



# **St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church Annual Report to the Congregation for the year 2009**

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 24, 2010  
9:45 a.m.**

**St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 Wauwatosa Avenue  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213  
(414) 774-0441  
[www.stmattslutheran.org](http://www.stmattslutheran.org)**

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## ***Vision, Mission and Values Statements***

**Vision Statement:**

*(What we want to become)*

Guided by God's Spirit and Grace, we are a community of disciples growing in faith, hope and love in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Mission Statement:**

*(What we are going to do)*

Called to fulfill the Great Commission, St. Matthew's welcomes all to faith in Jesus Christ, nurtures our faith journey, equips us to serve others, and sends us into the world to make a difference in Jesus' name.

**Values:**

*(Who we want to be)*

We want to be people who grow in our Spiritual fruitfulness, which is shown through the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

Annual Reports to the Congregation for the Year of 2009  
St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 Wauwatosa Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 24, 2010, 9:45 a.m.

- I. Call to order - Karie Clement, President
- II. Devotions - Pastor Gary Erickson
- III. Opening Prayer - Pastor Chris Manke
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Introduction of Current Council Representatives
- VI. Appreciation of Church Council Representatives
- VII. Presentation of Proposed 2010 Budget - Rob Wedel & Kelly Kirtley
- VIII. Committee and other Miscellaneous Reports
  - a. Pastors' Reports - Pastors Gary Erickson, Christopher Manke, Margaret Schoewe
  - b. Caring for Creation - Pastor Margaret Schoewe
  - c. Education - Amy Schmidt
  - d. Finance - Kelly Kirtley
  - e. Foundation - Kristi Hewett
  - f. Partnership - Marcia Redman
  - g. Personnel - Karie Clement
  - h. Property - Jerry Wirtz
  - i. Social Ministry - Michael Wolaver
  - j. Stewardship - Al Van Lith
  - k. Communications -
  - l. Worship & Music -
  - m. Youth Ministry - Cathy Laszewski
- IX. Presentation of Council Nominees for 2010
  - a. Election
- X. Election of Delegates to Synod Assembly
- XI. Other Business
  - a. Approval of actions of officers and council for 2009
  - b. Approval of motions brought during 2009 Annual Meeting
- XII. Closing Prayer - Pastor Margaret Schoewe
- XIII. Adjournment

## St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church 2009 Annual Report

It is with a sense of joy in the service of our Lord that we share this report of the many areas of ministry taking place at St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church. These many reports detail the types of events, service and ministry which are lived out through our congregation, all in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### Annual Congregational Meeting: Consideration of a Quorum and Voting

Our Constitution of the church provides in Article VII, Section 4: "Fifty active members shall constitute a quorum."

Our Constitution of the church provides in Article V, Section 2d and 2e: "Active members are confirmed members who have received Holy Communion or made a contribution of record to the congregation within the two preceding years. Those confirmed members who have neither received Holy Communion nor made a contribution within the two preceding years shall be classified as inactive." Also, "A voting member is any active member."

### Election of Officers

Council representatives whose terms expire at this time:

Karie Clement - Kelly Kirtley - Laura Mueller - Jerry Wirtz

Those who have one year remaining of their terms:

Marcia Redman - Amy Schmidt - Al Van Lith - Michael Wolaver

Those who have two years remaining of their terms:

Kristen Charlson - Cathy Laszewski - Julie Schmidt

One representative to be elected to complete a two-year term:

Randy Suchy

Four representatives are to be elected for three-year terms each. The nominees to be submitted by the church council are:

Cathy Shaw - Brian Smith - Thad Murrah - Tim Nelson

Other nominations may be made from the floor of the assembly.

## 2009 Statistics

Infants and children baptized	29
Infants and children received by transfer & member affirmation	19
Infants and children lost by death	1
Infants and children lost by transfer	6
Infants and children lost as inactive	28
Adults received by baptism	1
Children received by affirmation of faith (Confirmation)	25
Children received by reinstatement	1
Adults received by transfer & member affirmation	72
Adults received by reinstatement	6
Adults lost by death	20
Adults lost by transfer	9
Adults removed as inactive	84
Baptized members as of December 31, 2009	1,813
Confirmed members as of December 31, 2009	1,335
Communing members as of December 31, 2009	1,425

## Average Attendance at Sunday Morning Services

Regular Services: Total = 674  
7:30 39      8:30 345      11:00 290

Summer Services: Total = 439  
8:30 189      10:15 250

### **In Memoriam - Deaths in 2009**

(Members on active roll at time of death)

Beilke, Patricia L.	May 13, 2009
Claussen, Cherie	August 7, 2009
Demien, Lorraine L.	June 17, 2009
Donahue, Marlyn	January 10, 2009
Froemming, Elizabeth	October 28, 2009
Froemming, Robert	October 28, 2009
Geib, Betty M.	March 7, 2009
Goebel, Annika	December 19, 2009
Heinrich, Donald G.	May 13, 2009
Johnson, Steve	April 5, 2009
Koenitzer, Fred	February 18, 2009
Koepl, Joseph J.	August 5, 2009
Kolda, Raymond F.	April 9, 2009
Kraetsch, Pearl	February 7, 2009
Laabs, Gail	April 2, 2009
Lauterbach, Bernice	March 3, 2009
Pesczek, Lynette	January 6, 2009
Rutishauser, Ruby M.	July 8, 2009
Schloemer, Robert E.	June 1, 2009
White, Richard W.	August 27, 2009
Zilisch, Clarence	February 11, 2009

*Reports printed on the following pages.*

## Pastor's Report from Pastor Gary Erickson

It was said about the early Christians, "See how they love one another!" I first heard that expression in my seminary church history class. It was the mark of the early Christian community, "See how they love one another!" Love is at the heart of who we are in Christ, and I have always tried to instill love in who we are as the faith community at St. Matthew's. I have often expressed, "I love the people of God!"

I do have a deep love for the people of God, particularly at St. Matthew's, as I try my best to let God's love be known through my loving care over you. Love is not simply something we believe, have, keep, or even give. It is something we do, and in its doing, love shows forth works. It is like that old theme from the LCA (Lutheran Church in America), "Love compels action!" It is based on Matthew 22, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind and your neighbor as yourself."

"Love compels action," in the many ways we care for one another as family. Love begins within one's own family. It is as I John 4:20 reminds us, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for how can he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, love God, whom he has not seen?" As family we need to be there for one another. Pastoral care has always been a top ministry priority for me. I have always felt that people will excuse a sermon that may not speak to them, but an inexcusable action is not being there or reaching out in a time of need or care. It is at such times that we as pastors convey God's felt presence as well as "my church is here for me." I have always held that people may forget what you said or what you did, but they can never forget how you made them feel. So, a priority for me as one of your pastors in ministry with you, is to create a caring community first among ourselves and then in our outreach. Hopefully, as you may have needed pastoral care from one of us pastors this past year, you have felt our love and concern with you.

"Love compels action," in the many ways we also reach out beyond the doors of St. Matthew's. We are a strong congregation in the ways we first care for one another which enables us to reach out to share that blessing to a wider community and to the world. As Chris Capper responds with the words, "I am blessed," to the question, "How are you?", out of being blessed, one is empowered to be a blessing to others. The outreach of this congregation is both remarkable and an example, of outreach ministry in our Greater Milwaukee Synod. Once again we have been consistent with 30% benevolence on every dollar received with doing \$315,000 in benevolences, in addition to \$45,000 out of what we call the "Kingdom Account," a donor designated benevolence account, for a total benevolence of over \$360,000 in 2009. That is incredible for the size of our congregation, and it is both a model and a commitment of what it means to be a servant church, that, "Love compels action!" I am thankful that even in this cautious economic time, people have expressed their love by giving and doing.

"Love compels action," in more than benevolence dollars. We have grown in ways of "rolling-up-our-sleeves," and doing hands on ministry. We did another round of Feed My Starving Children. We have expanded our "food ministry" through the leadership of Chris Capper and Tom Geib and the many people working with them. The food collections for food pantries and weekly food pick ups by Chris Capper from many venues is a remarkable ministry in itself. In addition, we are doing regular food preparation and serving at Cross Lutheran, Serenity Inn, Guest House, and Repairers of the Breach. This has truly become a congregational mission.

“Love compels action” in the many ways we have reached out with our partners, Reformation Lutheran Church, Cross Lutheran Church, Sing’isi Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and the Lutheran Church in El Salvador. Through Pastor Chris’s attentive ministries in this area, we have maintained an active ministry with each of these partners. They include having the pastor from Sing’isi with us in September, a mission trip to El Salvador in January, the Bread of Healing and food ministry at Cross, and partner ministry and individual connections with Reformation as well as a youth and confirmation gathering with them. During this time of a pastoral vacancy at Reformation, we have strived to walk with them. Truly, all of these partnerships allow us to see the larger church and how God’s Word and Work must be done beyond our own doors.

