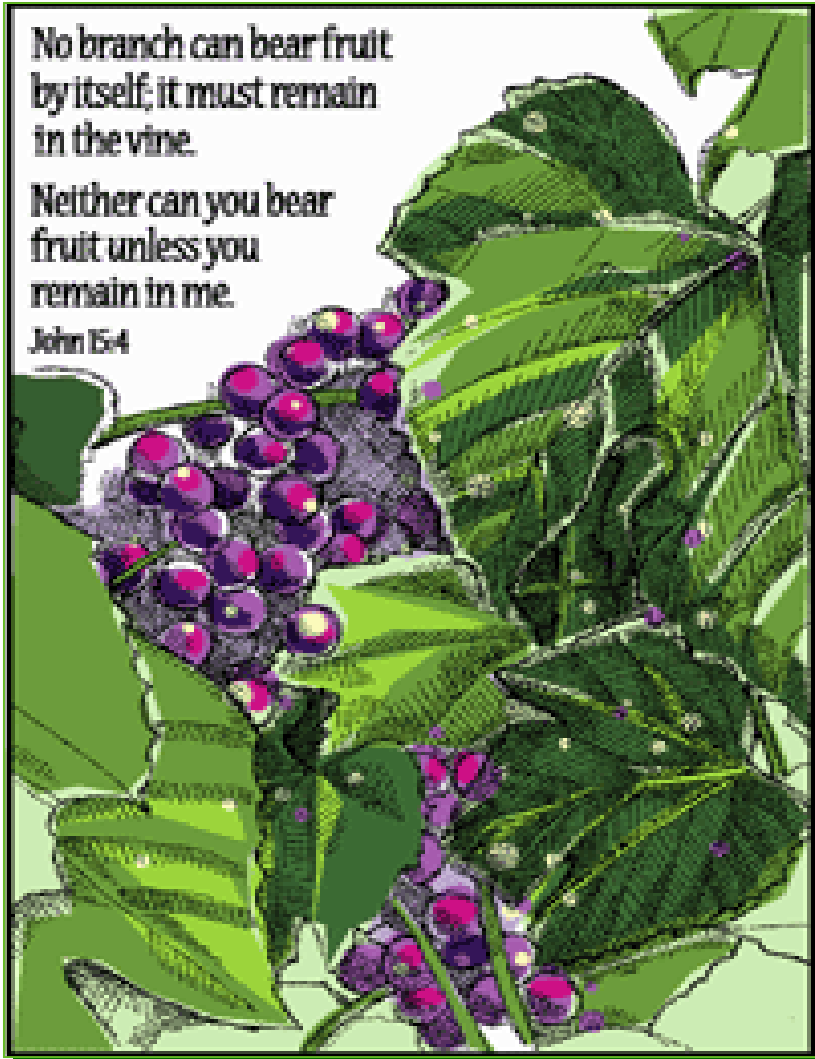


No branch can bear fruit
by itself; it must remain
in the vine.

Neither can you bear
fruit unless you
remain in me.

John 15:4



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Annual Meeting for Year 2009

Held January 24, 2010

AGENDA

- Opening Devotion.....Pastor Dave Helfrich
- Hymn: "Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"ELW # 814
- Call to Order 2009 Council President, Dan Gilroy
- Approval of Minutes2009 Council Secretary, Suzanne Demosthenes
- Approval of 2009 Annual Reports Dan Gilroy
- Election of 2010 Council Dan Gilroy
- Election of 2010 Endowment Committee Dan Gilroy
- Election of 2010 Nominating Committee Dan Gilroy
- Election of 2010 Synod Assembly Delegates Dan Gilroy
- Congregational Update..... Dan Gilroy & Pastor Dave Helfrich
- 2009 Financial Review &
Approval of 2010 Budget..... 2009 Council Treasurer, John Whetstone
- Acknowledgment of Outgoing Council.....
.....2009 Council Vice Pres., Kirk Gadebusch
- Adjournment and Lord's Prayer..... Dan Gilroy
-

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Separate items:

- 2008 Minutes
 - Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2009
 - 2009 Treasurer's Report
 - 2010 Proposed Budget
-

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ through Knowing, Growing, and Going was at the center of the Council's conversations and decisions throughout the year.

Council's February retreat yielded two major priorities. One was to continue to build on the communication strategy from 2008. We moved forward with web enhancements that improved the depth and breadth of communication, both internally to the congregation and externally to the community. We thank Jennifer Rigby and Tom Crawford for leading this effort. The other priority was Leadership. We asked ourselves many questions, such as How to accomplish, What will it look like, What types, participation, timing etc. Work is still being completed as we continue to move this important area forward.

Listening to the Holy Spirit, last year's Long Range Planning process resulted in four goals being selected: "Feed My Sheep" Small Group Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Older Adult Ministry and Life Issues. In 2009, much research and study was done to determine how to move forward with implementation of our long range goals. We determined that a "new season" of small group ministry at LCR is the place to begin, that small groups provide a good foundation and leadership upon which to build out our dreams for young adults, older adults and addressing life issues in our community.

Along with the priorities and long-range goals, other Council initiatives were: security for employees and property, approval of the new constitution and by-laws and filling major leadership positions. Team Leader positions were filled in the following core teams: Physical Assets (Mike Mynhier), Nominating (Charles Demosthenes), Stewardship (Dave Hallman), Fellowship (Karen Rosner), Long Range Planning (Brad Koeneman), and Staff Human Resources (Sandy O'Donnell). The leadership team is complete. We are blessed with devoted and talented members.

In mid-year LCR held a ministry fair where all active groups and teams showcased their ministries and had dialogue with the congregation. Lynne O'Brien completed work on a revised and expanded Child Safety Policy. This was critical to complete, as it provides policies and procedures to keep our children safe at LCR.

