

# Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church

## 2015 Annual Reports

Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation  
Wednesday, January 20, 2016



### **ACTS 1:8**

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

***(New Living Translation)***

**Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church  
January 20, 2016 Annual Meeting**

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## The Evangelical Covenant Church

November 2015

To All Covenant Churches

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you gather for your congregational Annual Meeting, let me say I am so deeply grateful for the partnership we share in this movement we call the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC).

You are one among 875 congregations within our 11 regional conferences here in the United States and Canada. We are a growing, multiethnic, multi-generational family of churches with lots of heart for making a difference together. And together, we impact over 2.5 million lives at home and in some 40 countries on five continents.

Our executive minister of Love Mercy and Do Justice, Cecilia Williams, likes to say that our call as believers is to *"move the needle for the kingdom of God every day."* In the ECC, we seek to do this through our five mission priorities:

Start and Strengthen Churches,  
Make and Deepen Disciples,  
Develop Leaders,  
Love Mercy and Do Justice, and  
Serve Globally

We are humbled by what God is doing in each of these areas. Because of your support and God's faithfulness, real lives in real places are being touched by the hope of Christ every single day. Find out more on our website at [covchurch.org](http://covchurch.org). In particular, watch the video "Moving the Needle," an informative and inspiring overview of how God is at work.

As you reflect on the many ways that God is using your congregation, remember that one way is through this important partnership, and your partnership with your regional conference.

I am grateful to serve with you. Together, may we go deeper in Christ and further in mission.

In Christ,



Gary Walter  
President

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November 2015

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Northwest Conference staff and executive board I send you warm greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Another year is fast-approaching its end and it is time for many of our NWC churches to hold their annual congregational meetings at which time they will elect leaders, approve budgets, reflect on God's faithfulness throughout this past year, acknowledge challenges, and dream about the future.

This we know...that God is present in the midst of all of our deliberations even as He has been with us in our activities and service. Further, we believe that the Lord Jesus desires to live and reign in our hearts even as we earnestly desire to be led by the Holy Spirit.

And so, we are led though we follow imperfectly; acknowledging that even this drives us to a humble trust in the Lord and an even more humble distrust in our own capacity to "get it right" in every instance. Yet, our great God continues to be faithful in spite of our fecklessness. And so we give voice along with the hymn writers, "*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father*" even as we also cry out, "*Dear Lord and Father of humankind, forgive our feverish ways.*" And He does!

This faithfulness has also been made manifest in your faithfulness to our shared mission through the mission and ministry of the Northwest Conference in 2015. Thank you for your support through your prayers, participation, and the faithful stewardship of your finances. Simply put, while we are here to serve and resource our churches, pastors and lay leaders, we would be unable to do so without the faithful generosity of our churches...yours included! As such you are a blessing beyond your own walls in ways that make a real difference in the lives of other Covenant churches in our region. On their behalf I want to thank you, as well.

And know that the leadership of the NWC is cheering you on and praying that you would be found to be both faithful and fruitful for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Church. Moreover, that your labors will be a blessing to those who have yet to name the Name that is above every name, so that every tongue might acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*And so in our service, we remember that God's mercy to us and to others as expressed through Jesus Christ is His provision arising out of His compassion. It is not our "commission" for a job well-done; unearned yet received through Christ our Lord.*

May the reality and joy of this gospel message give you confidence to step out in faith and to seize the opportunities God will give to you in the coming year, even as you are making critical decisions that will affect your future endeavors.

Courage! And Peace.

Mark R. Stromberg, Superintendent

**Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church  
2015 Annual Meeting  
January 20, 2016**

**Agenda**

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**Call to Order: Jan Carr, Leadership Council Chairperson**

**Scripture and Prayer: Pastor Steve Hoffer**

**Review of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes. January 21, 2015 meeting**

**Review of Treasurer's Report: Report for December 2015—Todd Peterson, Treasurer**

**Report on Audit of Financial Records for 2015**

**Vote to approve the audit as presented**

**Presentation of Board and Committee Reports:**

To our members: We are trying to strike a balance between fully informing you about the business of your church and keeping this meeting to 2 hours. In that spirit, the written reports submitted by the chairpersons of each board and included in this report will not be read during the meeting but please take time to read them over at your convenience and if you have any questions or comments the chair of that particular board will be pleased to discuss it with you.

**New Business:**

1. Presentation of new members for approval: Pastor Steve Hoffer; Nathan Acker, Deacon Chair  
    Kyle Schmiedeknecht  
    Sarah Schmiedeknecht  
    Dennis Ingold  
    April Ingold  
    Sherry Nelson
2. Youth Director Recruitment Team Presentation: Tony Fichter.
3. Appointment of Blue Water Board Representative: Reappointment for David Brinkman.
4. Appointment of Blue Water Annual Meeting Delegates: David Brinkman.
5. Annual Approval of Standing Committees: Fellowship; Worship; Music; Health Ministries; Covenant Women; Decorating; Bluewater Bible Camp; Ministry Growth.
6. 2016 Budget Presentation and Approval: Rob Stroot, Trustee Chairperson.
7. Additional Budget Presentation and Approval: Rob Stroot, Trustee Chairperson to allow for a new position of Children and Family Ministry Pastor.
8. Election of Officers and Board Members for 2016. Nominating Committee Presentation of Ballot: Jon Helgeson, Nominating Committee Chairperson.
9. Charge to boards and committees to review and update guidelines/expectations of specific boards or committees at the first meeting in 2016 and to vote on officers as needed.

**UPCOMING EVENT:** Pastor Steve Hoffer Installation Service will be February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

# **Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church**

## **2014 Annual Meeting Minutes**

### **January 21, 2015**

**Members Present:** Kathy Brandt, Bill Brandt, Tony Fichter, Jon Helgeson, Rob Stroot, Kecia Stroot, Bryon Lundbohm, Misty Lundbohm, Sheila Brinkman, Darrin Smedsmo, Juli Smedsmo, Jan Carr, Don Kofstad, Elna Kofstad, Brenda Acker, Nathan Acker, Todd Peterson, Doris Miller, Karen Markstrom, Julie Elick, Duane Espe, Linda Espe, Mark Tangen, Mary Beth Hruby, Wade Hruby, Traci Fichter, Pastor Joe Elick, Milly Prachar, Paul Krahn, Rachel Krahn, Randy Prachar, Nora Parrill, Mary Huglen, Pam Granitz, Glenda Johnson, Glen O. Johnson, Don Miller.

**Also Present:** Mary Hoffer, Chris Hamness, Jeanie Hamness.

#### **Agenda**

**Call to order – Chair – Jan Carr**

**Scripture & Prayer – Pastor Steve Hoffer**

**Review of 2013 Annual Meeting minutes. January 22, 2014 meeting**  
Reviewed and approved.

#### **Treasure's Report – Report for December 2014 – Todd Peterson**

Todd stated that our Offering is up 5%, and with our staffing changes, the budget came out ahead at \$28,000. The report was reviewed and approved.

#### **Report on Audit of Financial Records for 2014**

The books were not audited because of technological difficulties; they have now been resolved and will be audited by a team selected by the Trustee Board before the next meeting.

**Vote to approve Audit of Financial Records**

#### **Board/Committee Reports:**

**Old Business:** We do not have anything on the agenda for this meeting.

#### **New Business:**

##### **1. 2015 Budget Presentation and Vote to Approve**

Rob Stroot presented the new budget for 2015. He stated they work with the NW Conference to get the Pastor's salary up to competitive rates. Also Pastor Kecia Stroot is now working three-quarter time rather than half time. The Pastor search monies are not included, but will be added back in the last quarter of this year for the next search. The Mission budget increased as requested by congregation. A new expense for Children and Family Ministry Program was added to research that opportunity for our church. Jan Carr asked for a motion. Motion was made by Jon Helgeson, and seconded by Tony Fichter. Motion carried, budget is approved.

##### **2. Election of Board Members and Officers. Nominating Committee presentation of ballot**

Mary Huglen presented the ballot, and thanked the nominating committee for their work, and for each individual for their prayerful consideration and willingness to participate. Jan Carr opened up to the floor for discussion, or that the ballot stand as it is. Don Miller made a motion that the ballot stand as is, and Nora Parrill seconded it. Rob Stroot had a comment on the Trustee Board that next year they get back to the 3, 3, 2 rotation. Trish Hunter also stated that CF has a similar problem. Jan Carr stated that a special election could be held to fill positions if needed. Jan Carr asked for a vote to accept the ballot. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

**3. Appointment of Bluewater Board Representative**

David Brinkman has agreed to serve again. Jan Carr asked for a motion for David Brinkman to be our Representative, Traci Fichter made a motion, and Rob Stroot seconded. Motion carried.

