

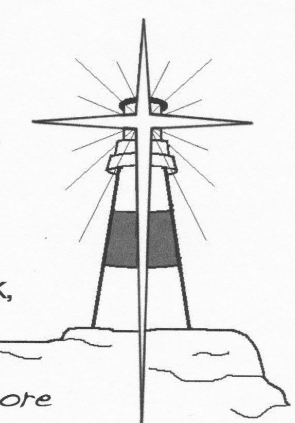
# Annual Report 2016

**ZOAR  
CHURCH**

TOFTE, MINNESOTA

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS  
IN MISSION FOR CHRIST

DAREN BLANCK,  
PASTOR



*A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore*  
[WWW.ZOARCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.ZOARCHURCH.ORG)

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**Officers, Staff and Volunteers**

**Pastor Daren Blanck**

**Leadership Team**

- President: Judy Gregg (first term ending August 2016)
- Treasurer: Tina McKeever (second term ending January 2016)
- Deacons: Polly Erickson (second term ending January 2016)  
Carol Markwell, Priscella Revier (first term ending August 2016)
- Trustees: Eric Iversen, Skip Lamb, Spencer Motchenbacher  
(first term ending January 2016)
- Secretary: Elizabeth Peterson (appointed by Leadership Team Sept. 2015)

**Musicians**

- Pianists: Judy Gregg, Joyce Krueger, Marsha Hansen, Lavona Czaplicki
- Other Musicians: Carol Markwell, John Markwell Tom Perusse

**Worship and Praise Band: Generations for Christ**

- Bass Guitar: Misty Schliep
- Keyboard: Joyce Kruege
- Vocalists: Misty Schliep, Elizabeth Peterson, Judy Gregg, Sophia Blanck

**Staff**

- Administrative Assistant: Diane Parker
- Financial Secretary: Elizabeth Peterson
- Custodian: Tina McKeever

**Committees and Coordinators**

- Audit Committee: Linda Lamb, Eric Iversen, Rod Young
- Nominating Committee: Skip Lamb, Eric Iversen
- Historian: Lucille Nelson
- Bereavement Commmittee: Judy Gregg, Linda Lamb, Pam Iversen

Membership List

Confirmed Members- 63

Blanck, Daren  
Blanck, Michelle  
Bierbaum, Shirley  
Borson, Hanna  
Borson, Nicole  
Buckman, Kathy  
Buckman, Robert  
Clyde, Courtney  
Cook, Angela  
Donek, Julia  
Erickson, Polly  
Gregg, Judith  
Griffith, Katherine  
Hall, Eileen  
Hansen, Danielle  
Hansen, Gary  
Iversen, Eric  
Iversen, Pam  
James, Pam  
James, Paul  
Johnson, Beverly  
Johnson, Harry  
Krueger, Joyce  
Lamb, Linda  
Lamb, Skip  
Markwell, Carol  
Markwell, John  
McKeever, Donald  
McKeever, Madysen  
McKeever, Tina  
Monson, David  
Motschenbacher, Judith  
Motschenbacher, Spencer  
Muntean, Jeanne  
Nelson, Charles  
Nelson, Lisa  
Nelson, Lucille  
Nelson, Randy  
Netland, James  
Norman, Diane  
Norman, Tim  
Perusse, Susan  
Perusse, Thomas  
Peterson, Elizabeth  
Revier, Ken  
Revier, Priscilla  
Revier, Robert  
Schliep, James  
Schliep, Mary  
Schliep, Mikala  
Schliep, Misty  
Schliep, Tim

Thoreson, Koertland  
Thoreson, Rose  
Thoreson, Tim  
VanDoren, Charles  
VanDoren, Mary  
VanDoren, Steven  
VanDoren, Bradley  
VanDoren, Bryan  
Williams, Jerry  
Williams, Leanne  
Young, Rodney

Baptized,  
not confirmed - 7

Blanck, Elijah  
Blanck, Sophia  
James, Joseph  
Johnson, Kasey  
McKeever, Mason  
Peck, Jack Henry  
Peck, Kate

Associate Members - 10

Czaplicki, Lavona  
Hemp, Lisa  
Huggins, Bill  
Huggins, Mary Jane  
Luenzmann, David  
Luenzmann, Nancy  
Menssen, Carla  
Seidel, Shirley  
Sloan, Betty  
Wagner, Liz

Inactive Confirmed  
For Whom We Pray - 61

Beard, Joan  
Bonin, Charlie  
Bonin, LeAnn  
Bonin, Phil  
Bonin, Joel  
Bonin, Nick  
Bonin, Steve  
Borson, Erica  
Bright, Kelly  
Buckman, Barry  
Buckman, Alisha  
Buckman, Jennifer  
Buckman, Kris  
Buckman, Larry  
Buckman, Mark  
Carlson, David  
Cicak, Deonn  
Cummings, Thomas  
Cummings, Virginia  
Dallmann, Allen

Dodge, Heather Bjerkness  
Huggens, Brian  
Huggens, Kevin  
Huggens, Trevor  
Iverson, Ali  
Iverson, Colton  
James, Melissa  
Johnson, Deb  
Johnson, Jamie  
Muntean, Emily  
Nelson, Caitlin  
Nelson, Charlotte  
Nelson, Daniel  
Nelson, Deric  
Nelson, Dustin  
Nelson, Felicia  
Nelson, Janet  
Nelson, Kathy  
Nelson, Richard  
Norman, Ashley  
Olson, Allan  
Peck, Annalisa  
Ross, Kyley  
Rysdahl, Andrew  
Rysdahl, Bradlee  
Rysdahl, Jeanne  
Rysdahl, Scott  
Sanders, Janna  
Sanders, Joe  
Sanders, Jill  
Sanders, Jessica  
Shug, Jill  
Shug, Steve  
Schliep, Gianna  
Schliep, Jory  
Somnis, Rose  
Starkey, Deeanna  
Tofte, Bjorn  
Wasiloski, Brooks  
Wasiloski, Bruce  
Wasiloski, Bryce  
Wasiloski, Judy

