

**DIVINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**SPRING MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**  
**MAY 15, 2011 – 12 P.M. – SANCTUARY**

**AGENDA**

Call to Order	Leslie Crowe, President of the Congregation
Opening Devotions – Inside of Report Cover	Pastor Doug
Approval of Minutes from the Fall Meeting	
Capital Campaign Presentation & Voting	
Election of Officers and Board Co-Directors	
Adjournment	

**DIVINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 14, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 12:17 pm by President Leslie Crowe. Pastor Doug led opening devotions

Dave Boxler moved that the minutes from the Fall Congregational Meeting held on May 16, 2010 be approved as presented. Judy Junker seconded. Motion carried.

Paul Klemme reported that we have \$5,000 in the bank, rather normal for this time of year. Offerings are down for the year, as are worship numbers. Sunday School numbers are up. We are 7 months behind on Benevolence. It has not been paid since April.

Paul then presented the budget, explaining that we began in August asking boards to work on their budget, checking with the office regarding expenses. Then an educated guess is made on the projected offerings. They have projected an income for 2011 as \$386,000. That is considerably less than projected for 2010. We have less staff and therefore less cost. We had no salary increases this year and have put in a 2% increase for 2011. Expenses are reduced 7% for the year, almost a \$31,000 difference. The boards have done a good job with expenses. Finance started dreaming that if 383 giving units gave just \$4.00 more per week, we would have an additional \$80,000. Leslie mentioned that Property/Grounds is meeting with Paula McCormick to determine ways to reduce the cost of supplies. She said our boards and Planning Council have worked hard to keep expenses down without impacting the mission. Pastor Doug said we need to “Challenge our Congregation.” Ed Pabst moved to approve the budget. Jim Votava seconded. Motion carried.

Leslie spoke to the listed priorities for the congregation. Planning Council and all boards worked on these in September. The building has many great problems; the roof over the educational wing, the boilers, the need for caulking and sealing. We have discussed a capital campaign. Craig Miller from RSI is coming to present their proposal to us tomorrow, November 15<sup>th</sup>. He will explain methods of getting the word out to the congregation members. The other priorities include nurturing our members, outreach to new members, reaching in-actives, increasing programs and developing leadership. The congregation received a mailing for commitments and Christmas services. Leslie explained that the Synod is really hurting. The Church in the

Woods is closing. What can we do to encourage people to come into this building? It's God's work – our hands. Our nominating committee finds it difficult to encourage people to participate in an office or board. We'll be seeing a lot of our priorities and she encouraged everyone to attend the RSI presentation tomorrow. She was able to send the power point presentation that Paul Klemme has done to RSI. There was a question about the cost of the RSI program and the answer was approximately \$37,000. We need to challenge ourselves. The building cannot wait much longer. One end cap is broken off due to our skaters. Greg Simon is looking into a way to replace all three. The building needs to be taken care of.

Ed Pabst thanked the boards for the good care of our church. Leslie agreed these are wonderful people. Jim Votava questioned why his picture is still up as a member of Property and Grounds. He was advised that would be taken care of.

Pastor Doug, who serves on the Synod Council, reported that the Synod staff has cut salaries and hours across the board. As is true here at Divinity, many other congregations have not sent in funds. They don't have money for salaries which is affecting the larger church, funding for camps etc. One joy we have is that Tina Heise, a daughter of our congregation, plans on going to seminary in the fall. We have an envelope for seminary student support. We have committed to helping her and we want to help her. She will preach Thanksgiving Eve and all services the following weekend. Ed Pabst said we need to support the Synod. Pastor Doug noted there is a bulletin board outside the sanctuary that shows how Synod money is disbursed.

Jim Votava said we have to get more people here for congregational meetings. A discussion followed. 1) Have the meeting between services, which impacts Sunday School or 2) feed them and they will come – have a dinner or soup and sandwiches at noon or 3) even having two meetings during each service. This will be discussed further. Jim also mentioned that "Into the Sun" was presented here last week. It was a disaster. No one came. The outside of the church was not lit up. Even those who normally come, did not. Food was prepared. It was sad.

Jim Votava moved to adjourn. Judy Junker seconded. Motion carried. We adjourned at 12:48 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

In His service,

*Judy Jacobson, Recording Secretary*

## **PASTOR DOUG'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION**

Divinity Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write this on the Thursday after Easter which was full of spiritual highs and lows this year. On Maundy Thursday, many of our elderly members and past leaders of Divinity worshipped at noon followed by a delicious Mary Ann Filipow cooked meal in our fellowship hall. Rachel McDonnell, Kim Perez, and Rose Malcolm helped me prepare 9 fourth graders for their first communion on Thursday evening – another spiritual high.