“Love compels action” was also made known in the “Visioning Team” under the leadership of Aleta Norris. It allowed us to see some of the larger picture of St. Matthew’s as we held up the St. Matthew’s Mission Statement in discerning our life together. We must always look to see where we are going and what is our calling Christ. In this present year of 2010, we look forward to doing a needs assessment of our building needs, a part of that ten year cycle of building needs for the future. This was a main result of the “Visioning Team.”

“Love compels action” in how we study and grow in God’s Word, his love story the Bible. We have taken this initiative and have formed the “Book of Faith Team.” The Book of Faith is an ELCA initiative to help people of faith to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the scriptures. Meeting this past fall, the Book of Faith Team has already looked for study times in 2010 for getting into scripture. Thanks to Sue Swing for her able leadership on the staff as we move forward using the prepared study sessions for the Book of Faith. Along with it was the Day of Grace event in October with Dr. Mark Allan Powell, one of the writers for the Book of Faith study.

“Love compels action,” as we continue to work together as a pastoral team. Each of us pastors has unique gifts and passions. As a ministry team it is important that expression is given to those passions that allow us to bring something of ourselves to ministry here. I will let you label us, but at the top of that list is a commitment and love for the Lord and the church. We each have our own style and am thankful for our exceptional working relationships through the years together. That is important if we are to lead and for us to be a healthy congregation in ministry. This love and concern is shared by the office staff; Holly, Jill and Sonja, with their attitudes reflecting “We are here to serve.” It is not about us as individuals but about us together in ministry.

“Love compels action.” Certainly that is known in our worship life and our youth ministry. Thanks to John Paradowski, Jeff Reeves and their staff for planning worship and providing the music and liturgy that makes worship a real celebration each Sunday, especially on festival days. Thanks to Dave Mohr for his exceptional leadership with the adult choir and for the large number of participants in it. Thanks to Gretchen Haugse for making our youth not the church of tomorrow, but the church of today. She continues to create new visions for both the Sunday school and youth ministry. Last summer the youth mission trip had nearly 75 people participating in it... through it all she has found a place of belonging. Also, a thank you to Karie Clement who has served as both church council president and chairperson for personnel. That is a very responsible role, one she has served with great faithfulness.

“Love compels action” and on a personal note, I continue to share my love with two adult children or should I say three. With Nathan marrying Gina Allen this past November, I now have a daughter-in-law. They are all caring, wonderful young adults, always interesting to see where life will carry them. I am thankful for their faith and commitments to their own faith communities. With Sue’s absence, you have taken on a greater feeling of family and in that regards, I thank you for your cards, notes, and abiding presence of love. In it your love for me has compelled action.

This report does not serve as a complete summary; for sure there are names and events not included on these written pages, but were very much a part of the book of life for St. Matthew’s in 2009. Reading through these reports, I give thanks for your faith and commitment in the many ways God’s grace abounds in and through us as a faith community. Indeed, “love has compelled” us to act in 2009 and gives us hope for 2010. We have entered a new year embraced by God’s love, as St. Paul shared, “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” It is a witness that in God’s love, “love compels action!” God’s blessings on this New Year together in ministry.

Pastor Gary Erickson

### Pastor’s Report from Pastor Christopher Manke

To begin with, this year has been a difficult year for several reasons. After losing my father to Leukemia in late 2008, my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and I being the only close family traveled to Madison weekly to help her remain in her home. This continued until July when we moved her to Harwood Place to begin living in Wauwatosa. Even though difficult, this has been a great move and she loves now being a member of St. Matthew’s. Thanks be to God and His family for the support we’ve experienced!

Looking back over the year, as I write my Pastor’s Annual report, I am amazed at the ministry and life that flourishes here at St. Matthew’s. So much goes on that really could never be summed up in this document, activities that are truly life changing. It continues to be my pleasure to be working along side all of you as we serve our Lord and Savior, making His name known through the work that we do together.

In reflecting on my own particular involvement, I realize that most often the work was accomplished through the partnership that we have developed together. Many of the things I did, could and would not have gotten done without your involvement and help. Thank you!

In the area of Social Ministry, we have done exceptionally well. We have continued programs that were a success in the past and continue to be this year, programs such as support for Reformation Lutheran’s Neighborhood store, food pantry, and St. Matt’s Saturdays at Reformation, our Thanksgiving Food collection, support for food shelters in our area such as the Wauwatosa Food Pantry, a newer organization - Tosa Cares, attending the Next Door Foundation Walk for Children, Giving Tree donations. We also provided many congregational opportunities to learn about the problems and needs in our world, such as Bread for the World’s Letter writing campaign to encourage Congress to support countries with starving people. We have also continued to partner with Cross Lutheran through their meal ministry and Bread of Healing free clinic. Overall St. Matthew’s now serves hundreds of people through its meal ministry each month – quite a great accomplishment through the help of so many!

To top it all off, we did exceptionally well supporting other benevolent organizations financially. Out of our contributions we received this year, we gave over 30% away to other worthy causes. This is something to be extremely proud of, as it is among the highest Lutheran church giving levels, possibly in the country. Thanks be to God!

Our Social Ministry committee also helped St. Matthew's to learn and grow by focusing monthly on a particular partner ministry. In our focus we looked to how we could educate the congregation, raise up ways for people to connect with these ministries, find opportunities for people to financially support their cause, and promote advocacy to improve support even beyond our efforts. This monthly focus has gone well and we look forward to continuing this practice.

Also, another group that met independently of the Social Ministry committee but has a similar goal, was our Partnership committee. Over the past year we met regularly to discuss how we could improve our local, national and international partnerships in a variety of ways.

An example of a way we developed our partnership ministry was for eighteen of us from St. Matthew's to travel in January to El Salvador to seek ministry opportunities. The trip was a great success and has continued to grow in support and service ventures. As I write this report, another group of 17 is planning to depart for another trip to El Salvador in January 2010. This partnership has fostered and grown and it's exciting to see the number of people who have gotten involved and to see what is possible in our neighboring country of El Salvador.

We also continue to seek ways to partner with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania. We are continuing with our normal schedule of going to Tanzania every two years and so plans are being made to visit Sing'isi Lutheran, our partner church in August of 2010. This partnership continues to support 23 secondary education scholarships, completed another compassion school room so that 40 more children in the village can receive Compassion International monthly support, and gave general ministry support. We also hosted Pastor Anaeli Nasari at St. Matthew's for two weeks. Pastor Nasari is the new senior pastor of Sing'isi, and it was great to have him with us.

In the area of Confirmation, classes for the 7th & 8th grades continue to go well as we follow the plan that we began when I first came to St. Matthew's over 13 years ago. Through large and small group efforts, teaching, service and fellowship events, and also through the help of adult mentors I truly feel our youth are learning the catechism and scriptures to enhance their understanding for their faith. A big thank you goes out to our group guides once again for their continued weekly efforts in this area. Confirmation Camp at Pine Lake was also a huge success this past summer with 25 in attendance for the week.

Our Adult Education continues to grow and develop as we continued with the concept of St. Matthew's University. We have offered many chances for adults to learn and grow in their faith. Many thanks are due to our adult leaders who make this happen at multiple times each and every week through their dedication to faith growth and deepening friendships.

Our Church Council continued to work together very well under the leadership of Karie Clement. This has been a very thoughtful and ministry focused group. Even with a difficult economic climate, we have soundly led the congregation into a strong financial position. Thanks to all of them for continuing their work in discerning God's direction and purposes for St. Matthew's. Our upcoming Council Retreat in February will continue to bring new direction to our ministry as we look at new ventures that our congregation is moving towards. Thanks to our Council!

In the area of worship, we continued to be blessed with the leadership of John Paradowski our Music Director and organist who constantly is bringing newness to our worship. Also, Dave Mohr with the Senior Choir, and Jeff Reeves with the Children's choirs, both share their gifts of music to help us glorify God's goodness even more. Through our staff's many gifts we have had so many wonderful opportunities to praise and proclaim God's goodness in worship.

In Youth and Family Ministry, as we offer ministry events for the Junior and Senior High Youth, we continue to be blessed with our full time Youth and Family Minister, Gretchen Haugse. Gretchen continues to challenge and help the Youth grow in their faith, a wonderful connection to where St. Matthew's is going overall. We are blessed with her ministry. Together we led over 70 people to serve in Denver Colorado area, working with the Denver Rescue Mission's Harvest Farm. This is a rehabilitation residence where men with addictions work a farm in a Christian supportive atmosphere. We worked alongside the men and learned a great deal about their struggles as we recognized God's redemptive power.

Gretchen also serves to enrich the faith lives of our children in the Children's Education ministry. She has done a wonderful job leading the Sunday School program with its many diverse age groups and styles of teaching. We are very fortunate to have her working with our kids and teachers.

Also in Children's Ministry, Donna Gardner-Manke has continued doing a great job of leading our Children's ministry with the KFC (1st -3rd graders) and the DOC (4th-5th graders) groups and also once again did a superb job of planning, preparing, and implementing our Vacation Bible School program this past summer. This year about 352 kids participated and over 75 youth and adults helped to make it a great success.

