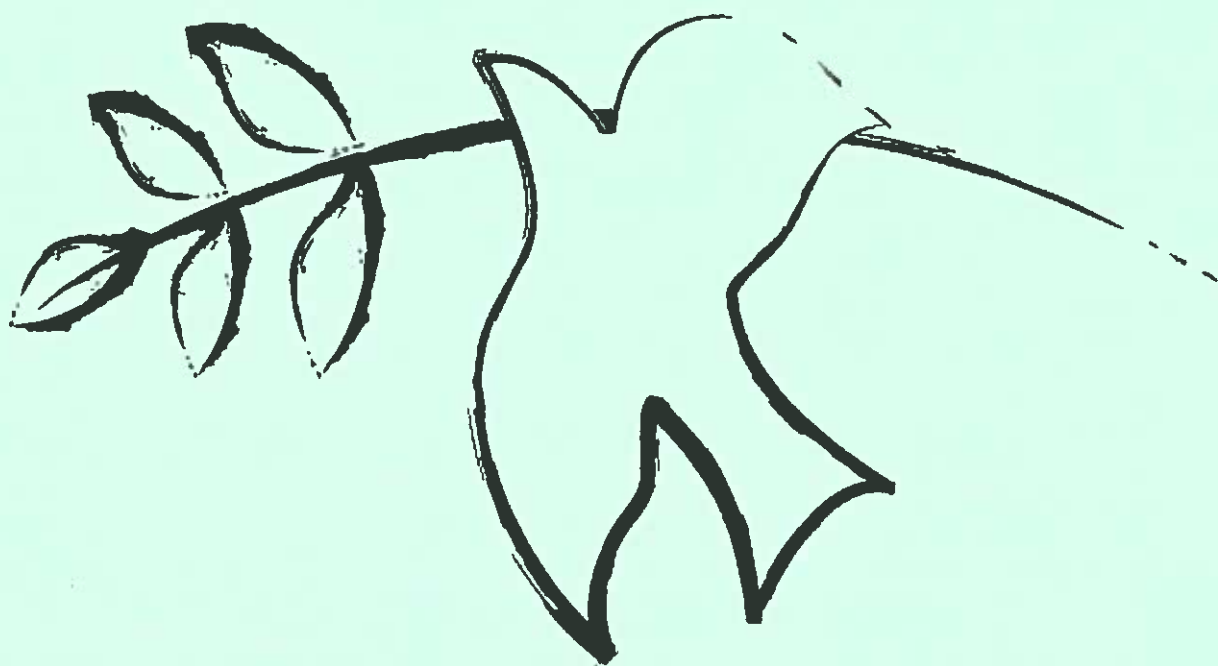


# *Hope Lutheran Church*

*5088 Hwy 21, Embarrass MN 55732*



*2015 Annual Congregation Meeting  
February 8, 2015*

Dear Members of Hope Lutheran,

This may sound like a broken record, but 2014 was a year of transition at Hope Lutheran. We have experienced changes, challenges, and even loss throughout the year. Some of what occurred was expected. Other events definitely caught us by surprise. I would like to take this time to reflect on the happenings of the year that was and give the congregation a sense of where we are heading in the future.

At our annual meeting in February of last year, our interim pastor, Dorothy Sand, reviewed the call process with our membership. She encouraged us to get involved, stay patient, and go forward with the courage of our convictions while proceeding with the selection of a new pastor. The council and I would like to thank Sharon Rantala, Audrey Kuehl, and Kathy Kupka for serving on the Hope Lutheran Call Committee. All three of you put forth many hours of your time and effort in this process. As a result, our church will bear the fruit of your work for many years to come.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Dorothy Sand for her year of service to Hope Lutheran. Many members of our congregation were very nervous upon hearing the news that Pastor Buchanan was leaving us to pursue another avenue in his career. However, Pastor Dorothy stepped forward and led us into the future with resolve and fortitude. Serving in the in an interim position is never easy. We want to thank Pastor Sand for her leadership and wish her many happy, healthy years of retirement.

In September, we welcomed Pastor Evelyn Weston to lead our flock at Hope Lutheran. The council would like to convey a sense of gratitude to her for providing steady leadership and an exciting vision for the future. She came to us with a realistic view of the challenges that we faced and did not back away from them. She has worked endlessly with the council to formulate a variety of strategies to share the many good things happening inside our walls. She has made a definite connection with our members that will benefit our church for many years to come.