Council President - continued

Mike Mynhier and his team revised the LCR Facilities Use Policy. This gives guidelines and direction as to how the facilities can be used by members and the community.

Later in the year, John Mellott, George O'Donnell and Don Schaet were tasked with researching procedures governing LCR's Endowment Fund. A standing Endowment Team was formed to include Reverend Kent Lang, Karen Boda and Ken Hyde. They are working to implement the recommendations of the task force and establish guidelines and ongoing management to ensure the growth and wise stewardship of the Fund.

An Audit team was formed to include Tony DeCouto, Debra Butts and Cathy Ritchie. They have completed work on auditing LCR's financial processes and procedures. A full audit of 2009 will be resumed and completed in February 2010.

In September LCR held its first Leadership Roundtable. This session included staff, council, ministry and core team leaders. The purpose was to coordinate activities that further LCR's vision, to share goals, to support each other and to encourage leadership growth.

We give thanks to the Holy Spirit !!! We are grateful for our staff: Pastor Dave, Helen, Crystal, Kerry and Suzie. We thank recently retired Judy Aebischer for her passion for Christian Education. We are blessed with a spiritual, caring and passionate staff that lead us in growing our relationship with Jesus Christ. We also give thanks for Pastor Kent and his leadership from the pulpit, classroom and pew.

Over the last 3 years, God delivered us a pastor, a vision, multiple growth ministries, leaders, and active member participation. For these we give thanks. God has blessed this congregation and has laid a new foundation for growth and doing His work at LCR.

It is a privilege to serve as president of this blessed congregation.

Thanks be to God!

Dan Gilroy

PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Members and Friends of LCR,

I will remember 2009 as the year of a maintenance budget and a long range plan. While certainly not mutually exclusive, they are at least in some measure contradictory. Let me write about both of them.

The recession has hit us hard – individually and corporately. At LCR, it forced us to adopt a maintenance budget in 2009 that was some \$80,000 less than it was in 2008. It was the appropriate, prudent thing to do. However, taking a 10% budget reduction meant that we were growing our ministries and God's kingdom with fewer resources. From my perspective, LCR showed great faith and resolve in dealing with that challenge. Income was steady, attendance grew, ministries continued. The vision of LCR – “to deepen our relationships with Jesus and with each other by knowing, growing, and going” – guided our way. Did we miss that \$80,000? Yes. Did we skip a beat? Probably. But all in all, with a faith and a determination and a commitment to the kingdom that LCR has become known for, God was honored, God's kingdom was built, and relationships were strengthened by what we accomplished. “Well done, good and faithful servants.” (Matthew 25:21)

2009 was also the year we adopted a 4 goal long range plan. Those 4 goals include:

- Feed My Sheep Ministry – an attempt to deepen our faith at LCR in order to go and share that faith in the world.
- Young Adult Ministry – a desire to broaden our ministries to better include young adults in particular and “people who are not here now” in general.
- Life Stage Ministry – an effort to address practical life issues (parenting, aging, etc.) from a faith perspective.
- Older Adult Ministries – a focus on developing intentional ministries to and for older adults.

The Staff and Council spent a great deal of time in 2009 discussing each of these goal options. We have discovered that each of them are in fact tactical goals rather than strategic goals. And we believe that by focusing on the strategic goal of joining with the Holy Spirit and growing LCR through worship and small groups, we will in fact accomplish the 4 tactical goals. Let me say a word about both worship and small groups.

I believe our worship ministry is a strength of LCR. It honors God and provides an opportunity for different people to worship God in different ways. Currently 40% of our

Pastor's Report - continued

worshipping congregation comes to the 8:30 service and 60% comes to the 11:00 service. Because it is one of our strengths, those numbers will continue to rise. And they should rise. I believe God is calling LCR to grow in worship attendance by at least 10% for the next five years. Currently we worship 250 people. That number could and should be 450-500 by 2015. In order for that to be accomplished, two things need to happen. We need to study and determine how we can more effectively use the current worship space that we have, including adjacent spaces. Secondly, we need to offer a 3rd worship opportunity, targeting people who are not here now, using a different form of worship at a different time so as not to compete with our current worship experiences. You will be hearing a great deal more about this as 2010 unfolds.

In large measure, worship is how we come to know Jesus. Small groups are how we can grow in our relationship with Jesus. Small groups have been around a long time at LCR. But we are on the brink of beginning a “new season” of small groups, one that is designed specifically to “deepen our relationships with Jesus and with each other.” All current small groups and all new small groups will be invited to take part in this “new season”. We should set a goal that by 2015, 50 small groups will be a part of this “new season” and all of them will put front and center the building of relationships, both with members of LCR as well as members of the community. As with worship, you will be hearing much more about this ministry in the months to come.

Picture a congregation where diverse and quality worship helps 500 people know the love of Jesus Christ. Picture a congregation where 50 small groups enable 500 people to go deep in their relationships with Jesus and one another. Picture that and you will see the congregation I am seeing in 2015. 2009 may have been the year of a maintenance budget and a long range plan, but it will also be remembered as the year when a growing, vibrant, mission-oriented congregation more clearly came into view. 2010 will be the year when the picture of that congregation will be fully clarified, communicated, and consummated. I am thrilled to help paint that picture – for you and with you!

In Christian Love,

Dave Helfrich, Pastor

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

2009 was the first year for the Children's Ministry Team. This team serves as the visioning and planning team for Children's Ministry. Our first major task was to revise the Sunday School curriculum. We successfully implemented Akaloo, our dynamic new Sunday School program, and most of the feedback has been great. With a primary focus on faith formation in the family, we launched Faith5, planned several intergenerational Sunday School lessons throughout the summer and the fall, and planned an intergenerational night Back to Bethlehem. In September we transitioned the primary leadership of this team from Crystal Oxner to Allison Lizdas.