Some of the other events I have been involved with were: Once again we held our 14th Family Camp weekend at Imago Dei Village and had a wonderful time with a record number over 90 people in attendance. Our First Communion class went wonderfully as our fifth graders learned about God's Grace in Holy Communion. I also codirected the VBS program at St. Matthew's with my wife, Donna Gardner-Manke, where we once again reached around 320 kids – Awesome!

These have been some of the adventures that I have participated in beyond the normal preaching, teaching, visiting and administrative functions of the church. It has been a good year marked with God's loving hand and led by his Holy Spirit.

As a whole, our staff works together very well. Other staff members who are an integral part of the ministry here are Sonja Mohr–Communications Secretary, Holly Jurss–Financial Secretary, Sue Swing–Volunteer and small group Ministries Coordinator, Jill Due–Office Assistant, Jane Sandstrom–Older Adults Ministries Coordinator, and Tim Ireland and Bob Gardner–Janitorial Staff. They all help the ministry to run smoothly and their gifts are extremely valuable! Thanks! On a sad note Tim Ireland fell and broke his hip on my birthday November 24th, 2008 and worked hard to recover for many months. He returned to us later in the year and we are thankful for his recovery and strength.

I also continue to be blessed to work with great partners in pastoral ministry - Pastor Gary and Pastor Margaret. We work very well together and enjoy each other's company. I realize that this is not the norm in Pastoral partnerships. For our growing partnership, I continue to be thankful!

On a more personal note, God continues to bless my family; my children—Averie (13), Noah (11), and Lilly (9) are joys for my wife Donna and myself each and every day. We give thanks to God for the privilege of raising them to know God's love. Averie was born the day after St. Matthew's voted to welcome me as your new associate pastor, and her age always reminds me of how long I've been at St. Matthew's. Celebrating 13 years in ministry at St. Matthew's has been a joy and I continue to look forward to many more years together.

In everything we've been through this year, we become more and more aware of God's presence and love in our lives. As we begin a new year, we look forward to a new journey and new beginnings through this place of ministry called St. Matthew's. May His Spirit continue to lead us and may our hearts be open to His voice.

In His Service,  
Pastor Chris Manke

### Pastor's Report from Pastor Margaret Schoewe

As I write this report I can't help but think of the way in which Paul began so many of his letters. "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world." Romans 1:8

And I add to this text – I thank my God also because your love is proclaimed throughout the world.

As I reflect on the past year I am deeply grateful for another year at St Matthew's and I continue to be in awe of your ministry to the people of God. Your love and your care for one another shines through all of our ministry. The deeper I travel in faith the more I know the importance of being an active part of a Christian community. Thank you for your faithfulness and for the way in which you include me in this community. It is a privilege to be called to serve with you.

In our dedication of the solar panels this year we used the text from Matthew 5 where Jesus says "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid...Let your light shine before others..."

St Matthew's is a church built on a hill. During 2009 your light shone in many ways. It shone through inspiring music and worship, through our Christmas program and other special performances.

It shone through heartfelt social ministry in our community and throughout the world, and particularly as we responded to these difficult economic times.

It shone in the important work of faith formation – through high quality education – Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation and Adult Education.

It shone through the ordinary things of life, cleaning our building, tending our gardens, shelving our books, knitting, quilting, cooking and serving. It shone particularly bright in the growth of our meal ministry.

It shone through your stewardship and generosity in giving of your time, your talents, your money and your commitments to care for God's good creation.

And it shone through all of the times we gathered – in the new fellowship events, in welcoming new members and in whatever events where we gathered – it shone as we worked to build relationships that more deeply ground us in love for one another, for God and for all the world.

We are the priesthood of all believers and all are equal in our ministry and our calls. In that context I would like to say a special thank you to those who are called to lead. To our event leaders, our ongoing ministry leaders, the members of our church council, our president and to the other pastors – thank you for your heartfelt, dedicated leadership. By your acts you inspire us all.

And so I pray as we enter this New Year, “Grant us to grow in grace each day.”

Blessings for the New Year,  
Pr. Margaret Schoewe

## President's Report

*Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!* 1 Chronicles 16:11

We at St. Matthew's seek the Lord and we have done well by Him! In a challenging year economically and financially, St. Matthew's has done well by Him. As we work to expand our ministries beyond our walls, we have done well by Him. As we work to Care for His Creation, we have done well by Him. I am proud of and blessed with the work we do at St. Matthew's.

Faced with one of the most challenging budget years, we ended 2009 almost even, with the help of a special hunger appeal and matching gift. Belts were tightened and the staff, council and congregation rose to the occasion and made it work.

With a changing monthly theme, our social ministry exposed the members of St. Matthew's to several local organizations and charities that exist in Southeastern Wisconsin. We continued to build our partnerships and relations with local and international churches and synods. I was personally able to attend the Greater Milwaukee Bishop election, in which we elected Jeff Barrow to be our new Bishop. It was during this event, that I learned about the many things our local sister churches are involved in. The presiding Bishop, Bishop Hanson opened the sessions asking about mission. My answer at the time included the missions I see us involved in at St. Matthew's. However, by the end of the elections, and after many mission vignettes, I realized how much more there is outside of our walls at St. Matthew's. Our synod is a very active synod and we have a lot of great people working to make it successful. It is an exciting time.

The youth of St. Matthew's continue to be challenged and excited in the mission of the church, both inside and outside our walls. Service projects by our confirmation students, valentines for shut-ins special hunger appeals and mission trips, nationally and internationally are wonderful examples of how our youth are getting engaged. A special thanks to Amy Schmidt and her committee for putting together a new curriculum for the middle school students. This is a great example of keeping “current” with our youth.

Communications and public relations have grown in importance to us at St. Matthew's, and as a result, last year we created a council position dedicated to communications and public relations. Doris Mueller, our council committee chair, worked diligently to increase the communications and our exposure outside of St. Matthew's. The new website, the pictorial directory and the new branding of St. Matthew's are just a few of the wonderful enhancements and changes brought about by Doris and her committee.

"Caring for Creation", "Going Green" and even "Solar Panels" have become common words in our vocabulary. We have proven ourselves to be conscious of God's creation, and in our own special way have shown others how important this mission is.

We have many exciting things happening at St. Matthew's, all of which would not be possible without our Pastors and staff. I feel blessed to be a part of such a special church and am proud of what we do. We must continue to seek Him and seek His strength as we move forward into another challenging year, and as we do, we will continue to do well by Him.

Karie L. Clement  
Church Council President

## Caring for Creation

We are again were blessed to have an active Care for Creation ministry for 2009. Our big accomplishment was the installation of solar panels. In installing these panels we became a beacon to the community to care for the world God made, we lowered our carbon footprint and we will save about \$1200 per year on our electric bill. In addition to solar panels many actions were accomplished during the year.

Local food was a focus as we doubled the size of our St Matthew's/Reformation garden, used produce to make salsa to support women of Reformation, offered canning classes to the community, created Valentine cookie mix jars, gathered tools for Alice's Garden, and promoted CSAs to the congregation..

We did some fund raising this year selling Aldo Leopold benches and mittens, aprons, pot holders and pins at the Fair Trade and Sustainability Fair. Proceeds from these activities will go to support a sustainability project for Tanzania and Urban Agriculture in our central city. Our Winter Farmers Market and pancake breakfast promoted and used local food. Proceeds went to support small farmers in the area.

Recycling and careful disposal of items continued to be a focus with composting (including teaching kids to compost at the Sunday School picnic), April pill collection, pill bottle recycling to Cross Clinic, athletic shoes, batteries, CFLs, eye glasses, printer cartridges, Bottomless Closet collection and children's clothing swap.

Some emphasis was placed on caring for the creation around us. Our youth participated in a river cleanup project, and we offered a class on natural lawn care.

We did a group read of the book called "Seedfolks" and in all we do we work to plant seeds of care. Particularly gratifying was the congregation's response to the new Covenant with Creation completed by many families in our congregation as part of the Stewardship program.

Thank you to the people of St Matthew's for your support of this ministry to care for God's good creation and particularly to work toward the care of those most vulnerable.

Pastor Margaret Schoewe

## Communications Committee

This is the first year of the Communications Committee comprised of Erin Fassbender, Robyn McGill, Andrew Cherney, Rebecca White, Sonja Mohr and Doris Mueller. Also fostering the communications efforts for St. Matthew's are others including: Lee Meyerpeter, the capable webmaster of the church website and the frequent guidance and support of Pastor Chris, Sue Swing, and Holly Jurss.

The goals of this committee are 1) to carry out the SMLC mission to "Welcome, Nurture, Equip and Send", by letting others in the community know that St. Matthew's is a caring, vibrant, pro-active, community-minded church and 2) to inform the members of special events and many opportunities offered by the church's ministries and programs. During the year, several projects were initiated.

**Church Directory.** Now with the church having its own photography equipment, an online membership directory was created over a period of many months with many hours of shooting by our own in-house volunteer photographers and numerous assistants. As new members join the church, easy online updating will facilitate keeping the directory current. Members enjoy being able to purchase photos for themselves. For members, another bonus will be the printing of hard copies of the 2009 church directory which will be available for a small charge to cover costs.