Despite this optimism, many challenges lie ahead. The financial health of our church remains in a precarious position. We continued to borrow against our savings account in order to pay expenses. Although less than the previous year, this tide has to reverse itself. Our future depends on it.

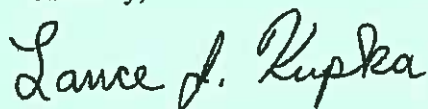
On a positive note, the council would like to extend its gratitude to our members. Giving increased over the past year by a sizeable amount. In addition, the combination of our income and expenses allowed us to close the 2014 fiscal year under our planned budget. If this trend continues, our financial flexibility will improve and give us an opportunity to explore more ways to spread the good news of what is occurring at Hope Lutheran.

Looking forward to the remainder of 2015, the council plans to meet with Anne Gierrets, a building consultant for Lutheran churches in Minnesota, in order to review ways in which to utilize our church more effectively to meet the needs of our congregation. In addition, the council plans to continue to look at ways to increase our membership, the level of giving, and methods of getting our positive message into the surrounding community.

I also wish to send my condolences to the families of members to whom we said goodbye over the past year. My thoughts and prayers are with you. The contributions your loved ones made to Hope Lutheran will never be forgotten.

In closing, I want to thank all of the volunteers who have so graciously given their time here at Hope Lutheran over the past year. Our church would not continue without you. In addition, I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of our council for their selfless service. I greatly appreciated your willingness to make tough decisions and the wide array of ideas you put forth for the betterment of our church. Working with all of you was a blessing.

Sincerely,



Lance J. Kupka  
Council President  
Hope Lutheran Church

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
AGENDA FOR THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING  
February 8, 2015**

- I. Call to order
- II. Devotions
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Declaration of of a Quorum
- V. Appointment of Tellers
- VI. Report of Nominating Committee--Nominations from the floor
  - Lance Kupka & Gary Rantala are completing their terms. In addition, two seats are vacant.
  - Lance & Gary are eligible for reelection. Both have agreed to serve another two-year term. Sky Dow has agreed to fill the vacant position as a youth representative.
- VII. Election of Council Members
- VIII. Election of Synod Delegates and Alternates (May 1-3 at Breezy Point Resort in Brainerd)
- IX. Appointment of Audit Committee
- X. Minutes of the 2013 Congregation Meeting
- XI. Reports
  - Pastor's
  - Committees
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
  - Church renovation
- XIV. Consideration of 2015 Budget
- XV. Motion of Adjournment
- XVI. Closing Prayer
- XVII. Benediction

**2014 PASTORAL ACTS**  
**Hope Lutheran Church**  
*(to the best of our knowledge & records)*

**BAPTISMS**

Max Phillip Lamppa, April 13, 2014  
Wright/Leseman baby, [date?] 2014

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Sky Amber Lee Dow, May 18, 2014  
Caleb Lee Eckman, May 18, 2014  
Austin Garrett Erickson, May 18, 2014  
Laura Lammi, May 18, 2014  
Brett Rosendahl, May 18, 2014

**FUNERALS**

Marlyn Robert Grunwald, August 17, 2014, at Embarrass Town Hall

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Feb. 9, 2014

- I. **Call to Order**  
Council President Lance Kupka called meeting to order at 11:41 A.M.  
Pastor Dorothy L. Sand led in devotions and prayer.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
Motion made by Gary Rantala; Second by Kristi Krueth to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
- III. **Quorum**  
A quorum was declared with 24 voting members present.
- IV. **Tellers**  
Audrey Kuehl and Kristi Krueth were appointed tellers.
- V. **Nominating Committee and Election of Council Members**  
Thanks to Rocky Roggenbuck, Virgil Roggenbuck, Ed Kuehl, and Bill Krueth for serving on the council.. Rocky Roggenbuck and Ed Kuehl will not run for reelection. Virgil Roggenbuck and Bill Krueth are up for reelection and both agreed to serve another term. Request for further nominations made three times. Motion made by Kristi Krueth ; Second by Audrey Kuehl to close nominations. Motion carried. Motion Brian Lamma; Second by Kristi Krueth to elect nominees. Motion carried. Laura Rosendahl later volunteered to fill one of the two vacant council seats.
- VI. **Election of Synod Delegates and Alternates**  
The Synod Assembly will take place on May 2-4, 2014. Bill and Kristi Krueth were selected as delegates. Motion Ed Kuehl; second Gary Rantala. Motion carried.
- VII. **Audit Committee**  
Audrey Kuehl and Gary Rantala were appointed to audit the books for the 2015 Annual Meeting.
- VIII. **2013 Minutes**  
Motion was made by Audrey Kuehl; second by Kristi Krueth to accept the minutes from the 2013 Annual Meeting. No additional or corrections necessary. No further discussion; motion carried.
- IX. **Committee Reports**  
Motion made by Mary Honkola; second by Kristi Krueth to approve the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.