Agenda

Call to Order

Opening Prayer  
Secretary's Report  
Minutes from our last Annual Meeting, February 22, 2015  
Minutes from Semi-Annual Meeting, August 16, 2015  
Pastor's Report  
President's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Financial Examiners' Report  
Deacons' Report  
Trustees' Report  
Proposed Budget  
Womens' Report  
Blessed to be a Blessing Report

Elections

Treasurer  
Deacon

Appointment of Committee Members

Examiners of Financial Records  
Nominating Committee  
Bereavement Committee  
Sign Committee  
Constitution Committee

Unfinished Business

New Business

Adjourn with The Lord's Prayer

2015 Annual Meeting

February 22, 2015  
Attendance: Polly Erickson, Judy Gregg, Eileen Hall, Bev Johnson, Harry Johnson, Linda Lamb, H.A. (Skip) Lamb, Tina McKeever, Judy Motschenbacher, Spencer Motschenbacher, Charles Nelson, Lucille Nelson, Elizabeth Peterson, Priscilla Revier, Mary Van Doren, Rev. Evalyn Carlson.  
A Quorum declared by President Judy Gregg

Meeting opened with prayer by Leadership Team President Judy Gregg

**First item of business:**  
Review of the Secretary's Report, Pastor's Report, President's Report and Deacon's Report. A motion was made by Judy Motschenbacher to accept the reports as presented in the Annual Report. Motion second by Skip Lamb - all ayes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**  
Tina McKeever, treasurer, reported Zoar closed out 2014 with a (\$5,904.21) deficit. All bills were paid. Higher heating costs for the 2014 heating season was main contributor to the year's deficit. With some discussion and review of fundraising dollars etc. a motion was made by Skip Lamb to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Lucille Nelson second the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.  
A separate motion to move funds from the "Sabbatical Fund" to the "Fuel Fund" was made by Lucille Nelson. Motion second by Skip Lamb. All ayes. Motion carried.  
2015 Proposed Giving and Spending Plan

After some discussion a motion was made by Linda Lamb and second by Joyce Krueger to accept the 2015 Proposed Giving and Spending Plan as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Other Business Discussion:**  
Marsha Hansen requested a review of the fundraising Lutefisk Dinner. Subject tabled with the understanding that the subject would be revisited at the Summer Quarterly meeting.

Staff and Committee	
Financial Secretary	Elizabeth Peterson
Council Secretary	Tina McKeever (until someone else can step into the position)
Board of Deacons	Carol Markwell Priscilla Revier Bev Johnson (shared position)
Audit Committee	Linda Lamb, Judy Motschenbacher
Nominating Committee:	Skip Lamb
Bereavement Committee:	Linda Lamb, Joyce Krueger
Church Secretary	Diane Parker (start date: March 3, 2015)
Sign Committee:	Lucille Nelson, Tina McKeever
Members TBD	Gary Hansen, Spencer Motschenbacher
Constitution Committee:	Evalyn Carlson, Judy Gregg, Judy Motschenbacher
Missions Committee	Polly Erickson, Linda Lamb, Marsha Hansen

**New Business**  
Hymnals: The Worship and Music group met to look at Zoar's current Hymnals. The ReClaim Hymnal by Sola Publishing is the Hymnal of choice by most LCMC congregations. The Worship and Music group brought a

Worship Attendance Report

January 2015	May 2015	September 2015
4 - 19	3 - 22	6 - 50
11 - 30	10 - 25	13 - 45
18 - 25	17 - 39	20 - 35
25 - 27	24 - 37	27 - 35
	31 - 29	
February 2015	June 2015	October 2015
1 - 25	7 - 35	4 - 32
8 - 25	14 - 27	11 - ?
15 - 28	21 - 33	18 - ?
22 - 21	28 - 30	25 - ?
March 2015	July 2015	November 2015
1 - 20	5 - 45 Cross - 28	1 - 30
8 - 24	12 - 26 Cross - 18	8 - 28
15 - 24	19 - 58 Cross - 19	15 - 34
22 - 22	16 - 37 Cross - 17	22 - 30
29 - 22		29 - 34
April 2015	August 2014	December 2015
5 - 42 (Easter)	2 - 38 Cross - 20	6 - 44
12 - 22	9 - 42 Cross - 24	13 - 31
19 - 23	16 - 38 Cross - 20	20 - 29
26 - 22	23 - 34 Cross - 19	27 - 25
	30 - 18 Cross - 15	

Additional Services	Average Sunday Attendance
Ash Wednesday: 9	January-April: 24
Lenten Service average: 14	May-September: 44
Good Friday: 16	October-December: 32
Thanksgiving Eve: 20	
Christmas Eve: 175	

Ministry Statistics

Baptisms.....0  
Conformations.....0  
Weddings.....0  
Funerals.....1  
New Members.....5

# BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Submitted by Carol Markwell

This was the fourth year that Zoar Lutheran used the "Blessed to be a Blessing" stewardship program. Every fall the "Blessed to be a Blessing" forms are mailed to each congregation member, and also to those who participate regularly with us. This is Zoar's program to individually examine the time and talents of each of us. After Pastor Daren's arrival this past summer, he had the opportunity to reviewed these forms and finds them to be useful tools. Not only do the forms help create a church budget for 2016, but they provide Pastor Daren and the Leadership Team an insight to know where each of you wish to serve. It provides a glimpse of our interests. Interests that you wish to share as members of Zoar Church.