**Appointment of Bluewater Annual Meeting Delegates – David Brinkman**

The meeting will be Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 3-6pm in Crookston. Rob and Kecia Stroot, and Traci Fichter and Sheila Brinkman volunteered. Jan asked for a motion that we accept these people as our delegates. Glen Johnson made the motion, Todd Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**4. Annual approval of standing committees:**

**Fellowship, Worship, Music, Mission, Health Ministries, Covenant Women, Decorating, Bluewater Bible Camp.**

Elna Kofstad stated that she and Ruthann Helgeson are done on the decorating committee, and stated that new members are being recruited.

Jan Carr asked for a motion for approval of the standing committees, Mary Huglen made a motion, and Tony Fichter seconded. Motion carried.

**5. Charge to boards and committees to review and update guidelines/expectations of specific board or committee at the first meeting in 2015 and to vote on officers as needed.**

**6. Presentation to congregation on ideas for Children and Family Ministry Program:**

**Pastor Kecia Stroot/Jan Carr**

Jan Carr stated that the Ministry Growth Team started in 2009, which was followed by the Pulse Surveys in 2011 and 2013. In 2012 the Ministry Growth team developed the Business plan that would include a job description for Children and Family Ministry. Pastor Kecia Stroot discussed the purpose and vision of CFM. Research was done with the NW Conference Kara Stromberg, and with a church that has embraced this new programming.

If we add, would it be a pastor position or an administrative position?

**Discussion**

No motions are being asked for tonight. Is this still the priority that the congregation wants?

Doris Miller stated that we are gaining families with children, and thinks that this is an imperative move for the future for our church. Mary Huglen stated that our children need this with the world that we face today, that we could be a source of strength for our children. Bryon Lundbohm thinks it is a great idea, and would like to see it incorporated into our hockey programs. Jan Carr stated that CF makes a definitive effort to vary the curriculum each year.

Brenda Acker stated that we need to be careful, we can do all the programming we want, but the most important thing is, are we getting our kids into the Bible and Bible study before they leave home? Kecia suggested a book Sticky Faith, and agreed that we keep that a priority. Misty Lundbohm said that programming is important i.e. Children's Church, because she is able to focus during the service. She also stated that the Awana program is excellent for the younger children. Sheila Brinkman stated that at her church in Colorado they had a mentor program, and that added cohesiveness to the congregation. Traci Fichter said she loves the family focus, and that our statistics for divorce are high. But she also wants to make sure the youth program would not be cut back. Jan Carr mentioned that when Kecia came on board at half time, they discovered that she needed to be three quarter time just to keep up with existing programs. Karen Markstrom also agreed that she would hate for the youth group to suffer. Pastor Joe Elick added that the change from Christian Education to Christian formation was a big deal. He said there is a big difference. He said we need to have a consciousness for all the ages about the Christian formation in all their lives. It's not just about bringing people to Christ, but also to mentor the formation of Christ in their lives. Trish Hunter likes the concept of incorporating the families in the programs, including VBS. Bill Brandt wants us to look at this from a



financial standpoint so that we can hit the ground running in 2016. Nathan Acker said it would only be 25% more to get it operating. Tony Fichter would like us to look at how we could be creative stewards, utilizing other churches and youth leaders in our community.

Jan stated what she is hearing, is that we want to move forward with this.

The vote for the election was tallied, and it was unanimous.

Rachel Krahn stated that the sponsors under the baptisms should be switched around. Marley Didrikson's sponsors are Matt and Jana Martin and Ashley Filpula, and Emmett Kvidt sponsors are Eric and Camille Massaro, Tessa and Derek Zimney and Ethan Kvidt.

**Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Pastor Steve Hoffer closed in prayer.

**Chair**\_\_\_\_\_ **Secretary**\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by Julie Sanford.

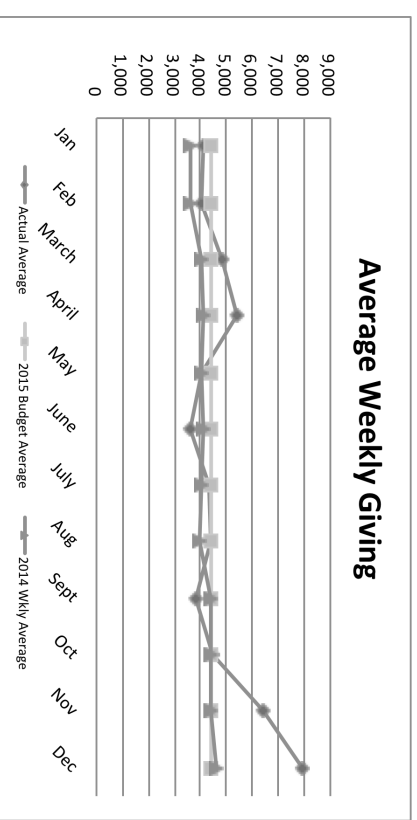
**Roseau Evangelical Church**  
**2015 Year End Financial Statement**  
**Thursday, December 31, 15**

	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Month Actuals</b>	<b>YTD Actuals</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Offerings	229,543	31,704.25	249,051.55	108%	(19,509)
Other Income	0	0.00	75.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,543</b>	<b>31,704.25</b>	<b>249,126.55</b>	<b>109%</b>	<b>(19,509)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Pastor's Salary Pkg.	0	0.00	0.00		0
Pastor's Conference Exp	0	0.00	0.00		0
Interim Pastor Salary Pkg	81,885	7,180.36	77,229.85	94%	4,655
Pastor Expense	1,500	18.00	1,266.35	84%	234
Youth Director's Salary Pkg	31,549	3,873.62	38,779.63	123%	(7,231)
Youth Director's Cont. Exp	2,380	0.00	2,022.24	85%	358
Secretary Salary	13,350	1,163.61	12,639.87	95%	710
Custodian Salary	5,140	467.16	5,178.57	101%	(39)
Treasurer's Salary	2,729	227.46	2,730.11	100%	(1)
Parish Nurse Salary	0	0.00	0.00	0%	0
Guest Speakers	500	0.00	750.00	150%	(250)
Utilities	15,500	1,892.67	12,205.97	79%	3,294
Insurance	6,750	0.00	7,511.00	111%	(761)
B&G Maintenance	8,000	446.17	8,469.47	106%	(469)
Apartment Expense	0	0.00	0.00	0%	0
Pastor Search Expense	0	1,290.02	1,418.47	0%	(1,418)
Fellowship committee	400	27.33	155.59	39%	244
Office Equip and I.S.	7,500	639.60	5,304.61	71%	2,195
Taxes	4,100	142.15	4,088.20	100%	12
Seminary Scholarship fund	1,500	500.00	1,225.00	82%	275
Bluewater Bible Camp	3,000	0.00	3,000.00	100%	0
ECC of America	9,317	0.00	8,863.14	95%	454
NW Conference	4,658	0.00	4,866.68	104%	(209)
Missions	10,000	3,618.00	9,999.98	100%	0
Music	300	55.50	965.22	322%	(665)
Christian Formation	8,045	408.67	7,037.43	87%	1,008
Deacons	3,335	396.52	4,333.03	130%	(998)
Youth Group	3,000	813.91	3,279.14	109%	(279)
Youth Ministry	500	46.89	46.89	9%	453
Children & Family	2,300	0.00	619.95	27%	
Van/Bus Expense	750	0.00	1,239.97	165%	(490)
Miscellaneous	750	174.40	706.54	94%	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>228,738</b>	<b>23,382.04</b>	<b>225,932.90</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>1,125</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>804.94</b>	<b>8,322.21</b>	<b>23,193.65</b>		

2015 YTD Average Weekly Giving \$4,789  
2015 Budget Average Weekly Giving \$4,414

	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Operating Fund	0.00	249,126.55	225,932.90	23,193.65	23,193.65
Building Fund	27,582.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,582.02
Crisis Fund	1,145.00	0.00	350.00	(350.00)	795.00
Memorial Fund	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210.00
SS offering Fund	658.99	679.02	1,255.26	(576.24)	82.75
FMSC	0.00	2,147.59	2,147.89	(0.30)	(0.30)
Technology fund	4,651.67	1,500.00	6,158.43	(4,658.43)	(6.76)
Seminary Scholar.	275.00	0.00	275.00	(275.00)	0.00
Kitchen Fund	5,926.37	0.00	46.00	(46.00)	5,880.37
Pine Ridge Mission	0.00	6,917.82	6,917.82	0.00	0.00
Library Fund	155.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	155.49
Fall Fest	0.00	9,531.35	9,398.01	133.34	133.34
Bluewater Camp	2,428.21	31,080.00	31,434.57	(354.57)	2,073.64
BW Scholarships	2,329.25	1,012.00	3,120.00	(2,108.00)	221.25
Undesignated	99,258.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	99,258.15
	144,620.15	301,994.33	287,035.88	14,958.45	159,578.60

<b>Bank Accounts</b>		<b>Outstanding</b>
Checking	111,260.60	(15,537.72)
Savings	63,855.72	
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,116.32</b>	



## Senior Pastor's Annual Report 2015

For the first eleven months of 2015, I served as the Interim Senior Pastor here at Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church. I was still quite new at the beginning of 2015 and found that, over time, weekly and monthly rhythms began to fall into place: meeting with people to learn their stories – some in crisis, some in celebration; serving at Oak Crest on Tuesday mornings and Roseau Manor on Sundays and Tuesdays as part of a rotation with other pastors in the community; weekly staff meetings with Pastor Kecia and Elaine; confirmation classes (we have 13 students who started in the Fall of 2015); monthly ministerial meetings; sermon preparation; and board meetings.