Seven preachers preached Christ's seven last words from the cross beginning at noon on Good Friday followed by a powerful tenebrae worship experience on Friday night with our choir and future seminarian, Tina Heise, sharing their voices.

We gathered on Saturday morning for the funeral for long time Divinity member and past treasurer, Fern Hardman. Saturday night we lit the paschal candle in the courtyard and processed into our sanctuary to keep the Easter Vigil.

Our Easter sunrise service in our courtyard was warm, but moist. The waterfall burst forth halfway through my sermon and honking geese flew over us as Bill Rettig was giving thanks for the "birds of the air." Our Easter morning services were life-filled with our vocal and bell choirs, our string quartet led by our own Alexandra Vago, and many others who contributed to the resurrection spirit of the morning. Thank you.

We gathered on Tuesday with Donna DeVault's family in saying goodbye to her granddaughter, Christin Waite. Christin had lost her younger brother, Nathan Hutchison, last Thanksgiving. I tried to imagine what it would be like to lose our two oldest children, Rachel and Nathan, and have Micah as the only surviving child. It's truly unimaginable. Whether it be at Christin's funeral on Tuesday or Sam Gergel's funeral on Wednesday (a W.W. II vet), our only hope is in what we celebrated on Easter morning.

This past week has been an intense microcosm of our ministry together as Divinity Lutheran Church. In the next months as we begin some long overdue building repair, welcome the Y.M.C.A. summer camp and then preschool, continue to reach out to the Redeemer Crisis Center, Parma Park Elementary, our three A.A. groups, and other mission opportunities – please remember Divinity in your giving of time, talent, and money. The more each of you contributes to building up the Body of Christ, the stronger our ministry becomes. May God continue to bless you on your journey.

*Pastor Doug*

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION AND PLANNING COUNCIL**

To my great shock 4 years has passed since I was elected President. It has been 4 years of change here at Divinity. 2010 was no different. A new Parish Administrator was hired. Paula has done a fine job as she makes her way after the retirement of Larry Jones. We have been fortunate to have 2 such excellent people in this position.

Your Planning Council has been active in deciding the focus for the future. Last September we worked to prioritize our ministries. These are the 6 areas to be developed:

- Repair and maintenance of our church home
- Nurturing of and commitment to our members
- Increase outreach to new members
- Reach out to inactive members
- Increase programs for all ages
- Find, train, and develop leaders

In addition, we have developed a priority for building repairs and missions that will require funding. To that end a small group of leaders interviewed 3 candidate companies that do professional fund raising in churches. This group recommended RSI as the company of choice should the congregation approve an extensive fund raising program. RSI helped with "Forward in Faith." You will be hearing more about the proposed projects and ministries opportunities.

Policies and procedures for the Personnel Committee were developed and approved.

Our Finances are doing well. Despite a reduction in weekly attendance our contributions are doing well. Imagine what we could do if attendance were better! We continue to talk about reaching out to those who are not attending regularly. Not just for financial reasons but because we ought to reach out. We all have a role. If you see someone that has not been in church, invite them.

We have had new members join. Always a joy.

I wish to commend all those who served with me over the last 4 years. They are or have been a group of dedicated people who take the responsibility seriously. I encourage all of you not involved to become involved. We are the church!

Lastly I want to thank you for entrusting this position to me. It has been my great honor to serve these 4 years.

In Christ,  
*Leslie Crowe*

## **REPORT OF LAY VISITATION MINISTER**

I am in the tenth year of being in the position of Lay Visitation Minister here at Divinity. How quickly the time has passed! This past year presented a variety of opportunities for me to grown, not only in my primary areas of responsibilities, but for outreach into our neighborhood. My responsibilities encompass caring for our Senior Community at Divinity, coordinating Stephen Ministry, managing the Prayer Ministry, and working with the Via de Cristo community.

### **Lay Visitation/Senior Community**

I take Holy Communion with me when I visit those of our Family who are homebound, or reside in care facilities. The length of my visits can be anywhere from half an hour to three hours. I also do hospital visits to help Pastor Doug, or when he is not available. Since I came to this position, I find that thirty plus of our members have entered the Church Triumphant, and we still have fifty plus on my visitation list.

We did have three caring gatherings again this year:

- Maundy Thursday was an invitation to worship at the noon worship service followed by a luncheon that provided a meal and fellowship with friends.
- A summer Luau with entertainment provided by a community choir under Maria's direction. As usual, good food, games, prizes, sing-a-longs, and take home items were a part of the day.
- A Christmas Party with an excellent meal, return of the community choir, and a visit from Santa. Once again there were games, prizes, songs, and take home items that included a meal to go.