The estimate of Giving forms are reflected in the church budget for the coming year. The 'Estimate of Serving' are used to fill the many activities of the church such as worship, music, altar guild, mission activities and maintenance. As the "Estimate of Serving" form is implemented, it helps us create a list of volunteers to call when extra hands are needed at the church. Fortunately the list comprises of those individuals, volunteering in their field of their interest. Work gets done without making unnecessary telephone calls. It creates a "win, win" situation for all.

The "Estimate of Giving" form enables the opportunity for each member to state their personal tithing amounts. This is not a bound covenant. As stated on the form your tithing amount can be changed at any time during the year. Many extenuating factors such as unemployment or health issues can impact our ability to meet our tithing during the year. If these changes should happen, it may result in re-evaluating your circumstances and your ability to tithe. The same is true when completing the "Estimate of Serving" form." Your health conditions and time commitments impact volunteer hours. Likes and dislikes change as we grow older and become more involved in community activities. To fill out the "Estimate of Serving" each year gives everyone the opportunity to do different things that require volunteers within the church body.

This year the returned and completed estimate forms were smaller than last, BUT we are grateful to have for the returned forms for the planning of the future and the mission work of Zoar Church.

A stewardship program is difficult to facilitate. It contains difficult and sometimes painful decisions for each of us to make. For the present, we feel the "Blessed to be a Blessing" program is a way of reaching all of our membership whether or not one chooses to participate. We thank each and every one for your consideration in completing these forms.

recommendation that Zoar also go to this hymnal. It is a good combination of hymns we already use from the LBW and WOV making it possible to eliminate juggling between hymnals.

After much discussion weighing pros and cons a motion was made by Judy Gregg to order 50 ReClaim Hymnals with Larry Gregg memorial monies. Joyce Krueger second the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

## New Church Website

Tina McKeever reminds us of Zoar's new website and is asking members for input - what do you want to see on the site etc. web address is: [www.zoarchurch.org](http://www.zoarchurch.org).

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth Peterson and second by Skip Lamb. All ayes. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

# 2015 Semi-Annual Meeting

August 16, 2015

Present: Quorum

Opening Prayer lead by Judy Gregg.

**1. Reports:**

- a. Pastor: - Thanked the people for getting the parsonage ready for him and his family. Website we will work on getting the sermons listed and do some more updating. Also doing a Youth and Family Night on Tuesday Nights at 6:00 p.m. – trying to focus on the 6-7-8 graders, there will be a rotation of what is done each Tuesday of the month.
- b. Secretary: - Judy read through the meeting minutes for the Annual meeting on Feb 22, 2015 – Motion to approve by Liz Peterson and 2nd by Polly Erickson. Motion Carried.

**2. Financial Report:**

Tina McKeever presented the budget numbers for Jan –July 2015. Discussion was had and questions answered. Motion by Lucielle Nelson to approve and 2nd by Liz Peterson. Motion Carried.

**3. Nominations for:**

Trustee – nobody – Skip will check with some of his team members – we need to have 2 trustees listed with terms.  
Financial Secretary – Liz Peterson  
Leadership Team Secretary – Liz Peterson  
Leadership meetings have been set for the 3rd Sunday of the month following the service.  
Tina McKeever made a motion to accept the Financial and Leadership team secretary as Liz Peterson – 2nd by Linda Lamb – Motion Carries.

**4. Building Report:**

Replacing Boards – Skip is getting some bids to see what this would cost and looking at the shingles.  
Repair Front/Cross Area – Skip is getting some bids to see what this would cost

Windows in basement – motion to find out the cost and bring back to congregation that are energy efficient and either block or sliding windows – don't want crank out.  
Motion by Liz Peterson 2nd by Linda Lamb – Motion Carried.

Painting – Trustee's will come up with the color and then post for us to vote on.  
Wall – Gary Hanson and Eric Iverson are looking into it.  
Parsonage Painting - will go alone with the painting of the church once we know a color.

**Old Business:**

Sign Committee: - We will be ordering some banners that are \$80.00 a piece (3) to go on the signs out front

# Zoar Women Report

**BIRTHDAY CLUB**

submitted by Carol Markwell

Besides enjoying a birthday celebration and friendship at a luncheon, mission work is a focus of the Birthday Club. The club meets monthly to celebrate birthdays of each member. Sometimes there are just a few birthdays to be celebrated, other months there are many birthdays. The luncheon destinations are enjoyable and it gives the participants an opportunity for sharing the events currently taking place in their lives. Because no presents or cards are exchanged, a collection is taken and the club decides on a mission to support. During the summer and fall months, Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoe Boxes is the main mission of focus for the Birthday Club. In October the Birthday Club gather together to make up the Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoe Boxes. Packing these boxes is done at Zoar Church and it is a fun event. Most often a luncheon at Coho Café follows for fellowship. All in all, sixty eight show boxes were packed with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and accessories like tee shirts, socks, and hats. This project could not have been completed without the generosity of the women participating in the Birthday Club, and those community members who dropped off their donation gifts. The shoebox, most often, is the first gift many children ever receive. The treasures inside communicate that someone cares for them and gives them an opportunity to experience the love of God. After receiving shoebox gifts, boys and girls are invited to enroll in “The Greatest Journey”, a 12-lesson discipleship program designed by Samaritan Purse. They learn from trained local volunteers what it means to faithfully follow Christ and share their faith with others.