Other highlights of the year included attending the Northwest Conference Annual Meeting in the spring. Mary and I, along with Tony and Traci Fichter, had the privilege of attending. Being new to the Evangelical Covenant denomination, it was a great introduction and learning experience. As a church, we also had the privilege of hosting David Husby who is the director of Covenant World Relief. He stayed in our home while here for the weekend and we, along with members of the Missions & Outreach Board, learned a great deal about the needs in our world and how to best partner with our denomination to meet those needs.

One of the accomplishments of the year included the development of our new website ([roseaucov.org](http://roseaucov.org)). This, along with our weekly eNewsletter, have proven to be great tools for both communicating to our members and attenders as well as serving as a gateway for those seeking to be part of our church.

Over the summer, Mary and I had the privilege of doing some fun music events. We were invited to sing and play the National Anthem at Church Night at the Fair. We were also invited to sing and play at the Gazebo as well as the Small Stage at the Fair.

During the summer we also began our search for a full-time Youth Ministry Director and that process, at the time of this report, is nearing completion. As a team, we are very excited by how God has led us during this search.

As we transitioned into the fall, we launched six new Small Groups and had good attendance in each. The topics ranged from managing personal finances in a God-honoring way to parenting to studying the Bible. Mary and I had the privilege of hosting a parenting small group in our home over the fall and spent time with some wonderful couples that are all on the journey of parenting. It was great to get to know people and share parenting experiences as well as learn new parenting skills.

Over the course of the year, our average monthly attendance grew by 10% over the previous year. This growth was evident both in our giving – not only our tithing, but our giving in the community as well. We saw nearly a 100% increase in the number of shoeboxes made and donated to Samaritan's Purse' annual Operation Christmas Child. While numbers don't tell the whole story by any means – one way or the other – it is one way to gauge the health and vitality of our church.

The Ministry Growth group met throughout the year and has proven to be a valuable way to gain input from the giftedness, passions and wisdom of our attenders. The input from these meetings over the course of the year led to the search for a full-time Youth Ministry Director as well as a re-engagement in the conversation of our need for a Children and Family Pastor.

Over the course of the year, I have the privilege of serving with many different people here in our church. There are too many to mention all in this report, but of special note are the members of our Deacon Board who faithfully pray and seek to meet the needs of people in our community – both our church community and our community at large. Serving with Elaine as our office secretary and Pastor Kecia continues to be a great joy. They are both talented and gifted women and it is an honor to serve with them. Also, a couple people – among many – serve behind the scenes and are greatly appreciated. Julie Sanford faithfully prepares our daily Scripture-to-Go and makes sure we get them each weekday in our inbox. And Pastor Joe Elick continues to faithfully serve this congregation by setting up tables and chairs for events as well as doing a quick shoveling job when we get snow. The faithfulness and humility of these servants is a testimony of their love for Jesus and their heart to serve.

One of the most humbling events of the year for my family and me occurred on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a day I will not forget as the membership of our church unanimously invited me to serve as the Senior Pastor – on a “non-interim” basis. (Or, as friends have said, as the “permanent” Senior Pastor.) My prayer all along in that process was that God would make it obvious one way or the other. My prayers were answered beyond what I hoped for and I am honored to have been called to serve here.

I have been here since October of 2014, and over the course of that time I have always spoken to you by using the words “our church” during announcements and sermons. This was intentional on my part, as I wanted there to be a sense of unity coming from the pulpit. But there was always a “catch” in my mind as I knew that I was an interim pastor and the phrase “our church” – for me – only had temporary meaning by the design of the agreement for me to be the interim pastor. But now, when I say “our church” it has new meaning. And I must say it is humbling. I am blessed and honored to be here. I am excited to see what God will do in and through us in our local community as we seek to follow His call to be His witnesses and make disciples. I am excited to see the lives of children and youth be impacted for Jesus. I am excited to see the lives of adults changed as we engage in serving the call of Jesus to be His church. And I am excited to be on this journey here – with all of you.

May God bless us and challenge us – may He encourage and stretch us. And may we follow Him – hearing His word and acting on what we hear.

by His grace,

pastor steve

## Youth Ministry Annual Report 2015

It has been my privilege to serve as the Youth Director in 2015. Our church family is blessed with amazing youth and adult leaders. To work with them and serve with them has been such a blessing.

Here's what we were busy with in 2015:

We kicked off 2015 with an All-City Winter event at Malung. Around 150 students attended sledding, playing broomball, building snowmen and watching the movie Frozen.

February 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> we took our bus down to the Dare2Share conference in the cities. Twenty-two students and 5 adults were challenged and equipped to share our faith. We followed this up by using the Dare2Share curriculum "Life in 6 Words" with the entire youth group.

In April, we participated in a 30-hour famine with the First United Lutheran church's youth group. This overnight experience held at our church allowed the 30 students that participated a chance to see what conditions are like in third world countries and what it is like to go without food. We ended the fast with the best tasting rice and beans ever!

The All-City Youth summer kick-off event included games and inflatables in the Roseau City Park and again was a great way to introduce the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to Youth Group. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders were also invited to the other summer activities we hosted such as a hang-out night, a bonfire at Paul and Rachel Krahn's, and a Taco Tuesday lunch with water balloon fight.

Again this year it was our church's privilege to send 2 of our youth to Adventures in Leadership. Jayden Acker and Reilly Stroot spent a week of June in the Boundary Waters developing and strengthening their leadership skills, which they have definitely used during this year!

In an attempt to connect with students after their time at Bluewater Bible Camp this summer, mini-reunions or get-togethers were held typically the week following the student's return from camp. We showed the camp DVD and enjoyed root beer floats while students reminisced about their time at camp.

After months and months of fundraising and paperwork, 28 students and 7 adults finally loaded a charter bus and headed to Knoxville, Tennessee for the CHIC conference! The speakers, concerts, large-group experiences, small-group sessions and excursions made it an unbelievable week! Thank you to all who helped us get there!

At VBS this summer, I had the privilege of being Moses' (Pastor Joe) whiny sidekick during story time each night. Our youth also really stepped up to the plate to volunteer their time helping out each night.

In August 24, 6-9<sup>th</sup> grade students and 6 adult leaders headed to the cities for MUUUUCE (Most Ultimate, Unbelievable, Urban Camping Experience). MUUUUCE has always allowed 6<sup>th</sup> graders to attend, but this was new for our church and part of the reason why our number of attenders was up from 4 last year. We joined about 600 other junior high students for great worship music, a wonderful speaker, bowling, Valley Fair and CHAOS.

In August, we also participated in an Underground Church event at Malung with First United Lutheran Church. It was a bit unnerving to get even the smallest glimpse of what underground churches go through. We ended our night reflecting over a campfire with hot dogs and smores.

A new All-City Youth event that RAYL hosted was a end-of-summer get-together which included slip-in-slide kickball, a 50-foot slip-n-slide, grilling hot dogs and freezies. Thanks to the fire department for providing the water!

Our youth group spent the fall focusing on "Gospel Journey, Maui", a Dare2Share curriculum, which asks life's biggest questions and looks at them from different spiritual worldviews. We are blessed to have many musically gifted students in our youth group, who are willing to share their gifts and use

their gifts for God's glory. Our youth praise band leads worship for us every Wednesday night as well as about once a month during our regular Sunday worship. It is really cool to see our students develop their gifts, encourage others, and allow themselves to be used by God in leading worship.

See You At The Pole was again a wonderful beginning to the school year. SYATP is a student led morning of prayer for our school and our community held at the end of September. Around 50 students attended, and our youth were very involved in the planning and leading of this event. After the Youth Directors of the community decided not to hold an All-City youth worship night at the school, the students decided that they were having one anyway, making it truly a student-led event! That evening, a student led worship night was held at the Baptist Church, with around 100 students attending from at least 5 of the Roseau churches. Again, our students were very involved in the planning and leading of the evening.

