300	\$33
806	Altar Supplies	\$400	\$750	\$913
825	Fellowship	\$750	\$1,000	\$766
830	Interfaith Council	\$200	\$200	\$200
835	Sunday School & VBS	\$1,150	\$1,200	\$1,133
	Music Leadership			
846	Wages	\$11,170	\$13,200	\$11,170
848	Supply Pastor	\$750	\$1,100	\$710
850	Evangelism	\$125	\$1,924	\$125
855	Social Ministry & Outreach	\$300	\$3,000	\$296
865	Youth Activities	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$351
	Worship & Music -			
870	Other	\$500	\$600	\$461
Total Ministry of Worship		\$21,395	\$29,924	\$21,154

Total Expenses	\$193,440	\$228,550	\$210,925
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Surplus/Loss from Operations	\$0	\$0	(\$14,900)
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St. Thomas Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2019

	Dec 31, 19
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 · PNC Current	
101 · Maintenance Escrow	38,827.90
102 · Memorials	1,578.97
103 · Good Samaritan	2,690.76
104 · Aller Scholarship Fund	4,922.50
107 · Memorial Garden	8,796.33
108 · Capital Campaign Funds at PSCU	34,565.00
117 · WELCA General	3,710.07
118 · Quilters	558.75
124 · Mortgage Reserve	10,049.62
125 · Church Mission	5,385.46
140 · PSCU /Savings	160.00
100 · PNC Current - Other	45,868.83
Total 100 · PNC Current	157,114.19
Total Checking/Savings	157,114.19
Total Current Assets	157,114.19
Fixed Assets	
111 · Land - 9393 Church Road	31,641.73
112 · Building - 9393 Church Road	95,704.87
115 · Building Expansion #1 - 1988	302,252.16
116 · Building Expansion #2 - 2001	1,087,503.78
Total Fixed Assets	1,517,102.54
Other Assets	
109 · MIF Endowment - Hartig	10,000.00
Total Other Assets	10,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,684,216.73
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
207 · Withheld Michigan Taxes	819.06
210 · Special Maintenance Escrow	10,150.00
215 · Memorials & Endowments	19,975.30
216 · Memorial Garden Prepay-Smolak	400.00
217 · WELCA	3,710.07
218 · Quilters	558.75
220 · Good Samaritan Fund	2,690.76
225 · Aller Scholarship Fund	4,922.50
230 · Montessori Security Deposit	500.00
240 · Mortgage Reserve Payable	10,049.62
245 · Fund Raising/Project Payable	2,396.44
260 · Deferred Revenue	20,480.00
265 · Miscellaneous Payables	1,997.01
266 · Misc. Payables - Piano/Organ	1,295.00
268 · Capital Funds Payable	34,565.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	114,509.51
Total Current Liabilities	114,509.51
Long Term Liabilities	
250 · Mortgage - Church	219,760.57
Total Long Term Liabilities	219,760.57
Total Liabilities	334,270.08
Equity	
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	1,022,206.01
3900 · Retained Earnings	342,640.74
Net Income	-14,900.10
Total Equity	1,349,946.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,684,216.73

St. Thomas Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss Budget Year to Date