Children's Ministry wouldn't be possible without the many volunteers that give of their time and gifts. Below you'll find more details of the many wonderful things that happened and the many wonderful people who took part in Children's Ministry in 2009.

Sunday School

Our children are blessed with a great group of Sunday School teachers. Thanks to:

- 2-3 year olds: LeAnn Haack & Deanna Topping
- 4-5 year olds: Susie Glass & Sarah Kirwan
- 1st-2nd grades: Julie Wood & Kristy Hartzell (Spring); Julie Wood & Laura Kaufman (Fall)
- 3rd-4th grades: Viki Adams & Kirsten Fladland (Spring); Pat Robertson & Tim Torchia (Fall)
- 5th-6th grades: Tom Glass & Julie Johnson (Spring); David Rowe & Erika Torrey (Fall)
- 7th-8th grades: Pat Robertson & Tim Torchia (Spring); Tom Glass (Fall)
- 9th-12th grades: Dean Ely & Nick Tupper (Spring); addition of Danny Ritchie (Fall)
- Loyal Substitutes: Kathy Carroll, Tanja Luttrell, Margaret Perry, Kerry Smith, Trish Davis
- Superintendents: Gloria Frey & Jill Gadebusch

In addition, our Intergenerational Sundays could not have happened without the hard work of Allison Lizdas, Sarah Kirwan, Tanja Luttrell, and Rachael Ongaro.

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter egg hunt was held on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009. Children ages 2-10 spent the first part of Sunday School decorating bags and then traveled to the outside grounds to find the eggs hidden by youth in 5th-12th grades. Many thanks to Rachael Ongaro for coordinating this event!

Vacation Bible School

The week of July 20-24, The Gathering Room turned into a Roman Marketplace where approximately 85 children traveled back to the time of Paul and the early Christians. Through Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks, children experienced what it might have been like to be a Christian just after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

VBS would not have been possible without the help of our incredible volunteers! 50 adults and youth grades 6-12 graciously gave of their gifts and time during the week to ensure our children had a wonderful VBS experience. In addition to these volunteers, thanks also to the many LCR members who donated items and prayed for the week. A huge thanks to Tanja Luttrell, Barbara Kirk, Jill Robertson, Susan Torchia, & Sue Koenneman for their awesome work coordinating VBS this year. We could not have traveled to Rome without them!

Children's Ministry Team - continued

First Communion

On September 13, Pastor Dave and Crystal Oxner met with 5 youth and their families to talk about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The following week, the youth and their families took a trip to Sip & Stroke in Roswell and the youth painted the chalices they would use to help distribute Communion. On World Communion Day, October 4, we rejoiced as Anthony Crumpton, Elaina Davis, Sydney Koeneman, Matteus Lizdas, John Luttrell and Hunter Rosner celebrated their First Communion. Thanks to Tanja Luttrell who coordinated this event and Jerry Pantelakis for taking pictures.

Bible Presentations

We have been encouraging all students 3rd grade and older to bring their Bibles each week so that they become familiar with the books of the Bible and the stories within. On Rally Day, August 16 we presented Bibles to Mariah Butts, John Carroll, Kinsey McElhaney, Hunter Rosner, Patton Robertson, and Julia Winter. Since Rally Day we have also presented Bibles to several youth who had not previously received one, including Eric Kelm, Leah Kelm, and Anthony Crumpton.

Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant was held on Sunday, December 13, between the services. Under the direction of Helen Phelps and many other adult volunteers, youth ages 2 to 13, performed a wonderful portrayal of the Christmas story from the shepherds' points of view. Sincere thanks to Tanja Luttrell, Trish Davis, Dennise Hewlett, Susan Torchia, Vickie Walsh, Darlene Lawrence, Susan Logan, Jerry Pantelakis, and Jim Adams for all their help with costumes, props, lighting, sound and coordination of the youth on performance day.

Cradle Roll

We continued our *Splash* program in 2009 for all parents of children ages birth to three years. This resource is filled with practical and enjoyable ways for parents to fulfill the promise they make when their child is baptized. We are very grateful to Tanja Luttrell for her coordination of this ministry over the last several years.

Our primary focus going forward will be working towards implementing a small group focus within the Akaloo program, planning a dynamic Vacation Bible School program for 2010, and developing more family-friendly activities and events. The biggest challenge we face for 2010 is increasing the size of our ministry team and other volunteers. We are very excited that children's ministry at LCR is growing! As this growth continues, the need for more committed adult volunteers rapidly increases. If you are interested in serving LCR in this way, please feel free to contact one of us!

Submitted By:
Children's Ministry Team

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

It has been an exciting year for youth ministry at LCR! We are still without a standing Youth Ministry Team; however, there are several volunteers who have helped make the various experiences a success. Here are some details about what our youth were involved in this year.

Confirmation

Pastor Dave finished the 2008-2009 Confirmation year with Wednesday evening conversations about the Bible. On May 17, Katie Frey, Emily Glass, Lucas Johnson, Erin Radcliffe, Ashley Trammell, Brady Walsh and Mark Winter were confirmed as adult members of the congregation.

This fall, we implemented a new Confirmation program with a primary goal of establishing, encouraging and deepening relationships with Jesus Christ and a lifestyle of discipleship among our young people. Confirmation now consists of two main parts: Sunday morning Catechism & Bible instruction and Wednesday evening service learning opportunities. Sunday morning classes are for 7th-8th graders and are led by myself and Tom Glass, with some special appearances by Pastor Dave. Wednesday evening service learning opportunities are for all 6th-8th grade youth and have been led by Paul Dreher and Thomas Jannett, a young adult who is active in middle school ministry in the Southeastern Synod. We are greatly thankful to Julie Johnson who steps in to assist with Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings whenever needed.