X. **Old Business**

Church Building Committee – Looking to set a meeting date with Anne Gerriets from the Church Synod to discuss building/remodeling options.

XI. **New Business**

Call process for new pastor - Call committee has been formed. Six members – three from Hope Lutheran and three from Babbitt. Sharon Rantala, Audrey Kuehl, Kathy Kupka from Hope, and Shauna Sunblad, Allan Eckman, and Edna Lafreneur from Babbitt.

XII. **2014 Budget**

The proposed 2014 budget is presented in the congregational handout, included in the 2014 Annual Meeting packet. Motion Gary Rantala; second by Ed Kuehl to approve the 2014 budget. Motion carried.

XIII. **Adjournment**

With no further discussion or new business, motion made by Kristi Krueth; second by Laura Rosendahl to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:38 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: **Bill Krueth** – Council Secretary

# 2014 Annual Report for Hope Lutheran Church of Embarrass

*Pastor Evelyn J.P. Weston*

January 2015

Dear friends in Christ,

I continue to give thanks for God's call to serve as Hope's pastor, for your welcome and participation, for your generosity and faithfulness. I give thanks to God for all of you!

Even after five months serving among you, I'm still rather new to this church and community. Newly-called pastors usually are cautious about making changes. But as I pray for Hope, it seems that God has been inspiring some ideas that we should try. So, as your "new" pastor, I humbly ask for your prayers, your continued support, and your partnership as we follow Jesus.

That said, I'm not interested in change just for the sake of change. We should hold fast to the things that are important to Hope's identity. But we also can experiment with new ideas for the sake of reaching out to the Embarrass community.

Hope's Community Christmas Program was one such experiment. I am so grateful for our council's support, for the Youth & Family Team's partnership, for Thrivent's \$250 Action Team grant, and for so many members of Hope who helped. Some people helped but chose to remain anonymous— taking care of things when no one was around. You who are the "silent saints" of Hope give me hope for our congregation, and I thank God for you! We were blessed with more than a dozen kids in Hope's wonderful Christmas program, and great attendance and fellowship.

Lent will bring another experiment. Instead of having just one Wednesday evening Lenten worship at Hope, we will focus on five Lenten Sundays, beginning February 22. We'll try ELW setting 10, which sets our Lutheran liturgy to traditional hymn tunes. Instead of a sermon, the Gospel will be proclaimed through drama— something to grab the attention of children, young people... and every generation. This gives us another opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors to gather at Hope for something special. Please encourage everyone to come and see what God is up to at Hope! Please pray that God will bless this experiment, too.

What will these experiments lead to? Only God knows! But we can trust that God will be faithful, just as God encourages us to be faithful to Christ's mission here at Hope.

Your partner in ministry,

*Pastor Evelyn*

# 2014 Hope Lutheran Youth & Family Financial Report

Submitted by Laura Rosendahl 984-2706

**Checking #50: as of 1/1/14 \$626.61**

**Expenses:**

**Donations**

WELCA	\$ 100.00
ELC (buy pig, chicks)	\$ 40.00

**Youth & Family**

Giants Ridge	\$ 46.00
Sliding Party	\$ 66.84
Swim & Gym	\$ 154.39
Bowling	\$ 100.00

**Confirmation Program**

Finn Photography	\$ 24.00
Ely Field Trip	\$ 49.54
Bibles	\$ 39.90
Middle School Gathering	\$ 531.00 (incl. deposit, gas, lunch on Sat.)

**VBS**

Food, pictures, supplies	\$ 195.54
Deposit For July 2015	\$1,075.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$2,422.21</b>

**Deposits:**

Transfer from #01 Savings	\$1,400.00
VBS donation	\$ 150.00
MSG donation	\$ 124.00
Sunday School offering	\$ 180.94
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>\$1,854.94</b>

**End Balance 12/31/2014 \$ 59.34**

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**Savings #01: as of 1/1/14 \$2,389.77**

**Expenses**

Transfer to #50	\$1,400.00
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**Deposits:**

Sunday School offering	\$1,173.34
VBS (donations)	\$ 809.00
Dividend	\$ 7.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,989.78</b>

