

**Divinity Lutheran Church
Spring Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, April 20, 2008 - 12:15 p.m. - Sanctuary**

AGENDA

In Jesus' name...

1. Opening Devotions (See inside cover of Annual Report) Pastor Doug
2. Approval of minutes from the Fall Meeting of the Congregation
3. Old Business
4. New Business
 - A. Report of the Nominating Committee Marilyn Sesock
 - B. Congregational Voting
 - C. Pastor's Report Pastor Doug
5. Additional Business to be presented to or by the congregation
6. Adjournment and closing - Lord's Prayer

**Fall Meeting of the Congregation Divinity Lutheran Church
Sunday, November 17, 2007
12:13 p.m.**

1. Meeting was called to order by Leslie Crowe and Pastor Doug led us in opening devotions and prayer.
2. **Approval of minutes** from the Spring Meeting of the Congregation. Ed Kahl made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Bob Mims. A vote followed and motion carried.
3. **Old Business:** None.
4. **New Business:**
 - Pastor Doug's ministry survey was very helpful in knowing what avenue to follow to help him. The job description for the Youth Director is being fine tuned now by the Board of Youth. It is known that this will be a twenty hour a week position, but

it is not being funded at this time. Proposal: It was proposed that this position be funded as a special project, ask for donations and continue to increase the revenue from benefit giving. Motion: Motion presented was that acting on the recommendation of council, a person to be hired for the position of Youth Director be sought after the job description is complete. Motion made by Mary Kay Kahl and seconded by Fay Maldari. Discussion commenced with recommending that this person be a member of Divinity. This is to be a year around position with the salary of \$ 12.00/hour or \$ 14,000/year. After the first year salary amount is reached, then interviews could commence. The Interview team would be Pastor Doug, Doug Smith, Leslie Crowe and representatives from Board of Youth and Board of Parish Education. Motion was voted on and passed.

- We are actively looking into finding new groups to rent the building. The Ukrainian School has left on its own accord, but left owing \$2,000. This expense is being looked into.
- Presentation of the 2008 Budget:
Copies of the budget were passed out to the congregation. Jeff Gattiker and Tony Chilia worked to trim the budget as much as possible. General giving has increased by 3% over the actual 2007. The actual 2007 giving is \$1000 over 2006 at this time, but \$10,000 lower than the 2007 budget. This is because rent and other funds have decreased quite a bit. Operational expenses, the benevolence is to give the ELCA 10% of what we bring in. Administrative expenses have stayed approximately the same. They will be less in 2008 as Larry Jones is not retiring and there will not need to be money to train a replacement. Also, Pastor Cynthia has resigned and so the money allocated for her is also not being used. The Board has had an increase in spending because of the snow plowing and the Stephen Ministry training courses. Motion: Motion was made to accept the budget as presented by Ken Spanagel and seconded by Ed Pabst. The motion was voted on and passed.

5. Other Business presented by Congregation:

- Mary Ann Filipow expressed concern about the children's choir. Nancy Kilkenny spoke on the decrease of the number of children in the choir. Children for the

choir are let out at 10:45 a.m. for rehearsal. This hopefully will help them get ready for the 5:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve .

- Jim Votava suggested that the minutes be put out before the meeting so everyone interested would have time to read them prior to the meeting.

6. Adjournment:

Motion: Motion made to adjourn by Fay Maldari. It was seconded by Dick Wittig.

Motion passed. Meeting ended at 12:46 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting: Sunday, April 20, 2008 at noon.

In His Service,

Joyce Tallman

Recording Secretary

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Divinity Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write this the day after the lowest attended Sunday morning worship services in the almost 5 years I've been with you. Saturday's snow storm was most certainly the cause, although when I took my family to the mall Sunday afternoon to see the movie "10,000 B.C.," the parking lot was full and there were lines of people everywhere.

Yesterday's experience of few people in worship and a packed mall reminded me of my seminary classmate's recent book entitled "Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces." Jon Pahl, who is now a Lutheran seminary professor in Philadelphia, writes that "the religion of the market is a development that renders traditional religions increasingly irrelevant. Traditional religions have failed to offer a meaningful challenge to the aggressive proselytizing of market capitalism which has already become the most successful religion of all time, winning more converts more quickly than any previous belief system or value system in human history. It is in the marketplace that all people come together - rich and poor, old and young, black and white. It is the democratic, unifying, universal place which gives spirit and personality to the city. The shopping mall has become the cathedral in this new religion, the sacred space for 'universal' faith with a distinct spirit."

