

# 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Congregation

(August 1, 2008–July 31, 2009)



Produced in August 2009 for the Annual Congregational Meeting held Sept. 13, 2009.

**Living Lord Lutheran Church & Preschool**  
1044 Congress Drive, Bartlett, Illinois 60103  
630.830.3630 / [www.livinglordlutheran.org](http://www.livinglordlutheran.org)

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**LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**30TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**AGENDA**  
**Sunday, September 13, 2009 / 11:45 AM**

Call to Order

Declaration of Quorum

Opening Prayer

Elections

Council Members

2010 Nominating Committee

Reports

Pastor's Report

President's Report

Ministry Reports

Financial Business

Treasurer's Report

Proposed FY 2009–2010 Budget

Report of the Tellers

Living Lord Lutheran Church Constitution

Unfinished Resolutions

New Business

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

# **LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1044 Congress Drive, Bartlett, Illinois 60103-5757  
(630) 830-3630 / [www.livinglordlutheran.org](http://www.livinglordlutheran.org)

## **2008-2009 CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **Executive Team**

Bob Mollis, President  
Sue Hopkins, Vice President  
Bob Gorski, Treasurer  
Jeff Jurs, Council Secretary  
Joy Pauling, Financial Secretary

### **Members-at-Large**

Rudy Amling  
Denise DeBoe  
Patti Foss  
Lance Rockensock  
Heidi Sandler  
Dan Schmidt

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Lead Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Director of Confirmation Program Ministry  
Administrative Assistant  
Director of Communications Ministries  
Parish Secretary  
Organist  
Director of Preschool & Sunday School

Rev. Sue Allen  
Rev. Jean Marie Durán  
Bob Esmail  
Diana Turk  
Susan Rankin  
Kris Mainellis  
Judy Turk  
Mark Kohlmeier  
Nancy Collins

# Lead Pastor's Report

## What Shall Be Our Witness?

Having just returned from the Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis, Minn., I want to frame my report to you with a question addressed by Rev. Mark Hanson, our presiding bishop. In his report to the gathered assembly and the whole people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and in his sermon at the opening worship service, he began by asking the question, "What shall be our witness this week?"

Bishop Hanson challenged us, and I challenge you, not to look only to one week, or day — not to look only at the present — but to look ahead, and reframe the question, and ask, "Looking back from 2017, what do we want our witness to have been?" In 2017, Lutherans all over the world will commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Let's use that same time, the same 8 years, and ask, "How will our actions in this congregation, now and over the next 8 years, shape that witness?"

I haven't been with you long enough to look back and write a summary report of actions. But, even in these few short months, I feel I'm beginning to uncover God's vision for our future here together.

First, together we need to reveal and examine the core values that we have been operating with here in this congregation. As we look at those, we will make decisions, together, about what we wish to keep, discard, or add.

Next, we will use those core values as a filter to assess our life together. They will help us determine how to put our dreams and God's vision into a workable future together.

Then, we will continue to build our life together as a *growing center for evangelical mission*.

In the Plan for Mission from the ELCA, two priorities emerged:

*The Churchwide organization, working closely with congregations, synods, institutions and other partners:*

*Will give priority to accompanying congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission.*

And,

*Will give priority to building capacity for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.*

We have enormous potential in this congregation. God has called and gathered into this place people with amazing gifts and talents that need to be unleashed for the sake of the world. We have been freed to serve and grow, not by anything we have done, but because God has done everything for us in Christ.

We depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, the power unleashed in the world on that Pentecost day so long ago. With that power, we reach out to a world in need. That world is waiting here on our doorstep in Bartlett, in the community that answers to the name of the greater Chicago area, and throughout the world.

Within this next year, I call on you, the body of Christ gathered here at Living Lord, to do several things:

**Pray.** Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 to “never stop praying” (*ICB*), “pray continually” (*TNIV*), and “pray without ceasing” (*NRSV*). No matter how you say it, take a word from Nike — just do it! And when you think you can’t pray, or you don’t know enough, or how to pray, remember that, “we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27).

**Get into the Word.** I challenge you, and implore you, to read the Word of God (that’s the Bible). Join in the congregation-wide study. Even if you miss a few times, get back into it and recommit yourself to the Word.