**End Balance 12/31/2014 \$2,979.55**



## 2014 Altar Guild

Balance January 1, 2013	\$3,278.23
Income:	
Memorial Candle	\$170.00
Memorial Gift	\$20.00
Easter Breakfast	\$262.00
Gift for flowers	\$50.00
Dividends	\$8.43
Total	<u>\$3,788.66</u>
Less Expenses	- <u>\$313.70</u>
Balance December 31, 2013	\$3,474.96

Expenses:	
Memorial Candles, Wafers, Communion Cups	\$155.70
Palms	\$39.00
Confirmation Flowers	\$65.00
Pentecost flowers	\$50.00
Money Orders	\$4.00
Total	<u>\$313.70</u>

Handicapped Access Fund	
Balance January 1, 2013	\$3,709.99
Dividends	\$9.28
Balance December 31, 2013	<u>\$3,719.27</u>

Donations: Food for Easter Breakfast  
Wine, Grape Juice, Communion Bread

**Women of E.L.C.A. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT – 2014**  
**Janet Lamppa, Treasurer**

**INCOME**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT:**

Balance 1/1/14       \$3,235.24  
 Balance 12/31/14   \$3,383.64

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT:**

Balance 1/1/14       \$1,357.43  
 Balance 12/31/14   \$1,374.86

**PENNIES:**

Income                 \$   22.41  
 Disbursed             - 200.00

**FUNERALS:**

Income:                 \$   100.00

**BAZAAR:** (income)   \$3,492.65  
 Gas card               -50.00  
 (for raffle)

**LUTEFISK & MEATBALL SUPPER:**

Income                 \$3,174.00  
 Expenses:             -1,540.16  
 Falkowski's \$578.16  
 Fraboni's     962.00  
 Rent            50.00  
 Profit:                 \$1,583.84

**Food shelf donations March:**

Income                 \$   180.00  
 Disbursed in March   - 600.00

**COFFEE MONEY:**

Income                 \$1,235.00  
 Paid to Church for fuel -1,200.00

**Love Offering:**         \$   20.00  
 (Thankoffering to WELCA) – 100.00

**DISBURSEMENTS -- 2014**

**DISBURSED TO MISSIONS:**

Voyageur's Luth. Ministry     \$ 100.00  
 Food Shelves (March)         \$ 600.00  
 Bill's House                     \$ 100.00  
 Salvation Army                 \$ 200.00  
 Soup Kitchen                    \$ 200.00  
 MN Teen Challenge             \$ 100.00  
 Care Partners (cancer)        \$ 200.00  
 Advocates for Peace            \$ 100.00  
 Habitat for Humanity            \$ 200.00  
 Quad City Food Shelf          \$ 100.00  
 Babbitt Food Shelf             \$ 100.00  
 Aurora Food Shelf               \$ 100.00  
 Tower Food Shelf                \$ 200.00  
 Lutheran Social Services       \$ 100.00

**DISBURSED TO WELCA:**

Spring Gathering                \$   25.00  
 Convention                       \$ 315.00  
 Churchwide (Thankoffering)    \$ 100.00  
 WELCA Pennies Offering        \$ 200.00

**DISBURSED TO CHURCH:**

Propane/fuel (Coffee Money)    \$1,200.00

**OTHER DISBURSEMENTS/EXPENSES:**

Advertising                       \$   76.40  
 Coffee, plates, napkins, etc.   \$ 185.51  
 2 New Coffee Pots                \$ 259.98  
 Special Cakes                     \$ 120.99  
 Plastic Wrap                      \$   27.00  
 Stamps                             \$   19.60  
 Gas Card for Bazaar             \$   50.00  
 Gift Card for Pastor's  
 Installation                       \$   50.00

# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## Income Statement

**Income:**

Sunday Offering	\$56,913.50
Special offerings	\$45.00
Fuel Donations	\$3,040.00
Thrivent	\$195.00
Dividend Income	\$159.90
Babbitt Payroll	\$28,239.72
Babbitt Auto/Books, etc.	\$989.57
Babbitt extra money	\$1,968.94
Babbitt Pension/Medical	<u>\$6,868.07</u>

**Total Income** \$98,419.70

Babbitt money \$38,066.30

<b>\$60,353.40 HOPE 2014 INCOME</b>
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\$58,090.64 HOPE 2013 INCOME