The "distinct spirit" of the shopping mall often times gives me a headache. My youngest son, on the other hand, likes to go to the mall to "hang out" with his friends. One of the questions I'm presently struggling with is "how can we transform our churches" into relevant spaces where people of all ages will come to worship and "hang out" together?

A few weeks ago Kris Klindworth, Doug Smith, and I visited a "youth room" in Brunswick where about 60 unchurched teenagers were "hanging out" on a Monday night. There were some crazy ice-breakers like some teenagers smearing butter on their faces to see who could get the most cheerios to stick to them that were spilled out on a table. Some sang or played their guitar before a

presentation on why bad things happen to good people. The night ended with small group discussions facilitated by adult volunteers. I was impressed.

Do we want to try to develop a "youth night" in our sacred Divinity space that is open to everyone regardless of age or church membership? In what other ways can we fulfill our mission statement to be "a people and place of hope, healing, and welcome"?

This year we celebrate 60 years of Divinity ministry and community. We just welcomed many visitors to our sacred space the weekend of *Tetelestai*. We've completed our 60th anniversary picture directory with the help of many hard-working volunteers. The actual weekend of the anniversary, September 20-21, we'll share a congregational meal on Saturday evening before moving to the sanctuary to listen to the "Singing Angels." We hope to have Pastor Steve Marsh here on Sunday morning to share God's Word.

But no community of faith can grow on past accomplishments. As we look to the future, we'll need to be a people on a mission to share our faith in Jesus Christ in new ways in an ever-changing culture. The emerging church of this new century will need to be a community of believers willing to risk sharing and living out our faith with new technologies, with a new openness to others, and with a new willingness to serve all of God's people. It will not be easy. It never was.

My vision is a church in which people come to receive, "hope, healing, and welcome" while "hanging out" together in worship, fellowship, and servanthood. May God continue to bless us on our journey together.

In Christ
Pastor Doug

REPORT OF LAY VISITATION MINISTER

It hardly seems possible that another year has passed, and it is time for another annual report. As I look over the past year and try to gather my thoughts I cannot help but think of the changes that have taken place in Our Family, and those we reach out to. At the present time we

have 56 people on our homebound list. That number may change a little throughout the year but it hovers around the same. The names on that list change periodically. We have lost some of our Family when their faith journey is completed and some of our Family has been added to that list. Some of our folks can no longer live alone or at home and have gone into Assisted Living or facilities where they can be cared for. I continue to visit with them wherever they are, and spend as much time with them as they need during my visit. Holy Communion is always offered, and sometimes the anointing with oil is requested. It is a privilege for me to be able to share God's love with them in these ways.

I continue to do the bi-monthly nursing home services with help from Leslie Crow and Diane Conroy. My voice is becoming a problem because I cannot project it like I used to, so I may need to find an alternative way to reach out into our community for this. However, for the time being things will remain the same.

We still have three luncheons annually for our homebound/caregivers. The times are pretty much the same. We start the year with a luncheon immediately following the Maundy Thursday noon service. Because they have been away from home for awhile we do not plan entertainment with this luncheon. They come for worship then lunch and fellowship. In July we have a picnic in

the parlor and a cookout type meal is provided as well as group entertainment and activities. We close the year with our annual Christmas party. This event also includes another full meal, entertainment, group singing, prizes and take home goodies. We try to make sure that our guests always have something to take home with them. We have gotten into the practice of taking pictures during these times and put them into folders for them to take home also. Some of the pictures taken during these times will be used in our new directory. Many thanks to Ed Kahl, John Smeets and Larry Jones for their help with this. Speaking of pictures, for the last couple of months I have taken the camera with me on visits, so I can get pictures of some of our folks to be included in our new directory. The cooperation and dedication of the Boards of Witness and Parish Life, the many volunteers and Janet Schoch who assists with the invitation mailings provide a large contribution to the success of these events.