**Women of Zoar Church**

This past year, we have not met as a group for sewing projects, but the women continue to do projects for sharing with others. Priscilla knit hats for preemies at St Luke's Hospital, and for Sea Farers in Duluth. Shirley S continues to organize our Prayer Shawl/Prayer Squares ministry. Pam I assists us the pillowcase ministry. In addition to pillow cases for the hospital pediatric unit, we have made some to keep at church for giving to other community members. The women support the pastor at Good News Club, an after school program held in the Birch Grove Library Room. We appreciate those who provide snacks, craft ideas, music, and attend this once a week program providing Bible stories, songs and faith stories with our young people.

# Trustee's Report

These projects were undertaken and completed during the 2015 calendar year:

- New carpeting in the upstairs of the parsonage
- Cleaning and painting in the parsonage basement
- Replacing several damaged storms and screens at the parsonage
- New carpeting in the basement Pastor’s Study
- Replacing several lighting fixtures and bulbs on the church building exterior

The Trustees recommend completing the following projects during the 2016 calendar year using available budgeted funds, grants, and specially marked donations:

- Upgrade our water system:
  - Test and possibly cap the well behind the garage
  - Replace microfiltration system with a state approved alternative
- Repair and paint fascia and trim in the area around the front cross and repaint the large cross
- Repair (and where necessary replace) fascia, trim, and siding on building exterior
- Make necessary roofing repairs
- Replacing the bell tower with a new functional bell tower design

The Trustees request Thrivent members to apply for Action Team grants to complete the following projects during the 2016 calendar year:

- Painting the building exterior as a community event
- Painting and replacing carpeting in the Gathering Room
- Construction of improved storage in the basement and painting the church office
- Making updates to the lighting and appearance of the loft area in the sanctuary

The Trustees recommend having detailed plans drawn up during the 2016 calendar year for the following projects to be completed during the 2017 calendar year:

- A comprehensive kitchen upgrade (A special funding campaign would be required)
- Upgrading the men’s toilet (Approved by previous action but not undertaken)
- Repair or replacement of the concrete and stone retaining wall and railing

The Trustees are reviewing the following projects for consideration in 2017 or 2018:

- New wooden signs (We will continue to experiment with banners until then)
- New paint and carpeting in the basement
- Replacement of basement windows

Parsonage:

The Trustees have approved replacing the double glazed picture window in the parsonage “TV” room as the seal has broken. The Trustees will also be working with Pastor Daren to identify other needs in the parsonage and will be drawing up plans for the exterior of the parsonage for consideration in 2018.

until we can come up with a new design with the help of Ron Krueger.

Constitution Committee: Updates are still being done and the committee will let us know when it is ready for the congregation’s review.

Bell Tower / Electronics: - thinking of moving the bell tower to the back of the church so we can ring the bell before each service. Eric Iverson has been looking into this issue.

**New Business:**

Sunday Worship: - Discussion on the Liturgical service and gradually brining in from the Reclaim hymnal and follow that structure.

Communion: - be open to doing some different things – Circle – Walk up – Rail and also using real bread.

Blessed to be a blessing: - John Markwell will get the project going in September and Pastor Daren will focus in on the serving list.

Church Directory: - we will look at doing something in the Spring once all our snow birds are back. But it was suggested that we look into another vendor then the one we used last time.

Motion to adjorn the meeting by Liz Peterson, 2nd by Gary Hanson – Motion carried.



# Pastor Daren’s Report

These last 7 months have been months of great transition for the Blanck family. We’ve moved from a big town in a little country to a little town in a big country. Everyone speaks English and there are lots of friendly faces here, but in some ways its been just as challenging as any foreign country - with different schools, different positions, different friends, and different ways things are done. The congregation of Zoar Church has welcomed us with open arms and we are grateful to be here!

Sometimes a new pair of eyes (or in my case one “new” eye) sees things from a fresh perspective, so before I loose that perspective, in my report this year I’d like to identify those things I see as strengths of Zoar and those challenges I see going forward before I report on what your pastor has been up to since August 1!

I believe this congregation has some great strengths moving forward:

- 1) Zoar is committed to the truth of the Gospel. We live in an age that has been described many as “post-Christian.” The institution of the church is less central in our society and the voice of the Biblical witness is often not heard in our public discourse. This means it is more difficult for churches to maintain vitality and visibility in the public square. Many churches have abandoned the gospel in an attempt to stay “relevant” only to find that they are as marginal as ever. However, the message of the gospel never changes! With the Apostle Paul “we preach Christ crucified!” (1 Corinthians 1:23) Modern mankind is as affected by sin and a fallen world as much as the first century Corinthians, and Jesus says, *“My grace is all you need.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)*
- 2) Zoar supports a wide range of missions and ministries locally and internationally. We are called by Christ into service to our communities and our world. From CHUM to the Seed Company, from the Cook County Food Shelf to Evergreen Mission Congregation in Saipan, the ministries that Zoar supports reflect a sense of North Shore community mindedness along with a wide vision for what it means to be a part of the global Body of Christ. Thank you deacons!
- 3) Zoar recognizes both the rich history of the Lutheran liturgical tradition and the freedom of contemporary worship. The historic liturgy reminds us of the “great cloud of witnesses” who have gone before us in faith. Contemporary worship in many ways is a return to the simple worship style of the first century and upbeat praise music and a warm, informal atmosphere resonates with a younger generation. Many congregations are in the midst of fighting “worship wars” while Zoar has simply found a comfortable place alternating between these worship styles. Thank you Generations and Lavona!
- 4) Zoar has a great facility in a great location. Our history and presence in the community make possible opportunities to witness to our neighbors in Word and deed. Unlike many LCMC congregations, Zoar isn’t looking for or renting space, paying off a mortgage, or facing major repairs. Thank you trustees!
- 5) Zoar’s leadership is strong and cohesive and as a member of the LCMC we are a part of a growing association rather than a declining denomination. Some congregations are facing inner turmoil, conflicts between congregational leaders or difficulties with called pastors. Many congregations are dealing with denominational structures that require ever growing contributions as membership declines. I have enjoyed seeing Zoar’s leaders work

Again the Bloodmobile was at Zoar in March, July and November. The Blood Center was enthusiastic about the turn-out and collection.