I work with the Boards of Witness and Parish Life to make these events so special for our Family.

### **Stephen Ministry**

I did attend the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Stephen Ministry Retreat in February, along with some of our Stephen Ministers. The subject matter was "Hope in a Time of Anxiety and Spiritual Darkness."

I made some changes to the training schedule of material for Divinity trainees and it proved to be a good decision. We did have another class of Stephen Ministers this past year and five new ministers were commissioned at the end of their training.

We also had a week-end retreat at Camp Mowana in December for the more in depth study material. I develop the study schedule, arrange the material and accommodations for the week-end retreat at Camp Mowana, prepare the commissioning packets, arrange our participation in the worship service, make arrangements for the reception of new ministers, do the paper work involved, and arrange for the budget for this ministry. I work with Pastor Doug to establish care giving relationships for our ministers. Divinity is very blessed to have the people who have been called to this ministry. They are so very dedicated to their calling.

I attended the Arden Courts seminar for Dementia/Alzheimer's. I concluded it would be a good learning experience for our Stephen Ministers and made arrangements for that to happen at their facility.

I made arrangements with Arden Courts to bring the Dementia/Alzheimer's seminar to Divinity. That will take place on May 16<sup>th</sup> in our church parlor.

### **Prayer Ministry**

The Prayer Chains are celebrating fifteen years of service since we reorganized. We will celebrate with our annual Service of Commissioning followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall. This is a ministry that prays seven days a week, and receives about three hundred prayer requests a year. They pray for each request for a period of two weeks before releasing it to God's loving care.

The Prayer Shawls are created by those who pray while they are creating them. Because they never know who will receive the shawl they create, they pray that God will answer to the needs of the recipient. The yarn for the shawls is provided to those who will create them. Mildred Klindworth makes beautiful handmade cards that accompany the shawls when they are given away. The ministry is supported by contributions from Thrivent and private donations. There is no charge for these gifts of love, and at the present time, we do have a good supply of shawls ready to be presented to those who would welcome these caring gifts. We have given away 341 shawls!

I am a member of the Grace Team and the schedule for that ministry is provided by Marilyn Sesock. Teams of two meet on each Sunday before the first worship service to pray for Pastor Doug and our congregation. The prayers are pre-printed so anyone who would like to participate in this ministry can do so without any difficulty.

### **Via de Cristo Community**

Divinity did host an Ultreya this past year. It is a gathering of people who have made a retreat week-end. They get together in Christian fellowship to worship, sing, share, and of course eat.

Judy Junker, was the Rectora for last summer's women's week-end retreat. People from Divinity also served on that team with Judy. Kip Kanya has also served this year on the Men's week-end.

This year, we have three new Pilgrims who have/are attending a week-end retreat. They are: Jim Stephan, Tina Heise, Alexandra Vago.

### **New Opportunities**

The new opportunity to grow came to me with a casual statement to friends. With that conversation, the Parma Park School Bus Project developed. Dave Worsencroft and Steve Horvath quickly created the "Bus Box" that has become a familiar landmark in our Narthex. Jackie Difford and I met with Jodie Hausemann, the principal of Parma Park School, and found the poverty level in our church neighborhood was very high. Some of our Boards got very excited about the opportunity to help people in our own backyard, so to speak, and our Church Family very lovingly provided a Christmas for families near to us that would not have had one without our help. We provided everything that was on the wish list for the chosen families. We also were able to provide the complete Christmas dinner and a grocery gift card as well. I was blessed to share the hugs and tears of the grateful recipients who did not know until the last minute who was extending the helping hand. As you all know so well..... It felt so good to help those in need. The "Bus Project" is a continuing effort by our church home to provide for the students and families of Parma Park School when we can.

I was called by Theresa Swiderski of Greenbrier Nursing Home to pray for a man who was dying. Gordon Klindschmidt did not have any family left and a guardian was at his bedside when I arrived.

## **Other Things**

I still coordinate the Card Ministry which extends greetings to those celebrating special occasions or members of our Family experiencing an illness or death in the family.

I participate in the quarterly Healing Services as a Lay Assistant.

I prepare the information packets for the new member classes and address the prospective members at one of the three sessions.

Internment Service for Harriet Terbeek; Eulogy for Stan Haase

*Loretta Cross*  
*Lay Visitation Minister*

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

As of this coming November I will be closing in on serving the youth and families here at Divinity for 3 years! It is hard to imagine that the time has flown by as quickly as it has... We have come a long way from people asking me, "So, how long will you be staying?" Instead, I am overjoyed to know that that sentiment has changed to statements like, "So, when next year comes we will..." While this may seem insignificant to some it is ever so crucial to me and this ministry. This is a sign that there is a support system and confidence surrounding the youth ministry program and all that it strives to become.