In September we took our bus with the Messiah Lutheran Church youth to the Corn Maze in Warroad, winning the prize for this year's largest group to attend the Corn Maze! In October, we also attended the All-City Youth Costume party/movie night at the Roso Movie Theater with over 170 students.

Another highlight of the fall included going to a retreat at Bluewater Bible Camp over MEA weekend. We traveled in our bus with 17 students and 2 adult leaders, with a total of 90 students attending the retreat from 4 churches. The weekend had a great speaker we had seen at CHIC, great fun (some people crazy enough to jump off the blob tower into the water), amazing food (professional chef!), and an amazing worship band put together by the youth of all of the churches. And, our musicians were well represented!

December included a Christmas party with Messiah Lutheran's youth, using our prize money from the Corn Maze to provide pizza! Also in December, we went caroling around town, visiting Roseau Manor and Pastor Erling Huglen, Oak Crest, and singing up and down the aisles of the Super One grocery store. We wrapped up the month with an All-City Youth skiing and snowboarding trip to Walhalla, ND with 45 students attending.

Released Time is going strong. We typically have around 10 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders attending. A big thanks to Robert Brinkman who welcomes them in the door and gets the treats ready for this energetic group.

I would like to say a special Thank You to our Youth Leaders: Brenda and Nathan Acker, Sheila Brinkman, Mary Huglen, Paul and Rachel Krahn, Elijah McKinney, Dave and Denielle Reed, and Rob Stroot. They have been a great support to me, and a great sounding board for programming decisions. Although we have seen an increase in the number of students coming to Youth Group on Wednesday nights, what's more important is drawing people to Christ through the relationships we're building. We have intentionally spent more time in small groups this year, building relationships between the adult leaders and the students. It is my hope that as we transition to a new Youth Director, stronger relationships with the adult leaders will help our students during this transition. These adult leaders love the Lord, and love our youth. And they have been a blessing to me, and to all of our students.

And, I would like to thank everyone who has supported our youth whether it was in making treats for Released Time, making supper for Youth Group, supporting CHIC fundraisers, or just taking a moment to connect with our students. Thank you for all the ways you invest in our youth. You are impacting their faith-walk in more ways than you realize.

It is a privilege to serve our youth, our church, and above all, serve our Lord together with you.

Together In Christ,  
Pastor Kecia Stroot

## **Baptisms 2015:**

### **March 01, 2015**

Jaxon Lawrence Kruger  
Parents – John & Andrea Kruger  
Sponsors- Alec Deschene & Jennifer Skime

### **December 20, 2015**

Elin Elizabeth Didrikson  
Parents – Thor & Kelsey Didrikson  
Sponsors- Bryan & Lauren Ressler and Michelle Didrikson

## **Confirmation 2015:**

### **May 17, 2015**

Mckayla Christianson  
Brooke Reed  
Michah Krahn

## **Weddings 2015:**

### **February 14, 2105**

Chris Thompson & Ashley Pearson

### **May 16, 2015**

Jared Sanford & Georgia Bayford

## **Funerals 2015:**

### **January 09, 2015**

Doris Stromsted

## Bluewater Board Annual Report 2015

It was another great year for Bluewater. Like always, it is such a blessing to be able to write the annual report. The camp has been blessed with wonderful on-site staff, Chad and Penny Persons and Micha and Casey Rude that give their whole heart, mind and family to this wonderful ministry. The board that oversees the camp has dedicated representatives from every church that also gives an abundant amount of time, energy and prayer. This dedication is evident by the wonderful turn out we have for our meetings, whether they be a video conference or a 2-hour meeting that can take some members two plus hours to drive one way. They care enough to spend precious time devoted to the camp. We have also been blessed with multitudes of volunteers who freely give of their time to help at the camp, doing anything that is asked of them, always with a smile and a "let's keep going and get this thing done" attitude.

The year 2015 has seen many changes to Bluewater. The beach house (the male counselor's cabin) was not used in preparation for its demolition. This was the beginning of a chain reaction of changes to our camp that many of you noticed this last summer. The biggest change being Chad and Penny moving over to the recently purchased adjoining property. They have made changes, did some remodeling and made it suitable for their family needs. Their old house, which also housed the office in the basement, became the female counselor's cabin. The male counselors then moved into Mount Sinai, the old female counselors cabin. Finally, with the help of some awesome volunteer labor, we were able to pour the slab for the new Welcome Center this fall. It has been amazing to see God at work in our camp!

The year 2016 will be just as exciting! Our goal is to build the Welcome Center in 5 days. We are going to do a good old-fashioned "Barn raising" or "Extreme Home makeover" type of build. The plan is to have large crews of volunteers working around the clock. We are going to need your help with everything from building, cooking, running to Home Depot, cleaning, and anything else you can imagine. There is no skill that will not be needed, as we take on this incredibly fun, once in a lifetime build.

Keep your eyes and ears peeled for more on that in the next few months. It is a blessing to serve on this board and with the Christ-centered people associated with this camp. Please help us pray for incredible 2016.

Sincerely,

David Brinkman  
Your Bluewater Representative



## Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp Committee Annual Report 2015

### 2015 camp theme - "All In"

Therefore, my dear brothers & sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you; always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (Cor. 15:58 NIV).

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bluewater Burger Bash:** In March, we again used this event to kick off another year of registrations for our youth camps. This open house style event and free meal was for anyone who wanted to register or just learn more about the different camps. (Youth camps, Men's & Women's retreat along with Family Camps) Hosting this early registration for the youth camps helped our church, our community and Bluewater too.

Even through registrations for Men's/Women's retreat & family camps are sent directly to camp we helped to promote them.

**Youth camp:** We coordinated registrations & transportation for 176 kids entering grade 3-12<sup>th</sup>/graduates to attend Bluewater's June- August youth camps. With no church affiliation needed, we again saw over three quarters (77%) of our total registrations from kids outside of our church! Year after year this continues to be a wonderful outreach to the youth & families of our community. For some, this may be the only time they hear of God's love and we are thrilled to be a part of this!

**Scholarships:** Through generous donations & carry over funds we were able bless 20 kids (& their families) with either partial or full scholarships (totaling \$3110). Please pray for ways to rebuild this fund because we know some of these kids may not attend camp without this financial help.

**Transportation:** Vital to this ministry! Without our bus & van many kids from our area, (Warroad, & Baudette too) would not be able to attend Bluewater. We also could not do it without our bus/van drivers and chaperones that took time out of their schedules to transport these kids to camp adding to their Bluewater memories.

A \$25 fee per camper helped to cover our expenses. Thank you to the trustees for helping with bus maintenance & for navigating through the new DOT requirements to insure our drivers meet the safety requirements.

**NEW - Mini Reunions-** As a follow up to their camp experience we organized get-togethers for the camper and their families. We heard many "God stories" as they reunited with kids they went to camp with, shared stories, watched their camp's DVD and had root beer floats. (Thanks Kecia for this great idea!)

We were also very intentional in making sure there were several people from our church assisting families with check in, loading the bus, praying with them before they left for camp and helping them when they returned home.

What a great opportunity to connect with families, answer questions, calm fears (especially first time campers!) and to be the "face" of the Covenant Church & Bluewater Bible Camp to them.

Visit [Bluewatercovcamp.org](http://Bluewatercovcamp.org) for info about the NEW Welcome Center project, camp info, and pictures!!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Bluewater 2015 so memorable.

God is using Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp & the Roseau Covenant Church to impact lives for Christ.

What a privilege to be a part of this!

### 2015 Committee members

Dave Brinkman (Bluewater Board rep.), Kecia Stroot (Interim Youth Pastor)

Rebecca Jordet, Nichole Jensen, Nick Kvidt (CF rep), Denielle Reed, & Traci Fichter (local camp coordinator).

Submitted by Traci Fichter.

## Christian Formation Board Annual Report 2015

Like every year, 2015 was filled with activity and prayer for our Christian Formation board. At the beginning of the year, we designated board members to serve on other committees of our church and assign leaders for the various activities throughout the year.

**Trish Hunter** - Chair of CF and representative on the Leadership Council

**Rachel Krahn** - Vice Chair of CF and representative to the Pastoral Relations Committee

**Juli Smedsmo** - Secretary of CF and Snack/Supply Coordinator for Sunday School, Children's Church and Nursery

**Misty Lundbohm** - Representative to the Worship Committee

**Karen Granitz** - Representative to the Nominating Committee

**Nick Kvidt** - Representative to the Bluewater Committee

Sunday School is a major part of the CF board's responsibilities. Sheldon Espe continued to serve as Sunday School Superintendent through May. We are so thankful for his leadership and many years of service in this role (as well as making great coffee that is ready for Sunday School each week!).