Zoar and Lutsen Churches rang bells for the Salvation Red Kettle Drive at Tofte General Store on 4 Saturdays in November and December. \$672 were collected.

Many hats, scarves, and mittens were given to the Mitten Tree at Christmas for donation to missions in Duluth and Grand Marais. In addition, 4 hats were knitted for the neonatal unit at St Mary's Hospital in Duluth.

A Missions Committee was formed in March. Marsha Hansen, Linda Lamb, Judy Gregg, and Polly Erickson attended the 2 planning sessions in March and November. In March it was decided that the monthly mission donations for 2015 would be as follows: March - Cook County Foodshelf, April - Starfish Fund (establishment), May - Yust (Selkees), June - Starfish Fund (Angela Cook), July - Teen Challenge, August - Cook County Foodshelf, September - Military Bible Sticks, October - Refugees in Macedonia, November - CHUM Shelter, December - The Seed Company (Galen Johnson). A very generous total of monies given was \$2,540. Also, quarterly Zoar donates \$200 to LCMC to support missions.

At the November Missions Committee Meeting it was decided upon the following monthly mission schedule for 2016: January - East European Network - Vision Petrozavodsk, February - Evergreen Mission Church on Saipan, March - Cook County Foodshelf, April - The Seed Company, May - Teen Challenge, June - Starfish Fund (Angela Cook), July - (probably new Lutheran teen home in Duluth), August -- Cook County Foodshelf, September - Military Bible Sticks, October - Samaritan's Purse and churches in Macedonia, November - CHUM Shelter, December - LAMP (Native Americans).

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Revier, Deacon  
Beverly Johnson, Deacon  
Polly Erickson, Deacon

# Deacons' Report

The Deacons are responsible, under the leadership of the Pastor, for the spiritual life, education, and mission of the congregation.

Communion is served twice per month on the first and fourth Sundays of the month. In 2015 an average of 35 people received communion each time. Priscilla Revier scheduled and oversaw the communion services. This way we have communion at a Worship and Praise Service, and a Traditional Service.

During the summer from July through August a second service was held outdoors at Father Baraga's Cross on the rocks at the mouth of the Cross River in Schroeder. An average of 18 worshipers attended each Sunday.

Usually on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, music was provided by the worship band, Generations for Christ. On most other Sundays Judy Gregg played, although, towards the end of the year, Lavona Czaplicki became the pianist.

Most Wednesdays during the school year Birch Grove Bible Club (later changed to Good News Club) met in the Birch Grove Library at 3:15. 11 students from preschool ages through 5th grade attended the lessons taught by Pastor Carlson in the spring and Pastor Blanck in the fall. They were aided by volunteers from the congregation who also served a snack to the children.

5 times a year the pastor and volunteers are responsible for services at the Care Center in Grand Marais. They provide not only the service, but also music and refreshments for the residents.

Each Thursday morning a group of adults gather for a Bible Study of the previous Sunday's text led by the pastor from 10:00 to 11:

A collection of used pill bottles was begun to be given to Pastor Carlson for sending to the Malawi Project. The people there use the bottles to carry home their medications from clinics and hospitals.

Rob Revier made a new rack for the church paraments.

30 Welcome Bags were assembled containing a small tablet, pen, hone, a candle and a prayer square. These are given to first time visitors. This practice was started October 2015. Beginning January 2016, Pastor Daren added a new testament along with our monthly schedule of services.

Deacon Carol Markwell headed up the Blessed to be a Blessing stewardship program this fall which obtains Estimates of Giving and Serving of the members for the coming year.

In March and August food drives were held to benefit the Cook County foodshelf . \$405 plus food donations were collected.

together and laugh together and I was inspired in October at the annual LCMC gathering. Thank you Judy and the Leadership Team!

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes ... (Romans 1:6)*

I also believe that we have some challenges ahead:

- 1) Zoar must become locally missional to its core in order to remain a vital and important part of the Tofte-Schroeder North Shore Community. Like the over all demographics of the North Shore, our congregation is aging. Zoar church needs to find ways to welcome back nominal or former members, better share the Gospel message with the community, and invite the next generation into the fellowship of grace if it is to survive. Zoar is the only church on Highway 61 between Palisades Head and Lutsen. That means that we have a mission field of over 500!
- 2) Zoar must find new ways to serve the social, economic, and spiritual needs of the Tofte-Schroeder North Shore Community. With taconite and power company lay-offs, a still slow tourism economy, and the lingering effects of past forest fires and foreign competition affecting the logging industry, the North Shore is in an economic pinch. Should we be offering a weekly community meal even beyond the lenten season? What should our ministry to international workers look like? Are we doing everything we can to serve the marginalized in our community? How are we as a congregation going to truly be the beacon of Hope on the North Shore?
- 3) Zoar must become agile in welcoming young people when they enter our building and continue to adapt to trends in contemporary worship. Young people are the key to our growth in the future. How will we welcome them when they come to worship with us? Research suggests we've got one opportunity to impress our ministry and mission on them once they walk through our doors. Generations continues to provide inspirational praise music twice each month, but finding and practicing new music is a challenge for any praise band. More musicians and especially more "generations" would help.
- 4) Zoar must deal with several building maintenance issues. The treasurer's report deals with several of these issues. While none of them are crippling, it will take funding creativity, a sustained effort, and a growing budget to maintain this beautiful building.