**Worship regularly with this body of Christ.** I need, we need, every part of the body to worship together. We are incomplete without each other, and we are called to raise our voices together in song, in prayer, in praise and worship. What does “regular” worship mean? There are times you need to be absent from the body, especially when you are ill. So, let’s use as a guide that *you should be in worship more than you are not*. That’s right — God wants you here more than you are not here. Let’s commit to regular worship together.

**Commit to serving your neighbor.** We commit to serving because Christ served. Luther wrote in *Freedom of a Christian*:

“I will therefore give myself as Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered himself; I will do nothing in this life except what I see is necessary, profitable and salutary to my neighbor, since through faith I have an abundance of all good things in Christ.”

We’ve been doing a good job of mission with our young people. Now it’s time to step forward as a whole and engage in mission — young, old, and everyone in between. How? Come and see me. We can work together to find how your time and gifts can be used.

**Be generous in your giving.** Yes, even in this uncertain economy, we remain one of the richest in the world. Bishop Hanson told us the story of how in southern Sudan, hunger got to a point that there literally was no bread or wine for the Easter Eucharist. Empty hands of the pastor were extended to empty hands of the worshipers with the words, “The body of Christ broken for you, and the blood of Christ poured out for you.” We will be diligent in our stewardship of the monies entrusted to us, and rely on you to be generous in your gifts to the church.

I invite you to join me, along with the presence of God, our creator, redeemer, and sanctifier, on the journey, as we give reason for those in 2017 to look back and rejoice in what we do today in the name and for the sake of Christ.

With the Peace of Christ in Our Hearts Together,

Rev. Sue E. Allen

## Associate Pastor's Report

I would like to touch on three items:

My time of **continuing education this summer** has been a great time for study, reflection, and renewal. We live in a time that is both turbulent and changing. Author Tom Sine, in his book, *The New Conspirators: Creating the Future One Mustard Seed at a Time*, writes "...my passion is for discovering what God is doing in these turbulent times, and how I can be much more a part of it. For followers of Jesus, times of challenge are always times of opportunity to give new creative expression to God's love for a people and a world." When I read these words my heart resonated with them. I find that this is where my own passions lie as well, and I want to see our church embrace a mission that will reach out in creative ways to engage people around us with the love of God. How do we do this with a society, a culture, that is no longer rooted in the church? I hope and pray that we, as a church, will be intentional in our witness and our mission in sharing the good news with the unchurched in our own neighborhoods and workplaces.

This summer has been **one of healing and recovery for me after major surgery**. My family and I want to thank our church family for all the support we have received from you. All the prayers, cards, visits, and meals have blessed us and reminded us in very tangible ways that God is caring for us each step of the way. **You have blessed us and we are thankful for you all!**

**Our church is moving from a transition time into a time of mission and vision** with our new lead pastor, the staff, and our leadership. We want to invite every member of Living Lord to join in and be active partners together in growing in faith and serving God with their whole hearts. Many people have been sitting on the sidelines during this transition time, waiting to see where we were going as a church with a new lead pastor. Well, it's time to make a decision, step up, and **be** the church now. We must be one in mission, and one way to be unified is through a congregation-wide Bible study that we are planning called "**Faith Lessons.**" It begins Sunday, Sept. 20, and will run through April. This weekly study will be offered multiple times throughout the week in the hopes that many will be able to find a time that fits into their schedule so they can participate. Studying God's Word together will be a unifying tool for our congregation to "**stretch our convictions, strengthen our faith walk, and go out and impact our world for God!**" You can learn more of the details in the September newsletter, in which you will also find a registration form to fill out. I mention it here because this is an intentional turning point for our church. We want everyone to journey together, and I challenge each of our members to step up and participate in this study so we can be unified by God's Word and discover God's calling upon our church together. No one can remain on the sidelines!

Blessings!

Rev. Jean Marie Durán

## President's Report

As I sit in my office reflecting back on our first full new fiscal year format, I rejoice in God's blessings and grace that this congregation has received during the year.

We started the year with an interim pastor and many temporary plans to provide a stable spiritual environment. What a blessing to have had such a caring and nurturing interim spiritual leader in Pastor Steve and his wife Cindy. They provided wisdom and guidance to us as we embarked on our next phase. What a blessing to have Pastor Jean as a consistent spiritual caregiver and evangelist to all of our new and existing members. What a blessing to have a lay staff team that tirelessly runs our day-to-day operation like clockwork.

What a blessing it has been to have 10 dedicated congregation members step forward and provide consistent Council leadership. They provided focus around the official start of our Youth and Family Ministries program, they reviewed our Christian education programs, and they continued the development of inspirational and uplifting worship and music experiences.