**Investments:**

	1/1/2014	Dividends	Misc Deposits	Transfers out	12/31/2014
Savings	\$25,830.80	\$54.01	\$0.00	\$8,300.00	\$17,584.81
Mission Investment Fund	\$9,554.84	\$86.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,641.12
Building Maint Fund - 08	\$5,603.02	\$14.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,617.04
Building Fund-07	\$2,235.15	\$5.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,240.74
<b>Total Investments</b>	<u>\$43,223.81</u>	<u>\$159.90</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$8,300.00</u>	<u>\$35,083.71</u>

**Offering Income by Month**

	Totals	Fuel	Misc	Offering
January	\$4,056.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$3,856.00
February	\$5,827.00	\$230.00	\$0.00	\$5,597.00
March	\$5,694.50	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$5,494.50
April	\$4,660.00	\$200.00	\$30.00	\$4,430.00
May	\$3,420.00	\$200.00	\$15.00	\$3,205.00
June	\$4,740.50	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$4,540.50
July	\$3,481.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$3,281.00
August	\$5,460.50	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$5,260.50
September	\$5,008.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$4,808.00
October	\$4,925.00	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$4,715.00
November	\$4,930.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$4,680.00
December	\$7,796.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$7,046.00
<b>Total Offering</b>	<u>\$59,998.50</u>	<u>\$3,040.00</u>	<u>\$45.00</u>	<u>\$56,913.50</u>

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2015

World Wide Outreach	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
NE MN Synod/Missions	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$1,875.00</b>	<b>\$1,875.00</b>	<b>\$1,875.00</b>

Local Ministry	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
Organist	\$4,600.00	\$4,287.25	\$4,300.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$341.00	\$100.00
<b>Total Local Ministry</b>	<b>\$4,700.00</b>	<b>\$4,628.25</b>	<b>\$4,400.00</b>

Business Expenses	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
Secretary/Treasurer Salary	\$10,000.00	\$9,999.24	\$10,000.00
Postage	\$600.00	\$600.60 (\$48 box rent)	\$600.00
Synod Assembly	\$400.00	\$1,486.34	\$625.00
Fall Theological conf.	\$300.00	\$267.24	\$275.00
Laurentian Conference	\$0.00	\$50.00 (yrly fee)	\$50.00
Computer/Software/License	\$1,200.00	\$1,209.00	\$1,200.00
Office Supplies	\$350.00	\$219.94	\$225.00
Phone/Internet	\$1,000.00	\$1,373.09	\$1,400.00
Copy Machine	\$2,000.00	\$1,965.41	\$2,000.00
Offering Envelopes	\$200.00	\$135.40	\$150.00
Pulpit Supply	\$500.00	\$280.50	\$300.00
Advertising	\$200.00	\$190.00	\$200.00
FICA/Employer	\$1,500.00	\$1,040.92 (not Pastors)	\$1,200.00
<b>Total Business Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,250.00</b>	<b>\$18,817.68</b>	<b>\$18,225.00</b>

Pastoral Expense	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
Pastor Salary	\$34,000.00	\$41,136.04	\$37,300.00
Mileage	\$4,000.00	\$1,569.41	\$2,500.00
Pension/Benefits/Disability	\$14,000.00	\$8,632.77	\$19,342.00
Housing	\$10,200.00	\$10,800.00	\$12,000.00
Books	\$400.00	\$60.75	\$200.00
Continuing Education	\$1,200.00	\$569.51	\$800.00
Moving expense	\$0.00	\$2,200.00 (one time)	\$0.00
FICA	\$3,400.00	\$3,973.04	\$3,771.00
<b>Total Pastor Expense</b>	<b>\$67,200.00</b>	<b>\$68,941.52</b>	<b>\$75,913.00</b>