Youth Group

Our youth in 6th-12th grades had many different opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and outreach in 2009. These include:

Wednesday Night Senior High Bible Study

Attendance at Wednesday night Bible study is anywhere from 5-10 senior high youth. We focus on different topics that help our senior high youth relate their faith to their daily lives. The 2009 series included "Who Is God?" and "The Gospel According to the Simpsons." Much thanks to Will Starkweather and David Rowe who provided adult leadership and musical contributions to these series.

Wednesdays After Easter

During the Wednesdays after Easter, Pastor Dave and I led youth 7th-12th grade through a four-week series entitled "Jesus is Risen: Now What?" Youth arrived to the youth pavilion and were then taken to various places in East Cobb to experience the risen Christ in common places and Bible stories. There were 15-20 youth in attendance each week.

Youth-Led Worship Services

The youth planned and led worship services for two different Sundays in 2009. There were over 30 youth involved in the planning and leading of two very different styles of worship services. A special thanks to Helen Phelps, Will Starkweather, Denise Hewlett, David Rowe, Susan Osberg, Leslie Carson, Kerry Smith, Paul Dreher, and Julie Johnson who helped to make these services a success. We have quite a talented group of youth who continue to be excited about being involved in planning worship!

Youth Ministry Team - continued

SESLYO Assembly

Becky Ritchie, Hillary Nelson and I represented LCR at the annual Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Assembly January 23-25, held at Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talledega, Alabama. Youth at the assembly explored what it means to Be, Love, Serve, Repeat: Best When Used With Bible and Hillary Nelson was elected to serve as Secretary to the SESLYO Board. This Board is made up of youth from around the synod and serves as the primary youth voice in the synod.

All Georgia Youth Gathering

On March 6-8, I went with 5 youth to the All Georgia Youth Gathering held in Covington, Ga. This year's theme was "TXT" and featured speaker Marquis Laughlin, who travels all over the world to share dramatic Scripture presentations to help audiences hear, see, and feel the God of the Bible. The event also featured music by the Oswald Brothers, a local high school band.

AFFIRM

This year, 8 youth and 5 adults from LCR attended the annual Southeastern Synod's weeklong youth experience on the campus of The University of Northern Alabama in Florence, AL. This year's theme was "Come Follow Me." Thanks to Will Starkweather, Danny Ritchie, David Rowe, and Sue Logan for being a part of this year's staff. Also, much thanks to Cathy Ritchie for organizing transportation for the youth to Affirm and to Cathy Ritchie, Deanna Topping, Eric Smith, and Nancy Lopez for driving to and from the event.

Win Our World

The week of July 5-10, Danny Ritchie and I traveled with 9 youth to Win Our World urban ministry experience at St. John's Lutheran Church in Knoxville, TN. The week's theme was "This Beautiful Mess" and those who attended experienced Jesus through mission work, faith building exercises, and leadership development. Youth who went are still talking about the experiences they had there and set a goal to double participation in 2010!

Lutheridge

3 middle school youth from LCR and 5 youth from Brumby celebrated Fourth of July at Lutheridge for Middle School Explorers week. Special thanks to George O'Donnell for organizing transportation for these youth.

Rafting Trip

In August, 5 senior high boys took a weekend getaway to raft down the Ocoee. Thanks to Danny Ritchie, Paul Dreher, and Eric Topping for organizing and chaperoning the event.

Lutheran Youth Organization Convention

On July 26-29, Hillary Nelson and I joined 7 other youth and 1 other adult to represent the Southeastern Synod at the biannual Lutheran Youth Organization Convention in Hattiesburg, MS. The LYO Convention is made up only of youth voting members and adult guest chaperones and gave youth from all over the ELCA the chance to learn about various issues that they care about related to the church, youth people, and the world. The Convention elected new members and officers to the national board of the LYO and wrote, discussed and voted on several resolutions dealing with topics important to the youth.

Youth Ministry Team - continued

Drops Like Stars

12 youth and 7 adults went to the Cobb Energy Centre on October 7 to hear Rob Bell speak in his *Drops Like Stars* tour. Rob Bell is the pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is best known for the NOOMA video series. With him, we explored the connection between suffering and creativity, were encouraged to create something out of nothing, and were reminded that God is always working in our lives, sometimes when we least expect it. Much thanks to David Rowe, Paul Dreher, Cathy & David Ritchie, Danny Ritchie, and Julie Johnson for chaperoning and driving.

Thanksgiving Service Project

The youth of LCR sponsored this year's Thanksgiving Service Project and collected, sorted, and delivered canned goods for Cobb Family Resources. A big thank you to Susan Osberg for organizing this project and for all of you who donated food or money to this special project.

The primary focus of youth ministry in 2010 will be to shift into a small group ministry model. As the number of active youth increases, it is becoming critical to create smaller group environments where youth and adult leaders can deepen their relationships with Jesus and with each other. We are at a place in youth ministry where we can't go any deeper in our faith without the commitment and support of faithful adults. Our biggest challenge in 2010 will be finding adults who can regularly commit to walking with small groups of youth in their faith journeys as well as an increasing number of chaperones for various weekend events. If you have a passion for youth and want to travel with them along their journey, please contact me!

I am grateful to all of you for allowing me to serve you in the areas of Children & Youth Ministry. In addition to my work at the congregational level, I continue to represent LCR at the Synod level as an adult advisory member to the SESLYO Board, as a member of the All-Georgia planning team, and as a member of the Affirm Leadership Team. There are so many stories of how these synod events have changed the lives of youth people and I am honored to be a part of them. I am so thankful for the relationships that I have formed with so many of you and am very excited about what God has in store for us in the coming years!