*... You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

I have been excited to be a part of a few accomplishments - some for me and some for Zoar:

- 1) Preaching a combination of exegetical and topical sermons and reintroducing sung liturgy from the ReClaim hymnal during Sunday morning worship. I'd like to keep this mix going in the future.
- 2) Writing several newspaper articles and articles for four Zoar newsletters. These and weekly worship service preparation have been the biggest time commitments for me here at Zoar.
- 3) Leading a packed Christmas Eve worship service and officiating for the funeral of a well known and respected local resident and member of Zoar. Both were firsts for me!
- 4) Posting sermons and newsletters on zoarchurch.org. With the assistance of Tina and Elijah, I believe Zoar has a great web presence that our "snow-bird" members have already

commented on as a good way to keep up with our ministry here while they are gone. Our goal is to use Zoar’s website as an outreach tool as well.

5) Teaching Zoar’s Bible Club at Birch Grove Community Center in cooperation with Child Evangelism Fellowship as a Good News Club. Michelle, Judy, and other volunteers have been invaluable in making this program a fun, effective way to share the gospel with community kids.

6) Beginning regular Youth and Family Night Activities. These have been moderately successful but I’ve learned some great lessons and hope to be able to grow these outreach and fellowship programs into the future.

7) Studying God’s Word everyday but especially during Thursday Bible Study with a core group of Zoar and community members. We have lots of fun and some very lively discussion. These folks have truly become my fellow travelers and prayer warriors.

8) Designing and helping to mount new banner-signs proclaiming who we are and what’s going on at Zoar. Elijah, Sophia, and I also did a little painting and repair to the sign closest to the road.

9) Reconfiguring the upstairs office for use as a gathering room for education, fellowship, leadership meetings, and community events. In addition this space can be more easily used during worship times as a “crying room” and as a congregational library.

10) Moving the Pastor’s Study downstairs and organizing storage space behind the elevator. With minimal expense I have a great study and work space nearer to the office and out of the way. Thanks Skip, Spencer, and Bill for your help!

11) Purchasing 200 Outreach New Testaments and beginning the process of delivering them door to door. Along with a new tri-fold brochure explaining who we, these New Testaments are a part of our outreach and evangelism for Zoar Church and the Kingdom of God. Sharing a New Testament is a great way to say “Hi, I’m the new pastor, I’d like to invite you (or invite you back) to Zoar Church, and we’d like to give you this free gift.” Each New Testament has a “Plan of Salvation” guide and is one of the newer translations in modern English.

12) Completing the Beyond the River Academy New Testament: Johannine Literature course in August of 2015 and completing the Beyond the River Academy Early Church History course in February 2016. My paper entitled The Cross and the Crescent: The Rise of Islam, Its Connection to Ancient Heresy, and Our Response was shared with a group of 20 LCMC pastors for review with a positive recommendation.

*... Reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)*

Michelle and I are excited to be on this journey of faith along with the members of Zoar Church as we grow in Christ and in his service to the world with you.



Daren D. Blanck, Pastor  
Zoar Church - Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ - Tofte, MN

# Audit Committee Report

January 18, 2016

This year the Audit Committee examined the 2015 financial records and inquired as to the accounting procedures of Zoar Church with church treasurer Tina McKeever. There have been no changes in bookkeeping procedures or book keeping policy during 2015.

The examination included the following:

- We inquired as to the monthly bookkeeping and reconciliation procedures performed during the year. These are the same as in previous years using Quick Books software.
- The church has 4 bank accounts. There are 3 accounts at the Grand Marais State Bank (Saving, CD#2, and Checking). There is one savings account at North Shore Federal Credit Union. We reviewed the accounts as of December 31, 2015 and found them to agree with the yearend balance sheet.
- We reviewed the insurance premium notices and determined that insurance for church building and contents, liability and workers compensation were current and adequate at this time
- We reviewed Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of December 31, 2015. We found no discrepancies between reports and actual conditions.
- We inquired as to accounting procedures and controls for cash. In general, the church receives very little cash in the collection plate on Sunday. If cash is greater than \$20.00 on the offering plate, two people verify the amount. When more cash is received i.e. as with a fundraiser, or a large service such as Christmas Eve, or Easter services, two people count the cash receipts.

Currently Zoar has 3 employees; Pastor, Secretary and Bookkeeper/Custodian, which is one employee.

The church has one credit card issued by the Grand Marais Bank. It has a \$2000.00 limit. Currently the card is used for inter-net purchases of supplies and other items needing advance payment.

As documented August 10, 2008 at the semi annual congregational meeting, unless previously budgeted, purchases over \$1000.00 require a congregational vote.

Two signatures are required on each check written.

Our insurance provider is Brotherhood Mutual. We have a 2-year contract and payments are made quarterly and subject to audit adjustments. This policy also provides liability insurance for the pastor. Our workmen’s compensation policy, also held by Brotherhood Mutual, is paid quarterly.

The accounts of Zoar Church are well organized and in good order. It is easy to access account information.

On behalf of Zoar Lutheran Church, we would like to thank our Bookkeeper Elizabeth Peterson and Treasurer Tina McKeever for their conscientious work in keeping the financial records of the Church.