**Print Materials.** A major undertaking was the standardization of our graphics and use of the identifiable logo to associate with St. Matthew's. A church brochure and new stationery were developed by the committee and brought to fruition by the graphic design expertise of Erin Fassbender, who volunteered her services for this project.

**Survey.** Another effort was the creation of an online membership survey. Although not implemented, sections may be applied elsewhere in the future.

**Media.** By using press releases to the Milwaukee-Journal-Sentinel, internet postings or articles on WauwatosaNow.com and several others websites, successful media coverage was given to Tour de Revs, fundraiser Seitz Bike Ride, the Sustainability Fair, and the Solar Panel Project. A presentation about the solar panels was made to the Wauwatosa Energy Committee.

**Feature Articles.** Committee members Robyn McGill and Andrew Cherney, with backgrounds in public relations and advertising, may be writing future features for The Lutheran magazine and their website, as well as other publications.

**Website.** Because our website is such an important information tool of St. Matthew's, Lee Meyerpeter is to be commended for his creativity and commitment in keeping it current. This ongoing position requires a great deal of time and dedication which is appreciated by all.

If you have an interest in writing, advertising, or public relations, consider volunteering for this committee. Your reward is knowing that by sharing your gifts, your efforts will be of great benefit in letting others know that St. Matthew's is a church reaching out because it is caring, connecting and welcoming.

Doris Mueller  
2009 Communications Chairperson

## Education Committee

Members of the 2009 Education Committee are: Jill Due, Wendy Falk, Carol Heim, Renee Mabie, Amy Schmidt, Chris Schroeder, Tracy Michaelson, and Gretchen Hauge.

**Sunday School** meets weekly from September through May for three-year-olds through 8th graders. Nearly forty teachers, assistants, and shepherds work with about three hundred students, and we continue to overspill our education space.

After ten years of using the same materials, preschool and kindergarten classes are trying a different curriculum this year. The Witness Sunday School curriculum is published by Augsburg, the publishing house of the ELCA. First through fifth graders continue to experience Bible teachings through rotational model Sunday School, which presents stories through various media and encourages student interaction. This fall we began producing our own materials for sixth through eighth grade classes, focusing on various themes and life application of scripture. Like the rotational model program, these lessons encourage student interaction and employ a variety of teaching strategies and activities. The lessons are interspersed with monthly art/service projects for the middle school students led by Renee Mabie. Projects included illuminated bible verses that were assembled into a banner for Easter Sunday and many of the decorations used in our Christmas program. Students have responded enthusiastically to the chance to be creative on a regular basis!

The year ended with the presentation of our Sunday School Christmas Program, *A Savior for All Nations*. Over two hundred children and youth were involved in the program that celebrates the birth of Jesus through cultural traditions from around the world. We thank everyone who helped with this meaningful celebration of Christmas, from scene directors to cookie bakers, costume helpers, supervisors, and parents.

Our Sunday School year will end with the annual Sunday School Picnic in June.

**Vacation Bible School** We had a successful Vacation Bible School in 2009. Ninety volunteers helped to lead over 320 children in a week of faith filled learning.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to make this an exciting week. It is because of the amazing gifts and selflessness of these volunteers that our numbers continue to grow and children know that St. Matthew's is a place that cares about them. We will continue to strive to meet the growing needs of this program.

**Children's Ministry** Kids for Christ (KFC) is the program we offered for 1st through 3rd grades. Disciples of Christ (DOC) is our 4th and 5th grade ministry. These programs revolved around building fellowship through meals, active games, prayer, and devotion. We met monthly during the school year. We were lucky to have willing teens that came and helped lead these events. DOC held an annual sleepover and KFC had an annual Late Night Gathering.

Also offered to families of young children was the Lenten Family Service. On Wednesdays in Lent we gathered for a craft and worship time with children and their parents.

**The Church Nursery** is staffed by volunteers on Sunday mornings at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 during the school year and at 8:30 and 10:15 during summer worship hours. Adult volunteers are always paired with youth that are serving in the nursery. The Nursery is also used by Nurturing Parents, an outside group and paid babysitting is provided every Wednesday night for the Yoga Class. Recently, a team of dedicated volunteers led by member, Julie Abrahamson, has been providing weekly cleaning and organization of the nursery.

**The 7th and 8th grade Confirmation classes** continued like they have for the past several years. The sessions with the 7th and 8th graders consist of a weekly rotation between large and small group times, led by Pastor Chris and ten adult group guides. The guides for this year have been Beth Geertsen, Nick Hughes, Chris Lange, Ruth Kallio Mielke, Donna Manke, Barb Price, Carol Raasch, Tim Schmidt, and Sue Swing,

The program operates by rotating the various weeks between teaching weeks, service weeks, and fellowship weeks, so that the youth get faith experience in more than just the area of book knowledge. This past year we have done several service projects such as raking for a family at church who needed help, collecting over 1000 items of food through a food scavenger hunt in the church area for Reformation Lutheran, and we completed our service work by helping the Hunger Task Force sort food in early January. Also, about 25 confirmands participated in Crossways - Pine Lake Summer Bible Camp near the end of June and had a wonderful time. Plans have already been made for next year's summer camp session.

**9th Grade Confirmation** In preparation for the rite of confirmation in November, ninth grade students met weekly throughout the fall to explore what it means to live as a person of faith with a focus on living in relationship – to self, to God, to family, and to global community. Sessions were led by Pastor Gary, Gretchen Hauge, Pastor Margaret, and Doug Krekling. Several members of the congregation also joined us to share their faith stories. We ended our time together with a workshop on racial relations led by Marilyn Miller of Lutheran Human Relations. The ninth grade class was confirmed on November 8th.

**Adult Education** The Adult Education Task Force continues to meet in the late Spring/early Summer to plan for the Sunday morning adult education forum held weekly on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45. A catalog of dates and topics is published each year. This time is for all adults who would like to grow in faith and in relationships with one another. Attendance ranges anywhere from 30-80 participants per week. In March of 2009, the team hosted a 4 week interactive series using a book by Douglas John Hall titled "Why Christian." A brief presentation on a particular topic from the book was followed by small group discussion time. We continue to consider unique ways to utilize the small group model in our adult education planning for the upcoming year. A team has been formed to work on the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative; an invitation to all of God's people to learn the language of faith that is the Bible.

**Small Groups** continue to meet in homes and at church. Traditional elements of the small group include fellowship, prayer, study, service and evangelism. Small groups at St. Matthew's function independently. Support, resources and service project ideas are always available to all small groups.

The 2009 **Day of Grace** was held on Sunday, October 11th. Our speaker in worship and in an afternoon session was Dr. Mark Allan Powell. He is a featured author of *Book of Faith* resources as well as many other materials and a noted theologian and teacher. His afternoon talk on cultural interpretations of the age old parable of the Prodigal Son from the book of Luke was well-received by about 70 attendees.

**The Stitches of Love Quilt Ministry** continues to grow and provide warmth and comfort to those in need within the community and worldwide. The group has 20+ very active and energetic participants which include church members as well as friends and family. The annual Quilt Ministry & Prayer Shawl Ministry workshop was held in January. Much is accomplished at this workshop.

In 2009, a total of 250 quilts & blankets were completed and distributed to the Joy House, Linus Project, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Milwaukee, to Mark Mallwitz and his work within the City of Milwaukee, 25 lap blankets to Luther Manor, dental bags made for distribution to children in Nicaragua, 2 blankets sent to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in SD in conjunction with ELCA Women of Greater Milwaukee Synod, a quilt donated to Zilber Family Hospice Center in Wauwatosa for the center's usage during funerals, and 20 Quiet Sacs made for St. Matthew's children to be used during worship. Each Mother's Day, quilts and blankets are on display in the sanctuary and a blessing is offered before distribution within the community.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** continues to grow quietly through our dedicated and gifted participants. In January we met jointly with the Stitches of Love/Quilting Ministry for a well attended workshop. On the fourth Tuesday of every month we meet in the Youth Lounge to knit/crochet and chat. Suggestions or requests are always welcome. Recipients of a prayer shawl need not be members of St. Matthew's.

**The Church Library** offers many resources to the congregation through printed materials, DVD's, and Christian music to those seeking personal growth in faith, sharing the message of God's word as a family, and being of service to those in need. In 2009, the children's reading program, Feed My Mind, was kicked off in September. Flyers were distributed to Sunday School classes 3 year olds through 5th grade. A Tween flyer was distributed to 6th-8th graders in May, 2009 with a good response. Small groups, Sunday School and VBS teachers continue to make use of the resources within the Library.

We had a nice increase in volunteers to assist with processing and shelving the books each Sunday that the library is open from September-May. The efforts of the volunteers are invaluable to keep the library running in an orderly fashion each week. A total of 82 books have been donated to the church library in 2009 in honor of members or loved ones. Thanks for your support and generosity of the library.

This is a summary of the diverse activities which make up St. Matthew's Education Ministry.

