

SAINT NICHOLAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2004

ANNUAL REPORT

Let us draw
near to God with
a sincere heart in
full assurance
of faith...



Hebrews 10:22



Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

1450 Plum Point Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

Office phone: 410.257.5683

www.saintnicholaslutheran.org

*“Growing and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ
for the ministries of God’s work in the world.”*



Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 30, 2005

AGENDA

Welcome, Call to Order Opening Devotion	Bonnie Stump
Establishment of a Quorum Meet Your Leaders Congregational Meeting Minutes *	Pastor Casto Donna Blankenship Donna Blankenship
Elections Synod Assembly representatives * Nominating Committee, 2005*	Bonnie Stump Bonnie Stump Chuck Baker
Financials 2004 Income Overage distribution** 2005 Operating Budget**	Dick West
Constitution ratification **	Dick West/Ray Nieves
Ministry Reports	Ministry Sponsors & Staff
Our Ministry & Mission: A Discussion Key Initiatives Information Packet A period of prayerful discernment	Bonnie Stump
Voting Results	Donna Blankenship
Adjournment	

* *voice vote*

** *ballot vote*

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ANNUAL REPORTS

Pastor

President

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Coordinator of Volunteer Ministry

Ministries

Administration

Christian Education

Evangelism and Outreach

Outdoor Center

Social Concerns

Stewardship

Youth and Family Life

Youth – Grades 6-12

Worship and Music

Proposed Budget for 2005

Staff

**Pastor
Office Administrator
Coordinator, Volunteer Ministry
Director, Christian Education
Director, Chancel Choir
Director, Outdoor Center
Youth Leader, 6-12 grades
Accompanists**

**Rev. Randall W. Casto
Melissa Stuart
Alison Banholzer
Kay Aronhalt
Jean Wolf
Kim Colleli
Jonathan Wolf
Sandy Griese
Valerie Schlickbernd**

2004 Council

**President Glenn Wolfgang
Vice President Chuck Baker
Secretary Donna Blankenship
Treasurer Dick West**

**Rolf Arnesen, Ed Aronhalt, Jim Jordan
Barbara Harris, Kim Berche, Sidney Kolbe**

2005 Council

**President Bonnie Stump
Vice President Chuck Baker
Secretary Donna Blankenship
Treasurer Dick West**

**Rolf Arnesen, Ed Aronhalt, Jim Jordan
Kim Berche, Ray Nieves, Carolyn Lenz**

Pastor Casto

Financial Secretary Tom Blatt

Ministry Sponsors

**Administration
Christian Education
Evangelism and Outreach
Social Concerns
Stewardship
Worship and Music
Youth and Family Life**

**Ray Nieves
Kay Aronhalt
OPEN
Carol Blatt
Debbie Bang
Jean Wolf
Donna Neri**

**Minutes of the
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 18, 2004 10:00 am**

THE MEETING

President Glenn Wolfgang welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

QUORUM: 91 voting members were required for quorum. 93 confirmed members were present as the meeting began.

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Randy.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Brad Smith (outgoing Council Secretary) asked the congregation if there were any issues with the minutes of the October 2003 Congregational Meeting as written. Mike Stump made a motion to approve the minutes, Bill Poole seconded and the motion passed.

SYNOD CONVENTION DELEGATES: Glenn Wolfgang announced that Chuck and Sharon Baker were interested in attending this year's convention with Pastor Randy. Glenn asked if there were other nominations from the floor and no additional nominations were made. Lenny Davis moved to accept the nomination and Sidney Kolbe seconded and the motion passed. Chuck and Sharon Baker were affirmed as delegates by acclamation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chuck Baker presented the Nominating Committee of Rob Frick, Claude Dickinson III and Brad Smith (outgoing Council members). No additional nominations were made from the floor. Nominating Committee was approved by voice vote.

Paper ballots were passed to voting members.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF BUDGET:

- 2003 Budget Surplus Use – Dick West provided an overview of the 2003 overage and the council's recommendation that 10% of the 2003 overage be allocated to Social Concerns for benevolence and the remainder to the Building Fund. Glenn asked if there was a motion to accept the ballot as written. Louise West moved to accept the ballot. Pat Hofmann seconded and the motion passed. Members were asked to mark the ballot and pass in for counting.
- 2004 Budget – Dick West presented the final 2004 Budget. Dick pointed out minor changes from the preliminary budget presentation at the Oct 03 congregational meeting. The reason for the primary change was due to an increase in hours of the Director of Christian Education (DCE). Sidney Kolbe moved to accept the ballot. Chuck Baker seconded and the motion passed. Members were asked to mark the ballot and pass in for counting.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: Dick West presented an overview of the Capital Campaign and explained the written ballot. Nick Roseto asked what is the goal of the Capital Campaign? Glenn Wolfgang responded that it is a monetary goal and camaraderie of our congregation and of the

spirit in us to do what God has called us to do. Dick West quoted an approximate figure of \$700,000 and mentioned it depended on how expensive the revised design would be.

MINISTRY NOTES:

- *Administration:* The new co-sponsors, Julina Liefer and Ray Nieves, provided an overview of the teams they are responsible for. Ray Nieves indicated that he has two individuals willing to help in the area of technology. It is hoped that some of our technology and information systems will be updated during the early part of 2004.
- *Christian Education:* Barbara Harris (for Kay Aronhalt) reports that we had a fair amount of growth in 2003. Our average Sunday school enrollment and attendance for children and youth was 111. Confirmation for all three years began the year with 25 students and has risen to 33 students. The sixth grade has now grown to a record 16 students. A new ministry focus to Young Families has been inaugurated with parenting classes and monthly information mailings to parents of newborns and toddlers.
- *Evangelism and Outreach:* Bonnie Stump reflected on three key points: opportunities to serve, opportunities for fellowship and opportunities for developments. Bonnie said that the meditation gardens are almost completed, with the exception of some minor plantings.
- *Social Concerns:* Carol Blatt said that although Hurricane Isabel took a top spot in Social Concerns, they were thankful that there were funds and material goods to continue supporting a variety of programs during the past year.
- *Stewardship:* Debbie Bang stated the goal of the Stewardship Ministry is to uplift stewardship as a way of life, a way of viewing all that we are and all that we have as gifts from God to be used for God's glory and the service of others. The object is to educate, inspire and motivate the congregation with the understanding that stewardship is about God, and managing all that we have: time, talent and treasures; God's gifts to each of us, individually.
- *Youth and Family Life:* Donna Neri spoke of the co-sponsorship that was formed and which is led by Donna and Catherine Raines. Donna gave an overview of the many teams that encompass this ministry. She mentioned that the focus of the coming year is to fill open team/group leader positions.
- *Worship and Music:* Barbara Smith said that they had someone who may be interested in the leader position for the Sing and Rejoice service. Although no formal interview has taken place, they were planning on meeting with her in the near future. This individual is currently serving at another ELCA church in Bowie.

BUILDING ON FAITH: Pastor Randy commented that building on faith dealt with our call by God – supported by the spirit – to continue to remain faithful in our worship life, our study of God's Word, and to be a tangible witness to the world of the faith and love that God has placed within us. We are, in 2004 and beyond, to "Build on Faith" – faith itself a gift from God.

VOTING RESULTS:

- Lenny Davis moved to accept the nomination of Chuck and Sharon Baker as our representatives to the Synod Convention. Sidney Kolbe seconded and the motion passed. Chuck and Sharon Baker were affirmed as delegates by acclamation.
- Chuck Baker presented the Nominating Committee of Rob Frick, Claude Dickinson III and Brad Smith (outgoing Council members). No additional nominations were made from the floor. Nominating Committee was approved by voice vote.
- Louise West moved that the wording of the written ballot concerning the designation of the 2003 overage be accepted. Pat Hofmann seconded. By written vote, the 2003 overage will be allocated to Social Concerns (10%) and the remainder to the Building Fund. (92 voted yes and 1 no).
- Sidney Kolbe moved that the wording of the written ballot concerning the approval of the 2004 Budget be accepted. Chuck Baker seconded. By written vote, the 2004 Budget was approved. (90 voted yes and 3 voted no).
- Bonnie Stump moved that the wording of the ballot concerning the Capital Campaign be accepted. Carolyn Lenz seconded. By written vote, a Capital Campaign was approved (88 voted yes and 10 voted no). In response to the second part of the ballot concerning using Kirby-Smith as our consultant for the campaign approval was achieved (75 voted yes and 11 voted no).

ADJOURNMENT: Glenn Wolfgang thanked everyone for attending. Glenn led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Blankenship
Secretary, Church Council

**Minutes of the
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, September 12, 2004 10:00 am**

THE MEETING

President Glenn Wolfgang welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Ninety seven voting members were required for quorum. 105 confirmed members were present as the meeting began.

Glenn Wolfgang led the congregation in prayer.

John Hofmann presented to the congregation the background associated with the votes. Basically there were two issues presented.

The first issue on the agenda was the Mortgage Agreement:

- Extends 2000 loan
- Mortgage comes due in full in Oct 04
- New 15-year term
- 5.0% for first five years
- Mission Investment Fund (MIF) most favorable terms
- Council recommends approval

Glenn Wolfgang asked if anyone on the floor wanted to make a motion to approve the extended loan agreement offered by the MIF with the resolution provided. Ken Puzey made a motion and Dennis Brown seconded.

The second issue on the agenda was Architectural Services:

- Next step to North Wing
- Past votes lead to it
- PAS experience/expertise
- Fees are reasonable
- Budget for design is \$74,000

Glenn Wolfgang asked if anyone on the floor wanted to make a motion to approve Council contracting with PAS and others to complete North Wing designs and permits to serve our ministries. Lisa Hanson made a motion and Ceal De Vere seconded.

VOTING RESULTS:

On the motion for the congregation to approve the extended loan agreement offered by the Mission Investment Fund (ELCA) with the resolution provided, 105 voted yes, 0 voted no.

On the motion for the congregation to approve Council contracting with PAS and others to complete North Wing designs and permits to serve our ministries, 101 voted yes, 1 voted no.

Glenn Wolfgang thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Blankenship
Secretary, Church Council

DRAFT
Minutes of the
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, October 24, 2004 10:00 am

THE MEETING

Council President Glenn Wolfgang welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

QUORUM: 104 voting members were required for quorum. A quorum was not established at the start of the meeting; however, a quorum of confirmed members was achieved as the meeting progressed.

OPENING PRAYER: Glenn Wolfgang opened the meeting with a prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Glenn Wolfgang asked the congregation if there were any comments on the January 18th, 2004 and the September 12th, 2004 Congregational Meeting Minutes as written. Minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

2005 BUDGET PRESENTED: Dick West presented the proposed 2005 Budget. The following are highlights from Dick West's presentation.

- Total budget of \$396,000, of which \$389,700 is to be funded by regular member giving.
- All salary increase figured at 3%.
- Total Social Concerns budget to be 7% of budgeted member giving.
- Youth Leader's salary to be funded from Budget.
- Budgeted amount of Office Administrator to be actual salary, with no provision for additional hours as in previous budgets.
- Provision has been made for expenses related to the calling of a Youth Pastor.

Dick West mentioned that we were \$13,000 behind in member giving and asked everyone to prayerfully consider their giving in the year to come.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS: Glenn Wolfgang and Ray Nieves presented the Constitution Amendments. The Constitution Committee chaired by Ray Nieves and including Carolyn Lenz, Gus Wolf, Jason Brand, Dick West, Gregg Sullivan and Glenn Wolfgang. Highlights from their presentation follows:

WHY HAVE THIS MEETING?