Living in God's Amazing Grace,
Crystal Oxner
Director of Children & Youth Ministries

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

In a recent congregational letter, Pastor Dave and Council President Dan Gilroy referenced how the Holy Spirit has been “moving, growing and changing LCR” over the past several years. God has been at work bringing us to a place of readiness to grow into the vision that He has for us. In recent years, LCR has made progress in terms of organizational structure and administrative policies that enhance our ability to minister today and provide a foundation for managed growth in the years ahead.

Our Constitution has been updated and Bylaws rewritten to provide user-friendly job descriptions and to ensure that responsibilities don't fall through the cracks. The resulting new organizational structure provides clear alignment and support between council, teams and staff. Over the past year, the challenge has been to build out our structure and populate many critical, but long-dormant teams.

We now have a bi-annual Executive Roundtable consisting of core team leaders, council and staff that meets to improve communication and collaboration among LCR leadership. Importantly, the new structure has freed up council to focus on strategy and vision and not get bogged down in the minutia of church operations. Our Executive Team has become more effective due to the continuity resulting from staggered two-year VP/President and Treasurer/Secretary terms. Going forward, the future of LCR will require new forms of partnership among leadership in terms of communication, planning and budgeting, particularly as ministry areas grow in terms of people and activities.

Our policies have required firming up as we move from a “family church” where everyone knows everyone else and how things operate, to a “program church” where it is less apparent who to turn to and how to get things done. Some of the important policies that have been shored up in recent years include our Personnel Policy, Child Safety Policy, Security, Facilities Use, and Endowment Guidelines. In many areas, the next step is the development of written procedures for the implementation of policy.

A year ago we did not have a finance team. Under the leadership of Dan Lizdas, our fully-populated Finance Team has made amazing progress in terms of our financial procedures. Improvements include addressing procedural issues raised in last year's audit report and migrating all financial reporting to the Church Windows system. In recent years, LCR has developed a method for the annual budgeting process that calls for all ministry leaders to work together with Finance, Council and staff. Most recently, we have begun to take a longer-term, 3-5 year view that allows us to be more strategic in our planning. Financial contingency planning has also prudently become part of our ongoing budget process.

Church Administration - continued

LCR is blessed with many talented people who give deeply of their gifts. We continue to be challenged to engage a broader base of people by being creative to make opportunities available for all people to find a place to apply their passions and gifts. Ministry is limited, however, to the degree that LCR develops leaders capable of taking our vision in new and exciting directions. Leadership development will be an ongoing challenge and has been identified as a primary area of council focus in 2010.

Another critical area that has received attention in recent years is LCR's web presence. Our Communications Team has enhanced the utility of our website www.e-lcr.org making it a destination of useful information for both members and visitors alike. Communication, both internal and external, is one of the areas of primary focus for council and staff going forward.

One of LCR's hallmarks is the warm family atmosphere. Thanks to John Whetstone's leadership, our natural hospitality is supported by parking lot and narthex greeters. Going forward, we will more actively engage our community – reaching out to our East Cobb neighbors in ways that we have only begun to formulate, in addition to greeting them warmly when they walk through our doors.

One of the most exciting efforts underway today is LCR's emerging "new season of small groups". Initiated by last year's long-term planning process, LCR staff and leaders have recognized small groups as THE primary means by which LCR will achieve our vision of deepening our relationships with each other and with Jesus Christ. Small groups will change us, not only as individual believers, but also in terms of how we operate as an organization.

LCR's vision and long-range plan provides us with a clear mandate and direction for the future. If we follow God's call to Know him more, Grow in our relationship with Jesus and Go out into the world in His name, we will change and grow in ways that we cannot yet imagine. Our church has laid good groundwork for the journey ahead. We are ready to go. This is a cause for celebration! Yes, we will undoubtedly grow in numbers, but more importantly, we will grow in spirit and service. It is my privilege to work with you to ensure that LCR is ready for all that God has in store for us.

In His Service,

Kerry Ackerson
Director, Ministry Support

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRIES

Knowing that we are loved by God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we:

- Celebrate the real presence of Christ in our lives.
- Make Christ's presence known through engaging liturgies, uplifting music and powerful sermons.
- Acknowledge the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

This was indeed a year when the grace of the God and the power of the Holy Spirit was experienced in many ways as we worshiped together.

Some highlights of the year include:

Epiphany Mission Focus 2009

- This year we partnered with a Spanish-speaking ELCA church in our synod: Sagrada Familia (Holy Family) Lutheran Church in Doraville.
- We learned and used the Spanish liturgy in the ELW (sung in English) and raised \$1000 to assist a family of their congregation in paying rent and taking care of other needs as a result of the economic downturn.

Lent/Easter

- The theme of Wednesday worship services was "Stones." A small rock was available for each member of the congregation to carry as a reminder of God's presence with them throughout the week.
- We experienced the use of a new form of liturgical art in the projection of an image helping us focus on the theme each week: "Throwing Stones at Others," "Foundation," "Stumbling Block," "God is the Rock," "Rolling the Stone Away."
- The Alleluia Choir led the opening music, and we learned a new liturgy, called "Holden Evening Prayer."

Pentecost and Sundays after...

Advent/Christmas

- Once again using the "Joyous Light" liturgy, we came together for three Wednesdays of quiet, meditative worship focusing on "God's Work in Our Lives in the ... Past, Present and Future."
- Many thanks to Marge Mynhier for sharing her love and experience of Gospel storytelling with a group of LCR folks, who have also participated in telling the scripture for our Wednesday services.
- We also experienced the drama of Joseph's encounter with the angel regarding the birth of a baby. Many thanks to Pastor Dave and Mark Brosch for bringing this story to life.

Thanksgiving Service

This year we had our own Thanksgiving service of Word and Scripture with special music provided by each of our musical groups. Preceded by a Chili Cook-Off, it was a wonderful evening of fellowship with each other and praise to God.