January through December 2019

	Jan - Dec 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
490 · Total Envelopes			
415 · Current	156,906.62	189,000.00	-32,093.38
Total 490 · Total Envelopes	156,906.62	189,000.00	-32,093.38
403 · Basotu-Mbulu Synod	1,266.00	0.00	1,266.00
420 · Loose Offering	2,754.88	2,500.00	254.88
425 · Special Services	4,326.00	4,000.00	326.00
435 · Miscellaneous Income	2,504.08	2,400.00	104.08
440 · Flowers	489.50	250.00	239.50
445 · Interest Income	494.92	600.00	-105.08
460 · Building Use			
464 · Building Use - Montessori	28,200.00	28,800.00	-600.00
463 · Other	670.00	1,000.00	-330.00
481 · Funerals	730.00	0.00	730.00
Total 460 · Building Use	29,600.00	29,800.00	-200.00
Total Income	198,342.00	228,550.00	-30,208.00
Gross Profit	198,342.00	228,550.00	-30,208.00
Expense			
500 · Ministry of the Pastor			
501 · Salary-Pastor	46,570.08	46,270.00	300.08
505 · Social Security - Pastor	5,222.64	5,223.00	-0.36
520 · Pension, Health, Life Ins.	14,208.60	21,968.00	-7,759.40
521 · Pastor Business Expense-Cell	1,844.00	3,000.00	-1,156.00
550 · Housing Allowance	22,000.08	22,000.00	0.08
Total 500 · Ministry of the Pastor	89,845.40	98,461.00	-8,615.60
600 · Church Buildings & Properties			
601 · Utilities - Church	11,686.03	12,500.00	-813.97
605 · Phone/Internet/Web	3,819.58	3,300.00	519.58
610 · Property & Liability Ins.	4,555.00	4,550.00	5.00
625 · Repair & Maint. - Church	15,058.26	15,000.00	58.26
626 · Custodian	3,750.00	3,600.00	150.00
640 · Mortgage Interest - Church	8,029.56	7,500.00	529.56
641 · Mortgage Principal	14,083.44	15,000.00	-916.56
Total 600 · Church Buildings & Properties	60,981.87	61,450.00	-468.13
700 · Parish Administration			
701 · Clerical Wages & Benefits	18,075.10	18,075.00	0.10
705 · FICA Expense	3,120.69	3,280.00	-159.31
710 · Postage, Printing & Stationery	3,017.68	2,810.00	207.68
715 · Financial Supplies & Bank Fees	1,454.90	1,750.00	-295.10
720 · Repair & Maint Office Equipment	1,426.71	1,400.00	26.71
730 · Misc. Expenses	742.25	500.00	242.25
741 · Youth & Family Wages	4,485.00	4,680.00	-195.00
743 · Sound Tech	1,220.00	1,020.00	200.00
744 · Hospitality Wages	5,400.00	5,200.00	200.00
Total 700 · Parish Administration	38,942.33	38,715.00	227.33
800 · Ministry of Worship			
801 · Benevolence - Synod	4,996.00	5,000.00	-4.00
803 · Benev-Basotu/Mbulu	1,255.00	0.00	1,255.00
805 · Bulletins, Inserts, Certificates	32.64	300.00	-267.36
806 · Altar Supplies	912.74	750.00	162.74
815 · Subscriptions - Books	597.71	0.00	597.71
820 · Conferences - Seminar	465.00	0.00	465.00
825 · Fellowship	766.38	1,000.00	-233.62
830 · Interfaith Council	200.00	200.00	0.00
835 · SunSchool/Nursery/ VBS	1,133.46	1,200.00	-66.54
846 · Music Leadership Wages	11,170.00	13,200.00	-2,030.00
848 · Fee for Substitute Pastor	710.00	1,100.00	-390.00
850 · Evangelism	125.02	1,924.00	-1,798.98
855 · Soc. Min. & Outreach	296.22	3,000.00	-2,703.78
860 · Stewardship/Finance	0.00	400.00	-400.00
865 · Youth Activities	351.33	1,000.00	-648.67
870 · Worship & Music - Other	461.00	600.00	-139.00
875 · Flowers Expense	0.00	251.00	-251.00
Total 800 · Ministry of Worship	23,472.50	29,925.00	-6,452.50
Total Expense	213,242.10	228,551.00	-15,308.90
Net Ordinary Income	-14,900.10	-1.00	-14,899.10
Net Income	-14,900.10	-1.00	-14,899.10