- Changes were made in accordance with the ELCA's "Model Constitution". Discussed with congregations at annual Synod Convention (June each year). All mandated items were adopted.
- Many grammatical changes were made to clean up the document.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:

- C11.03 changed term limit from three terms to two terms (term is 2 year commitment).

- C05.05 mandated by the ELCA model constitution to establish a Mission Endowment Fund.

BYLAW CHANGES:

- The fall meeting is for presenting/approving the budget and electing officers.
- The January meeting is to conduct Annual Reports and other business as necessary.
- C13.07.05 was deleted from the Bylaws. Our standing committees are now called Areas of Ministry (Ministry Teams) and are covered in the Continuing Resolution appendix to the constitution. This gives us maximum flexibility to adapt church organization to changes as needed without long approval process.

TIMETABLE:

- Committee met in March, April, June and August, with a congregational questions forum between the second and third services in Mar 04.
- Committee researched, consolidated and decided to send our recommendations to council on May 12th.
- Council adopted 6/8/04, recommends approval.
- Oct 04 – Present changes to Congregation.
- Adopt proposed changes today by congregation vote.
- Jan 05 – Ratify change to Constitution/Bylaws.
- May 05 -- Synod accepts our new constitution.

Barbara Harper made a motion to accept constitutional amendments, Alison Banholzer seconded.

During discussion of the motion, Mark Gyorgy presented a further revision of the sentence in C11.03 of the proposed constitutional amendments that reads, “No elected Officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.” The recommended working was “The President, Vice President, and Secretary shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office”. Mark’s points included:

PROPOSAL TO MAKE TREASURER’S OFFICE EXEMPT FROM TERM LIMITS:

- Skilled position.
- Time commitment required.
- Institutional knowledge asset.
- Checks and balances in place – Audit and the separate Financial Secretary
- Still elected position.

John Hofmann made a motion that officers (President, Vice President and Secretary) be limited and the treasurer not be limited. Rolf Arnesen seconded.

In discussion following, council members Barbara Harris and Chuck Baker, who moved council’s vote to recommend that revised constitution for congregational voted, approved this motion as a friendly amendment to their recommendation. That cleared the way for a vote on the C11.03 motion. After that vote result was tallied and reported and because it was favorable, the vote on the overall motion to accept the proposed constitutional revisions was conducted with the understanding that C11.03 exempted the treasurer from term limits. Results are summarized below:

VOTING FOR OFFICERS: The ballot was designed for the Election of President, Treasurer, and three at-large council members. Bonnie Stump was on the ballot for President. Ray Nieves was listed for one at-large council person. Two other nominees for council member declined at a late date due to late-developing personal or family considerations. No one came forward or was identified for the treasurer position. At the meeting, Kim Berche, Carolyn Lenz and Harry Baker volunteered to have their names added to the ballot for council members at-large.

BUILDING ON FAITH: John Hofmann presented an update on the North Wing Project. The following are highlights from John Hofmann's presentation:

NORTH WING UPDATES:

- Design – Expanding Original Plans
- Schedule – Completion Fall 2005
- Costs – GOING UP!!

NORTH WING EXPANDED BUILDING DESIGN:

- 16-18 class areas.
- Enlarge fellowship room.
- Enlarge kitchen.
- Music room and chapel.
- Possible 3rd floor.
- Convert offices -- north hallway

VOTING RESULTS:

- **COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** Bonnie Stump was elected as the new Council President (93 voting yes, 0 voting no).
- **TREASURER:** No one was nominated or elected.
- **COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE:** Three council members at large positions were elected. Ray Nieves (90 votes); Kim Berche (82 votes) and Carolyn Lenz (68 votes). Harry Baker received 57 votes. .
- **CONSTITUTION REVISIONS:** The vote was to accept the constitution revisions (97 voting yes, 2 voting no).
- **APPROVAL OF FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED CONSTITUTION REVISIONS:** The vote was to approve the friendly amendment (88 voting yes, 8 voting no).

MINISTRY UPDATES: Pastor Randy indicated that due to time constraints, Ministry Updates would not be presented at this congregational meeting. Ministry updates will be given at the January Congregational Meeting. Pastor Randy closed by saying that we are all about the work of the gospel, we are called with purpose and for purpose and are here for a reason. He asked that we all pray for the Pastor, Vicar, each other and our families.

ADJOURNMENT: Glenn Wolfgang thanked everyone for attending. Glenn led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Blankenship
Secretary, Church Council

Saint Nicholas Statistics 2004

	End of 2003	2004 Additions (Subtractions)	End of 2004
Baptized Members	532	+70 -39	563
Confirmed (Voting) Members	367	+55 -29	393

Confirmed in 2004 (May 30, 2004)

Erin Brown
Joseph Finlayson
Katie Moser
Jacquelyn Taylor

Michael Brown
Lauren Groff
Jennifer Smetana

Kevin Custer
Shaylyn Leary
Ashley Taylor

Baptism (under 16)

Kaitlyn Fields 01/04
Daniel Kolosky Jr. 04/10
Harris Ben Cooper 05/23
Adriana Ciccone 08/15
Timothy Jr Card 10/03

Caroline Banholzer 03/07
Clara Margaret Phelps 04/10
Connor Currie 06/27
Austin Nielsen 09/19
Isabel E Card 10/03

Ariel Hellickson 04/10
Michael John Klepacz 05/09
Jamie Smith 07/11
Kyle Nielsen 09/19

Baptism (over 16)

By Affirmation

Alison Banholzer
Timothy Card, Sr.
Sherie Cooper
Donna Frostbutter
Stephen Groff
Colleen Hyland
Reed Hyland
Lisa Kolosky
Susanne Martin
Paul (Tom) Schlegel
Linda Stout

David Banholzer
Jennifer Card
Ed Currie
Gary Frostbutter
Susan Groff
Michael Hyland
Jodie Hyland
Taylor Kolosky
Luke Martin
Susan Smith
Aaron Yakabowskas

Katherine Banholzer
Harris Cooper, Jr.
Pam Currie
Leigh Ann Riston (Frostbutter)
Stephen Groff
Eric Hyland
Dan Kolosky
Ron Martin
Paul Martin
Charles Smith

Transfer from ELCA

Bob Callis
Will DeLamater
Brian Doerk
Anna Kitzmiller
Kelly Kitzmiller
Kim Regner

Beatrice Callis
Robin DeLamater
Sharon (Illig) Doerk
Ben Kitzmiller
John Regner

Cecilia Coley
Katherine DeLamater
Carole Haas
Dave Kitzmiller
Dianne Regner

Other Transfers

Edith Crane
Kathleen Eichfeld
Michael Kent
Peter Reeves

Rebecca Crane
Esther Johnson
David Kent

Nathalie Crane
Tom Kent
Mary Reeves

Transfers Out (to other ELCA)

Richard Buckner
Steven Buckner
Stephanie Freeman
Carlton Musser

Bonnie Buckner
Tina Freeman
Lauren Gray
Robin Musser

Brandie Buckner
Brian Freeman
Darlene McGuire
Clara Musser

Transfers Out (other)

Alan Billings
Tara Billings

Diane Billings

Jimmy Billings

OTHER FACTS ABOUT SAINT NICHOLAS

Received First Communion (October 31, 2004)

Sam Camilleti
Jordan Frick
Austin Owens

Avery Dickinson
Sarah Geckle
Travis Stuart

Colin Flynn
Cassie Hickin

Births

Michael Klepacz 02/14
Marissa Riston 12/07

Adrianna Ciccone 03/19
Georgia Smith 12/16

Kyle Nielsen 05/05

Marriages

Gary Rahe St. Clair Jr. and Christina Marie Ward 01/17
Jason Brand and Melissa Phipps 04/03
George Riston III and Leigh Frostbutter 05/15
R. Brian Doerk and Sharon Illig 10/16

Funerals

Viola Boland 02/04

Eric Schaefer 09/04

Jessica Gelatka 09/29



Annual Reports 2004



Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Pastor's Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004

No one ever said that ministry would be easy or that proclaiming the Gospel message would be without challenge. We may desire to have our journey of faith to be smooth and without distractions, but God often works in ways that shake us from our complacency. The year 2004 was a wonderful year of challenge and opportunity as God was at work deepening and strengthening our walks of faith. God, it seems, is always at work *“loving us forward.”*

It has truly been a blessing for me to partner with you in that journey this past year. You have been so gracious in opening your hearts and lives to me as each of you has faced various joys and concerns throughout the year. Over the past twelve months God's Spirit has raised up competent and compassionate leaders to provide a plethora of skills that were needed – at just the right times – in providing wisdom and counsel in the guiding of our work together. I offer a special word of thanks to our 2004 Council (and especially, our out-going president, Glenn Wolfgang) and to our ministry sponsors. I can attest to you that these men and women are remarkable for their capacities to serve without wavering or becoming discouraged. They have ministered to me often and in varied ways.

Each report you find in this document will outline highlights of the fruit that has been produced by the work of God's Spirit in and through our areas of ministry. The reports offer only highlights. Similar to the conclusion of John's gospel account, there are so many other things that could be reported but the desire for brevity dictates they are excluded. God knows. These various ministry reports speak for themselves; I could add nothing of value to them. What I am compelled to report is the deep gratitude that I feel for each ministry sponsor, team leader and members who have given untold hours in the tilling and cultivating of each ministry area. Let us give thanks to God for the grace granted for their work together.

It has been a gratifying year in the normal rhythm of parish life: Advent, Christmas and Lenten observances, Easter celebrations, the beauty of Pentecost Sunday and the Spirit-led affirmation of baptism for a number of our young adults, the long season of Pentecost including such joyful events as the blessing of the book bags and Rally Weekend, and the great reminders of Reformation Sunday. This rhythm provides us with a good framework into which we set the patterns of our lives. This rhythm reminds us of just how much God's love in Christ Jesus sustains us and grants to us an ability to face the grind and vagaries of daily living.

It has been a year of fruitful ministry. There have been in 2004 some particularly notable happenings. Below is just a sampling of these events. There is so much to be said of each one. Again, space and time dictate that I note simply the events and trust that each individual who has been instrumental in bringing these happenings to fruition knows that they are known – and appreciated greatly. This sampling includes:

- A brand new parish website that provides us with a content-rich and powerful Internet presence. It is a superb work.
- A successful year of ministry by our seminarian Jens Bargmann (ordained on 16 January 2005).
- Our welcoming in August seminarian Patricia Covington as our fourth intern.
- Excellent parish leadership retreats (January and October) at Camps Letts and Wabanna near Annapolis.
- Our first annual “affirmation of marriage vows” service.
- Rejuvenated attention to our young adults through various “youth summits” and the addition to staff of a part-time youth leader for grades 6-12.
- A capital campaign for construction of a much needed North Wing that witnessed financial pledges in excess of one-half million dollars.

Sadly, we have experienced this past year the death of several of our loved ones. Physical death of a loved one is seldom easy to confront. This difficulty is magnified several fold when the loved one is a young person. While the loss of all this past year has brought sadness into our lives, none was greater than the death of Jessica Gelatka. We commend to God all of our brothers and sisters who have gone before us into our Lord’s faithful care and love.

We have been blessed in 2004 with welcoming many new parishioners, and a steady growth in parishioner involvement. Our strengthening and careful attention to our volunteer coordination effort is bearing increasing fruit as more parishioners are giving of their time and talent to the work of ministry.