Amy Schmidt, Council Representative  
Gretchen Hauge, Children's Educ. Coord.  
A collaboration of reports by leaders in ministry areas

## Fellowship Committee

The purpose of the Fellowship Committee is to plan and execute events to encourage opportunities for fellowship: meet new people, develop friendships and have a fun time. Family movie night continues to be a popular event for kids and adults. In May we watched the movie *Bolt* and in November we watched the movie *Up*. We hosted a fellowship meal after church one Sunday in July where those who participated could watch a slide show from the mission trip while eating lunch. In August we had a fun time biking to Greenfield Park on a VERY hot day. Also in August many enjoyed Worship in the Park and the Church Picnic at Jacobus Park. It was fun to see the beautiful hot air balloon brighten the sky. Thanks to all of those who helped to make the picnic a great event. In October we showed Pastor Nasari a Wisconsin tradition by going to the Milwaukee Ale house for a family style fish fry with entertainment by a polka band! The annual Thanksgiving pie social was again a delicious and fun time for all. Finally, we enjoyed playing a variety of board and card games at family game night in January. We hope to do some of the same events next year and maybe a few new ones as well.

Members of the Fellowship Committee are: Cindy Braunschweig, Michelle Fetherston, Matt Gissibl, Teresa Wooster, Stephanie Zimmer, Pastor Chris Manke and Kristen Charlson.

Kristen Charlson  
Fellowship Committee Chairperson

## St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation is a religious and charitable corporation established to solicit, hold, manage, invest, and expend endowment funds and other gifts, grants, and bequests for the maintenance and benefit of St. Matthew's Church and its religious, charitable, or related programs and activities.

Grants are considered by the Foundation pursuant to requests for the St. Matthew's Church Council. In the past year, at the church council's request, the Foundation provided \$17,325 to the Benevolence Ministry of St. Matthew's. Funds were distributed to Reformation Lutheran Church, Tosa Interfaith, Conference fees, and Youth Scholarships.

The Foundation's balance as of 12/31/2009 was approximately \$847,000. There were contributions totaling \$30 this past year.

The Foundation provided a loan of approximately \$145,000 to St. Matthew's in September to pay off the existing mortgage loan. The loan is to be paid back at the rate of 5%, which is beneficial to both the church and the Foundation.

Over the course of the past year the Foundation has been working on developing and implementing a new investment policy. Previously, the investment practice restricted investments to CDs and money market accounts. The Board researched how other churches and non-profit organizations invested their funds and, after careful consideration, concluded that the Foundation would benefit from a more diversified approach. The goal of the new investment policy is to allocate approximately 40% of the fund in equities, 50% in fixed income, and 10% in cash. The implementation of this policy has just begun in the new year.

More specific information regarding the investment policy, asset allocation, and the record of investment considerations can be found in the Foundation manual in the church office.

The Foundation Directors for the past year were Mark Young (Vice President), Tod Kirtley (treasurer), Jane Sandstrom (secretary), Agnes Wells, Peter Chang, Bob Storm, Scott Falk, Sean Rutter, Al Van Lith, and Kristi Hewett. Special thanks to Agnes Wells and Peter Chang, who have completed their terms on the Board of Directors.

Kristi Hewett  
President

## Healing Prayer Ministry

The Healing Prayer Ministry group is called to serve God and others through prayer, and the laying on of hands to all who seek healing in body, mind and spirit. All are welcomed to come forward for healing – alone or with a loved one; for yourself or for others.

This ministry is grounded in the belief that:

- All healing comes from God.
- We are all eternally healed through the waters of our baptism, made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- Medical knowledge is a gift of God, and He works through our doctors, nurses, and medicines to bring us healing.
- Anointing and laying on of hands is a traditional practice, found both in Scripture and in throughout the history of the church.
- This is a ministry of the whole person; spirit, mind, body, feelings and relationships.
- This is a ministry of the whole faith community, even though certain individuals are called to carry it out.

The Healing Prayer Ministry team meets the second Sunday of the month during the education hour. All who feel called to serve as a conduit of God's healing love are welcome. We have group discussions on assigned readings to deepen our faith and understanding. We also seek to increase awareness of this ministry by:

- Educating new members about Healing Prayer Services and inviting them to join this ministry.
- Offering Healing Prayer Services monthly, or upon special request.
- Wearing small stoles during these services so that we are identifiable to anyone who wishes further conversation afterwards.

We have been blessed to see this ministry continue to grow over the years, and look forward to new opportunities in the coming year.

Deb Endean  
Healing Prayer Minister

## Historical Committee

2010 will mark the 90th anniversary of this organization of St. Matthew's church on May 26, 1920. Through the efforts of the late Dr. and Mrs. Niebling and Mr. Roy Aldridge, the Historical Committee was organized to collect and preserve documents and artifacts in preparation for the 50th anniversary, while members from the first years were still active. Annual reports, Sunday bulletins, The Voice of St. Matthew's, building plans, and a picture collection including albums of confirmation classes are among the items on file. The collections have grown through the years, but donations, which may fill some of the gaps, are always welcome.

James Neubauer  
Chairman

## Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry program at St. Matthew's is an active program that helps to create fellowship opportunities for the men of our congregation. The planning committee consists of Chris Daniels, Pastor Gary Erickson, Tom Geib, Dan Hayes, Gary Krueger, Greg Laszewski, Paul Margerie, Mike Thomae, Tim Wanezek and Ethan Wooster. We meet once a month to discuss our agenda and talk about ways in which we can grow participation among the men of the church. 2009 was a successful year that included the following events:

Monday Morning Bible Study  
Rise with the Guys Men's Breakfast (3 times per year)  
Coming of Age Bible Study  
Involvement in the Meals Ministry  
Bread Baking for the Sustainability Fair  
Annual Golf Outing  
Various other social outings

This committee is a hard working group that has been working together for a few years and is always looking for new ways in which we can enhance the program. Many thanks to the hours of time put in by all the members!

Tom Wanezek  
Chairperson

## **MICAH Ministry** (Milwaukee Inncity Congregations Allied for Hope)

For over twenty years, MICAH has been working diligently to address justice issues affecting many residents of Milwaukee County. Each year we make incremental but important progress towards making Milwaukee the city we believe God wants us to be. For this annual report I thought it would be good to record MICAH's achievements over the past few years so we as a congregation can see what incremental progress over time can achieve.

Through the strategy of congregation-based organizing, MICAH has won many improvements for the residents of Milwaukee and continues to build power to create a community that reflects the values of faith, justice, and equality. Below is a list reflecting MICAH's rich heritage in recent years as well as our current organizing campaigns.

### **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

In partnership with the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition, unions and others, won passage of the MORE Ordinance (Milwaukee Opportunities for Restoring Employment), which strengthens the Residency Preference Program, requires prevailing wage for publicly contracted construction projects in which the city provides more than \$1 million, and gives preference to local business enterprises.

Led a coalition with labor and community groups, which resulted in passage of the PERC (Park East Redevelopment Compact) by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, ensuring community benefits such as prevailing wages, affordable housing initiatives and use of disadvantaged business enterprises in the redevelopment of the Park East Corridor which is estimated to be \$300 million of redevelopment costs.

Won passage of a city ordinance requiring that at least 14 percent of jobs in Department of Public Works contracts be set aside for unemployed residents of the central city of Milwaukee. This was later changed to 25 percent. Hundreds of central city residents have been hired because of this ordinance.

### **IMMIGRATION**

Organized powerful Family Unity Day hearing before U.S. Representatives Gwen Moore and Louis Guitierrez, in 2009, to present the case for immigration reform. Assembly included over 1000 people, one bishop, over 50 religious leaders of Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions and 2 state Assembly members.

Successfully pressured the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) offices in Milwaukee to expand their hours of operation, hire bilingual staff, and create easier access to information for immigrants seeking citizenship.

### **AODA**

Secured \$300,000 for TAD (Treatment and Diversion) program which provides assistance to individuals struggling with AODA issues to get treatment for their disease instead of being incarcerated.

Fought to secure \$14 million in Access-to-Recovery funds for the Wiser Choice Program. These funds will be used to provide resources for community-based treatment centers that provide aid to low-income residents in greater Milwaukee.

After other approaches failed, an all-night pray-in at the offices of the Milwaukee County Executive prevented \$3.3 million from being eliminated for drug treatment funding for uninsured addicts and secured this funding for five years.

Initiated the TIP (Treatment Instead of Prison) Campaign, a legislative victory of WISDOM (an organization of MICAHA and other Gamaliel affiliates), which will offer nonviolent offenders in Wisconsin drug treatment instead of incarceration.

### **EDUCATION**

Proposed and worked for passage of a state budget initiative to hire 24 school nurses for 36 high-poverty Milwaukee public schools. This measure creatively employed Badger Care Plus monies to reach this target population in a way that recognizes the educational benefits of providing needed health care to students.

Launched an Alternative Teacher Certification project in cooperation with area colleges and the Dorothy Danforth Compton Fellowship Program. Scores of African-Americans and Latino citizens, mostly second career, were trained through this consortium to become teachers in the Milwaukee Public Schools system.