What a blessing it has been to have an eight-member Call Committee unselfishly work for 2 years to discover, interview, and recommend a new lead pastor. What a blessing to call Pastor Sue Allen to provide spiritual leadership to this congregation for years to come.

The list of volunteers goes on and on, from the many teams that serve Property, Youth, Christian Education, Stewardship, Finance, Music, Worship, Fellowship, Personnel, Quilters, Scrip, Health and Well-Being, Habitat for Humanity, and numerous other community ministries. We are truly blessed to be led by God's hand through all the members' services in and through this congregation.

After celebrating our 30th Anniversary and installing our fourth lead pastor, we have all felt the renewed sense of spirituality for Living Lord. It is now our responsibility to continue to share our blessings with the community and invite all to participate.

My prayer for Living Lord is that we will all grow in our spiritual life and that God will continue to provide us with a clear path to growing ministries here in Bartlett and beyond. I pray that each of you is touched in some way to serve and get involved in this congregation's team ministries. I appeal to the congregation to continue to show support for this team ministry approach by volunteering for a project or program that you are passionate about. The leaders of this congregation will continue to drive more ministry and mission programs, but they cannot execute on all the tasks alone. They need the congregation's support of time, talent, and treasures.

The church council does not have all the ideas and answers. The Spirit speaks through the entire congregation. Therefore, I continue to ask you to please reach out to the members of the Church Council and the staff. Let them know your ideas, thoughts, and what stewardship resources you can share with the congregation. It is the leaders' and staff's responsibility to help find a place for your passion so that we can continue "Growing to Serve, Serving to Grow" together.

Thank God for our blessings and may God move the Serving Spirit in you.

Bob Mollis  
Council President

## Treasurer's Report

Someday, people will look back and tell outrageous stories about the year 2009. The stock market slump, unemployment at record highs, and the decline of the housing market are just some of the factors that have hit very close to home. It has been painful for many, and the ripple effect has carried over to the church. As a long-time member at Living Lord, this is the first time I recall this church ending its fiscal year with a financial loss.

The staff and volunteers have done a remarkable job in holding down expenses. Total expenses came in 11 percent lower than budget. Taking out the budgeted capital improvements, expenses were still 5 percent lower. However, the shortfall in income forced us to use a large portion of reserves. Thankfully, we were blessed and able to pay our bills.

In June, Pastor Sue and Bob Mollis, our Church Council president, made a special appeal to the congregation. The congregation responded favorably, resulting in increased giving of approximately \$14,500. This could not have happened at a more opportune time, considering the typical drop-off in attendance and income during the summer months.

As the budget for this new fiscal year was being prepared, special attention was given to the methodology of arriving at our figures. In particular, we no longer employed the philosophy that self-funding line items would wash each other out. Instead, we identified the costs of these items, and then determined whether the income received was adequate to cover the costs. For example, once we determined the cost of the mission trip, we made sure that the fees to the families were adequate to cover the cost.

After careful planning, this year's budget was reduced by just over \$13,000 from last year's budget. Even more taxing is that our mortgage payment was increased this year by \$1,000 per month and we incurred an increase in our workers' compensation insurance costs. The staff and volunteers have carefully planned programming to the point that the expenses are very realistic. There is no plan to cut staff or services in this budget. With your approval of this budget, the congregation must rise to the challenge in order to meet the budget. We are a very generous congregation, as evidenced by our strong support of community outreach. It seems that when there is purpose, we respond well. This year, the church needs our support. Please pray about how you can help, and respond to God's plans for you.

In His Love,

Bob Gorski  
Council Treasurer

**Balance Sheet**  
**As of July 31, 2009**

**Income Statement**  
**Transaction Date July 1, 2009 to July 31, 2009**

## Statistics Requested by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

	No. of Baptized	No. of Confirmed
<b>Membership at the end of 2008</b>	1527	1140
<b>Members received in 2008</b>		
Child baptisms	17	0
Adult baptisms	3	6
Affirmation of faith	12	3
Transfer from other ELCA congregations	6	4
From other Lutheran congregations	5	2
From non-Lutheran congregations	6	2
Statistical adjustments	4	1
<b>Total received this year</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>16</b>
 Baptized who were confirmed	 —	 42
 <b>Members removed</b>		
By death	3	1
By transfer to other ELCA congregations	19	6
To other Lutheran congregations	6	2
To non-Lutheran congregations	3	0
Statistical adjustment	283	292
<b>Total removed this year</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>Members at the end of 2008</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>897</b>