Because of our growth in members and active ministries – not the least of which is our burgeoning Christian Education ministry – we have become greatly constrained on space. The North Wing capital campaign has been a great start on pledging the needed funding to underwrite this new space. God knows our needs better than we. Let us continue to place our complete faith and trust in God’s timing for all things.

I pray that you have come to know how much I love and care for you and our ministry together. I struggle at times to keep my head above the water line, but God’s grace always abounds in strength and patience. Thank you for the love and care you have shown to me and my family this past year. It continues to be a blessing for me to serve as your pastor.

May God continue to grant to us an ever-deepening awareness of God’s abiding love, and for the utterly free gift of salvation that is found through faith in (of) Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. For it is in him and through him that we have everlasting life.

May God be praised: Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

Pastor Randy



Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Council President's Annual Report to the Congregation - 2004

Looking back over a period of time always brings opposing reactions at the same time, "Did all that happen?" and "Is that all that happened?" "*Building on Faith*" was our theme for 2004. The congregation adopted a capital campaign, reaffirming plans to proceed with the north wing extension to the building. More than a dozen members took on special roles to enliven and conduct the first stages of the campaign. We followed through with our leadership retreat resolve to enhance our ministry to youth with renewed programs and a youth leader position. We conducted a thorough review and revision of our Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions (plus other policies such as property management) to update and refit them to our growing congregation.

And yet none of these initiatives would mean much if we had not continued with deepening the established operating ministries of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church. From what I have observed, Christian care outreaches, whether through Sunday School, Bible School, Worship experiences, benevolence, or fellowship programs have all increased or improved in some way. This is "*Building on Faith*."

Yes, there were key initiatives, like establishing what we have sometimes called a south campus or the infant day care, that we have not yet been fully ready to undertake. It is good to remember there are other ways to express our thanks and work toward God's peace on earth while we focus on what is at hand. May we just continue to do well and faithfully what we have taken on. May the challenges of 2005 continue to be spiritually fulfilling experiences.

For I have been and continue to be awed and enheartened by the many in our congregation who work tirelessly and faithfully for the well-being of our congregation and community. I know there are many who do so where I do not happen to see their efforts or effects. I offer my simple but profound tribute to all I could or could not name. "I respect and honor your Christian service and hope you feel well the blessings of that service." I encourage everyone to identify at least one Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church worker who has made a contribution and let them know you admire and appreciate their work.

I also personally thank Pastor Randy, council officers and members during the past three years, and the many other staff and co-workers at Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church for the constructive and cooperative help you have given me in serving this congregation. As I took on the role of congregation president, these words were drawn from me without premeditation, "If we aim to serve God, we will do well -- and we will do good." Some of us were not there to hear and others may not remember that, but I feel that we have all lived up to those words, and that has made my work easier and uplifting. I have full faith that you will do the same with Bonnie.

So, finally, let us once again give thanks to God for helping us know and feel the power and peace of serving each other in Christ's name.

Yours in Christ,

Glenn Wolfgang



Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Annual Report to the Congregation - 2004

Although 2004 saw many requests for funding over and beyond our annual budget, including the pledging over a three-year period to our capital campaign to build the new North Wing, the generosity of our congregation in giving to the work of the Lord was again evidenced very vividly. While budgeted member giving did not come up to expectations, year-end budget income exceeded budget expenses by \$11,418.46. This can be attributed to the diligent oversight of the Ministry Sponsors, and certain budgeted items not being spent (such as the salary for a Sing and Rejoice Group Director).

As approved by the congregation in January, 2004, 6% of member giving was allocated to and expended by the Ministry of Social Concerns – an amount totaling \$21,100.00. As part of this, we not only honored our intent to send 100% of our synod benevolence goal amount to the Metropolitan Washington D. C. Synod, we exceeded it! Our pledged (goal) amount was \$10,585.00, but \$11,000.00 was submitted on the recommendation of the Ministry of Social Concerns.

Additionally, substantial funds were given to numerous designated funds. Pages 3 and 4 of the year-end financial statement give a detailed breakdown of these donations and the expenditures made.

Financial Secretary Tom Blatt and I have continued to work closely to insure that all donations were recorded properly, and it continues to be a genuine pleasure to work with such a dedicated keeper of the financial giving records.

Again I want to thank the congregation for the trust and confidence you have placed in me as your treasurer. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve the congregation in this way.

Richard F. "Dick" West

Treasurer

Income and Expense Statement for Month Ending: December 31, 2004

	Actual	Total	2004			
	Curr. Mo.	Yr. to Date	Total Budget			
INCOME:						
Regular Offering	\$33,011.06	\$351,767.02	\$360,963.00			
Director of Christian Education Grant	587.00	7,000.00	7,000.00			
Outdoor Center - SNORK	0.00	2,829.50	5,150.00			
Outdoor Center - Miscellaneous Programs	0.00	98.00	1,000.00			
Building Use	240.00	1,130.00	500.00			
Interest (Mission Investment Fund)	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00			
TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$33,838.06	\$364,024.52	\$375,813.00	Budget	\$ & %	Cumulative \$
EXPENSES:				Category	Used	Allocated
				Sub-Totals	To Date	To Date
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CONCERNS				\$21,375.00	\$21,100.00	\$21,375.00
01.1 ELCA Benevolence	\$916.67	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00		98.71%	
01.4 CCCFP (food pantry)	125.00	1,500.00	1,500.00			
01.8 Pastor's Discretionary Fund	0.00	1,900.00	1,900.00			
01.9 Outreach:			6,975.00			
01.9a Local Outreach	1,200.00	3,600.00	Included above			
01.9b Regional Outreach	1,055.00	2,480.00	Included above			
01.9c World Outreach	500.00	620.00	Included above			
MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC				\$24,653.00	\$17,122.68	\$24,653.00
02.1 Chancel Choir Director-Trad. Serv.-Jean	535.45	5,783.00	5,783.00		69.45%	
02.2 Organist - Traditional Service - Sandy	236.25	2,835.00	2,835.00			
02.3 Organist - Traditional Service - Val	236.25	2,835.00	2,835.00			
02.3a Accompanist - Trad. Service Rehearsals	72.00	630.00	800.00			
02.4 Sing & Rejoice Group Director	0.00	0.00	4,800.00			
02.5 Supply Ministers (\$225 x 6)	0.00	450.00	1,350.00			
02.6 Chancel Choir	0.00	1,751.18	1,500.00			
02.7 Bulletins/Supplies	0.00	898.95	1,000.00			
02.8 Altar Supply	0.00	572.88	750.00			
02.9 Sing & Rejoice Worship	0.00	275.92	1,000.00			
02.10 Copyrights	0.00	264.00	500.00			
02.11 Other Worship	114.26	676.75	500.00			
02.12 Music Conferences	0.00	50.00	500.00			
02.13 Piano Tuning/Organ Maintenance	0.00	100.00	500.00			
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION				\$24,114.00	\$25,525.32	\$24,114.00
03.1 Dir. of Christian Ed. - Kay Aronhalt	1,655.87	17,264.00	17,264.00		105.85%	
03.2 Adult Ministry	91.38	1,001.78	1,000.00			
03.3 Sunday Church School Curriculum	1,654.57	3,303.83	2,500.00			
03.4 Vacation Bible School	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00			
03.5 Staff Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	100.00			
03.6 Sunday Church School General Fund	65.98	1,135.18	750.00			
03.7 Confirmation	66.45	583.70	500.00			
03.8 Education Material	44.00	736.83	500.00			
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE				\$7,025.00	\$5,431.25	\$7,025.00
04.1 National Youth Convention	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00		77.31%	
04.2 Confirmation Retreats	0.00	930.00	1,000.00			
04.3 Chrysalis Retreat	0.00	660.00	375.00			
04.4 Work Camps/Other	0.00	50.00	500.00			
04.5 General Activities Support	0.00	0.00	350.00			
04.6 Fellowship						
04.6a Youth Fellowship	4.89	415.60	300.00			
04.6b Adult Fellowship	0.00	353.36	300.00			
04.6c Family Fellowship	33.04	376.59	300.00			
04.7 The Lutheran/Christ in our Home	459.85	1,378.67	1,250.00			
04.8 Special Fellowship	0.00	67.03	500.00			
04.9 Summer Camp Subsidy (Mar-Lu-Ridge)	0.00	200.00	0.00			
04.10 Small Group Ministry	0.00	0.00	150.00			
04.11 Stephen Ministry	0.00	0.00	1,000.00			
MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH				9,800.00	\$8,778.46	\$9,800.00
05.1 Evangelism - Campaign	0.00	116.83	500.00		89.58%	
05.3 Evangelism - Bring a Friend to Breakfast	0.00	32.94	200.00			

05.4 Outreach - Supplies/Materials Outdoor C.	0.00	248.87	500.00			
05.5 Outreach - Landscape/Construction	0.00	0.00	500.00			
05.6 Outreach - Outdoor Center, Promotion	0.00	2,249.50	1,300.00			
05.7 Outreach - Out. Cen. - SNORK sup., mat.	0.00	2,406.05	2,500.00			
05.8 Outreach - Outdoor Cen. - SNORK Curr.	0.00	439.12	500.00			
05.9 Promotion - Newspapers	381.00	3,075.15	3,000.00			
05.10 Promotion - Banners	0.00	210.00	300.00			
05.11 Education/Training	0.00	0.00	500.00			
MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP				\$1,750.00	\$1,697.43	\$1,750.00
06.2 Regular/Special Envelopes	0.00	757.47	750.00		97.00%	
06.3 New Member Classes & Receptions	0.00	459.34	300.00			
06.5 Stewardship Materials	0.00	430.12	200.00			
06.6 Stewardship Event	0.00	50.50	500.00			
MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION						
Payroll Not Otherwise Classified:				32,551.00	\$30,252.41	\$32,551.00
07.1 Office Administrator - Melissa	962.76	11,553.12	13,287.00		92.94%	
07.2 Coordinator of Volunteer Ministry - Alison	433.33	5,190.24	5,187.00			
07.3 Director of the Outdoor Center - Kim	72.32	7,593.75	7,875.00			
07.4 Payroll Taxes (.0765 x all gross salaries)	455.18	5,915.30	6,202.00			
Pastor's Compensation:				75,500.00	\$75,500.00	\$75,500.00
07.8 Paid Directly (Sal, House, SS, Prof. Allow)	4,413.63	52,966.64	52,966.97		100.00%	
07.9 Board of Pensions (Pension, Medical for self & family, Disability & Admin. costs)	1,877.78	22,533.36	22,533.03			
Pastor's Travel Reimbursement:				4,000.00	\$2,095.78	\$4,000.00
07.10 Paid Directly	135.72	2,095.78	4,000.00		52.39%	
Sabbatical Fund:				500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
07.11 Paid to Designated Funds	0.00	500.00	500.00		100.00%	
Seminarian Fund:				100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
07.12 Paid to Designated Funds	0.00	100.00	100.00		100.00%	
Intern (Vicar):				23,700.00	\$22,198.49	\$23,700.00
07.13 Paid Directly (Salary, Housing)	1,700.00	20,173.37	20,400.00		93.66%	
07.14 Travel Pool (\$400.00 annually)	0.00	400.00	400.00			
07.15 Tuition (\$900 annually)	900.00	900.00	900.00			
07.16 Student Seminary Ins. (\$1,000 annually)	0.00	250.00	1,000.00			
07.17 Travel Reimbursement (\$1,000 annually)	66.24	475.12	1,000.00			
Synod Assembly & Conferences:				2,335.00	\$1,330.00	\$2,335.00
07.18 Synod Assembly	0.00	795.00	850.00		56.96%	
07.19 Bishop's Convocation	0.00	0.00	300.00			
07.20 Society of the Holy Trinity Gen. Conf.	0.00	225.00	250.00			
07.21 Society of the Holy Trinity Pot./Md Conf.	0.00	0.00	160.00			
07.22 Synod Conferences	0.00	0.00	100.00			
07.23 Md. Conf. of the Metro D. C. Synod Sup.	0.00	0.00	75.00			
07.24 Lay Leadership	0.00	0.00	300.00			
07.25 Council Retreats	0.00	310.00	300.00			
Office and Administration:				15,370.00	\$17,972.86	\$15,370.00
07.30 Office Equipment/Supplies	500.10	7,620.17	5,500.00		116.93%	
07.31 Copier Expense	260.41	4,022.69	3,800.00			
07.32 Postage/Bulk Mail	672.68	2,489.05	1,700.00			
07.33 Computer Support	0.00	249.45	300.00			
07.34 Telephone	182.98	2,633.52	3,000.00			
07.35 Pastor's Pager Service	0.00	138.60	150.00			
07.36 Pastor's Cellular Phone Service	0.00	557.68	620.00			
07.37 Other	0.00	261.70	300.00			
Buildings and Property:				133,040.00	\$123,001.38	\$133,040.00
07.40 Utilities (gas and electric)	1,301.01	10,784.07	10,000.00		92.45%	
07.41 Building Maintenance	887.29	14,846.51	20,000.00			
07.42 Mortgage Payments (P+I)	6,000.00	72,053.65	75,000.00			
07.43 Insurance	0.00	4,582.00	4,000.00			
07.44 Site Maintenance	516.03	3,758.47	4,500.00			
07.45 Trailer Rental	1,200.00	14,476.68	17,040.00			
07.46 Non-Reoccurring Capital Expenditures	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00			
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSE	\$31,985.37	\$352,606.06	\$375,813.00	\$375,813.00		\$375,813.00
December Income Over Expense:	\$1,852.69			Year To Date Income Over Expense:		\$11,418.46