As the Stephen Ministry Coordinator I continue to manage this ministry at Divinity. In 2008 we started our fifth class for training new ministers. Pastor Doug and I interviewed those folks who turned in applications that met with the needs of this ministry. I establish the training schedule as well as the Peer Supervision schedule. In April, 2007 we had twelve ministers attend the retreat at Camp Mowana. This is a very intense study time but it is also rewarding. Another retreat is planned for this year in May to include the new trainees. I also plan for the budget for this ministry, arrange the commissioning service and reception, prepare the commissioning packets, get the badges, do the paper work involved and work with Pastor Doug to establish the caring relationships in this ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are outstanding in their field. They are very dedicated people who have been called to serve Our Lord in this way. I hope to provide Leader Training to some of our current ministers in the future.

I address the new members during one of the three classes they attend. I provide the information for the "New Member Packets" that each family receives. The packets contain a lot of information about the activities here at Divinity as well as about our Lutheran faith.

I continue to coordinate the Card Ministry and make phone calls and send personal cards or notes when it is appropriate for me to do so.

The three prayer ministries here at Divinity (The Grace Team, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, The Prayer Chains) are doing well. So many of our folks have remained active in their service in these ministries for over ten years. I plan and lead the commissioning service for these ministries each year, as our ministers once again commit to serving Our Lord in this way. I also collect thoughts and prayers for our Lenten and/or Advent devotionals for our Family, inviting participation from our congregation.

In Pastor Doug's absence I share the responsibility of the Warm Line with Janet Schoch, and I make hospital visits when possible. When Pastor Doug is here and we have a lot of people in the hospitals I assist with visits when he can't get to everyone.

I coordinate the gatherings, week-ends and activities for the Via de Cristo community here at Divinity. I also continue to write the monthly article for our Divinity Digest called Pray-er Thoughts. I welcome any thoughts you may like to share with our Family.

This past year I attended two seminars at The Lutheran Home. One pertained to "Assistive Devices for Independent Living and an Overview of Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy". The second one addressed "Reducing the Risk for Medication Related Problems". I also attended the Stephen Ministry Retreat at Southwest General Hospital pertaining to "Spirituality and Stephen Ministry". I attended the annual Community Prayer Breakfast with our staff and that is always a pleasure. I also attended the "Walk Thru the Old Testament" that was held here at Divinity.

I continue to read and look for ways to improve my ministry here at Divinity. I gather

information that I think will assist our Stephen Leaders in their training efforts. I continue to gain experience from my daily interactions with our Family as people stop in just to share an experience or talk. I believe that I am continuing to grow and I am very thankful for the opportunities presented to me. I am also very fortunate to have such a great staff to work with.

I feel blessed to be serving Our Lord in the ways I am called to serve, and I feel blessed by the lives I am privileged to share.

Loretta Cross, Lay Visitation Minister

Report of the Planning Council President

It's not about us. It's about Jesus.

We are told to pray first and always. So my prayer is one of thanksgiving that so many people are involved in the life of Divinity Lutheran and in being the hands and feet of Christ. For indeed all that we do reflects the love of Christ.

My term as president began with the addition of Pastor Cynthia to the staff. Not soon after that term began she asked for and was granted permission to resign her call. I am pleased that we still see her and hear her preach the word of God.

At the summer Council retreat we were blessed to hear Emlyn Ott speak about and lead us in an exercise from the Healthy Congregations series. It is still my hope that all or part of the series will be held at Divinity. It is appropriate for all members of the congregation not just elected leaders.

We ended 2007 in an excellent financial position. This was largely due to the faithful giving of our Divinity family and equally faithful stewardship of those resources. God continues to bless us.

Generous members have blessed us with gifts that allowed us to purchase new adult choir robes, the ELW hymnals and have money to support a youth director. Thank you to all who give so generously.

We are thankful also for people who volunteer their time to repair and upgrade our facility. Volunteers did everything from repairing the ceiling in the Sanctuary, wire and upgrade the sound system and examining the electrical system in preparation for air conditioning the kitchen. Thank you to the Women of the Church for funding the air conditioning of the kitchen. It has made a difference already when working in the area.

We have hired a Director of Music and hope to find the right person to direct our Youth programs. Thank you to all involved in the process of interviewing and hiring staff.