2019 LADIES GROUP

- **Monthly Lunch** on 2nd Tuesday at Smokies on the Water
- **February Dinner and Theatre:** Dinner at Sibley Gardens and “Wonders of the World” at Open Book. The men joined us and we had more than 20 participants.
- **Lent 40 day Generosity Challenge:** Ladies made over 200 Jerusalem olivewood cross necklaces and filled over 250 Easter eggs with candy (dark chocolate and sugar free for diabetics). We visited with residents of 3 local nursing facilities, Rivergate Terrace, Belle Fountain, and Applewood. The youth joined us to visit Aberdeen and Atria.
- **Ladies Night Out:** November 14th. 20 ladies met at Crystal Gardens for hors d'oeuvres, shopping and dancing.
- **Hawthorne and Vine:** Sam, the owner helped us make live Christmas centerpieces (which turned out surprisingly beautiful). We had delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks provided by Linda Landis. 18 ladies attended.
- **Youth Night tree decorating:** With the help of the youth we decorated the trees at the altar and in the fellowship hall with the Chrismons we made last year.
- **Ornament Making for Christmas Eve:** This year we made 125 “Joy to the World” ornaments to go with the Christmas Eve Sermon. Linda Landis and Betty Ruck worked with the youth group to make 30 of these ornaments. One was given to each family on Christmas Eve and leftovers were handed out the following 2 services.
- **Prayer Shawls:** Handmade fleece shawl were given to 3 individuals this year. These shawls are blessed by the pastor and given by members of the Ladies group who pay a personal visit to those who are in need of prayers as they recover from surgery or an extended illness.
- **Prayer Books:** Linda made prayer books to give out on second home/hospital visits or other appropriate occasions

We are planning more activities for the coming year which involve the youth and men. We are always open to ideas.

This is an open group that welcomes all women.

2019 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Memorial fund purchase of furnishings in 2019

Our new baptismal bowl was custom made by the George Scott Art Glass Studio in Seattle Washington. The inscription below the rim reads, "You belong to Christ in whom you have been baptized...Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever".

Kyle Huntoon of Hunt and Noyer designed, built and rebuilt our furniture. Kyle is a 5th generation furniture builder with a startup in Oak Park. The old altar/communion table was reworked to hold the new baptismal bowl and candle. He added shelves and doors to the back side as well as supports for the bowl.

The new altar/communion table was designed and built to match the old altar except that it is taller and also has a shelf on the back side.

The Lectern was built from the old pulpit which includes the plaque on its face.

The old baptismal font base is going to be reworked as a small communion table/flower stand.

Kyle also designed and built candle holders for our new oil candles.

The new olivewood chalices for intinction with grape juice were made by disabled adults in Bethlehem.

The design of our new baptismal bowl inspired the design of all our pieces. Our mission became to improve function, reduce waste, recycle old pieces, and support talented entrepreneurs and artists.

Dedication of Memorials - All Saints Sunday November 3

The Baptismal Bowl is dedicated in memory of Betty Hoeft and Shirley Johnson

Altar/communion table, lectern, candles, candle holders, and chalices are dedicated in memory of the following:

Grace Biggar

Val Carr

Bernadette Edl (Fekete)

Sandra Erdei (Dauter)

DeEtte Ewbank

Paul Greer (Riley)

Shirley Johnson

Larry Jones

Stuart Keeler

Doug Kujala

Elke Malcomson

Michael Mason

Frank Moore

Harvey & Doris Nissley

Richard Papp

Becky Pfeiffer

Wayne Shaul (Landis)

Martha Slocum (Karrar)

Paul Smolak

Ann Wesley (Kline)

The Memorial Committee: John Schade, Linda Landis and Betty Ruck

2019 PROPERTY REPORT

During 2019, the overwhelming source of change to our “home” was the Capital Campaign Fund. Please see the separate Capital Campaign Report for detailed description of improvements to roofs, technology, infrastructure and parking that were made possible by the Congregation. Taking care of our house of worship is really a collaborative effort made possible by the passion of so many. The time and donations received by so many ease the burden on our budget and on single individuals so, to the Congregation we say thank you with deep appreciation. Below are a few highlights of regular operating maintenance and improvements in Property (again, excluding Capital Campaign Projects):

- * Ten of the eleven exterior doors replaced under warranty due to glue failure
- * Furnace motor replaced
- * Temperature control valve replaced in the kitchen refrigerator
- * Three emergency lights replaced
- * Twenty ceiling panels replaced
- * Original vanity light replaced in men’s restroom
- * Two bathroom faucets replaced
- * Two bathroom toilet seats replaced
- * Storage room door handle replaced
- * Numerous light bulbs replaced
- * One classroom carpet replaced
- * Front door stabilizer arm repaired
- * Alarm system fixed twice
- * Toilet fixed three times
- * All church carpet cleaned
- * Pastor’s office painted
- * Thirty yards of mulch delivered, spread by many members
- * Dangerous cottonwood tree limbs professionally pruned in playground
- * Dumpster fence and drop rods repaired
- * Sacristy counter and cabinets removed
- * Sacristy closet shelving installed
- * Windows inside and out professionally cleaned

We would like to take this opportunity give thanks for the generous support and the many donors who have graciously helped throughout the year. Your time, talents, skills and funding have truly made all of these accomplishments possible.