Account	Prior Year Bal. Forward	Curr. Month Income	Curr. Month Expense	Year To Date Income	Year To Date Expense	Balance
1. SOCIAL CONCERNS:						
1.a Social Concerns Ministry Emergency Fund	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
1.b Lutheran Campus Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
1.c Project Comfort	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00	80.00	0.00
1.d Thanksgiving Offerings - Barstow Acres	0.00	0.00	0.00	121.00	121.00	0.00
1.e Gifts of Hope	100.00	2,752.00	2,852.00	2,752.00	2,852.00	0.00
1.f Tree of Angels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.g 2003 Overage Transfer	2,715.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,715.23	0.00
1.h Souper Bowl of Caring	0.00	0.00	0.00	236.98	236.98	0.00
1.i Pennies for Potatoes	0.00	0.00	0.00	343.56	343.56	0.00
1.j World Hunger	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.k Hurricane Relief	0.00	70.00	70.00	1,450.00	1,450.00	0.00
1.l Stergiou Family Donation(s)	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00
1.m Project ECHO	0.00	287.65	287.65	337.65	337.65	0.00
1.n Holiday Turkeys	0.00	0.00	96.00	96.00	96.00	0.00
1.o 2002 Global Mission Event	101.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	101.10	0.00
1.p CCCFP Food Baskets	0.00	40.00	720.00	1,790.00	1,790.00	0.00
1.q Habitat for Humanity	0.00	15.00	45.00	180.00	180.00	0.00
1.t Buddies Program	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
2. WORSHIP AND MUSIC:						
2.a Altar Flowers	72.12	161.28	80.00	828.28	900.40	0.00
2.b Special Service Flowers	15.02	167.98	0.00	946.48	961.50	0.00
2.c Contemporary Music	91.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91.00
2.d Paschal Candlestand	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
2.g Nave Furnishings	215.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	215.99
2.i Bells and Chimes	28.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.25
2.j Drum Set	1,020.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,020.00
2.k Organ Fund	500.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	800.00
2.n Other Worship Related Items	1,473.14	0.00	432.00	50.00	432.00	1,091.14
3. EDUCATION:						
3.a Sunday School Fund	187.93	37.75	0.00	434.96	351.70	271.19
3.b Vacation Bible School (VBS)	319.56	0.00	0.00	1,590.00	1,551.61	357.95
3.c eScrip	23.73	0.00	376.86	353.13	376.86	0.00
3.d Pastor's Bible Study	81.50	0.00	0.00	481.00	533.95	28.55
3.e Christian Education Special Gift	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
3.f Book Fair	273.85	604.50	695.28	604.50	695.28	183.07
3.g Confirmation Resource	-24.98	60.00	0.00	80.00	335.79	-280.77
3.h Special Gifting Opportunities	282.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	273.00	9.20
3.i Workbooks Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	290.00	909.55	-619.55
4. YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE:						
4.a Lutheran Magazine	113.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	313.00	40.00
4.b Coffee Project	0.00	1,408.50	1,129.50	4,371.95	4,178.00	193.95
4.c Pancake Supper	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	15.00
4.d Cupid's Cafe - Regular	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00
4.d(a) Cupid's Cafe - Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,565.00	1,565.00	0.00
4.e Senior High Youth Account	694.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	694.91
4.f National Youth Convention	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
4.g Summer Camp Assistance	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
4.h Valentine Dinner	178.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	178.00
4.i Shekinah	50.00	0.00	0.00	830.00	750.00	130.00
4.j Movie Tickets	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.50	49.50	0.00
4.k Chrysalis	-50.00	0.00	0.00	370.00	320.00	0.00
4.l Confirmation Gowns	13.75	0.00	0.00	108.00	0.00	121.75
4.m Women of the Church - ELCA	57.00	0.00	0.00	33.00	0.00	90.00
4.n CCC Men's Softball	0.00	0.00	0.00	355.00	355.00	0.00

4.o Youth Leader	0.00	0.00	380.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
5. EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH:						
5.b Evangelism/Outreach	120.78	60.00	0.00	570.00	259.17	431.61
5.c Outdoor Worship Center	1,237.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	101.76	1,135.39
5.d Bring a Friend to Breakfast	1.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.97
5.e S.N.O.R.K.	904.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	904.61
6. STEWARDSHIP:						
6.a Initial Envelopes	0.00	3.00	0.00	427.00	419.00	8.00
6.b Stewardship Program	24.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.71
6.c Bishop's Fund for Stewardship Education	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00
7. ADMINISTRATION / OTHER:						
7.a Pastor's Discretionary Fund	515.69	0.00	0.00	795.22	1,040.05	270.86
7.b Sabbatical Fund	3,274.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	3,774.00
7.c Seminarian Fund	300.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	400.00
7.d Principal Reduction	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
7.e Staff Gifts	25.00	2,215.00	2,610.00	2,635.00	2,610.00	50.00
7.f Memorials: Undesignated:						
(1) Viola Boland Memorial	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
(3) Sarah Gray Memorial	4,725.05	0.00	122.05	100.00	4,825.05	0.00
(4) Zoe Jane Clark Memorial	1,285.00	25.00	0.00	25.00	1,285.00	25.00
7.g Memorials: Designated:						
(1) Jessica Gelatka Memorial	0.00	275.00	0.00	3,731.00	0.00	3,731.00
7.h Vicar's Gift	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,260.00	760.00	500.00
7.i Landscaping - Memorial Tree Area	1,119.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,119.11
7.j Technology Upgrades	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
7.j (1) Trinity Church Donation	0.00	0.00	95.00	1,550.00	892.13	657.87
7.k Stephen Ministry	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
7.l Van for Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
7.m Refinish Front Door	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
7.n Trailer Expense	1,218.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.55	895.05
7.n(a) Modular Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,763.64	1,763.64	0.00
7.o Leadership Retreat	0.00	60.00	0.00	1,491.00	1,094.75	396.25
7.p Building Fund/Capital Campaign	60,781.80	21,654.59	0.00	126,157.89	31,642.21	155,297.48
7.r Kick-Off Flowers	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00	190.00	0.00
7.s Car for Parishioner	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,745.00	1,745.00	0.00
7.t Parking Lot Expansion	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
7.v Picture Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00	141.38	141.38	0.00
7.w Floor Sealing	1,450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,450.00
TOTALS:	\$87,335.77	\$30,197.25	\$10,201.34	\$183,000.12	\$85,453.35	\$184,882.54

Note: Prior year balances forwarded include 2003 overage transfers as follows:

\$2,715.23 to Des. 1.g - Social Concerns Ministry

24,437.05 to Des. 7.p - Building Fund

\$27,152.28

Building Fund/Capital Campaign Income and Expense Recap as of December 31, 2004

	Curr. Month	Totals
<u>INCOME:</u>		
Balance transferred from previous year	N/A	\$60,781.80
Current Year Building Fund/Capital Campaign Donations	21,379.00	120,659.11
Fall Festival (2004)	0.00	4,520.41
Interest (Mission Investment Fund)	275.59	978.37
Total Income:	\$21,654.59	\$186,939.69
<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
Kirby-Smith Associates, Inc.	\$0.00	\$23,006.82
Capital Campaign Kick-off Expenses	0.00	2,635.39
PAS (Architect)	0.00	6,000.00
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	\$31,642.21
Balance:		\$155,297.48

SAINT NICHOLAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet Statement

Month Ending: December 31, 2004

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	Prior Year Bal. Forward	Curr. Month Income	Curr. Month Expense	Year To Date Income	Year To Date Expense	Balance
ASSETS:						
Cash Assets:						
Operating Funds	\$18,388.06	\$33,838.06	\$31,985.37	\$364,024.52	\$352,606.06	\$29,806.52
Designated Funds	87,335.77	30,197.25	10,201.34	183,000.12	85,453.35	184,882.54
Total Cash	\$105,723.83	\$64,035.31	\$42,186.71	\$547,024.64	\$438,059.41	\$214,689.06
Other Assets:						
Furnishings (Insurance Value)						\$125,000.00
Lawn Tractor (Original cost = \$6,300.00)						3,500.00
Storage Shed (Cost Value)						2,000.00
Church Property (Cost Value)						125,000.00
Church Building (Insurance Value)						979,500.00
Total Other Assets						\$1,235,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS						\$1,449,689.06
LIABILITIES:						
						Property and Construction Loan
						\$635,885.62
EQUITY:						
						Total Assets Less Total Liabilities
						\$813,803.44

TOTAL BANK ACCOUNT(S) RECONCILIATION:

1 Mercantile Southern Maryland	
Bank Checking Account	\$6,302.84
2 Mission Investment Fund	<u>208,386.22</u>
Total Cash in Banks:	\$214,689.06

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard F. West

Treasurer
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church



Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Financial Secretary's Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004

Two events had a major impact on income received by Saint Nicholas in 2004. The first event was a recommendation by the Social Concerns Ministry (accepted by the church council) that receipts from the Lent, Easter, and Thanksgiving offerings go into the general fund instead of being designated solely for Social Concerns use. This increased the member giving receipts from which the Social Concerns Ministry received 6% of all receipts for distribution in 2004. The second event was the start of the Building on Faith capital campaign. The amount raised in 2004 for the future construction of the North Wing dramatically increased the 2004 total receipts.