I must say the Youth Board did such a wonderful job recapping the year that I was unsure of where to begin this report. Now, I see that my role in this yearly report is to highlight evidence of effectiveness of the events previously mentioned in the Youth Board's report, specifically chosen and designed for/with this age group in mind.

September 2010 was "jam packed" with learning opportunities for me. I quickly realized how patient and understanding our youth can be in times of change and transition. Not once since the birth of my daughter have they made me feel unequipped or unable to function in my role as before (I think I am harder on myself than they could ever be). We discussed expectations, concerns surrounding the Youth Ministry at Divinity now that I was taking on an additional role of responsibility in life and I assured them that I would do my best to balance "things"...work, ministry, "family life"...in order for the ministry to function properly. Their commitment to their ministry overwhelmed me as we moved into October 2011. The Fall Rummage Sale (much like the Spring Rummage Sale) went off without a hitch and grossed a grand total of over \$2800.00 because of the service and support of our youth and their families. The youth made and posted signs prior to the sale. Some even stopped by after school to help set up. Parents and friends of parents came out in full force to help set up as well. Amazing...I must say...

In mid November of 2010 we took a break from the fundraising and treated ourselves to a beautiful weekend at the Blackfork Retreat Center. We had quite the adventure getting there and it may have taken twice as long to do so BUT the positive energy from the group of youth attending was a testament to God working through them in all senses of the word. They were encouraging even as we had to stop and ask for directions saying, "We are going to find this place and when we get there it will be worth it!" There were so many moments throughout that weekend that touched their lives and the hearts of the adult leaders in attendance that they cannot be counted. Needless to say, the group begged to return to the center even before we had left and vowed to reach out to other peers who they felt would benefit from such an experience. Well, they lived up to their vow and doubled the size of the group in the March of 2011.

In January the Senior High Youth, Jean Peracchio (adult leader and Youth Board member) I ventured off to the LYO Winter Gathering in Independence, OH. This time we roomed with the youth group from Parma

Lutheran Church. It was encouraging to see the youth of Divinity in outreach and fellowship with another area youth group. The youth also join in fellowship with Parma Lutheran church through bi-monthly gatherings during "SNL" (Sunday Night Lutherans). This proves to be extremely important these days seeing as many of the upperclassmen now have jobs which inhibit their ability to attend Sunday morning classes on a regular basis. "SNL" shows great potential for expansion in the years to come. The group leaders are currently looking for ways in which to increase the number of college age students to help run and organize these monthly "SNL" gatherings, as well as, the youths' peers.

In February 2011 the youth and their families held another huge fundraiser in the form of the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. This particular event grossed over \$1800.00 the last couple of years and shows signs of grossing even more in the future. This was yet another fundraiser which contributes to the following accounts: National Gathering, Summer Camp, Youth Activities, and Miscellaneous Summer Trip (i.e. Mission Trips). It was also a group effort on the part of several youth, their families, youth board members, AND friends of the youth. The entire night was filled with an energy worth noting...one that was filled with fellowship and love...a Godlike collaboration for certain.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the driving forces behind these examples of growth in positive thinking and faith in this ministry if I did not mention those who provide such assets: the YOUTH, the Youth Board, the core group of parents who always ask "how do we accomplish such a task" rather than "why", the Divinity family as a whole, Pastor Doug for his patience and support in anything we as a group seek to attempt for the betterment of our mission: Striving to cultivate in our youth a positive influence so that they may grow in Christ, grow in the church and become mature spiritually and pass it on.

*Laura Ramsey, Youth Director*

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

The choir and bell choir are soon completing a meaningful season of praise. The dedication of the members was great and every Sunday through the year, the vocal choir has presented wonderful anthems of praise. Many times the congregation could not hold back and applauded. Also to note is the contribution of the bell choir and the vocal choir to the celebration of Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter. The community Good Friday service attracted a lot of neighbors, some of them my former choir singers from Parma South where there are no more Good Friday services. Members of the choir do all the music always, and we get lots of exposure and compliments. The bell choir has maintained its schedule with the help of dedicated members and wonderful substitutes, and our "bell juggler." Steve. I have to also mention the children's choir. Their young voices move parents and grandparents to tears as they sing "Jesus Loves Me." I can say that the children's choir has maintained its schedule and has been an active part of worship. On Palm Sunday, they rang the bells before service along with adult ringers. The young singers understood the meaning of each sacred celebration like Christmas and Palm Sunday.