### Statistics in Our CDM+ Database as of August 17, 2009

Active Members	1452
Baptized	1450
Confirmed	1267
Inactive Members	183
Transferred	279
Moved	4
Removed	1706
Households	375
Receives Newsletter	425
Visitors	104
Prospects	228
Giving Units	353

### Worship Attendance

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
<b>No.</b>	343	365	396	438	451	445

# Personnel & Administration

The Personnel and Administration Committee worked on several projects during the last year. One of the most significant accomplishments was the creation of a Mission and Vision Statement for the committee. This effort provides the committee guidance in our efforts to be supportive of the overall mission of Living Lord Lutheran Church and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mission:** The mission of the Personnel and Administration Committee is to provide support for the work of the Congregational Council under the rule and authority of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Personnel and Administration Committee is to ensure that the church's professional and lay staff are providing for the spiritual and administrative needs of the congregation by providing a fair and equitable work environment that adheres to all federal/state employee regulations and synod guidelines.

### Responsibilities:

- Evaluate and assess the roles and responsibilities of each member of the staff to ensure that they are aligned with the mission and financial status of the church.
- Recruit and hire the most qualified person for each position in the church through the use of sound business practices and ensure that they are selected in the absence of prejudice or discrimination.
- Develop and maintain a personnel policy manual, the contents of which comply with state and federal employment laws. Establish and implement a process whereby all staff members receive a copy of the manual and are provided with an opportunity to participate in a training session to ensure that they have a clear understanding of all policies.
- Affirm and strengthen the mission of the congregation and ministry of the staff by providing, on a quarterly basis, an opportunity to meet with the committee to (1) listen and clarify; (2) share and communicate; and (3) review and reflect the status of any/all concerns that they have as a result of their role in the church.
- Ensure that a collaborative performance-management program is in place and implemented appropriately to meet the needs of the Congregational Council.
- Provide additional support as deemed necessary by the Congregational Council.

### Accomplished Committee Efforts:

- Miscellaneous personnel tasks related to several staff changes.
- Benefit package related to Pastor Sue Allen's call to serve.
- Established an outsourcing process for payroll and benefits.
- Revised the personnel policy manual and disseminated it to the staff.
- Revised job descriptions for all personnel.

### Committee Members

Bob Mollis  
Steve Schwarz  
Diane DuBois  
Martha Vanourek  
Sherry Bormann  
Jon Anderson  
Dan Maloney

# **Youth and Family Ministries**

*Our Mission: Enriching Faith to Build the Family of Christ*

It's been a busy year for Youth and Family (YaF) Ministries. As you may know, YaF is the umbrella under which all our ministries to youth and families fall, including Living Lord Lutheran Preschool, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Faith Stepping Stones, Confirmation, high school youth group, and other family-oriented activities. This report covers our general family activities and youth programming. Subsequent pages contain reports from our other YaF ministries.

Here's some of what we've been up to as we work to connect families and youth to each other through Christ:

- In September 2008, we had our first parents-vs.-youth softball game.
- In October 2008, we hosted a '70s Dance.
- In February 2009, we put on a Mystery Dinner Night.

We are working to continue offering big events for the whole family to enjoy together. Another new thing we started this year was Donut Sunday, on the first and third Sunday of each month between and after worship services, as another great way to encourage families get together and enjoy fellowship time together.

## **Youth Development and Mission Activities**

Our youth have been very busy. In May, we worked with seven high school students, providing leadership training at a special retreat at the Sabbath Center, in Lanark, Ill. It was a great way to help them develop their leadership skills. In July, we took 38 youth to Minneapolis, Minn., for our High School Mission Trip. We assembled hundreds of meals to be sent overseas to needy people through Feed My Starving Children; we helped at a homeless shelter; and we worked on several houses through Habitat for Humanity. These activities provided lots of opportunities to be "crazy for God"! To cap off our summer of mission work, in August we took 18 junior high youth to the Quad Cities (border of Illinois and Iowa) for a Youth Works Junior High Mission Trip. Living Lord has been very blessed to have so many families who are committed to serving and growing in the Lord.

In Christ,

Bob Esmail

Director of Youth and Family Ministries

## **Faith Stepping Stones Program**

The mission statement of this program is “to aid and encourage parents to keep the promises they made to their child(ren) at baptism.”