Despite the addition of the Lent, Easter, and Thanksgiving offerings to the general fund, receipts for the general fund were above the monthly budget for just three months - April, September, and December. General fund receipts for the entire year finished about \$11,800 below the 2004 budget. Receipts from all offering envelopes, cash/checks from the offering plate, and electronic funds transfers totaled about \$351,705 in 2004. Income from other sources such as grants, building use, the outdoor center, and bank account interest totaled about \$12,250. Building fund receipts from all sources (capital campaign, bake sale, Fall Festival, bank account interest, and various other contributions) totaled more than \$126,150 this year. In addition, the congregation responded generously to special needs and requests, contributing more than \$48,300 in designated gifts. Total receipts from all sources in 2004 totaled nearly \$538,500, an incredible \$124,800 increase over 2003's receipts.

Calendar year 2005 starts with a proposed total budget of \$397,050. This proposed budget increase of approximately \$21,240 over the 2004 budget is the smallest annual budget increase in many years. We expect the Saint Nicholas community to raise \$390,700 of the total budget. We have budgeted \$800 to be raised from building use donations, \$1,200 from bank account interest, and \$4,350 from various outdoor center activities. Because of the growth in the congregation in 2004 and the effort to keep the 2005 budget increase to a minimum, the average amount needed from each family and adult individual in the congregation is still \$40 per week. We are very grateful for any increased support from each family and adult individual because 3/4 of the congregation contributed \$40 per week or less in 2004. With the expected continued growth in the congregation and with the continuing support from the current members, we can meet the combined challenge of the 2005 budget and the capital campaign.

Finally, I want to publicly thank everybody who helps make my job easier. First, a big thank you to all who volunteer to count the offering each Sunday. Second, I must thank Jim & Julina Liefer for picking up the bank deposit bags and bringing them back to church every week. Lastly, thank you to Dick West for working with me to ensure our reports are in sync month after month. I am very grateful to each of you for your help and look forward to continuing to work with each of you in 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Blatt
Financial Secretary
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

SAINT NICHOLAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2004 FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANNUAL REPORT

Receipts by Month and Type of Receipt

<u>Month</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Designated Receipts</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	\$ 26,080.45	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,440.58	\$ 28,321.03
February	\$ 34,951.77	\$ 1,270.00	\$ 3,993.40	\$ 40,215.17
March	\$ 25,853.82	\$ 1,130.00	\$ 5,074.48	\$ 32,058.30
April	\$ 32,545.98	\$ 2,070.00	\$ 2,920.68	\$ 37,536.66
May	\$ 33,875.48	\$ 4,105.00	\$ 3,370.00	\$ 41,350.48
June	\$ 26,682.91	\$ 7,639.71	\$ 2,625.77	\$ 36,948.39
July	\$ 26,500.47	\$ 25,079.75	\$ 5,899.06	\$ 57,479.28
August	\$ 32,301.01	\$ 24,344.92	\$ 3,332.36	\$ 59,978.29
September	\$ 29,117.94	\$ 9,794.10	\$ 1,692.67	\$ 40,604.71
October	\$ 33,809.46	\$ 18,908.43	\$ 5,837.71	\$ 58,555.60
November	\$ 28,467.17	\$ 9,361.39	\$ 3,701.26	\$ 41,529.82
December	<u>\$ 33,838.06</u>	<u>\$ 21,654.59</u>	<u>\$ 8,428.40</u>	<u>\$ 63,921.05</u>
Total	\$ 364,024.52	\$ 126,157.89	\$ 48,316.37	\$ 538,498.78

SAINT NICHOLAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2004 FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANNUAL REPORT

Designated Receipts

	2004 Income	Internal Transfers	Total Income plus Transfers
Ministry of Social Concerns			
Barstow Acres	\$ 121.00	\$.00	\$ 121.00
CCCFP Food Baskets	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,790.00
Donation for Stergiou Family	\$ 25.00	\$.00	\$ 25.00
Gifts of Hope	\$ 2,752.00	\$.00	\$ 2,752.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 180.00	\$.00	\$ 180.00
Holiday Turkeys	\$ 96.00	\$.00	\$ 96.00
Hurricane Charley Relief Fund	\$ 580.00	\$.00	\$ 580.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 150.00	\$.00	\$ 150.00
Pennies for Potatoes (VBS service project)	\$ 343.56	\$.00	\$ 343.56
Project Comfort	\$ 80.00	\$.00	\$ 80.00
Project ECHO	\$ 337.65	\$.00	\$ 337.65
Social Ministry Emergency Fund	\$.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 236.98	\$.00	\$ 236.98
Southeast Hurricane Relief Fund	\$ 870.00	\$.00	\$ 870.00
Total	\$ 7,412.19	\$ 200.00	\$ 7,612.19
Ministry of Worship & Music			
Altar Flowers	\$ 752.00	\$ 76.28	\$ 828.28
Christmas Flowers	\$ 465.00	\$ 37.98	\$ 502.98
Easter Flowers	\$ 286.50	\$.00	\$ 286.50
Organ Fund	\$ 300.00	\$.00	\$ 300.00
Other Worship Related Items	\$ 50.00	\$.00	\$ 50.00
Paschal Candle & Stand	\$ 50.00	\$.00	\$ 50.00
Pentecost Flowers	\$ 157.00	\$.00	\$ 157.00
Total	\$ 2,060.50	\$ 114.26	\$ 2,174.76
Ministry of Education			
Book Fair	\$ 604.50	\$.00	\$ 604.50
Confirmation Resources	\$ 80.00	\$.00	\$ 80.00
eScrip Deposits	\$ 353.13	\$.00	\$ 353.13
Pastor's Bible Study	\$ 481.00	\$.00	\$ 481.00
Sunday School	\$ 434.96	\$.00	\$ 434.96
Vacation Bible School	\$ 1,590.00	\$.00	\$ 1,590.00
Workbooks	\$ 290.00	\$.00	\$ 290.00
Total	\$ 3,833.59	\$.00	\$ 3,833.59
Ministry of Evangelism & Outreach			
General Evangelism & Outreach	\$ 570.00	\$.00	\$ 570.00
Total	\$ 570.00	\$.00	\$ 570.00

	2004 Income	Internal Transfers	Total Income plus Transfers
Ministry of Youth & Family Life			
Chrysalis	\$ 370.00	\$.00	\$ 370.00
Coffee Project	\$ 4,371.95	\$.00	\$ 4,371.95
Confirmation Robes	\$ 108.00	\$.00	\$ 108.00
Cupid's Café - Regular	\$ 2,700.00	\$.00	\$ 2,700.00
Cupid's Café - Silent Auction	\$ 1,565.00	\$.00	\$ 1,565.00
Lutheran Magazine	\$ 240.00	\$.00	\$ 240.00
Men's Softball	\$ 355.00	\$.00	\$ 355.00
Movie Tickets	\$ 49.50	\$.00	\$ 49.50
National Youth Convention	\$.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Pancake Supper	\$ 15.00	\$.00	\$ 15.00
Shekinah	\$ 830.00	\$.00	\$ 830.00
Women of the ELCA	\$ 33.00	\$.00	\$ 33.00
Youth Leader	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>	<u>\$.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>
Total	\$ 14,137.45	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 15,137.45
Ministry of Stewardship			
Bishop's Fund for Stewardship Education	\$ 10.00	\$.00	\$ 10.00
Initial Envelopes	<u>\$ 427.00</u>	<u>\$.00</u>	<u>\$ 427.00</u>
Total	\$ 437.00	\$.00	\$ 437.00
Ministry of Administration / Miscellaneous			
Building Fund - Bake Sale	\$ 526.43	\$.00	\$ 526.43
Building Fund - Capital Campaign	\$ 111,821.97	\$.00	\$ 111,821.97
Building Fund - Fall Festival	\$ 4,520.41	\$.00	\$ 4,520.41
Building Fund - MIF Interest	\$ 978.37	\$.00	\$ 978.37
Building Fund - Pre Capital Campaign	\$ 8,310.71	\$.00	\$ 8,310.71
Car for Parishioner	\$ 1,745.00	\$.00	\$ 1,745.00
Church Van	\$ 500.00	\$.00	\$ 500.00
Gift for Vicar Jens	\$ 1,260.00	\$.00	\$ 1,260.00
Kickoff Event Flowers for Front Plaza	\$ 190.00	\$.00	\$ 190.00
Leadership Retreat	\$ 1,491.00	\$.00	\$ 1,491.00
Memorial - Viola Boland	\$ 50.00	\$.00	\$ 50.00
Memorial - Zoe Clark	\$ 25.00	\$.00	\$ 25.00
Memorial - Jessica Gelatka	\$ 3,731.00	\$.00	\$ 3,731.00
Memorial - Sarah Gray	\$ 100.00	\$.00	\$ 100.00
Modular Tax Refund	\$ 1,763.64	\$.00	\$ 1,763.64
Mortgage Principal Reduction	\$ 2,000.00	\$.00	\$ 2,000.00
Parking Lot Expansion	\$.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 325.00	\$ 470.22	\$ 795.22
Picture Directory	\$.00	\$ 141.38	\$ 141.38
Sabbatical Fund	\$.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Seminarian Fund	\$.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Staff Gifts	\$ 2,635.00	\$.00	\$ 2,635.00
Technology Upgrades (Other sources)	\$ 2,500.00	\$.00	\$ 2,500.00
Technology Upgrades (Trinity Church)	<u>\$ 1,550.00</u>	<u>\$.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,550.00</u>
Total	\$ 146,023.53	\$ 7,211.60	\$ 153,235.13
Total Designated Receipts	\$ 174,474.26	\$ 8,525.86	\$ 183,000.12

Thomas L. Blatt
Financial Secretary
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Volunteer Ministry

There have been many changes within the Volunteer Ministry in 2004. First is the appointment of a new coordinator. I took over from Karen Phelps in October of this year.

Prior to my role as the CVM, Karen set forth the initiative to boost our volunteer participation and continue to gather gifts inventories. In the Spring, she posted a banner in the church which read "Have a Passion for Volunteering". Furthermore, to reinforce the impact of the Call to Service, Calls Answered were also published. This is a listing of volunteer positions that have been filled by members of the congregation. There is also much to celebrate in the regular scheduling for services and the ease with which special volunteers are found in our congregation!

During the month of September, Karen, Pastor Casto and I worked together to ensure for a smooth transition as I began to take on the role as the CVM. We addressed methods that were working well, those that needed revising, and those that were no longer functional. Furthermore, we began to formulate goals for my tenure as the CVM, stated below:

- 100% of the congregation accounted for in the CVM database
- Revise the Gifts and Talents Inventory to more accurately reflect the needs of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
- Establish a Volunteer Information Center where parishioners can locate information on volunteer opportunities
- Work with Ministry sponsors and Council Members to determine the future direction of the Volunteer Ministry and the CVM position
- Fill vacant volunteer position with in the congregation

Several of these goals are progressing nicely. Specifically, the Gifts and Talents Inventory has been revised and is working its way through the approval process. Once complete, I will begin our campaign for 100% accountability of parishioners in the CVM database. Also, I have been working with other ministry sponsors and council members to fill vacancies as needed, providing names of individuals that have expressed interest in fulfilling church duties. I also provide the Call to Service insert once a month in the church bulletin, and list vacancies in the newsletter. The remainder of my time has been spent scheduling individuals for weekly service.

As the new year begins, I look forward to learning more about the gifts of the talented individuals that call Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church their home and working to achieve my outlined goals.