Prayer Services

- During the Long Range Planning process of 2008, our congregation experienced more opportunities to gather in prayer. This seemed to be needed and appreciated by many, so to try to meet this need, a monthly Thursday evening Prayer Service was scheduled from August through November.
- The quiet service of Compline was used from the ELW, hymns were sung, scripture read, and a time of personal prayer—either alone or with the pastor—was offered.
- Although a small group of people gathered each month, the experience was meaningful and we look forward to offering some sort of monthly worship/prayer experience in 2010.

Worship & Music Ministries - continued

Youth Services

- We were blessed this year to have the youth of LCR lead us in worship, both in May and October.
- Each worship service was totally planned by youth with the assistance of Crystal Oxner and various adults as resources.
- Youth participated in all facets of the service including reading, praying singing, playing, greeting, and ushering.
- The highlights of the May services themed on the Good Shepherd, include the sharing of faith stories by two of the youth and the skit using pantomime and movement to music.
- The October Reformation theme of “God’s love will set you free” was illustrated by the making of a chain by the congregation during confession and the breaking of that chain at the end of the service, two more faith stories shared, an interactive puppet skit for the sermon, and the congregation serving each other communion in the pews.

Handbells

- Thanks to several generous donations, we were able to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase five octaves of refurbished Schulmerich handbells from Apostles church in Sandy Springs.
- Many people have indicated an interest in getting handbells over the years and I look forward to the many ways we will be able to use them to enhance our worship services.

Children’s Christmas Pageant

- This year’s pageant was “Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior.”
- Each year’s production seems to be better and better as we challenge the children with singing and speaking parts. This year we were able to add some movement to the songs with the help of Dennise Hewlett and Emily Glass.
- Many thanks to Tanja Luttrell, Trish Davis, Vickie Walsh, Darlene Lawrence, and all the various people who helped out in many, many ways to make the pageant a meaningful event for all.

As our worship and music ministries grow to reach out to more people and strive for excellence, there are a number of “unsung heroes” whose assistance and creativity help us quietly achieve the programs, services, and other ministries in this place. Sound system, lighting, audio-visual needs, setting up of the temporary Chancel stage, piano bench repair, etc., require many hands and many hours of work that are greatly appreciated.

As always, we are indebted to the faithful people, young and not as young, who lead the singing in worship each Sunday, in special services, and share the gift of music with our neighbors at Atria Assisted Living. Our Praise Team instrumentalists regularly lead worship, while other instrumentalists participate on an occasional basis to add color and festivity to our worship.

Many thanks to the Worship Team, with Sandy Brosch and Vickie Walsh as Co-Chairs, who help plan our services and schedule the many people needed to make everything flow smoothly; and to the Altar Guild, with Deanna Topping as Chair, who faithfully takes care of the details of worship so that we don’t have to even think about them on Sunday morning.

I am blessed to be a part of a staff that strives to be supportive of each other and work together as a team as we do ministry in this place.

In Christ,

Helen Weiss Phelps
Director of Music Ministries

ENDOWMENT

The Endowment or “Kent Lang Ministry Fund” was established to enhance and develop the mission outreach at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection apart from the general operation of the congregation. The fund supports four main areas:

1. Scholarships or grants to seminary students in preparation for humanitarian-related service; seminaries of the ELCA
2. Outreach into society
3. Capital projects in excess of \$100K
4. Other programs and ministries deemed worthy

The Endowment is currently valued at approximately \$425,000.

In 2009, the Endowment supported two seminary students, Will Starkweather at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and Sheri Kling at Chicago Seminary, both of whom began their studies in 2009.

In 2010, the Endowment will continue to support the seminary students, as well as begin support for Campus Outreach, Johannesburg. This program has been established to:

- Reach college students with the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Build college students into mature disciples of Christ
- Equip college students to be labors for Christ
- Mobilize graduates into their spheres of influence throughout the world

In 2010, expect to see additional communications and information shared about the Endowment, as well as how we as individuals can help grow this investment in ministry at LCR.

Respectfully submitted:

Ken Hyde, Kent Lang, Karen Boda

EVANGELISM TEAM

We have a 17-person team, plus the Turbo Group members, to greet and follow up with guests who attend Sunday morning services. Parking Lot Greeters and Narthex Greeters are like the concierge in a hotel. They answer questions and often take guests on a tour of the facilities. We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of people. Turbo Group members seek out guests and introduce themselves. The pastor and office staff contact guests after their initial visit. I also call guests to solicit feedback from their visits. This whole process, combined with their worship experience should make guests feel at home and want to return.

By 2015 LCR's plan is to increase weekly worship attendance from 250 to between 400 and 500 individuals. Such an increase will not come from Sunday morning walk-in guests alone. Research shows that growing churches have certain things in common. They meet the needs of their community, they have outstanding worship services, and they have a strong small group ministry. We certainly do have a footprint in our community, we have outstanding worship services, and small groups are our major initiative. The key for us will be to, as Matthew puts it, "Let our light shine." We have to let others know about us. To that end the Outreach Team and the Evangelism Team met recently to begin a dialogue about how to combine the dual meaning of Outreach - helping fill the needs of our community and bringing our community to LCR. The goal is to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and one another and to help fill the needs of our community. Can you see the intentional redundancy? We ask for God's blessing on our endeavor.

Let our Light Shine,

John Whetstone

FACILITIES TEAM

The Wednesday Morning Men's Group and a supporting cast were instrumental in accomplishing a great deal in an effort to save money for the salary of a site manager.

There were a total of 151 tasks completed that required nearly 1,200 man-hours. This included a number of ladies who provided lunches for the team during the work weeks, as well as labor on some of the clean-up projects and less strenuous tasks.