Initiated and inspired a successful coalition effort to win statewide funding for fifty-one additional SAGE schools in the Milwaukee Public Schools system. SAGE (Student Achievement Guaranteed in Education) schools reduce the student-teacher classroom ratio to 15:1 in kindergarten through the third grade.

### **OTHER SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE ACTIONS**

Forged the Banking Campaign of MICAHA, which involved 17 financial institutions in an aggregate commitment of \$500 million of central city lending over a five year period. In cooperation with MICAHA, lenders developed new marketing strategies, hired more minority loan officers, and changed their way of viewing credit history and debt ratio. By the end of five years, more than \$700 million in central city lending had been actualized.

Established a drug hot-line, which resulted in the closure of more than 350 drug houses in Milwaukee in MICAHA's "Acceptable Year of the Lord" Campaign.

Entered into a partnership with Badger Mutual Insurance Company, which offered members of MICAHA congregations a 10 % discount on auto insurance. This auto insurance campaign created consumer awareness resulting in hundreds of dollars in savings annually for some central city residents.

Coordinated the neighborhood and community efforts with Jewel Osco management leading to building the supermarket at 35th and North Avenue. MICAHA committees provided neighborhood awareness of jobs and conducted pre-screening for the 350 new jobs created.

Established the Ezekiel Corporation to build affordable single family homes in the central city and link them to owners. By the end of 2007, a total of 22 homes had been completed.

Conor Williams  
Core Group Chairperson

## Music Ministry

We are truly a blessed congregation with many diverse talents working together for a common goal of praising our Lord. Our choir program is an excellent way to grow in faith and spirit through God's gift of Music.

**Praise Kids** continues to be a great musical start for our youngest singers. Jeff Reeves and Haley Picotte direct the choir. We thank Heide Hughes, Amy Dankwardt and Kristen Charlson for their volunteer assistance every week with this choir, as well as the many parents who help the young ones find their place. Praise Kids is a program that continues to be an excellent beginning for religious and musical training for our very young ones. Praise Kids is divided into two groups; 4-5 year olds and 1st and 2nd graders. Each group meets separately and engages in age appropriate music and activities. Praise Kids nurtures musical growth, spiritual growth, an understanding of self and others, and a relationship with God. Enrollment this semester is around 40 young singers.

The **New Creation Choir**, numbering about 35 children, is always a welcome addition to our worship services. The New Creation choir is guided by Jeff Reeves and John Paradowski as co-directors, with Annette Olson at the Piano and Dara Greene as volunteer helper. Each year we welcome the addition of a Musical the choir presents to the congregation. Last April the choir shared the story of Moses and the Freedom Fanatics.

The **New Generation Choir**, directed by John Paradowski, for the youth of our church took a new and fresh start with 17 energetic singers. They sing in worship about once a month and will help to present the Passion Scenes this coming Palm Sunday. This dramatic portrayal of Jesus on the road to Calvary is always a meaningful addition to the worship life at St. Matthew's.

The **Senior Choir** continues to be the strong foundation of our program, directed by David Mohr for over twenty years. The Senior Choir is blessed with many talented and devoted singers in the group, which sings for about 40 Sundays during the year as well as special services. The Senior Choir currently numbers around 50 members, and is always looking for other interested singers to join them.

The Handbell Choir program continued to be a strong draw this year involving about 45 youth and adults that regularly play for worship services. The choirs include: **Godsbells**, a group of 4th through 6th grade school youth ringing Chimes; **Righteous Ringers**, middle and high school age youth; **Bells Angels**, adult group; **A Cabella Ringers**, 3-4 ringers using special ringing techniques and ringing advanced music; and **The EmBELLishments**, a daytime handbell choir. The Handbell program continues to be a strong part of our music ministry, directed by John Paradowski (adults) and Jeff Reeves (children & youth).

This congregation also has many individuals who have shared their vocal and instrumental musical talent with the congregation all year. We thank them all for sharing their God given talents with all of us. The notes and words we share are an integral part of the worshipping community, proclaiming God's message through music.

St. Matthew's has always been known for sharing its gifts of music with the community and is a great place to invite people in and let them hear God's glorious gift of music. We will look forward to being a strong leader in helping proclaim the message of God's love to the community through our events. We thank you for your support and encouragement to proclaim to Word.

John R. Paradowski, Dave Mohr,  
Jeff Reeves, Haley Picotte, Annette Olson  
Music Staff

## Personnel Committee

*“The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.” ~Vince Lombardi, football coach for the NFL (1913-1970)*

Our staff is a hard working and dedicated group of people that help make St. Matthew’s the welcoming and exciting place of worship that it is. Thank you to all the staff members for everything they do.

Karie L. Clement  
Human Resources Committee

## Property Committee

St. Matthew’s Church is blessed with a congregation that is always ready to serve God, whether it is through benevolence or through its service to others.

I am very grateful and thankful to be part of the property committee that continues to demonstrate its love and reverence to the church of God through its diligent service.

I would like to thank the entire property committee for its continued dedication to the congregation of St. Matthew’s Church. I would like to make a special thank you to Tom “Flash” Gordon for his continued extra work in many areas, to Ray Eisemann for his extensive work on the solar panel project, and to Ed Bross for his dedication to a variety of needs within the church building. St. Matthew’s Church will continue to be a beautiful place to worship because of the extra efforts of the people within its congregation.

Jerry Wirtz  
Chairperson

## SAINTS - Seniors Active in New Testament Service

*Psalm 71:18 “Even when I am old and gray  
do not forsake me, O God,  
till I declare your power to the next generation,  
your might to all who are to come”*

While gatherings, programs, and field trips are popular with many, our mission is much wider, encompassing all of our older adults whether they are able to attend or not.

Information, advocacy, care and concern are also a part of our ministry. I work to keep informed and advocate through serving on the board of directors for both the Interfaith Programs and Services for Older Adults for Milwaukee County and the Greater Tosa Interfaith board. Marge Shantz also serves on the Greater Tosa Board. I’m also on the Community Services Committee for Luther Manor and am able to learn about other Senior Ministry programs. Joyce Heinrich serves as Luther Manor Ambassador for our congregation.

In 2009 we continued with our Food and Fellowship Wednesdays during Lent and will continue to do so for 2010. Our other programming was well received this past year with some newer participation. We invite your suggestions.

This Advent season our SAINTS were the liturgy leaders during the lighting of the candle. I am always amazed at how actively involved our older adults are in the total life of the congregation.

Our planning committee is Marilyn Day, Pat Foldvary, Judy and Don Van Buskirk, Lois Bross and Leslie Giordano. Many thanks to each of them.

Our thanks, too, to the pastors and staff for their help and support. And, thanks to St. Matthew's congregation for recognizing the importance of this ministry

Jane Sandstrom  
Saints Coordinator

## Social Ministry

In 2009, the members of St. Matthew's church continued our strong tradition of reaching into the community and our global village.

The social ministry committee is made up of Jill Hughes, Nate Kabat, Pastor Chris Manke, Mia Stein-Kodzik, Tom Geib, Michael Wolaver and Jennifer Frahm. We continued our theme of focusing on three main topics; Education, Poverty and Health Care. Each month we focused on an organization that fell into one of these subjects. Our process for focusing on an organization includes a temple talk, a speaker during an education hour, opportunities for members to get involved, either through volunteering or a financial donation, and any advocacy opportunities that we can help with. We had information put in the weekly bulletin, the Voice, tables in the commons and the website to give the congregation many ways to learn about our organizations that we highlights.

Here are the programs we highlighted in 2009:

*January* - We focused on Caring For Creation and chose the WE Energies program for residential users to sign up for green energy.

*February* - We focused on Education and we highlighted Literacy Services of Wisconsin, a program that works with adults. We brought in a speaker and offered opportunities to volunteer.

*March* - We focused on health care. We highlighted ARCW (Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin). ARCW provides care and services to individuals who are HIV positive across the state of Wisconsin. We invited Mike Gifford to speak at an education hour and we had over 60 St. Matt's people attend the ARCW gala.

*April* - We focused on poverty and highlighted the Guest House. The Guest House houses the homeless and we serve a meal at their location once a month. We had a guest speaker come in during an education hour and had 12 members who participated in the Walk A Mile event, a fundraiser that supports the Guest House. We also worked on collecting products for the house.

*May* - We focused on MICAH, a social justice organization in Milwaukee. We have had a MICAH committee over the years but we wanted to focus on this issue for a month to raise further awareness about their cause and how the congregation could get involved.

*September* - We focused on health care and supported the Susan K. Komen Walk for the Cure event in Milwaukee. This organization works to find a cure for breast cancer, works to get it diagnosed early and supports the families that have dealt/are dealing with breast cancer. We had a very successful event. Over 35 St. Matt's participants raised over \$1600.

*October* - We focused on education and we highlighted the Benedict Center. The Benedict Center works with women who have criminal backgrounds to supply opportunities to change. We had an education hour speaker and offered opportunities for the congregation to help out with the center.