Respectfully Submitted

Alison Banhalzer

Coordinator of Volunteer Ministry



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Ministry of Administration

Audit Team

The Audit Team concluded their annual review of church documents and records. The Team found the financial records of the congregation in very good order. Recommendations were presented to the church Council for consideration.

Building Team

In 2004 the building team managed the maintenance and cleaning of our existing building. In June, we met with ELCA Mission Investment Fund Representatives to discuss refinancing the existing building loan, which was finalized in November, and our preliminary application for a North Wing loan. We continued discussions with the ministry teams on the overall building needs including space requirements for the North Wing. Support was provided to the Capital Campaign team. This fall we worked on the hiring of Mike Pellegrino for the design of the North Wing and had him update the design drawings and cost estimates for the Congregation discussion scheduled for January 2005.

Lawn & Garden Club

The Team continued to meet on a regular basis and maintained our beautiful property, as a model to the community.

Communication Team

This Team continues to share with our community the many activities and Ministries conducted at Saint Nicholas, which benefits our neighbors. We continue our goal of proclaiming Christ in Calvert County and acquainting our community with Saint Nicholas and its ministries. A giant gain this year has been the redesign of our Website, which is truly a rich resource of information and activity for our members and our visitors. We continue to communicate all our programs in the local newspapers through ads, press releases, and announcements in community calendars. In addition to local media, Saint Nicholas ministries received coverage in the Synod Newsletter and in the national ELCA publication. *The Lutheran*, during the year.

Constitution and By-laws

This Team presented to the Council a revised constitution and by-laws recommendation, which brings the Saint Nicholas constitution in line with the changes in the ELCA, model constitution. The congregation accepted the proposed changes, with minor modification. The new constitution and by-laws are adopted to be in effect in 2005.

Technology Team

Thanks to new leadership in this area, we have a new wonderful web site and have upgraded computer technology. We now have high-speed Internet access and continue to improve in technology hardware and software. Improved technology has significantly helped staff efficiency and eased administrative workload.

Over →

Finance/Budget Team

This Team provided monthly reporting to church Council and the congregation on the 2004 operating budget results. It worked closely with ministry sponsors in the development of the 2005 proposed budget.

Newsletter Team

This active team produced our “award-winning” monthly newsletter.

Parochial Report Team

This Team produced the report that detailed the 2004 statistical information about the congregation (e.g., new members, Sunday School attendance, worship attendance) that is forwarded both to the local Synod office and church-wide office in Chicago.

R.J. (Ray) Nieves



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004

Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

Ministry of Christian Education

The past year has been a strong one for Christian Education at Saint Nicholas, despite the challenges of space shortage. In the spirit of the ELCA education theme for 2004/05, we moved forward to **ProCLAIM the Story**, and with God's help and the flexibility of teachers and students, we have remained faithful to our mission.

In the Sunday School children/youth program, we have a faculty of over thirty teachers and resource volunteers whose faithful commitment is making a difference. We salute this year's teachers June Roscoe, Jill Cunningham, Kelly Hance, Kathy Dickinson, Lisa Arnesen, Kristee Camiletti, Carol Blatt, Susan Groff, Michelle Murphy, Rob Frick, Sherry Owens, Laura Greco, Kris Wood, Erika Demme, Mary Butz, Paul Butz, Ann Scopel, Colleen Hyland, Vicki Williams, Bob Finlayson, Jack Carroll, Jenna Carroll, David Hickin, Kim Regner, Debbie Bang, Larry Smith, Christy Lewis, Jonathan Wolf, Sandy Griese, and Sarah Kolbe. This team is led by our new Sunday School Coordinator, Anna Kitzmiller, who has done a superb job. Thank you, one and all.

Adult Christian Education programs included:

- The Sunday Exchange, ongoing throughout the year.
- "I Can't Hear You," forum on maintaining parent/child communication through the adolescent years with guests presenters
- ADD/ADHD series, *Marching to the Beat of a Different Drum*
- *How Shall I Live Knowing that I Will Die* (Lenten series), with follow-up presentation on funeral prearrangements by Mike Lee, local funeral director
- Forum with Lutheran World Relief speakers focusing on the Equal Exchange Coffee/Chocolate project
- Year-long study Wednesday Night soup and study, *Exploring the New Testament* (03/04) and *The Book of Romans* (04/05)
- Self-Protection and Awareness for Women, two-session series
- *Bad Girls of the Bible*, 10-session study
- Tuesday morning Bible Study, and Thursday morning alternative study and worship at senior centers in Solomons
- *Sermon on the Mount*, 10-session study

We appreciate the time and talents of adult education leaders Geneva Wallace, Ann Wolfgang, Glenn Wolfgang, Jean Smetana, Sally Brown, Donna Neri, Pastor Randy, Ray and Carolyn Nieves, and Vicar Patti.

The Ministry of Christian Education sponsored or assisted with several special projects including:

- Christian Book Fair, which grossed \$615.50 and netted \$246.20 for education ministries. Thank you to all who participated, and special thanks to Sharon LeBrun for coordinating.
- Our congregation purchased more than \$3,000 in coffee and related items through the Equal Exchange Program of Lutheran World Relief. These purchases provide funds for improving the lives of impoverished coffee and cocoa bean farmers in third world countries. Special thanks to Dianne Gyorgy and Tricia Casto.
- The third annual February youth fundraiser, Cupid's Café, that raised more than \$4,000 for four local charities. Special thanks to Tricia Casto, Saint Nicholas middle school youth, SHY, fifth-grade youth, and the entire parent support team.

Confirmation ministry was proud to present ten students for Affirmation of Baptism, including Erin Brown, Michael Brown, Kevin Custer, Joe Finlayson, Lauren Groff, Shaylyn Leary, Katie Moser, Jennifer Smetana, Ashley Taylor, and Jacquelyn Taylor. Fourteen students attended the Synod's Shekinah Retreat in March. As of September, there are 40 students in all three classes. Special thanks to Confirmation teachers Pastor Randy, Vicar Jens Bargmann, and Barbara Harris (Jan. to May) and to Pastor Randy, Vicar Patti, and Jonathan Wolf (September to December).

Gratitude and kudos to Director Julie Fowler and her excellent VBS team for another fine week of Vacation Bible School in July. We welcomed more than 100 children in a strong, concentrated week of learning and fun.

And a final thanks reserved for all our Saint Nicholas members, who sustain with budget funding and with attendance, the strong life-long spiritual growth program that we embrace at Saint Nicholas. Together we are partners in ProCLAIMing the Story. I am grateful and privileged to have the opportunity to serve as your Director of Christian Education. Thank you!

Kay Aronhalt



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Ministry of Evangelism & Outreach

Mission Statement

To commit ourselves to sharing the Good News, to nurturing others to do the same, to showing that God's house at Saint Nicholas is a warm, safe, and secure place where all may grow in their faith life with Christ.

Saint Nicholas continues to grow, thanks be to God! We build on our faith, personally and as a congregation. And as that faith grows, so grow our ministries. We are blessed with such variety and depth in the gifts and graces of our members that our ministries continue to expand and reach out in many different directions, not just in evangelism and outreach, but across all ministry areas. Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents within the church and throughout our community. You make it happen! Thank you for your commitment. There is no greater gift than sharing God's love with others...our children, our spouse, our neighbor. Your sister in Christ, Bonnie Stump </>

In addition to the activities of the Outdoor Center, reported elsewhere, team members participated behind the scenes or directly in the following ministries this year.

- ☺ Bring a Friend and your Family to Breakfast . Team leader, Norm Griese.
Norm and his team served up breakfast on four different occasions. Breakfast is served from 8:00 – 9:00 am. Attendance at this unique Saint Nicholas ministry continues to grow. It is a great time of food and fellowship!
- ☺ Door hanging. Team leader, Bonnie Stump.
This year saw quarterly door hanging events. Twice we prepared in-house custom door hangers to be distributed in nearby neighborhoods, and we used purchased door hangers the other two times. Over 20 members, from age 2 to 60+, participated in this fun and fulfilling ministry. A very special partnering with the Ministry of Worship and Music provided “thanksgiving carols” for the final door hanging of the year heralding fellowship and worship opportunities for Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is our hope that this “first” will become a Saint Nicholas tradition. Door hangers are distributed to announce activities and worship times for Easter, the Outdoor Center season, Christian Education and rally day, and Christmas.
- ☺ Greeters
We continue to be a very welcoming congregation. On Sunday mornings you will find a friendly face greeting you upon your arrival with a word of welcome, a hand shake or a hug. What better way to enter the Lord's house!
- ☺ Nursery. Team leader, Amare Merz.
On Sunday mornings, during worship times, our infants and toddlers are lovingly cared for by your sisters and brothers in Christ. This co-op style nursery looks to the parents who use the nursery to share equally in this ministry. There are also many members who volunteer to watch our darlings, even though they no longer have children using the nursery. This ministry gives parents the opportunity to participate fully in worshiping our Lord, without distraction. What a blessing!
- ☺ Prospective members. Team leader, Karen Phelps.
Extending the hand of friendship to visitors after worship and beyond is the focus of this ministry. A special greeting with some “take home” goodies at the end of the service, a welcome note in the mail, etc., are just additional ways members at Saint Nicholas share God's love.
- ☺ Ministries in transition.
Three fledgling ministries in varying stages of growth, infant day care (team leader, Kim Reed), coffee house, and comedy club, are impacted directly by our space crunch. Pray for these ministries. Learn more about them. Could this be the ministry that you are being called to?



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004

Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

Ministry of the Outdoor Center

Coming into the 2004 Outdoor center season I was filled with anticipation because I had added numerous new programs and events, and made major changes to the SNORK program curriculum. I was hoping my excitement along with some of the changes would generate a buzz throughout the congregation and community, praying this would be a banner year for the Outdoor Center. The S.N.O.R.K. curriculum added many more hands-on activities, experiments and games, songs and cooking. It was a huge success, with the kids asking for more and the parents trying to accommodate their requests as their summer calendars permitted. A total of 42 children attended S.N.O.R.K., one more child than last year. 42 children is a fantastic number when you consider we were unable to send home our usual S.N.O.R.K. advertisement flyers thru every first thru fourth grader in the Calvert County school system (*we drew much of our past registration from these flyers*). We have done this routinely every year since starting the S.N.O.R.K. program, however, this year our request met with a denial by the Board of Education stating too much junk mail is going home with the children. I might have agreed with this had I not later collected flyers for football sign ups and fun fairs at a local church. The Board of Education even sent home a summer outlook magazine stressing the importance of reading over the summer and how to promote the love of reading in your child. 2005 will find me meeting with Dr. Marlett, rather than sending over a fax.

Ice Cream and Movie Night was held the first Friday of the month beginning in May, with the last show in September.

The **Harry Potter birthday party** in July was a success with 22 children in attendance and at least 20 additional people on hand to help. Income earned from this event was \$105. A future party has been scheduled for July 2005

Our first annual **craft fair** exceeded my expectations. There was a steady stream of people all afternoon. \$526 was earned from the bake sale and snacks that were on hand. This was donated to the building fund, with an additional \$455 donated from the crafters registration fees being deposited into the Outdoor Center account. A future craft fair has been scheduled in October 2005

The **Fall Festival** continues to be a hit with the members of the church and community. \$440 was received through free will offering with an additional \$4000 plus being earned through the generosity of everyone bidding on baskets and other items at the silent auction. All the income earned from this activity went to the building fund.