Gratefully Yours, Linda L. Landis

2019 ST. THOMAS WELCA REPORT

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN AMERICA

WELCA purpose statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The WELCA Group has dwindled but still continue on with traditional events aided by volunteers throughout the year. Carol Cameron serves as the bookkeeper. Agnes Kujala will collect money from book sales and quilts and give it to Carol for deposit. Ethel Yops and Gayle Withey are back-ups for WELCA.

2019 Highlights

The Edward R. Aller Scholarship was established in 1992 by the WELCA group in honor of the 25th anniversary of Pastor Aller's ordination. Since that time 50 recipients have been awarded scholarships totaling \$25,000! This year 3 St. Thomas high school seniors were awarded \$500 each: Allie Graver, Lauren Graver and Matthew Graver. Two scholarships were donated by the WELCA group and one provided from the Rev. Edward R. Aller Memorial Fund. WELCA raises funds for the scholarship through the annual Cookie Walk (this year \$770) and ongoing book sales (this year \$200). \$600 in generous donations from individuals were also received this year. In October Marcia Aller organized a **Pumpkin Palooza** held on the same day as the community Halloween costume parade. Participants entered their carved pumpkin creations which were voted on by way of tickets purchased by voters. \$400 was raised for the scholarship fund. Thank you to all who contributed to keep the scholarship going.

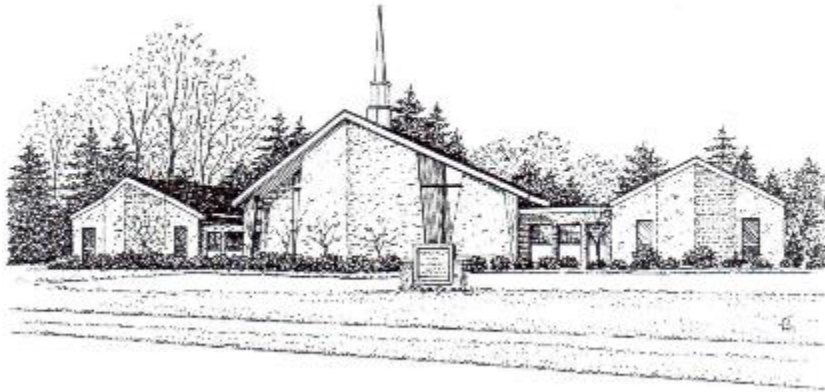
Linda Landis as Hospitality Director has taken over many of the duties formerly performed by the Women of WELCA such as Easter breakfast, Soup Supper, setting up for the cookie walk, conference Lent round robin soup supper and fellowship events. Thank you, Linda, for your marvelous ideas and sign up posters and also for coordinating the coffee hour.

The Quilter Group continues to meet with 7 to 10 quilters working each Monday morning. The very dedicated and inter-denominational group occasionally sells some of their finer quilts and use proceeds to buy quilting supplies and make donations to different causes through the year. We want to thank Kent Kujala and Dan Kujala for delivering 136 quilts to the Michigan collection point for Lutheran World Relief.

The Book Sale fundraiser continues all year round and the variety of books is tremendous. Thank you all who bring books and those who purchase them. \$200 was received for the scholarship fund this year.

The Thursday Volunteers are a very small group of dedicated women. Their help is greatly appreciated as they help with large volume office tasks such as folding bulletins and mailings. Come join this productive group.

Thank you to Sandi Loso who continues to deliver the food donations every month to Sacred Heart Church and thank you, also, to all who donate food and other necessities.



St. Thomas Lutheran Positioning Statement:

*St Thomas Lutheran Church is an inviting and caring environment
Nurtured by God's Love where individuals and families
Grow in faith to meet the challenges of life.*

St Thomas Mission:

*Our Mission is
To celebrate God's love through serving
Embrace it in our own lives
Reach out to our neighbors
And actively pass it on to new generations.*

*real people.
real life.
real faith.*