What a wonderful job it is for parents to “make disciples” for Jesus, and to start doing this with our own children at home. Christian education begins at home, where our children first learn about God and how to love and serve God from mom and dad, through our words and through our actions.

When our children were baptized, we promised to “bring them to the services of God’s house, teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place into their hands the Holy Scriptures, and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.”

The church is a community of faith that is here to help encourage and equip parents to lay down solid “faith stepping stones” for their children to walk on. Here at Living Lord, we currently celebrate seven Faith Stepping Stones with families:

- Baptism (All Saints’ Weekend, November)
- Three-Year-Old: Entry Into Sunday School (Sunday after Rally Day, September)
- Third Grade: First Bible (Before Rally Day, August/September)
- Fifth Grade: First Communion (November)
- Seventh Grade: Entry Into Confirmation (September)
- Ninth Grade: Confirmation (Reformation weekend, October)
- Twelfth Grade: Recognition of Graduating Seniors (May)

We encourage parents to participate in all these programs throughout the years to help their children mature and grow in their faith.

In Christ,  
Rev. Jean Marie Durán

## **Confirmation**

The 2008-2009 Confirmation program served 72 students and 24 adults within our congregation. This past year, we used the “Here We Stand” curriculum to teach seventh and eighth graders the fundamentals of Lutheran theology. For the 2009-2010 year, we are anticipating 35 eighth graders and 32 seventh graders to participate in the Confirmation program.

A few changes will be made this year. Diana Turk will be leading the program again and will use the same curriculum to teach the books of the Bible; however, there will be more emphasis on serving. Students will be given the opportunity to work with Feed My Starving Children, take part in the Dick Poremba Memorial Bartlett CROP Hunger Walk, and volunteer their help for members of the congregation.

In Christ,  
Diana Turk  
Director of Confirmation Program Ministry

# Sunday School

We had 155 children enrolled in Sunday School, from preschool through sixth grade. This year, we will need more adults to step forward to teach all ages of our Sunday School kids.

Our Preschool Sunday School program went very well, thanks to our dedicated teachers and helpers. The children learned about Jesus and His love.

The children in Kindergarten through fourth grade were in the rotation workshops. This was our third year using the rotation model. Every year we make a few changes, and the program keeps getting better. The children enjoy learning the stories and lessons through the different workshops, and we have found that this interactive, multidisciplinary approach is highly effective in keeping the kids engaged and excited about learning about God. The lessons included: (1) Parable of the Talents (spiritual gifts); (2) Jonah (forgiveness); (3) Jesus as the Fulfillment of Prophecy (from the Old Testament prophets); (4) Paul's Missionary Journeys (the gospel is for everyone); (5) The Two Greatest Commandments (Love God, love your neighbor); and (6) Noah (God keeps His promises). This year we had a few really dedicated people who were workshop leaders for many rounds (lesson units). They have graciously agreed to continue in their roles for this school year.

The Sunday School program for fifth and sixth graders had another successful year as well, due to the efforts of our wonderful teacher-mentors.

To celebrate Easter, all our Sunday School children, from preschool through sixth grade, gave their rendition of the Palm Sunday story. The play, centering around "Danny the Donkey," was performed in front of the congregation during worship. It was a big hit, with lots of parents and grandparents coming to see the children.

We hope to involve the children and their families even more in Sunday School. Some goals include having the children sing in worship more often and developing family worship "Sondays." Volunteer recruitment and participation is another aspect of the program the Sunday School Planning team will be working on. We are looking forward to another great year of reaching out to all our children and families with the love of Jesus.

Thank you to the Sunday School Planning Team and all the parents and youth who volunteered their time, gifts, and talents this past year.

In Christ,  
Nancy Collins, Sunday School Director

<p><b><u>2008-2009 Sunday School Planning Team</u></b> Julie Emrich, Kris Mainellis, Christy Molidor, Deb Rockensock, Daria Smith, Heidi Sandler</p>
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## **Vacation Bible School 2009**

### **“Kingdom of the Son”**

We had a very successful Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year, with 210 kids enrolled and 90-plus volunteers. Kids learned the Lord’s Prayer through 5 days of themes: “God Listens,” “God Provides,” “God Forgives,” “God Protects,” and “God Rules.” These themes were enforced through music with Captive Free (West Lakes Team), crafts, Bible stories, games, and more. Our sixth and seventh graders went out into the community and cleaned the bike bath, collected food, and visited with residents of the Victory Centre of Bartlett. We had great turnouts at the pizza party with Captive Free for third through fifth graders as well as the Friday night party with Captive Free for sixth through twelfth graders.