Other new programs that were on a smaller scale, yet still saw an amazing turnout, were: our first **Blessing of the Animals** led by Vicar Patti with 39 humans on hand, 16 dogs, 2 cats, and 4 guinea pigs; **National Night Out** led by Vicar Jens in partnership with our youth; **Bite Size Science** for children ages 5 thru 7 which met 3 times over the summer with an average of 4 children at each event. At the bite size science sessions the kids learned about dinosaurs, insects, and plants, thru experiments, art and games. This is an excellent lead up to the S.N.O.R.K. program. These are definitely programs that with nurturing and advertising can grow into another feather in the Outdoor Centers cap and in return, assets to SNLC.

The first **Outdoor Center Open House** was attended by 15 people. (This low attendance will hopefully be rectified as we will not schedule the open house on Mother's Day. EEK!) Those in attendance painted clay pots for their mother's and received seated massages in the meditation garden.

My enthusiasm and expectations for the Outdoor Center continue to grow each year. I am very proud of what the Outdoor Center has become and the positive direction it continues to expand in each year. I never get tired of spreading the word about our glorious property. I look forward in the future working on a program with the Calvert County Library, as well as the Literacy council and the Girl Scout Council in our area.

Thanks to all the volunteer teachers, leaders, helpers, and grounds-keepers for making this all possible.

Kim Colleli



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Ministry of Social Concerns

to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up
(Ephesians 4:12).

Natural disasters- the tsunami in South Asia and series of hurricanes in the southern U.S.- grabbed attention for special funds to aid recovery efforts. However, most of our social concerns projects benefit families in situations that could happen to any of us.

It is a blessing to see increasing numbers of members participating in various projects, from Gifts of Hope to Cupid's Cafe to contributing to the food pantry. Our goal is to continue to present opportunities for "works of service", so all may use their gifts to build the body of Christ.

Special thanks to the many people who organize our on-going projects: Theresa Custer and Carole Haas for Project ECHO meals, John Hofmann and Bob Neri for Christmas in April, Kathy and Andreas Dangin for Relay for Life and Souper Bowl, Diane Gyorgy for Fair Trade Coffee, Gus Wolf and Tricia Casto for work on several projects.

Listed below are the projects that Saint Nicholas has supported this year with benevolence donations or material goods. Many thanks for sharing your blessings.

Hurricane relief for Florida	Friends of Gettysburg Seminary
Lutheran World Relief- Sudan, Haiti	Special Needs Retirement Fund
CCCCFP (food pantry)	ELCA benevolence
Habitat for Humanity	Gifts of Hope
Project ECHO	TRIAD House
Eric & Cara Thorn Mem. Scholarship	Thanksgiving food baskets
Safe Harbor	Lutheran Campus Ministry (U of MD)
VBS – Pennies for Potatoes	Maryland Food Bank
Lutheran Social Services	Iglesia Lutherana Santa Maria
Christmas in April	Project Comfort
Barstow Acres	Fuel Fund
Fellowship Square	
Global Mission (support Kim Erno)	Material Items
Rafael Nieves Heart Foundation	Meals for Project ECHO
Latino Ministry Project	Canned goods for food pantry
Navajo Lutheran Mission	Coats for Kids
Community of St. Dymas	School Supplies
Calvert Co. Literacy Council	Gifts for Tree of Angels/TRIAD
Lions Camp Merrick	Personal hygiene & cleaning supplies

Carol Blatt



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Ministry of Stewardship

Stewardship Starts at the Cross and Touches the Heart

*The goal of the Stewardship ministry is to uplift stewardship as a way of life, a way of viewing all that we are and all that we have as gifts from God to be used for God's glory and the service of others. The objective is to educate, inspire and motivate the congregation with the understanding that stewardship is about God, and **managing** all that we have: time, talent, and treasures; God's gifts to each of us, individually.*

Stewardship served on the steering committee for the "Building on Faith" campaign. Several stewardship events were held in conjunction with this campaign.

- May 2nd – I held an adult forum to uplift stewardship as a way of life through keeping our lives Christ centered. Kim Berche gave witness to stewardship in her life. Thank you to Kim for sharing her story. The forum was attended by approximately 15 adults, and conducted during the Sunday School hour.
- May 9th – Gus Wolf offered "Temple Talk" just prior to the start of each service uplifting stewardship. This message gave witness to the joy of using our gifts in service to each other and the community.
- May 16th – Bob Finlayson conducted an adult stewardship forum which was attended by approximately 15 adults and middle school youths. The session was conducted during the Sunday School hour. The forum was centered in the theme that God owns everything. He distributes the wealth according to His pleasure. We as servants must recognize this and let go of what we "think" belongs to us.
- May 23rd – The Youth did a skit during the 9:00am and 11:00am worship services to uplift stewardship. Thank you Alicia Landale and Andre Dangan for leading this effort.
- October 10th - Bob Finlayson gave witness in a Temple Talk prior to the start of each worship service. Bob encouraged the congregation to support Operation Christmas Child through the donation of shoe boxes, toys and other articles for children, and through prayer. The campaign was successful and 40 shoeboxes were sent to needy children around the world.

I thank God for the efforts of Gus Wolf and Bob Finlayson as they continue to share their message of God's gracious love on behalf of the stewardship ministry. I would like to thank Alicia Landale for all of her work during the "Building on Faith" campaign.

Members are reminded that their contributions to the campaign may be made through the "Simply Giving" electronic transfer. This easy method is available to everyone, at any time, by filling out the form found in the narthex, and giving it to Tom Blatt, or putting it in the offering plate. This method is an easy and efficient alternate way of making contribution for both the regular and building funds.

I would like to thank Karen Phelps for her efforts as Coordinator of Volunteer Ministry. This position is essential to the integration of new members into our community at Saint Nicholas. Karen has worked diligently to match member interests and skills with the needs of the church. Karen, thank you for the grace that you brought to this ministry.

Welcome to Ally Banholzer, who has responded to the call to give her talents to serve as our new Coordinator of Volunteer Ministry. Thank you, Ally, for responding as God calls you to this wonderful ministry.

Receive God's gifts, ***Reflect*** on our many blessings, ***Rejoice*** in the opportunity to serve God and others, and ***Respond*** with a grateful heart. *Stewardship – a faith practice. Giving – a part of discipleship.*

Debbie Bang



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004

Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

Ministry of Youth and Family Life

During the past year the teams on this ministry have undergone several changes. We continue to strive to live out our mission to nurture the youth, equip families, and strengthen fellowship for service to our Lord. I appreciate the guidance and patience of Catherine Raines as she helped me through my first year as ministry co-sponsor. We have had Jonathan Wolf step up to be the Youth Leader, grades 6-12, and appreciate all that he is doing. Many thanks to all whom have been involved during the past year on these teams. Below you will find a summary of what has been happening with the Youth and Family Life teams during 2004.

Adult's Night Out Team – Pat Hoffman, Team Leader

This team has open invitations for people to meet at area restaurants several times a year. They have had about six outings this year with an average of 12 - 16 people attending.

Care Package Team – Kathy and Andreas Dangin, Team Leaders

Kathy e-mails church members who are away at college to let them know that their Saint Nicholas family is thinking of them.

Greeting Card Team – Mary Butz, Team Leader

Mary sends out hand made birthday, sympathy, congratulation and anniversary cards to our congregation throughout the year.

Hospitality Team – Maggie Tavares, Team Leader

Under the leadership of Maggie this team provides refreshments for our social needs including the Easter reception, Shrove Tuesday, confirmands and Pentecost Sunday receptions and the Vicars coming and leaving receptions. Sub teams include:

Care Meal Group- Amare Merz, Team Leader – This group has provided about 25 meals to those in need during the past year.

Kitchen Management Group – Norm Griese, Team Leader – Norm reports that things are going well in the kitchen but noted that it would be helpful to have someone come in once a week to run the dishwasher and do an all around wipe-down of the kitchen.

Sunday Morning Hospitality Group – John and Pat Hoffman, Team Leaders – In order to promote increased fellowship between services this team has provided food and drink for all to partake in. John comes on Saturday evenings to set up the coffee maker. For those who drink coffee – thank you John!

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Team – Kim and David Berche, Team Leaders – David noted that there has been some interest in this but that because of time and parenting constraints no one has been able to attend these meetings this year.

Men's Softball Team – Tom Blatt, Team Leader – This team continues to have lots of fun together playing against other area churches.

Youth Fellowship Coordinator – Team leader position is open. We thank Amy Atkinson for being the team leader and organizing/overseeing youth events for our 5th grade and younger church members. An Easter egg hunt was especially enjoyed by all!



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church
Youth Leader, Grades 6-12

While we've only had a half year with which to work, the 6-12th grade group has been working to make the best of it. We began with a collection of all emails from parents and children in the grades. In order to have a successful fall semester, we held four meetings (two for MSY*, two for SHY*) during the summer. These meetings were sparsely attended but we gathered many ideas. We had a larger meeting in September, the Fall Family Planning Meeting. In this meeting we developed and discussed ideas for both that semester and the upcoming Spring/Summer semester.

Apart from the meetings, we had many events for both MSY and SHY. In terms of regular events, MSY has been continuing Confirmation as usual. Vicar Patti and I have been teaching the 6th and 7th grades, in conjunction with Pastor Randy teaching the 8th graders. The Vicar and I with (Kay's help) have been able to develop great events spanning from a Trial for Adam and Eve to a Jonah Veggie Tale. We've been doing well with attendance, and hope the trend continues to increase.

The MSY has also had several events they have participated in. Of most note is the MSY Dance held on November 5th. We had well over 30 kids attend, with roughly 35% of the attendant youth being non-members (the goal for the dance was to reach out to the middle school community, so job well done to the coordinator Sheila Taylor!). We also raised \$50 via a donation basket for Project Echo. In addition to this highlight event (which we hope to repeat in late Spring), we've had a successful trip to visit the elderly at the Hermitage, a social outing to the Night Hawk Golf Center, and the annual Confirmation Christmas Caroling.

In terms of regular events for SHY, we have seen steady attendance in both Sunday School and the semi-new SHY group nights. This school year, our DCE decided to separate SHY into 9/10th grades (taught by Debbie Bang) and 11/12th grades (taught by Christy Lewis and me). Both classes have been using different curriculum selected for the aim of each age group, and both groups have been using the time well. SHY group nights, on Sunday nights from 5-6:30, have also been very popular with the attendees. So far we've discussed a variety of topics, from modern media, to the Muslim faith tradition, to most recently, watching the secular Christmas movie "Scrooged".

In terms of other events, the SHY group has had a rough time of it. Two of our events were cancelled due to more serious events, in one case a pending hurricane, and in the other, the tragic loss of Jessica Gelatka. However, we've still been able to pull together and bond over events such as a Highway Cleanup, a Lock-in, the Metro/DC Synod's Chrysalis retreat, and a Living Christmas Tree play. All of these events were well-received and we hope to continue to participate in these and other similar events in the near future.

While we've faced many setbacks, the MSY/SHY groups continue to try and increase the numbers of active youth by providing a varied and worthwhile set of events for all. Hopefully we have begun the journey to bring the church life to the top of the youth's priority list in their life. God bless in the new year.

Soli Deo gloria,

Jonathan Wolf

*MSY – Middle School Youth

*SHY – Senior High Youth



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2004

Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

Ministry of Worship and Music

A priority for 2003 was to improve maintenance of the piano and organ, and we found in 2004 that those efforts paid off, with the piano holding its tune much better and those sitting near the sunny windows being more comfortable.