To all those who work so hard to prepare for events such as the Homebound luncheons, events for members such as the clam bake, Redeemer Crisis Center meals, the Food Pantry, Relay for Life, and events that draw people to Divinity such as *Tetelestai* we offer our thanks.

Our building and the land that surrounds it require much work to maintain. We thank all who volunteer their time to keeping us looking good. Look for more improvements this May as new landscaping is installed. Thank you to "Walk of Faith" for their support.

In September we will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Divinity Lutheran Church. Many special events are planned for this milestone event. A big part of this is the new picture directory. Thank you to all who assisted in making this project successful.

We have been blessed with new members joining our congregation. Many have become active already in the life of this congregation. We thank God for sending all new members.

Sunday school attendance is an area of concern. We know that we have many dedicated teachers and Board members who are willing to bring God's word to our

children and youth. Continue to pray that parents will bring their children to Sunday school.

We have lost the monies paid to us by the Ukrainian school and we are actively seeking to rent our space. To this point attempts have been fruitless. We will continue to pursue new means to supplement our income.

We thank God for our Pastor. Pastor Doug has challenged us to grow and continues to do so. You will see in his report that he has challenged all of us to "think out of the box" as we search for a youth director. We ask God to guide us in the process.

Please take a moment to thank the devoted, talented staff that serves us. Larry, Janet, Loretta, Tom, Keith and David deserve a pat on the back for all that they do to make Divinity successful.

Thank you to those who have served on Planning Council and are leaving as their terms expire. Your service has been a blessing. Welcome to those who are newly elected to positions on Council. We look forward to the coming year and all that it holds in store for us. We ask God to continue to guide us in the work He intends for us to do.

As I have traveled around the area I have seen that many churches have no one in their buildings during the day. I can only think that these churches have little life in them. We will always be open and available to members and visitors alike. Be proud that this congregation has so much life!

Leslie Crowe
President of the Congregation

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

Divinity Lutheran Church continues to see growth and expansion as it pertains to

communications and the marketing of the Church. Strategic marketing, advertising and public relations continue to be the cornerstone of the multi-faceted communications plan developed in 2005 which continues to be updated annually.

Media/Public Relations/Advertising

The Church, our Pastor and individual members of the Congregation continue to be regularly featured in the local press, particularly in the weekly *Parma Sun Post*, the flagship publication of Cleveland's 22-newspaper Sun chain. With a circulation of more than 25,000 readers each Thursday in print – and more than one million online – the exposure is helping to keep the public informed about happenings and highlights at Divinity.

The Church has implemented a highly-successful radio advertising campaign, working with WDOK-FM, 102.1, running two promotional campaigns each calendar year to enhance attendance and membership. The campaigns take place in the two week periods leading up to Christmas and Easter.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach continues to be an important component of the Church's marketing strategies, including participation in a wide array of community events, such as the American Cancer Society "Relay For Life," with all proceeds designated toward cancer education and research; the Active Communities Together Fair, held in conjunction with the Parma City School District, and the annual "Weekend in the Commons," held at the city's Greenbrier Cultural Center.

The community outreach arm of the Church, Arts in Action, continues to thrive via a wide array of arts-related concerts and presentations, designed to promote the Congregation and turn the Church into a local community arts center.

Highlights have been a presentation of “*Tetelestai*,” which brought hundreds of community members to Divinity during early February, and the hosting of numerous community concerts, including appearances by the Parma Symphony Orchestra, and other local musical artists.

Publications

Continuous improvement is the key phrase to use when discussing Divinity’s showcase publication, “The Divinity Digest,” a monthly church newsletter. Enhancements continue to heighten the appearance and graphics of this newsletter, designed to promote the Congregation to the greater community.

Web Site

The Divinity Web Site needs a major overhaul and further enhancements are planned for the coming year, including the improvement of editorial content, photography and special elements, including the placement of all sermons and newsletters online for those who wish to view them. www.divinitylutheran.com will be a key focus in terms of communication in the coming year.

Multimedia Efforts

The integration of electronic media continues with great success at the 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service, with the use of Power Point. So successful is this effort, that bulletins are no longer produced for the 11 a.m. service. Parishioners actively participate in the service, which is visible on a large screen in the sanctuary.