Greg Fangel and Linda Lamb

Proposed Giving Spending Plan  
January through December 2016

		TOTAL
	Dec 16	Jan - Dec 16
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Sunday Offerings		
Non-Envelope Offering	800.00	9,600.00
Anonymous Cash	150.00	1,800.00
Envelope Offering	4,500.00	54,000.00
Total Sunday Offerings	5,450.00	65,400.00
Fund Raisers		
Thrivent Choice Dollars	800.00	3,200.00
Special Monthly Offering	125.00	1,500.00
Dinners	0.00	3,575.00
Youth Fundraising	0.00	30.00
Fund Raisers - Other	0.00	5,200.00
Total Fund Raisers	925.00	13,505.00
Misc. Income		
In-kind Income	737.13	2,801.97
Interest Income	0.00	97.94
WELCA Income	50.00	600.00
Cash Thru Reimbursements	0.00	0.00
Misc. Income - Other	50.00	845.00
Total Misc. Income	837.13	4,344.91
Total Income	7,212.13	83,249.91
Gross Profit	7,212.13	83,249.91

President's Report

Judy Gregg

1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

It has been a year of waiting and preparation, and I thank all of you for your patience, and participation that brought us to the time that we welcomed Pastor Daren, Michelle, Elijah and Sophia Blanck to our congregation. I thank the members of the Call Committee for their time and diligence with the process. This has been the first time we called a pastor as a part of the LCMC Synod, providing us with the opportunity to search and call a pastor with guidance, but not at the discretion of the synod. With sincere gratitude to Pastor EvaLyn Carlson for her leadership during the first half of the year, we were ready to begin the journey with Pastor Daren. We have promised him our support as he completes his seminary training at the Beyond the River Academy.

As you will read in his report, Daren comes with enthusiasm, knowledge, and experiences that challenge us, encourage us, and lead us to grow and serve as a Beacon of Hope on the North Shore. Together, we can be equipped to "go and tell the Good News".

I am grateful for all who share their gifts in so many ways. The Estimate of Serving that you have returned is a great resource for the Leadership Team. Whether it's a problem with the water, a need for plowing, providing food, serving a meal, reading a Lesson, etc. it is so good to hear the response, "yes, I can do that".

Looking ahead, we still have needs for: our church building and parsonage; people willing to serve on the leadership team; and others willing to participate on short term committees (such as a Worship Committee), to name just a few. Please let us know if you have an idea, a skill, a passion that you want to share.

I am grateful for the members of Generations for Christ and Lavona Czaplicki for their gifts of music. It is a gift of time for practice and choosing music, as well as a commitment for Sunday mornings. We are blessed by your talents.

We would like to thank Carol Markwell and Tim Norman for past service on the Leadership Team. At the same time, we thank Polly Erickson for agreeing to another term as Deacon, Elizabeth Peterson for her service as Financial Secretary as well as Leadership Team Secretary, Skip Lamb returning as a Trustee, and Tina McKeever as Treasurer for her 3rd term. And thank you to each and every one of you who serve in so many ways, seeing things to be done and doing them. These uses of your gifts do not go unnoticed.

Treasurer's Report

11:59 AM  
01/16/16  
Accrual Basis

Zoar Lutheran Church  
Profit & Loss Budget Performance  
January through December 2015

	Jan - Dec 15	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Life Tree	0.00	0.00
Sunday Offerings		
Non-Envelope Offering	12,989.50	2,470.00
Anonymous Cash	2,220.21	2,500.00
Envelope Offering	60,849.50	51,840.00
Total Sunday Offerings	76,059.21	56,810.00
Fund Raisers		
Thrivent Choice Dollars	3,204.00	1,500.00
Special Monthly Offering	2,305.00	1,500.00
Dinners	4,286.50	6,000.00
Youth Fundraising	30.00	100.00
Fund Raisers - Other	3,412.43	500.00
Total Fund Raisers	13,237.93	9,600.00
Misc. Income		
In-kind Income	2,801.97	
Special Donation - Health Insur	0.00	0.00
Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	97.94	0.00
WELCA Income	235.00	300.00
Wedding & Funeral	0.00	100.00
Cash Thru Reimbursements	-134.85	0.00
Misc. Income - Other	845.00	600.00
Total Misc. Income	3,845.06	1,000.00
Total Income	93,142.20	67,410.00
Gross Profit	93,142.20	67,410.00
Expense		
Life Tree - Program	0.00	0.00
Life Tree Supplies	0.00	0.00
Other Misc Expense		
Cash Thru Reimbursement Items	287.88	0.00
Other Misc Expense - Other	16.00	
Total Other Misc Expense	303.88	0.00

	Dec 31, 15
Fixed Assets	
Equipment	
Furniture & Fixtures Par & Chur	5,263.15
Office,Appliances,Musical Equip	2,708.64
Total Equipment	7,971.79
Parsonage & Church Upgrades	
NSFCU - Narthex Renovations	3,661.22
Church Lift	34,231.97
Parsonage & Church Upgrades - Other	4,249.77
Total Parsonage & Church Upgrades	42,142.96
Total Fixed Assets	50,114.75
Other Assets	
Property	
Church & Parsonage Property	894,078.01
Tait Lake Property	32,424.00
Total Property	926,502.01
Total Other Assets	926,502.01
TOTAL ASSETS	1,040,890.53
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	420.85
Payroll Liability	
FICA EE	-100.13
FICA ER	32.61
Medicare EE	6.92
Medicare ER	6.92
Payroll Liability - Other	-5.78
Total Payroll Liability	-59.46
Total Other Current Liabilities	361.39
Total Current Liabilities	361.39
Total Liabilities	361.39
Equity	
Beginning Balance Equity	906,354.90
Opening Bal Equity	54,465.29
Retained Earnings	58,997.82
Net Income	20,711.13
Total Equity	1,040,529.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,040,890.53