This year’s mission project offering went to the Bonding with Books initiative of the Women’s Network of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. This program is designed to get low-income families reading together and bonding over books. The kids collected pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills, the total of which reached \$578. The children also donated 457 books, which will be going to Ontarioville Elementary school in Hanover Park. This school uses recycled books for their kids’ book fair. It is the lowest income area school of District U-46. The school cannot afford a Scholastic book fair, so staff collect used books and sell them to the kids for 10 and 25 cents at the end of the year for summer reading material.

After expenses, VBS was left with \$2,960.85. Of this money, \$578 will go to Bonding with Books; \$1,600 will be used to secure next year’s Captive Free team; \$300 was donated back to the church for supplies; and \$482.85 will be used for next year’s program.

We thank all of our volunteers, who worked so hard to make everything run smoothly. Thanks to them, we were able to decrease group sizes from 10-12 to 6-8. Our volunteers made this a very successful year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Collins, Laura Bergner, Shera O’Neil  
2009 VBS Directors

## **Living Lord Lutheran Preschool**

As we began the 2008-2009 school year, we had some doubts about what the future of Living Lord Lutheran Preschool would hold. We had experienced some past years of lower enrollment, and our financial picture looked bleak. We had been able to survive through the school year by using all of the reserve cash in our account. The Board spent much time brainstorming, debating, and praying about how we would be able to remain open and continue to provide a quality preschool program.

Our solution was to continue to offer our traditional morning 3- and 4-year-old classes, but change our afternoon program to a full week of Pre-Kindergarten. This change has allowed us to fill our morning classes as well as increase afternoon enrollment. The tuition will allow us to be solvent for the coming school year as well as expand our curriculum and really give our older 4-year-old students a jump on Kindergarten.

The Preschool sponsored several service projects this year. We collected for the Hanover Township Food Pantry, gathered pet supplies for an animal shelter, and donated toiletries and personal-care items to a nursing home. We also raised \$2,000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital during our Trike-a-Thon this spring. The children really felt good about being able to help the kids at St. Jude's and talked a lot about raising the most money!

Over the past two summers, we have run week-long summer camps once a month. They have been very well attended and provide a chance for preschoolers to see their friends over the summer months.

We look forward to this coming 2009-2010 school year and praise God for allowing us to continue our mission of teaching preschoolers about His love!

In Christ,

Missy Dunne

President, Living Lord Lutheran Preschool Board

## Community Care

The Social Ministry Team has taken the lead on many worthy projects over the past year. Last October, the team organized and helped run Bartlett's fifth annual CROP Hunger Walk. We raised a record-setting amount to fight local and global hunger for the third straight year, collecting more than \$11,870 for Church World Services and two local agencies, the Hanover Township Food Pantry and Feeding Northwest DuPage (formerly called Northwest DuPage Walk-In Ministry). We expanded the walk with a post-walk celebration enjoyed by many. Local businesses sponsored this event and our youth provided entertainment. This year, we have renamed the walk, so it will now be called the Dick Poremba Memorial Bartlett CROP Hunger Walk. This was done to honor the memory of church member Dick Poremba, who was a loyal participant and organizer of Bartlett's walk and many other walks before his unexpected death a few months after last year's CROP Hunger Walk.

Despite difficult economic times, our congregation continued its strong support of the Giving Tree project. We provided gifts to more than 150 children and seniors during the Christmas season. Our team also organized the gathering of Thanksgiving and Easter dinners (coordinated in conjunction with Feeding Northwest DuPage) and held its annual spring and fall blood drives for the community. We are proud of our congregation and thankful for your commitment to care for others, even during these tough times. With God's grace and help, we will count on your continued support for these and other worthy projects in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Molidor and Mike Smith  
Social Ministry Team Leaders

## **Loving Hands Quilters**

Twenty active people are on our roster list. Twelve to fifteen each Tuesday are working on our quilts. During the summer we have young girls (grandchildren) of quilters working on making a Christmas quilt that is given to Elgin Women's Connection for their fall project, to their mission program.

The first weekend in October, the quilts will be on display in our sanctuary for Lutheran World Relief. They will be blessed and then sent away. In 2008, we sent 88 quilts. At this time we have 45. It takes 74 quilts to cover all the pews.