We also are thankful for the service of Nichole Jensen in leading music with our Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade SS children. They continued the tradition of celebrating Palm Sunday by waving palm branches and singing during the worship service.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, we thanked our SS teachers (preschool through adult classes), substitute teachers, Nursery (April Ingold/Anika Olson) and Children's Church (Juli Smedsmo) coordinators. They were acknowledged during the worship service and presented with a cross lapel pin. Cupcakes were served after church to celebrate them.

Confirmation Sunday was May 17<sup>th</sup>. We had a smaller class of 3 students and this completed Pastor Steve Hoffer's first Confirmation class at our church. The worship service was very meaningful and a church potluck continued the celebration.

We celebrated 13 graduating seniors on May 31<sup>st</sup> by serving coffee and rolls to greet the graduates before the service and a heartwarming picture slideshow during the service. (Thanks to Nick Kvidt for putting the slideshow together.) The graduates were presented with a corsage and "Jesus Calling" daily calendar.

We wrapped up the school year by contacting the SS teachers to get ideas and feedback through our Teacher Survey. We appreciate the dedication and love that goes into teaching each Sunday school class.

Trish Hunter coordinated the MANY volunteers it takes to run the Vacation Bible School held at our church in late July. The theme was Wilderness Escape and focused on trusting God. The entire church was changed into scenes from Moses and the Israelites travels in the desert. Complete with a constructed camel the kids could sit on to have their picture taken. The kids raised money to help a garage be built at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation by our church's mission team. VBS is a time and labor-intensive event that is very worthwhile. It excites not only our church's kids (ages 3 - 4<sup>th</sup> grade), but draws many children and families from the community.

As a service to families with young children, we started offering a staffed Nursery for the worship service during the summer months. Thanks to Kecia Stroot for serving and lining up the volunteers. We plan to continue this ministry each summer.

Our Cradle Roll welcomed additions to three families in our church: Derek and Tessa Zimney, Nate and Miriam DeBoer, and Thor and Kelsey Didrickson. As a service to families with young children, we started offering a staffed Nursery for the worship service during the summer months. Thanks to Kecia Stroot for serving and lining up the volunteers. We plan to continue this ministry each summer. In August our board was busy contacting volunteers and getting ready for the new Sunday School year. We welcomed Pastor Kecia Stroot to our meetings as she started a trial of a new Children and Family Ministry position. All Sunday School teachers, substitutes and assistants, Nursery, Children's Church and Youth volunteers (at least 65 in all) were contacted and trained by Rachel Krahn and Trish Hunter at the annual Teacher Orientation and Safe Children meeting. This training includes a

background check and is required each year by all volunteers of our church who work with children. Thanks to Misty Lundbohm for completing all of the background checks.

In September, Trish Hunter had to step back as Chair of the CF Board due to health reasons. Rachel Krahn stepped in as acting Chair for the remainder of the year.

The annual Sunday School picnic/potluck was held at the Malung Community center.

Thanks to Troian Stroot and Grace Jordet who volunteered to update the Sunday School bulletin board in the hallway. We are so pleased that some of our teens have been serving younger children during Sunday School. Troian Stroot is teaching the Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class and 5 others are rotating assistants in that class and the SS Nursery. Mary Kembitsky has graciously been the SS Nursery teacher each week. Rachel Krahn and Kecia Stroot are serving as Co-Superintendents of the Sunday School. Kecia leads the opening exercises along with a mini-lesson for the Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. To save on time, we have decided to celebrate birthdays only once each month during opening exercises. Adventure Bibles (8) were again given to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (who were missed last year). The offering collected from Sunday School students is used to help pay postage for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Kecia and Juli Smedsmo attended an ORANGE conference in the Twin Cities on September 14<sup>th</sup>. ORANGE is a Sunday School curriculum that Pastor Steve had suggested and our board is considering using next year. We are now doing a "trial run" with our 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

Pastor Steve started sessions with another Confirmation class of 13 students. Each of them was presented with a quality leather Bible, as a gift from our church, to use in their studies.

As a special event for Thanksgiving weekend, the CF board planned a movie and popcorn on November 29<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour. All classes, including the adults, enjoyed watching A Charlie Brown Christmas and snacked on popcorn generously donated by the Roso Theater.

This fall all VBS and Sunday School items (that were scattered in various areas around the church building) were moved into the newly designated CF Supply Room in the Sunday School wing. This room will soon be better organized after we can get some shelving units in.

The Sunday School Christmas Program was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Director Nichole Jensen, Accompanist Mary Hoffer, Decorator Jeannie Hamness and the Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade kids did a fabulous job presenting "Is There Christmas Around the World?" A potluck supper and popcorn/M&Ms treat bags from the CF board were enjoyed after the program.

Thanks to Trish Hunter, Karen Granitz and Misty Lundbohm who have faithfully served and are now going off the CF Board. Thank you to those that serve unnamed and sometimes unappreciated. We do this all for God's glory and so all might know God and love Him more. We welcome any ideas, questions or concerns for the Christian Formation Board. Please contact the Chair, Rachel Krahn.

Submitted by Rachel Krahn.

## **Covenant Women Ministries Annual Report 2015**

National WM Mission Statement: Advancing God's kingdom through ministries that equip women to grow, serve and reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Connecting women in transformational relationships and uniting them in Christ to impact our world.

Although regular monthly meetings have become a thing of the past, the presence of our women is continually felt in and by our church family. Our church, along with several others in the Red River Valley, as well as many throughout the state and beyond, have found that the spiritual needs of their women are being met in alternate ways. In our church home, Bible studies, Bluewater Retreats and other fellowship opportunities help to keep our women involved and active.

Several of our women were able to attend the Spring District gathering in Thief River Falls and the fall one at Warren. These evenings are well worth the time invested to attend. It is a great opportunity to visit with our Covenant sisters from the other valley churches.

Bluewater spring and fall women retreats were well attended and, as always, greatly enjoyed by all. We are so thankful for this beautiful place that refreshes us in all ways: spiritually, mentally and physically.

Our serving groups ably handled all the church serving needs. We served various potlucks, rallies, Fests, and programs. We also served at the home going celebration for Doris Stromstad, a dear lady who was once one of our faithful Covenant Women. The willing hearts of all the women who serve our church in this ministry blesses the whole church.

We closed out the year with a fun Christmas party and gift exchange. Many thanks go to Jeannie Hamness, who hosted this event in her beautiful home. It was well attended and the potluck was full of wonderful goodies.

Once again, we give thanks for each woman in our church family, whether they choose to be involved a lot or just a little in our activities. May God bless our service as we do it for Him.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Johnson, WM Chair 2015

## Covenant Women Ministries Annual Financial Report 2015

### 2015 Receipts Summary

Donations.....\$400.00

### 2015 Disbursements Summary

Supplies.....\$270.59

Gift.....\$75.00

= \$345.59

Balance brought forward Dec. 31, 2014.....\$1924.56

Total Receipts 2015.....\$400.00

= \$2243.66

Total Disbursements 2015.....-\$345.59

= \$1978.97

**Bank statement balance Dec. 31, 2015.....\$1978.97**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Anderson

CWM Treasurer 2015

## Deacon Board Annual Report 2015

The Deacon Board, consisting of 3 deacons and 3 deaconesses, is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church, assisting the pastor in developing and maintaining a continuing program of evangelism, assisting the pastor in administering the sacraments, and in the absence of the pastor, together with the choir of the church, is responsible for the services of the church. The deacon board is also authorized to receive and administer benevolence and care for the sick and the needy.

In 2015, the deacons were blessed to be able to intercede in a number of individual needs through prayer, service and the use of the crisis fund. Please let us know of any of these needs you or others may have.

Prayer continues to be our primary focus spending considerable time praying for our church, pastor, and many individuals.

The deacon board continues to promote fellowship time after the church service with cookies, juice and coffee, and would like to encourage all our members to be mindful of new attenders and greet them warmly. We also continue to facilitate and encourage our church family to participate in small group studies and to be in God's word while getting connected with others. There was good participation in a number of small Groups this year the deacons continue hosting an open prayer meeting every Wednesday at church. We encourage our members and any others if they have any prayer requests or would like to come and be prayed for to let us know. Everyone is welcome at these prayer meetings.

The shower/bereavement ministry reaches out to those during difficult times and those grieving over the loss of a loved one. The helping hands ministry also provides meals for those in need. Thanks to Cindy Tangen and Traci Fichter for organizing this ministry. Thanks also to all who have provided meals.

Another role of the deacon board is to receive applications for church membership and to hear the testimonies of new members. We were blessed to receive four new member applications in 2015.

The deacon board appreciates the trust and support of our members. Thank you to all who serve for Him!