The distribution of projects around the grounds is shown here:

Gathering Room and classrooms - 36

General grounds - 24

Mechanical Room - 4

Offices and Library - 18

Robinwood - 24

Sanctuary - 23

Storage Shed - 4

Youth Pavilion - 18

We have used outside services to do some of the more difficult jobs. The faucets in both kitchen sinks have been replaced. We have also replaced a re-circulating pump for hot water in bathrooms in the office building. A pressure regulator had to be replaced as it was operating at twice the pressure that it should and could have caused serious damage if it had failed.

- New wider steps were installed for the Gathering Room thanks to John Didicher, Sr.
- There was also concrete work done at Robinwood and the Youth Pavilion complex.
- Security was improved for the staff by providing pendants that allows them to activate the system and call our security provider.
- Lights have been added in the parking lot to provide better lighting for security purposes.
- Replaced linoleum floor in Youth Pavilion with ceramic tile.
- Another of the aged furnaces (22 years) had to be replaced.
- Hired a new cleaning service.

Although we have accomplished a great deal this year, 2010 will be another busy year with 124 items on our to-do list.

The Peace of the Lord be with you all...

Jim Adams
Facilities Team Manager

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

With a loss of some very capable and tenured members, the Fellowship Team had to reinvent itself in 2009. Past leader Barbara Kirk helped to make the transition easier by leaving the team solid recommendations and documentation. After trying to recruit one or more people to fill some very big shoes, we decided to divide the fellowship function in order to make the job less intimidating (easier to say “yes”) and to get more people involved (less chance for burnout).

Sunday Morning Coffee & Receptions – A “Coffee Guild” was created consisting of an email distribution of 21 volunteers. Each month an email goes out asking for sign-ups to set-up or clean-up on Sunday morning. This flexible email approach has worked well because it allows people to sign up as their schedules allow. It has also been a good way for new members interested in Fellowship to get their feet wet by being placed with experienced members who can show them around the kitchen. Special receptions, such as First Communion, Confirmation and Rally Day are coordinated with the involvement of the Children’s Ministry Team. Other special Sundays included the O’Brien Ice Cream Celebration in June and Judy Aebischer’s Retirement Celebration in the fall.

Wednesday Nights – Caterer Jennifer Haehn single-handedly prepares and executes LCR’s mid-weekly buffet dinners that precede a Bible study and/or other church activities on Wednesday nights during school months.

Deck 20 Summer Gatherings – Thanks to the leadership of Ron Jolly and the volunteer “hosts” for each date, our Deck 20 events were a great success with 115 adults representing 70% of LCR households attending one or more of five gatherings held over the summer. Invitations to these relaxed wine-n-cheese gatherings are randomly mailed so you are likely to see both old and new faces.

Congregational Events – LCR has generally held three major congregation-wide events per year and four minor events typically involving some subset or ministry-specific area of the church. These are the fellowship events that have the greatest volunteer demands in terms of creativity, planning, and execution. We found that it is easier to recruit volunteers for limited, event-specific events versus having standing fellowship volunteers.

For major fellowship events, we recruited teams of people who are passionate and available to apply their energies towards a specific date. Highlights of the past year included:

- Easter Brunch – led by Mark Brosch and his loyal men
- Sheri Kling Coffeehouse (April) – led by Helen Phelps and the Praise Team
- Chili-Fest (Nov) – led by Kerry Smith
- Pig Roast (Oct) – led by Karen Rosner, Lynn Ruswinkle and the Didichers
- Talent Show (May) – led by Helen Phelps and Jerry Pantelakis
- International Advent Food Festival (Dec) – led by Betty Didicher and Patty Pantelakis

Fellowship Team - continued

For minor events, we've asked the individual group or ministry area to assume responsibility for the event with assistance from a few fellowship volunteers, if needed.

- Rally Day (Aug) – led by Allison Lizdas and the Children's Ministry Team
- Blue Shoes Rwanda Outreach Dinner (April) – led by Sue Adams and the Outreach Team
- LSG Breakfast (June) – led by the Didichers and the Outreach Team
- Wild Women's Weekend (March) – coordinated faithfully, as always, by Harriet Ward
- Secret Sister's Brunch (Sept) – led by Patty Pantelakis with speaker Judy Aebischer
- Confirmation Banquet (May) – planned and executed by 7th grade confirmand families

Fellowship Groups – Small ongoing gatherings of people who gather for fellowship around a common interest are largely self-sufficient. Their success is attributable to the passion and loyalty of both the leaders and the members themselves. These include:

- Lunch Bunch – monthly gatherings for crafting and lunch led by Barbara Kirk
- FaithWalks – Weds morning walk and devotion led by Margaret Perry
- Book Club – meets every six weeks, currently led by Frieda Parks
- Knitting & Crocheting – 1st and 3rd Tues evenings, led by Patty Pantelakis

Kitchen Supplies & Maintenance – Most fellowship events take place in our Gathering Room utilizing the kitchen facility and its supplies. We were blessed to have Carol Drake step forward to assume the role of Kitchen Supply Manager. Carol ensures that our kitchen is well stocked and organized.

In the fall, Karen Rosner stepped forward to assume leadership of the Fellowship Team. We are blessed with her experience, enthusiasm and new ideas for fellowship at LCR. In the coming year, we can look forward to many more fellowship opportunities to build relationships with one another while we deepen our relationship with Jesus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Smith Ackerson
Director, Ministry Support

Karen Rosner
Fellowship Team Leader

LONG RANGE PLANNING TEAM

The Long Range Planning Team led by Jerry Pantelakis entered 2009 in the final stages of setting goal options for LCR. In February the staff, council and congregational leaders met with an external consultant to work on a final list of goals that would put LCR on a direction for the next 5 years. The result was four goals. They are “Feed my Sheep” small group ministry, a ministry to young adults, an older adult ministry and life-stage ministry. The staff, with support from council, went to work researching many aspects of how and when to implement, including alternative approaches, practicality, execution, needed resources, and congregational involvement.