# 2015 Balance Sheet

	<u>Dec 31, 15</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
North Shore Federal CU	
NS Federal Credit - Savings	9,530.16
Total North Shore Federal CU	9,530.16
Grand Marais St. Bank Savings	
Memorial Bell Tower	2,958.00
Memorial Carrilon Bells	917.00
Memorial Undesignated	-349.30
Grand Marais St. Bank Savings - Othe	4.85
Total Grand Marais St. Bank Savings	3,530.55
<b>CD #2</b>	
Memorial Undesignated CD-002	6,358.52
Roof & Building CD	1,604.31
Youth CD	4,021.48
CD #2 - Other	934.30
Total CD #2	12,918.61
<b>General Fund</b>	
Starfish Fund	890.00
Video Grant	968.01
Alpha	491.26
Buildings & Grounds Fund	1,537.16
Fuel Fund/General Fund	3,049.22
Main General Account	20,822.68
Memorial Fund	
Memorial Arnold Olsoe (Bibles)	95.00
Krueger	344.00
Gregg	1,972.00
Undesignated	695.00
Total Memorial Fund	3,106.00
Parsonage Fund	5,509.56
Service Men and Women	271.31
WELCA	1,027.60
Youth Fund /General Fund	816.65
General Fund - Other	-195.00
Total General Fund	38,294.45
Total Checking/Savings	64,273.77
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	64,273.77

	<u>Jan - Dec 15</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Zoar Parsonage Expenses</b>		
Parsonage phone	120.66	180.00
Parsonage Electricity Zoar	1,081.00	1,200.00
Parsonage Repair/Maintenance	2,085.67	150.00
Parsonage Fuel Zoar	1,583.80	2,000.00
Zoar Parsonage Expenses - Other	395.80	
Total Zoar Parsonage Expenses	5,266.93	3,530.00
<b>Church Building Expenses</b>		
Church Building Electricity	1,377.00	1,500.00
Church Insurance	3,523.50	2,500.00
Church Supplies	911.51	200.00
Cleaning Supplies	122.14	30.00
Fuel	5,246.95	5,500.00
Garbage & Snow	215.53	
Real EstateTax	444.00	416.00
Repairs & Improvements	1,479.26	200.00
Water Tester	0.00	100.00
Wedding & Funeral Expenses	0.00	200.00
Church Building Expenses - Other	38.99	0.00
Total Church Building Expenses	13,358.88	10,646.00
<b>Education Expenses</b>		
Conferences	411.59	1,000.00
Pastors Cont.Ed/Books	1,289.00	250.00
Education Expenses - Other	0.00	0.00
Total Education Expenses	1,700.59	1,250.00
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>		
Supplies and Advertising	2,209.39	1,200.00
Fundraising Expenses - Other	363.16	300.00
Total Fundraising Expenses	2,572.55	1,500.00
<b>Office Expenses</b>		
internet	908.57	600.00
Church Phone	1,205.92	1,080.00
Copy Machine	1,636.27	1,400.00
Office Supply	739.54	1,000.00
Postage	875.16	500.00
Office Expenses - Other	718.83	1,000.00
Total Office Expenses	6,084.29	5,580.00

	<u>Jan - Dec 15</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Pastors Salary &amp; Benefits</b>		
Pastor Salary	22,708.31	12,250.02
Pastors Pension	1,875.00	1,999.98
Pastors Medical	0.00	4,800.00
Pastors Social Security	1,737.22	937.50
Pastors Workmans Comp	400.50	0.00
Pastors Salary & Benefits - Other	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Pastors Salary &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>29,221.03</b>	<b>19,987.50</b>
 <b>Subtitute Pastor</b>	 660.11	 12,000.00
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>		
SEP Employee Retirement	315.15	
Mileage	0.00	1,560.00
Congregational Bookkeeper	351.00	
Congregational Custodian	1,550.00	1,200.00
Congregational Secretary	4,364.47	6,000.00
Payroll Taxes	580.31	528.96
Workmans Comp	137.50	500.00
Payroll Expenses - Other	<u>17.52</u>	<u>310.00</u>
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>7,315.95</b>	<b>10,098.96</b>
 <b>Specific Donations</b>		
Special Offerings	960.00	1,200.00
Good Samaritan/Discretionary	0.00	300.00
<b>Mission Donations</b>		
EEMN - Eastern European Mission	0.00	400.00
The SeedCompany - Galen Johnson	0.00	400.00
Mavuno Village - Helsby Mission	0.00	0.00
LCMC	400.00	200.00
Mission Donations - Other	<u>97.54</u>	
<b>Total Mission Donations</b>	<b>497.54</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
 <b>Total Specific Donations</b>	 <b>1,457.54</b>	 <b>2,500.00</b>
 <b>WELCA</b>		
Zoar Women	476.00	
WELCA - Other	<u>79.38</u>	<u>300.00</u>
<b>Total WELCA</b>	<b>555.38</b>	<b>300.00</b>
 <b>Worship &amp; Music</b>		
Music Supplies & Licenses	135.00	350.00
Worship Supplies	2,806.46	550.00
Worship & Music - Other	<u>285.58</u>	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>3,227.04</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>

	<u>Jan - Dec 15</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Youth</b>		
Youth Scholarships	0.00	300.00
Youth - Other	<u>706.90</u>	<u>200.00</u>
<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>706.90</b>	<b>500.00</b>
 <b>Total Expense</b>	 <b>72,431.07</b>	 <b>68,892.46</b>
 <b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	 <b>20,711.13</b>	 <b>-1,482.46</b>
 <b>Net Income</b>	 <b><u>20,711.13</u></b>	 <b><u>-1,482.46</u></b>