On behalf of the committee members: Traci Fichter, Karen Markstrom, Mary Huglen, Bill Brandt, Roger Helgeson, and myself.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nathan Acker, Deacon Board Chair,

## **Fellowship Committee Annual Report 2015**

The fellowship committee has been creating fellowship gatherings for the church family.

The past year the committee had a Valentine gathering. Youth group served the meal.

This fall we had the ATV ride at Bemis Hill. We had a potluck supper after the ride.

We ended the year with the well-attended Christmas party. CHIC group served the meal.

The committee is under the leadership of Dawn Kofstad, Pam Markstrom, Tina Espe, Denielle Reed, Gregg Iverson and Tony Fichter.

Report prepared by,  
Dawn Kofstad

## Missions & Outreach Board Annual Report 2015

We want our Church to be a healthy Missional Church. Here is what the Mission Board has been up to the last year to help facilitate that and to serve our Lord:

In January we reallocated how our ECC contribution gets allotted to our missionaries Randy Bevis and Aaron (Owen) Thompson. We decided to make these changes due to a change of role and relocation stateside for Randy as well as Aaron's need for funding. We also donated toward Broc and Lorraine Helgeson's Mission Trip.

In February we honored Jason Stromstad's request for reading materials as well as Bibles for his people, sending some stuff from the Church Library as well as ordering Life Recovery Bibles through Amazon (free shipping).

Leading up to The Feed My Starving Children Mobil Pack held on April 10-12 several fundraisers were held. 50 people traveled to Grand Forks for the event and 169 boxes were packed. That was enough food to feed 100 kids for one whole year.

The mission board met with David Husby, director of Covenant World Relief on April 25th. It was an informational meeting as he shared his heart and ministry as well as goals and objectives for CWR. The next day David spoke at the morning worship service, which was followed up with a potluck. The board talked about offering mission trips to the congregation, one being a more localized one more international one. Some informational meetings were held about interest in a trip to Haiti through an organization called "Healing Haiti." Another trip was planned to Pine Ridge South Dakota. Unfortunately due to lack of interest, no trip to Haiti has come to fruition yet.

This year our church donated 721 pounds of food to our local food shelf as well as \$850. An informational meeting was held in on May 21 with Kurt Olsen to catch up on his ministry to International students at the University of Lincoln with about 15 in attendance.

The Dresser Ministry is now under our board and a number were given out.

John and Darlene met one evening and shared what their last couple of years of ministry has been like in Jordan. He also spoke during the morning worship service. Vacation Bible School this year featured raising money for Atta Jack's discipleship garage on Pine Ridge in South Dakota. Jackson Helstad provided YouTube videos for the kids to watch and they built a "wall a day" as the week went on.

September 13<sup>th</sup> - Todd and Andrea Ellingson shared during Sunday morning worship and were given an honorarium

October 25<sup>th</sup> Fall Fest featured Minnesota Teen and Adult Challenge. These men shared their music and their testimonies of what God had rescued them from, and not only addiction. Their lives are transformed by submission to Jesus Christ. Almost \$10,000 was split equally between Minnesota Team and Adult Challenge (MNTAC), the Pine Ridge Project, and Missions in Motion boat fund for Kenny Danielson

In early October, Kyle Schmiedeknecht, Todd Peterson and Nathan Acker headed off to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to build a garage for Atta Jack. The project was to support the missionaries to serving the community in whatever way they could. It just so happened that building a discipleship center. Most people would see it as any old garage, but to the people at Pine Ridge, it was a fulfillment of a promise, a place where people can learn a trade, but most importantly it is a place where Native men can share the love of Jesus "shoulder to shoulder." We may never know on this side of heaven the fruit that will come from this seed that was planted. Continue to pray for these people.

Leading up to December is always a busy time from participating with Toys for Tots, sending Christmas gifts to our missionaries, and collecting shoeboxes. This year was a record for our Church. 191 Shoeboxes were collected and will be sent across the world by Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. It is not about the gifts; it is about the message contained within. Pray for the children and the families that receive them, that Jesus will transform their lives.



On December 27<sup>th</sup> Jackson Helstad shared in the morning worship service in a Q & A format led by Pastor Steve. God is on the move at Pine Ridge. A bake sale had been held in their honor and was mailed to them.

At year-end we had approximately \$2400 left in our budget that we distributed equally between, Jason Stromstad (Housing project in Scammon Bay, Alaska), the Covenant World Relief General Fund, and the Bluewater Scholarship Fund.

We meet monthly not only to conduct normal business, but to pray for those whom God has called to serve in other lands and whom we are called to serve in turn.

In and for Him, Darrin Smedsmo

Members:

Darrin Smedsmo, Chair

Mary Beth Hruby

Brenda Acker

Kathy Brandt

Sonya Peterson

Nora Parrill

Kecia Stroot

## **Music Committee Annual Report 2015**

The music committee is responsible for planning the special music for the Sunday morning worship services as well as for other special services throughout the year.

This year included the Good Friday service. Thank you to Pastor Steve and Mary Hoffer, who coordinated our Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Good Friday services. The Mission & Outreach Board requested that the Midwest Teen and Adult Challenge Choir come for the Fall Fest. We appreciate them coordinating this service.

As a committee, we have wanted to encourage the gifts and talents of those in our congregation. Our mission is to provide a worshipful experience that draws people closer to God.

We thank those who have ministered to us through special music this past year.

We welcome any suggestions you may have and ask you to pray for God's direction in the music ministry. Our desire as a music committee is to glorify God in our music planning and through our worship of special music.

We would like to thank all those who have helped in the past year and also those who have joined us recently.

Thank you to our callers: Lynn Kvidt, Nichole Jensen, Juli Smedsmo and Mary Hoffer.

Thank you to our audio/visual technicians: Tony Fichter, Randy Prachar, Chris Hamness, Sheldon Espe, Reilly Stroot, and Brandon Prothero, Eric Hoffer, Henry Sanford and Karl Nelson.

Thank you to our pianists-worship/communion: Milly Prachar, Mary Hoffer, Sheila Brinkman, Juli Smedsmo, and Val Espe.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Haaby and Val Espe.

## Pastoral Relations Committee Annual Report 2015

The Pastoral relations Committee (PRC) is a standing committee of the RECC that is mandated by our constitution. Tony Fichter currently chairs the PRC and the vice-chair is Jan Carr. The PRC also includes a member of each of our boards; Rachel Krahn (Christian Formation), Sonya Peterson (Missions & Outreach), Bill Brandt (Deacons) and Mark Tangen (Trustees). In addition, Kelly Christianson and Karen Granitz are included as our two "at large" members. The pastoral staff also attends the PRC meetings.

The mission and purpose of the PRC is to ensure a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship between the congregation and the pastoral staff. We do this by assuring that the needs of the pastors and their families can be brought forward for discussion, consideration and prayer. We facilitate the completion of annual performance evaluations. We deal with specific grievances and pastoral crisis. We provide positive encouragement and expressions of gratitude or thanks. Most importantly, we assume the duty and responsibility of praying for our pastors and their families.

The PRC values openness, honesty, boldness, trust and support. We strive to keep the PRC meetings a "safe place" for candid discussions by maintaining total confidentiality. Any topics discussed within the PRC are only disseminated on a need to know basis. If there are issues or concerns that individuals within the congregation would like the PRC to address with the pastoral staff, you can be confident that we will make every effort to ensure that they are handled discreetly and appropriately. If you want to provide feedback, you can contact any one of the PRC members and share your thoughts. If you wish to remain anonymous, we will respect your request. Of course, it is important to recognize our pastoral staff for a job well done, so we welcome your compliments or kudos as well so we can pass them along.

The PRC meets quarterly or as required in the event there are any pressing issues that need to be addressed. We ask that you pray for the PRC that we would always be operating within God's will and that the Holy Spirit would provide us with the wisdom and discernment necessary to bring honor to this congregation for His glory.

As you know, our congregation has called Pastor Steve Hoffer to be our "permanent" full-time Senior Pastor. We are excited about working with Pastor Steve as he shepherds our flock into the next chapter of what God has in store for this congregation. An installation service for Pastor Steve will take place on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you goes out to Pastor Joe, all of our leaders (past & present), the Pastoral Search Committee and the entire congregation for patiently, gracefully and prayerfully guiding our church through this important transitional period. Pastor Kecia Stroot has continued to serve as our  $\frac{3}{4}$  time interim Youth Ministry Director. 2015 was a big year for our youth program as 28 students and 7 adults travelled to Tennessee for the CHIC conference. Pastor Kecia has recently added 10 hrs. per week to her schedule to move forward with some of the responsibilities of the Children and Family Ministry position as well. We can't thank Pastor Kecia and her family enough for her service to this church family. Our best wishes and prayers are with her as she seeks ordination at the Covenant national meeting in June.