The installation of a multimedia platform last year, also continues to enhance the efforts of all Church musicians and musical groups. Refinements to equipment, including the installation of a new sound system, continue to improve the quality and participation in all worship experiences.

Rick Haase, Larry Wise, Co-Directors Board of Communications

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

Financial Highlights for the years of 2006 versus 2007 are as follows:

| | <u>2006 Actual</u> | <u>2007 Actual</u> | <u>2007 Budget</u> |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income | 400,180 | 401,321 | 412,887 |
| Expenses | 397,799 | 386,776 | 412,728 |
| Difference | 2,381 | 14,545 | 159 |

Income for 2007 was below the budgeted amount mainly due to decreased receipts in rents. The Ukrainian School no longer rents any space, which was included in the budget. Expenses were lower than budgeted primarily due to decreased Salaries & Benefits, and boards' spending. Salaries & Benefits were \$13,363 lower than budget because Pastor Cynthia resigned her position as a called pastor, and Larry Jones elected not to retire (the budget included a training period for his replacement, which was not needed.) Individual boards' spending was below budget by \$15,537 that was divided across most of the boards.

For the first two months of 2008:

- Actual income was \$6,620 above the budget.
- Actual expenses were \$2,848 above the budget.
- Worship attendance is 256 above 2007, in part due to Easter and Lenten services being earlier this year.
- Sunday School attendance is 99 students below 2007.
- There were 6 additional new members in 1st Quarter 2008 over the 1st Quarter 2007.

At the end of February 2008 all expenses have been paid up-to-date, with February's benevolence being paid in March. High utility bills continue to be a

challenge during the winter months. Hopefully, the new roof and insulation in the sanctuary will keep expenses lower than in the past.

Jeff Gattiker, Tony Chilia, Co-Directors Board of Finance

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PARISH LIFE

The goal of Parish Life is to bind Divinity members together in lives dedicated to the witness and service of all God's people. Parish Life develops and strengthens fellowship and family life both spiritually and socially.

Parish Life, along with the Women of the Church, supervises the upkeep of the kitchens. Parish Life also orders supplies and paper products in bulk for all church events and activities. Starting this year all major kitchen appliances will be checked annually to make sure they are properly maintained.

Parish Life set up guidelines for the use of the kitchens and instituted a \$50.00 cleaning fee. Persons or groups who wish to use the kitchen facilities for personal or non-church events will be given a copy of the Kitchen Guidelines and charged the cleaning fee. If the Kitchen Guidelines have been met when the kitchen is inspected after the event, the \$50 cleaning fee will be refunded.

Parish Life promotes, supervises and carries out scheduled and special events. Parish Life assists all boards with special events. Some of the activities and events Parish Life sponsored or assisted with were:

- Special celebrations/receptions
- Lenten Suppers
- Meals for Members
- Helping with the Homebound Luncheons
- Coffee Hours
- Dinners/Potlucks
- Clam Bake/Dance
- Helped with the Brown Bag lunches for Redeemer
- Overnight bus trip to The Living Word Outdoor Drama

A special thanks to the members of our Board for their dedication and the many

hours of service. **Erik Schumacher, Jackie Difford, Co-Directors Board of Parish Life**

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

1. Coordinated twelve community meals at Redeemer Crisis Center with the confirmation class and senior youth assisting and making decorations for two of the meals.
2. Collected and delivered donated clothing, household items, toys, plastic bags and furniture to RCC.
3. Collected and delivered new school clothes in conjunction with Divinity youth.
4. Assisted by the youth distributed 400 brown bag lunches to those attending the community meal. The congregation donated the lunches.
5. Hosted a kitchen shower for the women of RCC.
6. Taught one week of Redeemer's Vacation Bible School with the assistance of retired Parma School District teachers. We provided bible stories, outdoor activities, crafts, games, refreshments and entertainment.
7. Actively recruited other congregations to assist with the monthly community meal.
8. Presented each person attending the May dinner a Mother's Day gift of a pump hand soap dispenser.
9. Presented information about Redeemer to Divinity New Member Classes.
10. Decorated the Giving Tree with 150 ornaments and delivered the Christmas gifts to RCC.
11. Decorated and wrapped 150 coffee mugs containing candies and snack items, which were given to each person attending the December meal and provided a magician for entertainment
12. Assisted for two days at Redeemer's Christmas Outreach Program, distributing children's Christmas gifts and groceries for households.
13. Supported Robert and Denise Schmalzle, Missionaries to Kenya.
14. Donated \$200.00 to Parma Hts. Food Bank and now have a representative from Social Ministry on their committee.
15. Operated Divinity's Food Pantry and distributed food baskets at Easter,

Thanksgiving and Christmas and other times as need by the local community.