The vocal choir and the bell choir can use more members. This year several of our members have experienced major surgeries, had to deal with a sick spouse or parent, and sometimes attending rehearsals/worship services becomes overwhelming. Some choir members are advancing in age, cannot drive in the snow/at night, and will really like to see some other people taking over. My prayer is that some of the Divinity members will be moved to join the choir and the bell choir. When we have a new members' class, I try to present the music ministry as a vital part of the church. Divinity has lots of assets: several good pianos, a budget to maintain musical instruments, and a good sound system. Many churches do not have any of that. I can see that with more involvement, the music ministry at our church can grow even more to the Glory of God.

*Maria Voljin, Director of Music Ministry*

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

- Replaced main sound board in sanctuary with newer model
- Modified how equipment was connected to better balance sound
- Upgraded computer server for office
- Replaced most CRT displays with LCD displays to reduce power usage
- Update multimedia computer software with latest version for contemporary service
- Installed workgroup class laser printer in the church office

### Projects for 2011-2012:

- Install wireless computer network in education section of church
- Update all computers to Windows 7
- Expand use of facebook page (started by Tina Heise)
- Replace old microphone cabling in sanctuary (over 40 years old and brittle)
- Start work on next pictorial directory for church

*Larry Wise*  
*Co-Director Board of Communication*

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

### Financials – December 31, 2010

Income	\$ 378,786.
Expenses	<u>\$ 382,655.</u>
	\$ (3,869.)

Checking account balance as of December 31, 2010 was \$16,456.

### 2011 Budget

Income	\$ 386,588.
Expenses	<u>\$ 386,499.</u>
	\$ 89.

<b>Key Metrics</b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Worship attendance	15,608	16,750
Sunday school attendance	2,328	2,329
General Envelope Offerings	\$ 348,247	\$ 369,796
New members	7	22

### Notes

- Comparing the key metrics above we see worship attendance was lower in 2010 by 1,142 or about 22 a week. Sunday school attendance was even year over year, however new members were less by 15. General giving was less in 2010 by \$21,549.
- 2011 worship attendance is down by 36 per week versus 2010, Sunday school attendance is down by 8, new members already equals all of 2010 and general giving is up by \$689 a week.
- 2011 will see additional rent income from the YMCA and an additional weekly AA meeting.

- 2011 income is on pace with the 2011 budget expectation.
- The building capital improvement account has \$32,813 as of March 31, 2011

*Tony Chilia, Paul Klemme  
Co-Directors Board of Finance*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION**

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many, it has been a very busy year filled with many accomplishments. We finished the process of updating and revising our Parish Education binder. The many roles and responsibilities of Parish Education have been discussed and reviewed and we feel that the latest revisions will assist with our goal of providing Christian Education for both the young and the young at heart.

Here are other examples of the fun we have had throughout the year:

- We began with Rally Day, where we kicked off our theme: I will study his teachings and follow his footsteps.
- We created cards for the Home Bound throughout the year.
- We also created Thinking of You cards for Christmas and Valentine's Day.
- We collected canned goods for our Divinity pantry.
- We decorated and donated lunches for Feed thy Neighbor Sunday.
- We learned about the true meaning of the 12 days of Christmas.
- We collected clothing to be donated to people in need.
- Bibles were placed into our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders' hands during Bible Presentation day.
- We rejoiced with our 4<sup>th</sup> graders as they participated in their 1<sup>st</sup> communion.
- We recognized new members as our 8<sup>th</sup> graders were confirmed.
- We celebrated Easter and participated in our Easter Egg Hunt.
- We continued outreach to our families of young ones.
- We provided updates of all programs on our website page.
- We implemented our new Sunday School Curriculum.
- We updated the Cradle Role Curriculum, to include older children/adults who were joining God's family.
- We began planning VBS for the summer, focusing on inviting the community to learn about God.
- We updated our 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Curriculum.
- We celebrated and learned about Reformation Sunday.

With all those accomplishments in just one year, it is exciting to envision what the next year will bring. Some of our goals for next year include:

- To begin to reach more of our 2 year old learners by introducing them to Jesus through the *Little Lutheran* magazine
- To continue to develop adaptive curriculum for the benefit of all of God's children.
- To recruit more volunteers who share our dedication in educating our Divinity Family.
- To begin looking at ways to use update technology in our Parish Education Program.

*Respectfully submitted by The Board of Parish Education*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PARISH LIFE**

The goal of Parish Life is to bind its members together in lives dedicated to the witness and service of all God's people. Parish Life also promotes supervises and carries out Divinity's scheduled and special events.

This year we have been blessed to have worked with Social Ministry, Arts in Action, Women of the Church, and Confirmation Youth with planned events.