Most of the members of the PRC with the addition of high-school seniors Riley Stroot and Jayden Acker have volunteered to serve as the Recruitment Team for our next full-time Youth Ministry Director. At the time of this writing we are prepared to present a candidate to the congregation. We were confident that God knew who He had in mind for this congregation even before we started the search. God has been faithful, as we have sought His discernment in this very important decision. We believe He has provided us with an experienced, qualified and faithful servant to teach and guide our youth in their personal walk with Jesus Christ.

The PRC asks for the prayers of the church for our pastoral staff as they lead us through what the Lord has in store for us in 2016. We have been greatly encouraged by the dedication of our pastoral staff; they deserve and need our full support.

Submitted by: Tony Fichter

## Statistical Report 1984-2015

Year	Total Attendance Sunday Morning	# Of Sundays In Year	Average Sunday Attendance	% Change	\$/Attendee/Sunday
84	4,819	52	93	17.1	\$8.20
85	5,163	52	99	7.1	\$7.37
86	4,982	52	96	-4	\$11.17
87	4,846	52	93	-2.7	\$10.82
88	4,984	52	96	-2.8	\$10.49
89	5,401	52	102	8.4	\$9.96
90	5,487	52	106	1.6	\$10.20
91	5,895	52	113	7.4	\$10.18
91	6,567	52	126	11.4	\$9.38
93	7,2043	52	139	10.3	\$8.93
94	7,555	52	145	4.3	\$10.90
95	8,263	53	156	9.4	\$11.37
96	8,683	51	170	5.1	\$11.64
97	9,227	52	177	6.3	\$14.17
98	9,176	52	176	-0.5	\$15.95
99	9,479	52	182	3.4	\$17.13
00	9,939	52	191	4.8	\$18.81
01	10,478	51	205	5.4	\$17.00
02	10,940	52	210	4.4	\$18.02
03	11,319	52	218	4	\$18.14
04	11,531	52	222	1.8	\$19.08
05	10,057	52	193	-13	\$20.93
06	10,123	53	191	-1.1	\$22.57
07	8,845	51	173	-12.6	\$24.39
08	8,763	52	169	-0.92	\$24.71
09	8,087	52	156	-7.7	\$25.83
10	8,095	52	156	0	\$26.54
11	7,419	52	143	-8.35	\$27.56
12	7,679	53	154	+7	\$29.36
13	7,129	52	137	-10.7	\$32.56
14	6733	52	129	-5.5	\$35.89
15	7279	52	143	+10.2	\$33.57

52 Sundays in 2015

Total Giving 2015 = \$249,127/52 (weeks in 2015) = \$4791 (Average weekly giving 2015) /143 (Average weekly attendance 2015) = \$33.57 average per attendee per week.

## Trustee Board Annual Report 2015

This year's team included:

- Rob Stroot (Chair)
- Todd Peterson (Treasurer)
- Jon Helgeson (Nominating Committee Rep)
- Sheldon Espe (Bus Committee, Worship Committee)
- Mark Tangen (PRC)
- Wade Hruby
- Paul Krahn
- Tanner Hovda

Budget management is a main priority for the Trustees. As most of you are aware, we were still dealing with some uncertainties in the 2015 budget due to continued temporary positions with the lead pastor and youth director and the active search committees associated with each of these positions. As of last month, the lead pastor role has been filled and we praise God that Pastor Steve has accepted this role and agreed to lead our congregation for years to come! We continue praying for the right person to step forward regarding the youth director position and feel very confident that our PRC team will get this position filled in the first quarter of 2016. The big unknown for us going in to 2016 is the role of Children and Family Ministry Pastor. There has been a lot of work around planning for this position. The Trustee team will put a financial plan together around the guidance of the Leadership Council to be proposed at the annual meeting, voted on, and adjusted according to the member's wishes. In the meantime, 2015 was a very positive year for us regarding the budget allowing us to manage the salary changes and increase our giving through missions.

Project work has been very minimal this year. Most of our efforts have been centered on typical maintenance such as lawn care, snow removal, mowing of the church fields, and plumbing and electrical upkeep. We did change some landscaping this summer. The front landscaping by the highway and the Southwest corner of the church building got an overhaul with new shrubs and mulch/rock. As mentioned in last year's report, we were going to be challenged with updating all the fluorescent light fixtures in the building as the existing bulb was being discontinued. Sheldon has taken this on and managed the replacement of these fixtures as they wear out.

Our Bluewater bus and church van have worked well this year and required nothing more than normal periodic maintenance. These vehicles continue to be a blessing to our church and the community. One change we did make in 2015 was the certification of our bus with the DOT. We also signed up two of our drivers. This brings us to full compliance now with the Department of Transportation. This is an expensive process and our plan is to increase the pool of certified drivers in 2016.

We appreciate everyone's continued giving, both in finance and service, and the respect and support that everyone gives to the staff and our properties. We look forward to serving another year in 2016!

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Stroot

## **Worship Committee Annual Report 2015**

The Worship Committee did not have a formal meeting this past year. However, in early January 2015, the Hoffers opened their home for a gathering of worship team folks to learn the new on-line resource called "Planning Center". Planning Center has helped us coordinate people, music and our worship service. It has been a great tool to communicate with worship team members – vocalists, instrumentalists and sound techs – plus provide an archive of past worship services, as well as planning future services. With well over 30 people involved in our worship teams and audiovisual support, Planning Center has been a tremendous benefit.

Under the leadership of Tony Fichter, Randy McGinnity of RPM SoundDesign conducted sound training in March. To quote Tony: "I thought Randy did a great job "tuning" our system and helping us to better understand how to operate it." Thank you, Tony, for leading our audiovisual team – and for all the AV techs who are behind the booth each Sunday service and special event. You are unsung heroes!

March 9 heralded the arrival of RECC's grand piano. What a blessing to our church family! It is a beautiful instrument, and it is pure pleasure to play. Thank you to the anonymous donor. What a wonderful gift!

Mary Hoffer, Reilly Stroot, Val Espe and myself have led the worship teams this past year. Together with all the vocalists and instrumentalists, we have made a joyful noise to our Lord!

Submitted by Milly Prachar, Worship Committee Chair, interim

*"Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done. Sing to Him; yes, sing His praises." Psalm 105: 1-2.*

## CHIC (Covenant High In Christ) Annual Report 2015

CHIC 2015 took place July 12-17 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. 28 students and 7 counselors went on the trip. \$32,180 was needed for the trip of which all but \$9,200 was raised through fund raising activities. Everyone participated in the fundraising with the exception of three individuals that joined us from out of town. These three are included in the 35 total headcount attending from Roseau. Cost per person for the event, travel, and excursions averaged \$930 per person. A list of best practices has been generated through the course of planning for this trip with the intent that it will help the team to become more efficient with fundraising and trip organization as we look forward to CHIC 2018.

### Students:

Jayden Acker	Brittany Espe	Madeline Huglen	Cami Roby
Cierra Brinkman	Sarina Goos	Carlin Johnson	Keegan Sampson
Taylor Brinkman	Gabe Gracza	Aaron Krahn	Aleta Sanford
Kaitlyn Christianson	Amy Hanson	Micah Krahn	Ryan Strand
McKayla Christianson	Grace Helgeson	Cameron Person	Beechestore Stroot
Beka Danielson	Jada Holland	Brandon Prothero	Reilly Stroot
Nick Danielson	Tessa Holt	Brooke Reed	Justin Tesarek

### Counselors:

Paul Krahn	Brenda Acker
Jill Helgeson	Mitch Haaby
Mary Huglen	Kecia Stroot
Julie Sanford	

### 2015 Financial transactions are as follows:

Starting Balance - \$16,078.27

Deposits - \$22,153.06

Disbursements - \$36,077.79

Ending Balance - \$2,153.54

Total 2015 trip activity (2012-2015) is as follows:

Starting Balance - \$2,013.98

Deposits - \$37,758.06

Disbursements - \$37,618.50

Ending Balance - \$2,153.54

We have managed the account to allow for \$2,000 remaining unallocated for flexibility and as a starting point for CHIC 2018.

Thank you to everyone to contributed time and money in support for these kids!!