Thanks to Ben Wilson for dropping the boxes of quilts in Elgin. Our donations go to: Warm Wishes (65 large and four small), Sherman Hospital (73 baby and children's quilts), Nursing Homes (40 lap size), Fox Valley Pregnancy Center in Elgin (seven small).

Donations are always accepted: material, yarn, blankets and mattress pads, even electric blankets

Quilters meet on Tuesday mornings, from 9 AM to noon. Stop by to see the group in action.

Arlene Timmermann  
Chairperson

## **Sabbath Center Ministries**

This past year the Sabbath Center hosted many and various retreats for groups from Living Lord and other churches. We officially became affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a social ministry organization and plan to offer retreats in the future on “earth-keeping,” and “peace-keeping,” as well as “sabbath-keeping.” Pastor Steve and Cindy have moved to 301 S. Hickory Street, Shannon, IL (815.571.0001), which is 6 miles from the Sabbath Center. Pastor Steve has the same cell phone number: 847.845.9408. Our “new” home is an Italianate Victorian built in 1870 and restored in 2002. Members of Living Lord are welcome both at the Sabbath Center and our home. Visit us on the Web at [www.sabbathcenter.com](http://www.sabbathcenter.com) or call to arrange a retreat or visit. Thanks again for your support.

Rev. Steven R. Myers  
Executive Director, Sabbath Center Ministries  
22782 Short Road  
Lanark, IL 61046

# Property

The Property Team was very active, as many safety and green initiatives were completed. Thank you to the Property Team, the Green Team, the Maintenance, Aesthetics, and Presentation (MAP) Team, and the Security Team for your vision and commitment to the safety, maintenance, appearance, and good stewardship of our building and property.

## Safety:

1. The fire alarm connection to the fire department was upgraded from a dedicated phone line to wireless radio.
2. A fire extinguisher was added in the Sanctuary balcony. (Security Team)
3. A fire exit plan was approved by the Bartlett Fire Department. Signs were posted throughout the building. A Sunday morning fire drill is being considered for September or October. (Security Team)
4. Stored paint cans were removed from furnace rooms.
5. An automated external defibrillator (AED) was purchased and installed. (Security Team)
6. We repaired the security light for the southeast section of the parking lot.
7. Security glass panels were added to office and classroom doors, as required.
8. The south parking lot potholes were filled with cold patch as a 1- to 2-year temporary fix until funds can be raised to make permanent repairs.
9. The sunken sidewalk sections near the office entrance were raised and leveled.
10. Safe Haven Training is now available on-line at the Living Lord Web site. (Security Team)

## Green:

1. All incandescent light bulbs are being replaced as needed with compact fluorescents (CFLs).
2. Set-back thermostats were maintained weekly for heat/cool only in occupied areas.
3. We participated in the "Earth Hour" awareness to reduce electricity consumption.

## Grounds:

1. Lawn maintenance was performed as needed. (Thank you, Joel Teesdale, for your faithful service to maintain the church grounds.)
2. We repaired the ZTR mower — new engine.
3. Grounds were divided into 15 areas for volunteer individuals/families to maintain (coordinated by Green Team).
4. Flowers were donated to Living Lord by the Tri-Village Garden Club and planted by volunteers on May 23 (coordinated by the Green Team).

## Interior Appearance:

1. The Preschool Room was painted.
2. Select Lobby walls were painted.
3. Pews were bolted to the floor of the Sanctuary.
4. We replaced all doors on the wall cabinets in Fellowship Hall.

## Improvements (Under Consideration for 2009 and Beyond):

1. Exterior & interior directional signage
2. New church sign
3. Parking lot permanent repair

In the Lord's Service,

Jay L. Hinkle  
Property Team Leader

# **2009–2010 RESOLUTIONS**

## **Suggested Resolutions for the Thirtieth Annual Congregational Meeting of Living Lord Lutheran Church (LLLC):**

1. Be it resolved that the congregation accept and adopt the staff, officer, and Council reports as submitted.
2. Be it resolved that the congregation accept the operating budget for fiscal year 2009–2010 as submitted, and further pledge to support it through their contributions.
3. Be it resolved that the congregation adopt the proposed changes to the Living Lord Lutheran Church constitution and by-laws.
4. Be it resolved that the 2009–2010 Church Council review for approval the minutes of this meeting.