Due to the closing of Redeemer in Deale, MD, we obtained extra copies of LBW and WOV hymnals, so that we didn't have to purchase more. The organ they offered us, however, would have needed extensive repairs and would not be sufficiently better than the one we have now.

All three services show growth in attendance. The chancel choir has used all the robes it has and looks forward to purchasing more in 2005.

New special services were added with National Night Out, the Blessing of the Animals, Affirmation of Wedding Vows, and the reintroduction of the Chicago Folk Service to the 9 AM service.

Once again we celebrated the Easter Vigil with St. Paul's Episcopal and Thanksgiving Eve with St. Paul's and All Saints Episcopal churches.

The choristers (singers from all services) presented the John Ferguson Passion of St. John on Good Friday and "Starlight and Snowflakes" on December 19, the latter being so successful that it began snowing during the performance.

We are still dealing with the problem of some of those assigned not showing up as scheduled for worship duties.

Special thanks go to Val Schlickbernd for accompanying the choristers outside her regular position as one of the accompanists for the 9 AM service, and special thanks to Ann Wolfgang for volunteering her time to play for the Mostly Spoken Traditional Service.

A new Worship Matters team has been created to do broad planning on worship matters for all services.

In October, co-sponsor Barb Smith resigned her duties. We are still looking for a team leader for Sing and Rejoice, with an excellent prospect (Bonnie McKnew) still a possibility. We trust that in God's time the right people for these two positions will be revealed to us.

Jean Wolf

SAINT NICHOLAS LUTHERAN CHURCH - PROPOSED 2005 BUDGET

(Salary Increases @ 3.0%)					
	Actual	Total			Proposed
INCOME:	Thru 12/31/04	Budget for 2004			2005 Budget
Regular Offering	\$351,767.02	\$360,963.00			\$390,700.00
Director of Christian Education Grant	7,000.00	7,000.00			0.00
Outdoor Center - SNORK	2,829.50	5,150.00			3,600.00
Outdoor Center - Miscellaneous Programs	98.00	1,000.00			750.00
Building Use	1,130.00	500.00			800.00
Interest - Mission Investment Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00			1,200.00
TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$364,024.52	\$375,813.00			\$397,050.00
			2004 Budget		2005 Budget
			Category		Category
EXPENSES:			Sub-Totals		Sub-Totals
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CONCERNS		(6%-2004)	\$21,375.00	(7%-2005)	\$27,350.00
01.1 ELCA Benevolence	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00		\$11,500.00	
01.4 CCCFP (food pantry)	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	
01.8 Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,900.00	1,900.00		1,500.00	
01.9 Outreach:		6,975.00		12,850.00	
01.9a Local Outreach	3,600.00	Included Above			
01.9b Regional Outreach	2,480.00	Included Above			
01.9c World Outreach	620.00	Included Above			
MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC			\$24,653.00		\$24,690.00
02.1 Chancel Choir Director - Trad. Serv. - Jean	5,783.00	5,783.00		5,956.00	
02.2 Organist - Traditional Service - Sandy	2,835.00	2,835.00		2,920.00	
02.3 Organist - Traditional Service - Val	2,835.00	2,835.00		2,920.00	
02.3a Accompanist - Trad. Service Rehearsals	630.00	800.00		800.00	
02.4 Sing & Rejoice Group Director	0.00	4,800.00		4,944.00	
02.5 Supply Ministers (\$225 x 6)	450.00	1,350.00		900.00	
02.6 Chancel Choir	1,751.18	1,500.00		1,500.00	
02.7 Bulletins/Supplies	898.95	1,000.00		1,000.00	
02.8 Altar Supply	572.88	750.00		750.00	
02.9 Sing & Rejoice Worship	275.92	1,000.00		1,000.00	
02.10 Copyrights	264.00	500.00		500.00	
02.11 Other Worship	676.75	500.00		500.00	
02.12 Music Conferences	50.00	500.00		500.00	
02.13 Piano Tuning/Organ Maintenance	100.00	500.00		500.00	
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION			\$24,114.00		\$27,982.00
03.1 Director of Christian Education - Kay	17,264.00	17,264.00		17,782.00	
03.2 Adult Ministry	1,001.78	1,000.00		1,000.00	
03.3 Sunday Church School Curriculum	3,303.83	2,500.00		3,500.00	
03.4 Vacation Bible School	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	
03.5 Staff Continuing Education	0.00	100.00		300.00	
03.6 Sunday School General Fund	1,135.18	750.00		500.00	
03.6a Rally Weekend	N/A	N/A		800.00	
03.7 Confirmation	583.70	500.00		600.00	
03.7a Confirmation Food	N/A	N/A		1,500.00	
03.8 Education Material	736.83	500.00		500.00	
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE			\$7,025.00		\$13,301.00
04.1a Youth Leader	N/A	N/A		6,026.00	
04.1 National Youth Convention	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	
04.2 Confirmation Retreats	930.00	1,000.00		1,200.00	
04.3 Chrysalis Retreat	660.00	375.00		500.00	
04.4 Work Camps/Other	50.00	500.00		500.00	
04.5 General Activities Support	0.00	350.00		500.00	
04.6 Fellowship:					
04.6a Youth Fellowship	415.60	300.00		400.00	
04.6b Adult Fellowship	353.36	300.00		300.00	
04.6c Family Fellowship	376.59	300.00		250.00	

			2004 Budget		2005 Budget
	Actual	Total	Category		Proposed
	Thru 12/31/04	Budget for 2004	Sub-Totals		2005 Budget
					Sub-Totals
04.7 The Lutheran/Christ in our Home	1,378.67	1,250.00			1,250.00
04.8 Special Fellowship	67.03	500.00			250.00
04.9 Summer Camp Subsidy (Mar-Lu-Ridge)	200.00	0.00			300.00
04.10 Small Group Ministry	0.00	150.00			0.00
04.11 Stephen Ministry	0.00	1,000.00			500.00
04.12 Hospitality	N/A	N/A			300.00
04.13 Ready, Quick, Grow	N/A	N/A			25.00
MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH			\$9,800.00		\$9,175.00
05.1 Evangelism - Campaign	116.83	500.00			250.00
05.3 Evangelism - Bring a Friend to Breakfast	32.94	200.00			75.00
05.4 Outreach - Supplies/Materials Outdoor Cen	248.87	500.00			500.00
05.5 Outreach - Landscape/Construction	0.00	500.00			0.00
05.6 Outreach - Outdoor Center, Promotion	2,249.50	1,300.00			1,500.00
05.7 Outreach - Out. Cen - SNORK sup., mat.	2,406.05	2,500.00			2,000.00
05.8 Outreach - Out. Cen. - SNORK curriculum	439.12	500.00			150.00
05.9 Promotion - Newspapers	3,075.15	3,000.00			4,500.00
05.10 Promotion - Banners	210.00	300.00			0.00
05.11 Education/Training	0.00	500.00			200.00
MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP			\$1,750.00		\$2,350.00
06.2 Regular/Special Envelopes	757.47	750.00			750.00
06.3 New Member Classes & Receptions	459.34	300.00			400.00
06.5 Stewardship Materials	430.12	200.00			500.00
06.6 Stewardship Event	50.50	500.00			700.00
MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION					
Payroll Not Otherwise Classified:			32,551.00		\$31,498.00
07.1 Office Administrator - Melissa	11,553.12	13,287.00		See Note	11,900.00
07.2 Coordinator of Vol. Ministry - Karen/Alison	5,190.24	5,187.00			5,343.00
07.3 Director of the Outdoor Center - Kim	7,593.75	7,875.00			8,111.00
07.4 Payroll Taxes (.0765 x all gross salaries)	5,915.30	6,202.00			6,144.00
Pastor's Compensation:			75,500.00		\$77,765.00
07.8 Paid Directly (Sal, House, SS, Prof. Allow)	52,966.64	52,966.97			54,307.00
07.9 Board of Pensions (Pension, Medical for self & family, Disability & Admin. costs)	22,533.36	22,533.03			23,458.00
Pastor's Travel Reimbursement:			4,000.00		\$2,000.00
07.10 Paid Directly	2,095.78	4,000.00			2,000.00
Sabbatical Fund:			500.00		\$500.00
07.11 Paid to Designated Funds	500.00	500.00			500.00
Seminarian Fund:			100.00		\$100.00
07.12 Paid to Designated Funds	100.00	100.00			100.00
Intern (Vicar):			23,700.00		\$16,573.00
07.13 Paid Directly (Salary, Housing, etc.)	20,173.37	20,400.00		8 months	14,600.00
07.14 Travel Pool (\$400 annually)	400.00	400.00			400.00
07.15 Tuition (\$900 annually)	900.00	900.00			900.00
07.16 Student Seminary Insurance	250.00	1,000.00			0.00
07.17 Travel Reimbursement	475.12	1,000.00		8 months	673.00
Synod Assembly & Conferences:			2,335.00		\$2,585.00
07.18 Synod Assembly	795.00	850.00			900.00
07.19 Bishop's Convocation	0.00	300.00			300.00
07.20 Society of the Holy Trinity Gen. Conf.	225.00	250.00			250.00
07.21 Society of the Holy Trinity Pot./Md Conf.	0.00	160.00			160.00
07.22 Synod Conferences	0.00	100.00			100.00
07.23 Md. Conf. of the Metro D. C. Synod Sup.	0.00	75.00			75.00
07.24 Lay Leadership	0.00	300.00			300.00
07.25 Council Retreats	310.00	300.00			500.00
Office and Administration:			15,370.00		\$18,340.00
07.30 Office Equipment/Supplies	7,620.17	5,500.00			7,500.00
07.31 Copier Expense	4,022.69	3,800.00			4,000.00
07.32 Postage/Bulk Mail	2,489.05	1,700.00			1,800.00
07.33 Computer Support (So. Md. Internet)	249.45	300.00			0.00
07.33a Computer Training	N/A	N/A			250.00

			2004 Budget		2005 Budget
	Actual	Total	Category		Proposed
	Thru 12/31/04	Budget for 2004	Sub-Totals		2005 Budget
					Sub-Totals
07.34 Telephone	2,633.52	3,000.00			2,600.00
07.34a Comcast (High Speed Internet)	N/A	N/A			1,200.00
07.35 Pastor's Pager Service	138.60	150.00			150.00
07.36 Pastor's Cellular Phone Service	557.68	620.00			540.00
07.37 Other	261.70	300.00			300.00
Buildings and Property:			133,040.00		\$122,400.00
07.40 Utilities (gas and electric)	10,784.07	10,000.00			12,500.00
07.41 Building Maintenance	14,846.51	20,000.00			20,000.00
07.42 Mortgage Payments (P+I)	72,053.65	75,000.00			63,000.00
07.43 Insurance	4,582.00	4,000.00			5,000.00
07.44 Site Maintenance	3,758.47	4,500.00			5,000.00
07.45 Trailer Rental	14,476.68	17,040.00			14,400.00
07.46 Capital Projects	2,500.00	2,500.00			2,500.00
Call Committee Expenses:					\$1,000.00
07.50 Expenses Related to Calling Youth Pastor	N/A	N/A			1,000.00
Youth Pastor Expenses: Partial Year					
07.51 Paid Directly (Sal, House, SS, Prof. Allow)	N/A	N/A		3 months	13,576.00
07.52 Board of Pensions (Pension, Medical for self & family, Disability & Admin. costs)	N/A	N/A		3 months	5,865.00
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSE	\$352,606.06	\$375,813.00	\$375,813.00		\$397,050.00
					\$397,050.00