Carole Naumann, Jeanne Mapes, Co-Directors Board of Social Ministry

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

The fall stewardship emphasis “Stories to Tell and Gifts to Share” which took place during the month of October went very well all because of the many people involved.

Special thanks to the following: To Pastor Doug, Pastor Cynthia and Pastor Steve Marsh for sharing their inspiration.

To those who gave Temple Talk presentations, Jeanne Mapes, Ed Borkowski, Kip Kanya, and Mary O'Rourke for sharing their stories with us.

To Joan Huetter and the counters who stayed over and shared their time to stuff letters in envelopes for mailing.

To our office staff for the quiet, sharing of their time and abilities as they worked “behind the scenes.”

And to all of you, the members of the congregation, for your participation, for your stories to tell and the gifts you share.

193 commitments were received for a total of \$305,377 as of November 15, 2007. Time and Abilities commitments were completed by members of the congregation and brought to worship on January 13, 2008.

Dick Wittig, Ed Borkowski, Co-Directors Board of Stewardship

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF WITNESS

The Board of Witness had a very busy and productive year! A total of 39 new members were received on May 6, 2007, October 14, 2007, and February 10, 2008. The Visitor's Center continues to welcome visitors and gives out handmade cross bookmarks. The assigned greeters meet everyone with a warm smile, firm handshake and hugs.

The Stephen Ministry had conducted five classes which were led by Leslie Crowe and Judy Junker. As of this date, there are 21 commissioned Stephen ministers who are helping our Divinity members on a one-one-one basis. There is another minister slated to attend the Leadership Training Seminar this summer.

The Prayer Ministry (Prayer Chain/ Grace Prayer Team/ Prayer Shawl/Prayer Walk) are

actively fulfilling their missions. There were 300 prayer requests and an overall total of 240 prayer shawls given out. We continue to bring communion to the hospitalized and homebound members. Tapes of the Sunday worship services are also delivered to those who ask to receive them. The homebound members were treated with sit-down luncheons on April 10, 2007, July 18, 2007 and December 12, 2007. They truly enjoyed these and have expressed their appreciation.

For our outreach ministry, we sent out Christmas and Easter invitations, assisted the Arts in Action committee in their special events, and participated in the ACT Fair at Greenbriar Middle School on September 9, 2007. The Board of Witness and the Via de Cristo community hosted the annual Lenten supper and participated in the U1treyas on June 3, 2007 and January 20, 2008.

The year 2007 was a banner year for Divinity and Arts in Action. We presented the Tower City Chorus, the Tower City Brass, The CleveWest Music Consorte, the John Rutter Requiem, and the Summit Bells. We were also able to secure for the first weekend of Lent 2008 the Cleveland Performing Arts Ministries production of *Tetelestai*. There was a youth "End of Summer" party in August and the combined Sock Hop and Clambake in October. One of the fund-raising events was the first annual Easter candy sale. We are presently planning for the 2008-2009 event series and will be opening the calendar year with the Singing Angels. There is also in the works a summer event being planned.

Special thanks to Dianne Mims for her faithful service as co-director of the Board of Witness. Her dedication and active participation in all the Board activities contributed to a very successful fulfillment of our goals/mission.

Fay Maldari, Dianne Mims, Co-Directors Board of Witness

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF WORSHIP

The Board of Worship saw many changes in 2007-2008.

Nancy Kilkenny replaced Sue LaPerna as board co-director in May. Danette Gunkelman continued her term providing a smooth transition through the changes.

In September, Divinity began using the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship book for weekly services. The traditional services from the green hymnal and the service from With One Voice are included for a total of 10 settings allowing for diverse worship experiences.