Parish Life along with the Women of the Church supervises the upkeep of the church kitchens. We also purchase all of the required supplies and paper products for all church events.

Some events we had this past year:

- Sunday coffee hours
- Lenten dinners
- Helping with homebound luncheons
- Helping with the packing of brown bag luncheons for Redeemer
- Pastor Doug's 25<sup>th</sup> year of ordination
- Maundy Thursday luncheon
- Two Care Share Community Dinners
- Cleaning kitchen- purchased ice maker

Parish Life has grown to eight dedicated and unbelievably hardworking members making serving on this committee mutually rewarding. Some of our plans & visions for this year include:

- Summer Church Picnic
- Community Care Share Dinners
- Christmas event to see holiday lights. We are always interested in any ideas of special events members would like to suggest.

The year has been busy and we are thankful for all of the efforts from "our team."

*Louise Hamula, Erik Schumacher  
Co-Directors Board of Parish Life*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PROPERTY**

Greg and I are striving to maintain the church building and grounds to the best of our ability. We try to do as much as we can ourselves to keep costs down. Snow removal this year to date has cost us a bundle at \$5,425. Tuck pointing has been completed and work on the 3 arms soon will be starting. The roof over the classroom wing will be next, providing funds are available. We have studied cost saving measures for our custodial supplies, natural gas cost, and are researching cost efficiency for dumpster, lawn service and snow removal. There is a Spring Clean Up scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>. We are also researching the feasibility of roof repair vs. complete roof repair to maximize budget dollars and try to encompass new boilers to install for fuel efficiency. Greg also patched the concrete apron entrance. In summary:

- Working on three arms
- New exterior door locks to be installed
- Tuck pointing at church entrances is complete
- Parking lot to be re-paved and sealed
- New weather stripping installed at door entrances
- Site clean-up and mulching scheduled for May 14, 2011

- Researching roofing options to maximize budget dollars (i.e. get new boilers)
- Still trying to resolve the ongoing heat distribution issues
- New VCT tile installed in all entranceways

*Greg Simon & Dan Bemer  
Co-Directors Board of Property*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY**

The Board of Social Ministry has been very busy this year. Our Divinity Food Pantry has given out food bags during the summer, at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and will distribute bags at Easter as well. We have collected and donated food to the Parma Heights Food Pantry as well as serving on their Board of Directors.

We have partnered with Parish Life on two Community Meals. We were responsible for having flyers printed and distributing them to the Parma and Parma Heights Food Pantries and Senior Centers. We have helped set up, prepare, visit with guests, provide blood pressure screening, and clean up at the dinners. We also partnered with Parish Life on their School Bus project by providing funds for Parma Park families at Christmas.

Our committee was responsible for organizing and/or preparing the monthly Community Meals at Redeemer Crisis Center this year. Besides providing the meals, the team planned several themed events for these meals. A favorite day is on the Feed My Sheep Sunday where each person leaves with a lunch bag full of goodies for lunch the next day.

We have collected and transported clothing, toys, furniture, plastic bags, socks, hand-knitted items, and dish soap and towels to Redeemer Crisis Center.

During summer, we organized, funded, and staffed a week of vacation Bible school at Redeemer Crisis Center. This is a favorite event for all and we have many volunteers who are not members of Divinity, but enjoy joining us for Social Ministry.

During the holidays, Divinity members, through our Giving Tree, donated 120 Christmas gifts to be distributed to children at Redeemer. Members have joined other volunteers at the Thanksgiving and Christmas food packing and gift wrapping nights at Redeemer. We have also assisted in the distribution of the holiday bags to clients.

One of the exciting projects we spearheaded this year was the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation Economic Outreach Bridge Grant of \$5,000 and the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation \$10,000 matching funds grant for Redeemer Crisis Center. After planning an introductory letter to churches and organizations, personal phone calls and contacts, and temple talks at various churches, our total donations were \$33,393.36. This made a total of new funds, including the Thrivent monies, of \$48,393.36. We wrote Thank You notes to donors for these grants.

Members of our committee have served and are now serving on the Board of Directors at Redeemer Crisis Center. We also are helping to write more grants for the Crisis Center as well as helping to organize record-keeping. We also provide guidance and feedback to the director.

*Lana Gray & Jan Jasko  
Co-Directors Board of Social Ministry*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

The 2010-2011 Stewardship campaign entitled “Called to Follow” resulted in 137 giving units pledging \$257,571. We had temple talks during our pledge period titled Challenged to Grow, Sent to Serve, and Called and Sent. Several sermons oriented toward these temple talks enhanced the campaign.