*November* – Poverty – We highlighted Serenity Inn, a halfway house for substance abusers. We have been serving a meal there once a month for the past couple of years. We brought in a speaker for the education hour, collected products for the house and provided opportunities for the congregation to support the cause financially.

A large aspect of our Social Ministry efforts is the Meal Outreach Ministry. The M.O.M., since it began in 2007 has grown to include four local agencies: 1) **Serenity Inns**, for which our congregation supplies food each second Sunday of the month, along with participants in the meal; 2) **Guest House**, in which our congregation supplies food and servers for homeless men each second Sunday of the month; 3) **Repairers of the Breach**, for which our congregation supplies one hundred bag lunches twice a month; and the largest ministry, 4) **Cross Lutheran Church's** luncheon, where we provide food for 300-400 people once a month. Also for this meal, our congregation has both regular and new servers, approximately 15-25 each month.

Tom Geib and Chris Capper are the men providing leadership for these ministries, and we thank them for their dedication, as well as their faithfulness to bless the hungry in our community.

This ministry is enhanced by the efforts of Chris Capper, who several times a week picks up breads, pastries, and other foods from area stores and restaurants and transports them to agencies serving those in need of food.

Michael Wolaver  
Chairperson

### Social Ministry - Mission Partnership Sub-Committee

St. Matthew's church continues to reach out in many areas in service to others. "One church – many voices." The goal of the Partnership committee is to communicate the needs and coordinate the partnerships of Reformation, Tanzania and El Salvador in order to serve in the best possible ways. Through the thoughtful giving at St. Matthew's: 22 children in El Salvador have received money to purchase uniforms, gym clothes and pay school fees; 24 secondary students in Sing'isi parish are able to attend school because of scholarships. The partnership committee meets together once a month as a whole group for devotion and then breaks into smaller groups to share, plan and organize for the partner churches.

During the summer months the hunger baskets were passed every Sunday and the \$6,265.03 in donations were divided between the 3 partnerships – Tanzania with drought relief, Reformation for church programs, and El Salvador for Feed My Starving Children food delivery directly to the partnership.

### **Reformation**

The 12 area churches that have partnerships with Reformation have begun regular meetings. There are many concerns but the immediate concern at Reformation is to call a Pastor to help maintain the congregation and the programs of the church. Repairs and maintenance in the church building are being considered as a future Habitat Project from all the partnership churches.

The summer youth program was a big success. Thank you to those from St. Matthew's who attended some of the daily activities and donated money for youth sponsorship. At the completion of the program at summer's end, each youth received money to purchase school clothes and school supplies.

There are about 5-10 people who help monthly to sort things at the resale store, bake cookies and pack food bags for the monthly food give away through the church. The fellowship and service is enjoyed by all. Fifty bags of food were collected at the Thanksgiving pie night and donated to Reformation.

### **Tanzania**

We were very blessed to meet and host Pastor Nasari from Sing'isi congregation in October (2009). Many events were held to introduce him to St. Matthew's and America. He had ideas of how we can help in the future and committee is discussing the possibilities.

An August 2010 trip is being planned. Informational meetings are being held.

### **El Salvador**

Mark Petersen and Sean Rutter, along with 70 other participants from around the world, attended "Encuentro" in El Salvador. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the global connections and long term support of the country's partnership. They visited orphanages where there are perhaps 130,000 orphans in the country. They looked at sustainability at a couple of the orphanages in talapia ponds, goats, hydroponic gardens. They visited the area where floods and mudslides show the depth of destruction and pain of the people. ELCA is working with groups in El Salvador and collecting money for flood relief.

Seventeen people traveled to El Salvador in early January of this year (2010). They will be doing some work, meeting and working with people and getting to know those in the partnership of Casa Esperanza in El Salvador.

THANK YOU to the many faithful who support the partnerships financially and with their time and talents! St. Matthew's continued commitment allows our church to reach out in global ministry and to live out our faith throughout the world.

Marcia Redman  
Chairperson

## Stewardship Committee

For 2009 we once again employed the captain delivered routes. This system has worked so well over the last few years, we continue to use it. This year we increased our captain counts to over 70 which reduced the number of members each captain was responsible for. With the outreach of our members, we were able to add routes as far out as Germantown and Pewaukee. As of the end of 2009, we have received financial commitments from a total of 352 giving units for total pledges of approximately \$667,000. In addition, 200 giving units have pledged to contribute a total of \$127,000 to the debt reduction campaign in 2010.

During the year, we held a special campaign to help raise funds for world hunger. We received a \$10,000 grant from generous church members, asking the congregation to match the grant. Not only did we match the grant, we exceeded it. As of the end of the year, we were able to collect a total of \$31,000 (including the initial grant) towards world hunger.

During the annual stewardship drive, we have again requested families to begin using the Simply Giving tool where contributions to the church can be automatically withdrawn from your accounts. The distinctiveness about the Simply Giving is that you can make changes to our contributions whenever your situation requires it. It is a very flexible way of contributing to the church. We currently have 115 giving units that utilize this option, which saves them time and the church money.

I would like to once again give a special note of thank you to Karen Eisemann, Holly Jurss and the rest of the office team for all their help in the fall Stewardship Drive. Without their help, the drive could not be run so smoothly. Finally a thank you goes out to the Stewardship Committee team: Cory Olson, Curt Brewer, Dave Wulff and John Yentz. Their efforts were critical in making this year once again a success for the St. Matthew's Stewardship ministry.

Al Van Lith  
Chairperson

## Women's Ministry

The purpose of St. Matthew's Women's Ministry is to enhance growth in faith through Study of the Word, Fellowship with One Another, and Service that proclaims the Love of Christ working in and through us.

Activities offered in 2009 for and by women include:

Deborah and Naomi Circles continued to meet throughout the past year, in member homes and in the community. After many years of fellowship, study, and service, Women in Touch have discontinued their regular monthly meetings. They may continue to gather periodically to celebrate the sharing with each other that has so blessed their lives.

Women's Sunday Morning Sharing Group once again centered discussion on specific books and study guides. The group meets in the Bridal Chapel during Education Hour.

Other 2009 events:

- January 24 “Women’s Wellness” event featuring keynote on wholeness of mind, body and spirit, and break out sessions on many topics ranging from spiritual types to nutrition and much more.
- February “Theater Night” –women met for dinner at a local restaurant and attended a live performance.
- March 7 overnight retreat at Cedar Valley Conference Center included exploration of the theme, “Stronger Shoulders in Troubling Times.”
- April 4 Women Together in Prayer breakfast and slide show of a member’s sojourn in India.
- October 24 make-it session on “Healing Pillows” made with buckwheat hulls
- October collection of new and gently-used women’s apparel and accessories for donation to “Bottomless Closet”, a not-for-profit program providing clothing for women entering the workforce.
- December 10 Advent Breakfast and performance by Janet Peterson of Acacia Theater, “The Handmaid of the Lord,” a moving depiction of the life of Christ through his mother, Mary.

Ginny Cleppe  
Women’s Ministry

## Worship Task Force

This task force functions as an advisory/visioning group to facilitate and coordinate the planning of worship at St. Matthew’s.

The chair of the Worship Task Force is the council representative so designated. Other members include the Pastors, the Minister of Music, other music and education staff members, and one or two additional members of the congregation.

This group meets three times per year for the purpose of long-range planning, coordination, assessment, and integration of worship services and musical events with other programs of the church.

The Minister of Music is responsible for creating an agenda for the meetings and setting the dates for the meetings, in consultation with other staff members. The Worship and Music council representative facilitates the meetings and is responsible for the minutes.

Other responsibilities of the Worship Task Force include:

- To assist in implementing the mission statement of the congregation.
- To review, maintain, and update liturgical formats consistent with Lutheran theology.
- To periodically advise the church council on changes for worship times.
- To establish appropriate worship environment for the liturgical seasons via the Décor Subcommittee.

One of the largest projects for the Worship Task Force is the annual Advent/Christmas decorating event. Many thanks to all those individuals who helped to decorate the church on December 4th, 2009, and to those who packed away the décor on January 3rd, 2010. There was a large attendance for both events so the tasks went very smoothly. A very special thank you is extended to Ed Bross who assists in many ways throughout the year with the décor needs of the Worship Task Force.

Robin Cox  
Interim Chairperson

## Youth Ministry

Under the guidance of Gretchen Haugse, Director of Youth Ministries, the Youth and Family Ministry seeks to plan a variety of youth activities involving fellowship, service and faith development. It is our goal to engage St. Matthew's youth in activities which develop a sense of community within our church and develop a sense of responsibility to the greater community through outreach beyond ourselves.