Also in September, after the sudden death of Jim Myers, Maria Voljin was hired as Music Director. She is responsible for the Senior Choir, Children's Choir, Handbells, Instrumentalists, and 9 a.m. traditional service organ accompaniment. Steven Czapor is accompanist as needed. New robes were ordered and will debut at Easter services.

The Contemporary Service continues to be led by Danette Gunkelman and *Chosen*, the instrumental and voice worship group. New volunteers have been recruited to manage the multi-media sound and video system used during both services.

Sue LaPerna resigned as communion bread coordinator. Allan Hamula, our scheduling coordinator for worship, volunteered to incorporate bread scheduling into his duties. Allan has also recruited new volunteers for assisting minister and children's sermon presenters. Ed Pabst continues as Usher Coordinator and Marilyn Sesock as Altar Care Coordinator. A beautiful new embroidered altar parament for the cremation urn was given to Divinity by Marti Hof.

We continue to actively recruit new volunteers who have an interest in worship and music for each

of our services. We will also be selecting a representative to the committee planning the celebration of Divinity's 60th anniversary.

Nancy Kilkenny, Danette Gunkelman, Co-Directors Board of Worship

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF YOUTH

We wish to express an appreciation of all the time planning, and effort our youth leaders have put in this past year. Kid for Christ: Lydia Marie and Duane Johnson, Deborah Robinson. Confirmation: Pastor Doug, Laura Smith, and Karen Hearld. Senior Youth: Teresa Moe, John and Kris Klindworth. We are also thankful for the support of Larry, Janet, Keith, Tom and Dave.

Kids for Christ, 3rd -6th graders, meets the fourth Sunday of the month in the parlor from 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. In May they will meet the first Sunday for a Mother/Father Day craft. Lydia and Deborah have structured the group to meet its changing needs. The group meets for fellowship, snack and a craft.

Our confirmands focus on their studies and combine fun and service. The Kitchen Shower for Redeemer, CROP Walk, canned food collections, serving dinner at Redeemer, bowling, assisting at a nursing home service, laser tag and golf.

The senior youth also mix up service and fun: starting with attending the Youth Fest at Zion Lutheran Church this past summer, helping with outreach at the bake sale at the Greenbriar Fun Fair, Crop Walk followed by a bonfire, rock climbing, LYO, Sunday School at Starbucks, helping to serve a dinner at Redeemer, lock-in at church for some fun style fellowship. Yet to come a courtyard clean-up and barbeque on May 17 in connection with Divinity outdoor work day for all youth and families. An overnight outing to the ALIVE Festival is planned for June 20th.

Planning for the 2009 National Youth Gathering has started. Diane Conroy, Teresa Moe, Jean and Mark Peracchio, Kathy Roldan, and Marilyn Sesock make up the members of this committee.

Thank you Divinity for all your prayers, and support of your youth, we look forward to your continued support. Our youth is Divinity's outreach; they are our future.

Kris Klindworth, Teresa Moe, Co-Directors Board of Youth

REPORT OF DIVINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND
Mission Endowment Fund Value

Thrivent Financial \$ 59,331.29

Building Maintenance

Thrivent Financial 24,581.05

Walk of Faith

Thrivent Financial 22,668.97

Life Insurance

Net cash value of Life Insurance naming

Divinity Lutheran Church as beneficiary 5,287.00

TOTAL VALUE \$111,868.31

John Brunecz, Allan Goellner, Linda Gattiker, Ed Kahl
Endowment Committee

Arts in Action

Financial Statement - 0/1/2007 - 12/31/2007

Expenses Amount

Administration \$2174.54

Artist/Group Fees 2,915.00

Publicity* .00

Hospitality 1,167.03

Donations to Divinity** 3,776.56

Total Expenses year ending \$10,033.13

Income

Carryover Designated Funds '06 \$3,644.76

Program Advertising 1,638.45

Ticket Sales 2,035.00

Fund-Raisers 1,390.04

Patron Sponsorships 2,250.00

Designated Contributions 3,495.00

Total Income to date \$14,453.25

Carryover Designated Funds to 2008 \$4,420.12

NOTE:

*Publicity has been done through the various "free" venues i.e., local newspapers and national and local websites.

**\$2,927.40 donated towards the sanctuary's baby grand piano and protective cover.

Fred and Marlene Dray, Co-chairs Arts in Action