The Board of Stewardship Sponsored 2 educational seminars to benefit the congregation, and one educational seminar oriented to our youth.

The Time and Talent commitments have improved significantly as there were 35 pages with 1160 commitments made by members of our congregation.

The members of our Divinity family are finding that our time, our talents, and our wealth are on loan from God and we are Stewards of these loans.

*David Worsencroft, Mary Ann Filipow  
Co-Directors Board of Stewardship*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF WITNESS**

The Board of Witness hosted two New Member Luncheons on May 9, 2010 (four) and on October 10, 2010 (seven). The Stephen Ministry commissioned five new ministers at the end of their training. A weekend retreat was held at Camp Mowana in December. Three caring gatherings were held this year: a Maundy Thursday Luncheon, a summer Luau, and a Christmas party. Delicious meals were served, fun and fellowship with games, prizes, entertainment, etc. were provided to the homebound and their caregivers.

The Prayer Ministry has been busy – the Prayer Chains are celebrating fifteen years of service; the Prayer Shawls are in plenty of supply; and the Grace Prayer Teams are faithfully performing their duties every Sunday morning.

The Via de Cristo community at Divinity hosted an Ultreya this past year. Judy Junker was the Rectora for last summer's women's week-end retreat. People from Divinity served on both the women's and the men's week-ends.

Arts in Action: 2010 saw a busy schedule for us. We had several family related concerts which included a “coffee house” style in the fellowship hall. We ended the concert season with the world famous organist Hector Olivera who entertained the audience with a full gamut of music from the sacred to the popular and everything in between.

Our fiscal year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> saw a carryover of \$5930.08. Our year to date income is \$8884.08. Our year to date expenses total \$6532.73. To date our working capital is \$2351.35. A detailed financial report follows in this annual report. Last year *Arts in Action* purchased for the church a popcorn machine. This will come in handy for events like the church picnic scheduled for June. Any organization can use the machine but it must be scheduled through the office.

A sub-committee is working out the details of our scholarship program, which we hope to implement sometime later this year for the next academic school year. Details will be forthcoming. The current fund now totals \$1140.00.

In an effort to continue to bring quality programming to Divinity, events that draw our neighbors to our family we welcome suggestions and sponsorships to make these events possible. We have added a new level to the sponsorship program which includes the silver level (\$75-\$149); gold level (\$150-199); platinum

(\$200-250); and the new Eagle Level, anything over \$250.00. The Eagle Level will receive complimentary tickets for **ticketed** concerts and all levels of sponsorship will receive priority seating at all concerts.

The Arts in Action committee would like to thank all of those members who have supported our events, and look forward to future support. *Remember Christ asked us to be fishers of men!*

In community outreach, the Board of Witness was an active participant in the Parma Park School Bus project. We were able to help people in our backyard by providing everything that was on the Christmas list of the chosen families. We also were able to provide a complete Christmas dinner and a grocery gift card. The "Parma Park School Bus Project" is a continuing effort by Divinity to provide for the students and families of Parma Park School when we can.

*Fay Mardari & Diane Conroy  
Co-Directors Board of Witness*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF WORSHIP**

The music ministry is alive and well at Divinity. Holy Week and Easter were successfully completed with music by the adult choir and the bell choir under the direction of Maria Vojlin. Many different anthems of different styles were presented for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Attendance increased this year for the community service on Good Friday. The choir music was enriched by partnering with instrumentalists (the string quartet on Easter led by Alexandra Vago) Steve Czapor, Janet Schoch and Nicole Engelhart. The special Saturday music for the chapel has become a tradition now thanks to Bill Rettig, Rita Poling, Danette Gunkelman and Marti Stephan.

The children's choir also directed by Maria continues to expand. They sang for the congregation on five occasions throughout the year. Again this year, the choir has led the congregation in exploring different worship settings for the traditional service. We will continue to challenge ourselves with more new settings. We are grateful for new choir members and instrumentalists and look forward to an ever expanding and accomplished music ministry in years to come.

The Contemporary band, CHOSEN, had a new vocalist this past year, Tina Heise. We enjoyed having her and will miss her as she leaves for Seminary in August. The rest of the band continues as follows; Instrumentalists: Rick Chmura on Electric Guitar/Bass Guitar, Dennis Cushing on Bass Guitar, Steve Czapor on Keyboard/Organ, Billy Petersen on Percussion, Chad Tracy on Electric Guitar and Alexandra Vago on Violin, Vocalists: Danette Gunkelman and Ken Spanagel. We appreciate the dedication of the members of CHOSEN. Monday evenings often turn into two to three hour rehearsals. They continue to challenge themselves with finding and learning new music to lead Divinity in praise and worship.