During the past year we offered fellowship/social activities geared for Middle School students such as game nights, movie nights, and camping at "Camp Erickson", and W.O.W (fellowship time on Wed. nights) . For Senior High students there were "Commando Nights" (similar to "Capture the Flag"), a summer cook-out, Starbucks Sundays, and Exam Week hang-out time in the Youth Room. Both groups went to Mt. Olympus and on a Weekend Ski trip to the Upper Peninsula. The Middle Schoolers helped with a "Clean-up" Day and decorated cookies for the meal programs. The Senior High students volunteered at the various meal programs and food pantries, and packed care packages for the St. Matthew's college students. Their biggest focus though, was preparing for the "Road to the Rockies" Mission Trip to Harvest Farms in Wellington, Co. The youth worked side-by-side with men who are in recovery from addictions as they labored on the farm, spent time at various social service agencies in the area and did some work with Habitat for Humanity. Much fundraising goes into getting ready for our trip including our annual Auction/Dinner, restaurant sponsored events, Lenten dinners, and working the grounds at the Wisconsin State Fair. As they prepare for the 2010 Mission Trip to Ashville, N.C., we held our first ever "Mission Trip Retreat" this Fall.

Weekly Sunday School programs incorporating all areas of our mission are offered to the Middle School youth and a Youth Forum on Sunday mornings is offered to our Senior High youth.

We are thankful for a dedicated group of Youth committee members who helped plan and chaperone events: Brian Due, Beth Brown, Paul Braun, Dan Brovarney, Mike Thomae, Peggy Heuler, Anne Riegert, Chris Lange, Gretchen Haugse, and Pastor Chris. We are open to new ideas for building the youth program at St. Matthew's and encourage interested members to join our committee or chaperone at our events. Thank you for all of your support of the Youth of St. Matthew's!

Cathy Laszewski, Youth Committee  
Gretchen Haugse, Director of Youth Ministry

## Comments on 2009 Financial Statements

In 2009 St. Matthew's continued to see strong financial support from its members in a year of economic difficulty and uncertainty.

As noted in the 2009 financial statement, the generosity of St. Matthew's members resulted in \$1,044,840 of contributions, just under budget. Expenses totaled \$1,047,814 also slightly under budget. The end result was a decrease in equity of \$2,974 for the year. Included in expenses were benevolence distributions of \$279,713.

In 2009, \$151,000 was paid against the principal on the building debt and at the end of the year the mortgage balance was \$99,000.

I would like to thank the following people:

Rob Wedel for his time and commitment as the Treasurer of St. Matthew's for the last six years. Rob spends many hours throughout the year on the financial statements of the church and the creation of the 2010 budget that will be voted on by the congregation.

John Rohatsch and Dan Goetsch for their participation on the Finance Committee.

Holly Jurss, our Finance Secretary, who works diligently to prepare the financial statements monthly. It is her understanding and organization that ensures that things run smoothly.

A very special acknowledgement for the service and commitment of Bob Froemming, until his sudden passing in October. Bob served on the Finance Committee for many years.

The 2010 budget process was a straightforward effort. The budget was approached with the comfort of our faith and trusting that God will provide while being practical about the need to control spending.

It has been a privilege to serve on council, and as I finish my final year I look forward to new ways that I can serve.

Kelly L. Kirtley  
Chairperson, Finance Committee

**ST. MATTHEW'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS OF DECEMBER 31**

	2009	2008	2007
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:</b>			
Cash in Bank and on Hand	\$ 360,134	\$ 339,398	\$ 252,154
Short-term Investments	267,202	80,212	77,423
Funds Receivable	10,000	20,177	10,067
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>637,336</u>	<u>439,787</u>	<u>339,644</u>
<b>LESS RESTRICTED FUNDS:</b>			
Designated Benevolence	31,924	41,379	26,253
Deferred Contributions Fund	12,573	11,567	28,499
Specified Purpose Funds	467,261	282,415	172,346
Major Repair/Projects Contingency Fund	60,584	39,667	46,508
Debt Reduction Fund	19,955	16,745	24,159
Subtotal	<u>592,297</u>	<u>391,773</u>	<u>297,765</u>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ST. MATTHEW'S GENERAL OPERATING PURPOSES:</b>	<u>45,039</u>	<u>48,014</u>	<u>41,879</u>
<b>PROPERTY ASSETS AT COST:</b>			
Land, Building and Improvements	3,782,192	3,782,192	3,782,192
Schlicker Organ	435,442	435,442	435,442
Furniture and Equipment	806,285	753,410	737,787
Total Property Assets at Cost	<u>5,023,919</u>	<u>4,971,044</u>	<u>4,955,421</u>
<b>MORTGAGE LOAN PAYABLE</b>	99,000	250,000	399,000
<b>NET ASSETS, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 4,969,958</u>	<u>\$ 4,769,058</u>	<u>\$ 4,598,300</u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$ 4,769,058	\$ 4,598,300	\$ 4,400,738
Purchase of Furniture & Equipment	52,874	15,623	11,030
Mortgage Loan	151,000	149,000	176,000
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from General Operations	(2,974)	6,135	10,532
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<u>\$ 4,969,958</u>	<u>\$ 4,769,058</u>	<u>\$ 4,598,300</u>

**ST. MATTHEW'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	<b>2010 Budget</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Budget</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>
<b>Total Contribution Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,065,736</b>	<b>\$1,044,840</b>	<b>\$1,057,533</b>	<b>\$1,048,394</b>	<b>\$1,045,686</b>	<b>\$981,015</b>
Costs Associated with St. Matthew's Ministry and Operations						
Pastoral Ministry	242,214	240,414	240,720	233,665	235,300	210,934
Program Costs and Expenses	285,348	272,402	276,692	271,815	290,259	268,635
Subtotal	527,562	512,816	517,412	505,480	525,559	479,569
Cost of Operations						
Building and Property	165,328	160,075	173,481	164,304	163,748	149,112
Administration & Other	97,052	95,210	92,997	89,981	86,016	77,694
Subtotal	262,380	255,285	266,478	254,285	249,764	226,806
<b>Total Costs Ministry and Operations</b>	<b>\$ 789,942</b>	<b>\$ 768,101</b>	<b>\$ 783,890</b>	<b>\$ 759,765</b>	<b>\$ 775,323</b>	<b>\$ 706,375</b>
<b>Benevolence Distributions</b>						
ELCA General Fund	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	135,960
Lutheran Social Services	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200
Special Benevolence	127,593	131,513	125,443	134,294	122,163	119,948
Foundation Contributions to Benevolence	-	34,800	-	37,900	-	16,275
Restricted Contribution to Benevolence	-	40,800				
<b>Total Benevolence Distributions</b>	<b>\$ 275,793</b>	<b>\$ 355,313</b>	<b>\$ 273,643</b>	<b>\$ 320,394</b>	<b>\$ 270,363</b>	<b>\$ 280,383</b>
Benevolence Distribution as a Percentage of Contribution Receipts Plus Receipts From Foundation						
		33%		29%		28%
<b>Recap of General Fund Activities</b>						
Contribution Receipts	\$ 1,065,735	\$ 1,044,840	\$ 1,057,533	\$ 1,048,394	\$ 1,045,686	\$ 981,015
Ministry & Program Costs	527,562	512,816	517,412	505,480	525,559	479,569
Operating Costs	262,380	255,285	266,478	254,285	249,764	226,806
Benevolence Distributions	275,793	279,713	273,643	282,494	270,363	264,108
Total Costs and Distributions	1,065,735	1,047,814	1,057,533	1,042,259	1,045,686	970,483
Receipts Over (Under) Costs & Distributions	\$ -	\$ (2,974)	\$ -	\$ 6,135	\$ -	\$ 10,532
<b>Building Fund</b>						
Mortgage Payments	\$ 103,500	\$ 321,265	\$ 115,763	\$ 207,221	\$ 115,763	\$ 207,221

**ST. MATTHEW'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OPERATING EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	<b>2010 Budget</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Budget</b>	<b>Actual Over (Under) Budget</b>
<b>Mission and Ministry</b>				
Salaries and Wages	234,656	234,133	234,656	(523)
Pensions and Benefits	109,684	106,720	107,003	(283)
Pastoral Allowances	119,728	119,556	119,728	(172)
Worship and Music	18,515	16,904	17,675	(771)
Christian Education	16,850	12,352	16,350	(3,998)
Youth Ministry	8,650	5,878	8,650	(2,772)
Evangelism/Fellowship	7,619	5,489	3,500	1,989
Stewardship	2,500	1,946	2,300	(354)
Activities and Recognition	9,360	9,838	7,550	2,288
<b>Totals Mission and Ministry</b>	<b>527,562</b>	<b>512,816</b>	<b>517,412</b>	<b>(4,596)</b>
<b>Operations</b>				
Salaries and Wages	105,213	102,402	100,089	2,313
Pension and Benefits	17,967	17,499	16,998	501
Fuel and Utilities	46,800	50,289	48,800	1,489
Property Insurance	15,800	15,062	16,230	(1,168)
Maintenance and Repair	51,600	47,836	53,900	(6,064)
Office Supplies & Postage	25,000	22,400	26,500	(4,100)
Contingency Provisions	6,000	6,000	10,000	(4,000)
Furniture & Equipment	2,500	211	2,500	(2,289)
Other Investment Receipts	(3,500)	(2,469)	(3,539)	1,070
Rental Income	(5,000)	(3,945)	(5,000)	1,055
<b>Totals Operations</b>	<b>262,380</b>	<b>255,285</b>	<b>266,478</b>	<b>(11,193)</b>