To achieve a learning of small group ministries, members of staff and executive committee read “Growing Small Group Ministries” by David Stark. To further research, a team of staff and lay members attended a workshop in Minneapolis facilitated by David Stark to better understand his framework for small group ministry and its appropriateness as a model for LCR. Upon their return, a Small Group Ministry team, including staff and lay members: Ted Coleman, Meg Hardt and Dan Lizdas, was formed to initiate and manage a “new season of small groups” at LCR.

In 2009, the Long Range Planning Team transitioned to Brad Koeneman (leader), Frieda Parks, Stuart Owen and George O’Donnell. Their responsibility is to develop the process that measures our progress to ensure that our long range goals are moving us toward our vision of Knowing, Growing and Going. They will work with staff and council on overarching strategic goals, as well as those tactical goals derived from the 2008 long range planning process. Some things they will be looking at are growing our ministries, future facility needs and managing growth.

Working with staff and council, the long range planning team will be an integral partner of the future at LCR. We are blessed and thankful for the team of Brad, Frieda, Stuart and George and ask that you keep them in your daily prayers.

The Lord be with you,

Dan Gilroy
Council President

NOMINATING TEAM

The Nominating Team is recommended by the church council and elected by the congregation to serve nominating individuals to positions in accordance with LCR's constitution and by laws. We adopted a new constitution this past year, which took effect last June. The biggest change was that the Nominating Team will be recommending individuals to serve in the various officer positions to be elected by the congregation. The Nominating Team is one of the core support teams for the church. In addition to the changes in the nominating process, a new structure is in the process of being implemented to support the church in meeting our vision.

This year's Nominating Team consisted of Mike Mynhier, Darlene Lawrence, Kathi Gilroy, Jill Gadebusch, Phil Upchurch and Charles Demosthenes (chair). The Nominating Team had staff support from Kerry Smith.

Under the new constitution, the officers are nominated for a two-year term, staggered such that the president and secretary should be nominated on odd numbered years, and the vice president and treasurer are to be nominated on even numbered years. Since all of our current officers were elected to their offices by the council under the old constitution, there will be a period of transition to achieve the appropriate stagger. The Nominating Team prayerfully considered the present members of the council and sought to find individuals who would create a council who would complement each other, and represent the congregation well.

Dan Gilroy (current president) and Suzanne Demosthenes (current secretary) have agreed to be nominated for a 1-year term in these positions (while completing their term on the council), thus placing those two offices in line to be up for new officers next year in accordance with the new by laws. John Whetstone has been in the position of Treasurer for one year, and has one more year in his present term on the council, and has agreed to serve an additional year as treasurer. Jennifer Rigby has completed a two year term on the council, and has agreed to server another two-year term on the council.

New members of the council we are recommending are Tony Stephens for the position of Vice President, and Dean Ely as an at-large member of council. Christian Osberg has agreed to serve as the youth representative for a one-year term.

Jim and Sue Adams have agreed to represent the congregation at the annual Synod meeting to be held in Chattanooga this coming June.

Thus the nominating slate for 2010 is as follows:

- Dan Gilroy, President (one-year term)
- Tony Stephens, Vice President (two-year term)
- Suzanne Demosthenes, Secretary (one-year term)
- John Whetstone, Treasurer (one-year term)
- Jennifer Rigby, Council Member (two-year term)
- Dean Ely, Council Member (two-year term)
- Christian Osberg, Council Member, youth representative (one-year term)

Together these members, along with existing council members: Julie Johnson, Don Schaet, John Mellott and Richard Leon, will comprise the 2010 council.

Jim and Sue Adams, LCR representatives to Synod Council. These people prayerfully considered and agreed to respond to the invitation for service. As such, they were submitted to the current council and will be brought before the congregation for election during the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2010.

PHYSICAL ASSETS TEAM

The Physical Assets Team, formed by the new by laws, was organized this year and some initial activities were accomplished. The current team members include:

Mike Mynhier, (Team Leader), Jerry Pantelakis, and John Didicher. This team works closely with the Facilities Team.

Accomplishments in 2009 included:

- Development and implementation of an updated Facilities Use Policy;
- Review and update of our service and maintenance contracts;
- Implementation of security improvements including improved facilities lighting and alarm pendants for staff; and with the Facilities Team,
- Development of a prioritized facilities improvements and repair plan for 2010.

Goals for 2010 include: Bring in additional team members; additional security improvements; development of a disaster response plan; conducting an insurance review; and, working with the Facilities Team, implement a preventive maintenance management system.

Mike Mynhier
Team Leader

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Keeping the technology infrastructure up-to-date provides our dedicated LCR staff and volunteers with the tools they need for our church to continue sharing God's Word in today's high-tech world. As such, we planned and budgeted for a number of key upgrades in 2009. Here are highlights of the 2009 technology accomplishments:

- New Wireless Internet Service – Phase I range covers:
 - o Church Office
 - o Upstairs Family Life Center / Gathering Room
 - o Sanctuary
 - o WiFi access:
 - Wireless Service: LCR_GUEST
 - Password: John3.16 (note the capital J and dot)
- Extended Network wiring to:
 - o Dayspring Counseling office in Sanctuary building
 - o New Sunday School Teacher room
 - o Gathering Room
 - o New Volunteer/Bookkeeper Room
- Purchased and Installed new wireless router/switch with high-speed wired ports connecting to upgraded downstairs switch providing high-speed wired access to downstairs offices
- Purchased and Configured New Printers:
 - o Office Volunteer
 - o Bookkeeper
 - o Large Format Poster Printer for main office
- Relocated Volunteer and Bookkeeper computer systems downstairs
- Routine system maintenance and updates

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Boda
LCR Technology Manager