The women of the Altar Guild were again headed by Marilyn Sesock. This dedicated group took care of preparing our altar for various seasons of the church year as well as regularly changing paraments, as appropriate, and preparing communion. Jim Badowski has continued to schedule our volunteers who bake the communion bread, serve communion, wine stewards, and assisting ministers. Ed Pabst, who schedules the usher teams for each service, continues to head this group of men and women. We were pleased to enlist a number of new volunteers this year.

We are thankful for the many dedicated people who volunteer their time to enrich the worship experience at Divinity and welcome anyone who would like to join the music groups or other worship activities.

*Linda Engelhart  
Co-Director, Board of Worship*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF YOUTH**

Our senior high youth group has had yet another terrific year. The year included bible camps, community service, and many fun filled activities.

This past summer, the youth attended bible camp backpacking through the Colorado Mountains at Rainbow Trails. This was a trip that provided the youth with life long memories, appreciation for the beauty of God's earth, and experiences they will not forget. Many thanks to the chaperones/drivers Pastor Doug and Denise Kronenberger for without them, this trip would not have been possible.

This coming summer, our youth will be going on a mission trip to the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia. They will be providing services to the less fortunate for a week in July. Youth Director Laura Ramsey and Tina Heise will be chaperoning this activity.

In addition to attending the annual LYO, the youth attended two retreats held at the Black Fork retreat center in Ashland. The first one was held in November and proved to be such a positive spiritual experience that our youth requested a second retreat which was held in March. The number of youths attending the second retreat almost doubled and Pastor Doug graciously donated his van so that there would be enough transportation for all. Thanks to Laura Ramsey and the other volunteers who helped to make the retreat a success.

To fund all these activities, our youth participated in various fundraisers that were held throughout the year which included the rummage sale, Christmas bake sale, Silent Auction/spaghetti dinner, Lenten dinner, car wash, and Easter candy sale.

Community service is a very important part of the youth ministry and our youth have gladly participated in many of the service oriented activities this past year which included serving dinner at the Ronald McDonald house, packing food baskets at the Redeemer Crisis Center, souper bowl of caring, Youth Sunday Service, and Sunday service hours.

As a group, our youth has attended Cedar Point, Indians & Monster games as well as some winter fun held at Progressive stadium this past winter.

We would like to thank Rose Malcolm for organizing and running the Kids-4-Christ program and to Laura Ramsey and Jean Peracchio for heading up the SNL (Sunday Night Lutherans) program. The Kids 4 Christ program accommodates children ages 9-12. They meet once a month on Sundays to do crafts and games in a Christ filled atmosphere. The SNL is for our senior high youths and they meet twice a month. The group includes the youth from Parma Lutheran as well.

Our Board strives to work hard to lead and be a positive influence to our Divinity Youth so that they may grow in Christ, grow in the church, and become mature spiritually minded individuals. We appreciate and thank our congregation for all their support in this ministry.

*Jeanne Bemer, Denise Kronenberger  
Co-Directors Board of Youth*

**OFFICIAL BALLOT – 2011 ELECTIONS  
DIVINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
May 15, 2011 Congregational Meeting**

Vote for no more than the number of people indicated for the following vacancies by circling their name. You may instead write in a person's name if they have been nominated at the congregational meeting.

**Officers: (Vote for no more than 1)**

**President – 2 year term ending 2013:**

**Doug Smith**

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**Secretary – 2 year term ending 2013:**

**Linda Engelhart**

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**Co-Director to the Board of:**

**Communications – 2 year term ending 2013  
(Vote for two)**

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**Finance – 2 year term ending 2013  
(Vote for no more than 1)**

**Jeff Gattiker**

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**Parish Education – 2 year term ending 2013  
(Vote for no more than 2)**

**Sue Marko**

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**Rachel McDonnell**

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**Property – 2 year term ending 2013  
(Vote for no more than 1)**

**Jim Votava**

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**Social Ministry – 2 year term ending 2013  
(Vote for two)**

**Pam Barker**

**Mary O'Rourke**

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**Stewardship – 2 year term ending 2013  
(Vote for no more than 1)**

**Mary Ann Filipow**

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**Witness – 2 year term ending 2013  
(Vote for no more than 1)**

**Fay Maldari**

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**Worship – 2 year term ending 2013  
(Vote for two)**

**Jill Heise**

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**Endowment Committee (Vote for no more than 3) – 3 year term ending 2014**

**Sue Clay**

**Ken Spanagel**

**Ed Pabst**

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**Nominating Committee (Vote for no more than 3)**

**Leslie Crowe**

**Judy Junker**

**Chairperson – Joyce Schindler**

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