Respectfully, Rob Stroot

**Roseau Evangelical Church  
2016 Proposed Budget**

				Percent Budg-Act increase	Percent Budg-Budg increase			
Income								
Total Offerings	\$	247,463	\$	249,052	\$	229,543	-0.6%	7.8%
Other Income			\$	75				
Total Income	\$	247,463	\$	249,127	\$	229,543		
Weekly Average	\$	4,759	\$	4,789	\$	4,414	-0.6%	7.8%
Expenses								
Staff								
Staff Compensation Package	\$	149,524	\$	136,558	\$	134,653	9.5%	11.0%
Staff Travel Expense	\$	1,800					-40.7%	10.8%
Staff Conference Expense	\$	1,200	\$	2,022	\$	3,880	2.7%	
Lead Pastor Expense	\$	1,300	\$	1,266			0.7%	-4.3%
Programming								
Youth Director Activities Expense	\$	3,350	\$	3,326	\$	3,500	-100.0%	-100.0%
Children & Family Pastor Activities Expense	\$	-	\$	620	\$	2,300	0.0%	0.0%
Board								
Missions	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	16.1%	1.6%
Christian Formation	\$	8,170	\$	7,037	\$	8,045	-19.2%	4.9%
Deacons	\$	3,500	\$	4,333	\$	3,335	157.1%	0.0%
Committee								
Fellowship committee	\$	400	\$	156	\$	400		
Decorating committee	\$	500						
Health committee	\$	-						
A/V and Technology committee	\$	500						
Music committee	\$	875	\$	965	\$	300	-9.3%	191.7%
Maintenance								
B&G Maintenance (Trustees)	\$	5,500	\$	8,469	\$	8,000	-35.1%	-31.3%
Utilities (Trustees)	\$	13,000	\$	12,206	\$	15,500	6.5%	-16.1%
Insurance (Trustees)	\$	8,500	\$	7,511	\$	6,750	13.2%	25.9%
Taxes (Trustees)	\$	4,100	\$	4,088	\$	4,100	0.3%	0.0%
Office Equip and I.S. (Trustees)	\$	7,500	\$	5,305	\$	7,500	41.4%	0.0%
Van/Bus Expense (Trustees)	\$	2,000	\$	1,240	\$	750	61.3%	166.7%
Denomination								
ECC of America	\$	9,597	\$	8,863	\$	9,317	8.3%	3.0%
NW Conference	\$	4,797	\$	4,867	\$	4,658	-1.4%	3.0%
Donation								
Guest Speakers/Musicians Honorarium	\$	1,100	\$	750	\$	500	46.7%	120.0%
Bluewater Bible Camp	\$	3,000	\$	3,000	\$	3,000	0.0%	0.0%
Seminary Scholarship fund	\$	1,500	\$	1,225	\$	1,500	22.4%	0.0%
Other								
Apartment Expense	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
Staff Search/Re-location Expense	\$	5,000	\$	1,418	\$	-	252.5%	0.0%
Miscellaneous	\$	750	\$	707	\$	750	6.2%	0.0%
Total	\$	247,463	\$	225,933	\$	228,738	9.5%	8.2%



## Children and Family Pastor Options

Roseau Evangelical Church 2016 Proposed CFM positions			
		<b>2016 Budget</b> 1/2 Time CFM	<b>2016 Budget</b> Full Time CFM
Expenses			
<b>Staff</b>	Staff Compensation Package	\$ 26,667	\$ 48,000
	Staff Travel Expense	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200
	Staff Conference Expense	\$ 800	\$ 800
<b>Programming</b>	Children & Family Pastor Activities Expense	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500
<b>Maintenance</b>	B&G Maintenance - Office furniture	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Office Equip and I.S. - Computer/Phone	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Total Package Increase		<b>\$ 32,667</b>	<b>\$ 54,700</b>
Total Budget		\$280,130	\$302,163
Percent increase over 2015 Actuals		12.5%	21.3%

The above compensation proposals are based on a \$64,000 annual package. Budget assumptions are as follows:

- Full time in 2016 would include a temp position at ½ time for two months, from March to May, and then a full time position beginning in May based on the call process results for a permanent pastor.
- Half time in 2016 would include a temp position at ½ time for two months, from March to May, and then continued ½ time beginning in May based on the call process results for a permanent pastor.
- 

Note: 2017 compensation packages would increase based on ½ time or full time selection for a full 12 months.

**Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church**  
**Present Board Members**  
**2015 Annual Business Meeting**  
**January 20, 2016**

CURRENT CHURCH OFFICERS-----1-Year Terms

Chair.....Jan Carr  
Vice-Chair.....Tony Fichter  
Secretary.....Sheila Brinkman

All terms on the boards below end at the annual meeting in the year indicated

Board Chair Positions are all 1-year terms

\*These are the positions that expire tonight

Board	Name	Position	Term Expires
<b>Deacon</b>	Nathan Acker	*Chair	Jan 2017
	Karen Markstrom		Jan 2017
	Roger Helgeson		*Jan 2016
	Mary Huglen		*Jan 2016
	Traci Fichter		Jan 2018
	Bill Brandt		Jan 2018
<b>Trustee</b>	Rob Stroot	*Chair	Jan 2017
	Sheldon Espe		Jan 2017
	Tanner Hovda		Jan 2017
	Todd Peterson	Treasurer	Jan 2017
	Paul Krahn		Jan 2017
	Jon Helgeson		*Jan 2016
	Wade Hruby		*Jan 2016
	Mark Tangen		Jan 2018
<b>Christian Formation</b>	Trish Hunter	*Chair	*Jan 2016
	Juli Smedsmo		Jan 2018
	Misty Lundbohm		*Jan 2016
	Karen Granitz		*Jan 2016
	Rachel Krahn		Jan 2017
	Nick Kvidt		Jan 2017
<b>Missions &amp; Outreach</b>	Darrin Smedsmo	*Chair	Jan 2017
	Kathy Brandt		Jan 2018
	Nora Parrill		Jan 2018
	Sonya Peterson		Jan 2018
	Kecia Stroot		*Jan 2016
	Marybeth Hruby		Jan 2017
	Brenda Acker		Jan 2017
<b>Nominating Committee At Large Members</b>	VACANT		*Jan 2016
	Bill Brandt		*Jan 2016
	Dave Anderson		Jan 2017
	Thor Didrikson		Jan 2017

**Current Leadership Council: Jan Carr, Tony Fichter, Sheila Brinkman, Todd Peterson, Nathan Acker, Rob Stroot, Trish Hunter, Darrin Smedsmo, Pastor Steve Hoffer (ex-officio) & Pastor Kecia Stroot (ex-officio).**

**Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church**  
**Ballot Nominations**  
**Annual Business Meeting January 20, 2016**

Chair/President.....(1 year term).....Jan Carr

Vice President.....(1 year term).....Tony Fichter

Secretary.....(1 year term).....Sheila Brinkman

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Chair for Deacons.....(1 year term).....Nathan Acker

Deaconess.....(3 year term).....Milly Prachar

Deacon.....(3 year term).....Roger Helgeson

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Chair for Trustees.....(1 year term).....Rob Stroot

Trustee.....(3year term).....Joe Elick

Trustee.....(3year term).....Dennis Ingold

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Chair for Christian Formation.....(1 year term).....Rachel Krahn

Christian Formation.....(3 year term).....April Ingold

Christian Formation.....(3 year term).....Sarah Schmiedeknecht

Christian Formation.....(3 year term).....Sherry Nelson

---

Chair for Missions & Outreach.....(1 year term).....Darrin Smedsmo

Missions & Outreach.....(3 year term).....Kecia Stroot

---

Nominating Committee at Large.....(2 year term).....Karen Granitz

Nominating Committee at Large.....(2 year term).....Colleen Klamar

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**Current Nominating Committee: Jon Helgeson – Chair, Brenda Acker, Bill Brandt, Jan Carr, Karen Granitz, Pastor Steve Hoffer, Mary Huglen, Dave Anderson, Thor Didrikson**

## **Behavioral Covenant**

- ❖ Be Affirming To Others
- ❖ Invest In Others
- ❖ Be Respectful Of Others
- ❖ Honor Leadership
- ❖ Seek First To Understand
- ❖ Be Honest and Truthful
- ❖ Be Loving, Caring & Sensitive To Others
- ❖ Seek That Which Benefits The Whole
- ❖ Accept Conflict & Resolve Together

### **Based on the following Scripture** **Colossians 3: 12-17 (J.B Phillips)**

As, therefore, God's picked representatives of the new humanity, (The Church), purified and beloved of God himself, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Accept life, and be most patient and tolerant with one another, always ready to forgive if you have a difference with anyone. Forgive as freely as the Lord has forgiven you. And above everything else, be truly loving, for love is the golden chain of all the virtues. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, remembering that as members of the one body you are called to live in your hearts, remembering that as members of the one body you are called to live in harmony, and never forget to be thankful for what God has done for you.

Let Christ's teaching live in your hearts, making you rich in the true wisdom. Teach and help one another along the right road with your psalms and hymns and Christian songs singing God's praises with joyful hearts. And whatever work you may have to do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, thanking God the Father through him.