*1/2 of all Pastoral Expenses have been paid by Babbitt since July 1, 2010.*

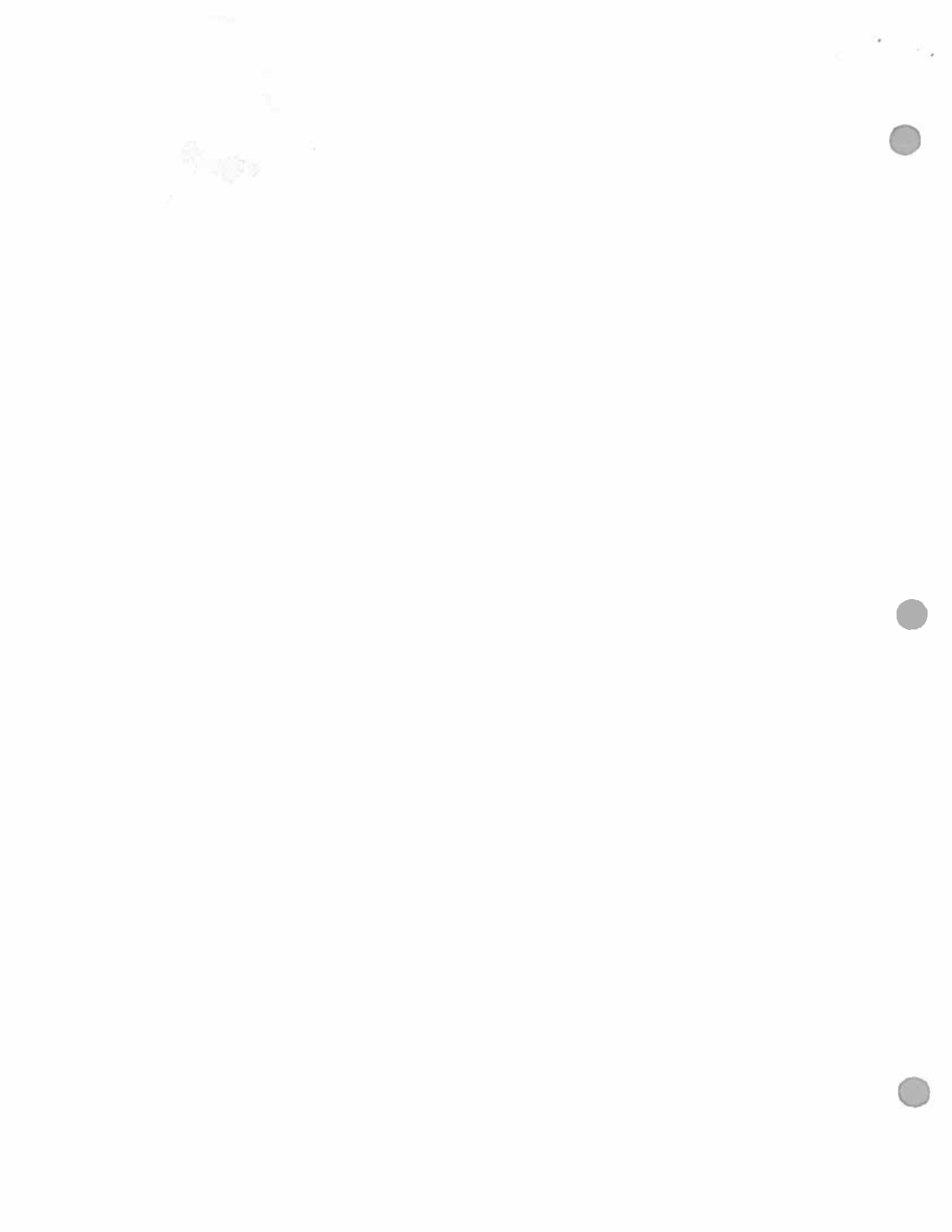
All Church Property Maintenance	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
Electricity - Church	\$1,400.00	\$1,106.17	\$1,200.00
Fuel- Church	\$3,300.00	\$2,918.35	\$2,800.00
Insurance/workers comp	\$3,300.00	\$2,501.00	\$2,900.00
Maintenance-Church	\$0.00	\$165.99	\$250.00
Real Estate Taxes/ Garbage	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$100.00
Custodian Salary	\$1,500.00	\$915.00	\$1,000.00
Contract Labor/plow	\$350.00	\$394.00	\$400.00
Custodian Supplies	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
<b>Total Church Property</b>	<b>\$10,050.00</b>	<b>\$8,090.51</b>	<b>\$8,800.00</b>

**TOTAL**

\$102,075.00	\$102,352.96	\$109,213.00
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Subtract Babbitt Money	\$33,600.00	\$38,066.30	\$38,000.00 Approximate
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<b>Actual minus Babbitt money</b>	<b>\$68,475.00</b>	<b>\$64,286.66</b>	<b>\$71,213.00</b>
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Dear friend in Christ,

Each Sunday as God gathers us for worship, we are connecting with nearly 10,000 other ELCA congregations across the country. We gather to be nourished by word and sacrament, to remember and celebrate God's love for us and to respond with our lives and our offerings. The generosity of our offerings is a reflection of our gratitude for God's blessings, and our offerings then become a blessing to others. Our gifts first enable God's work to be done through our congregations. The portion we call Mission Support moves beyond your congregation's local community to support the ministries of the synod and the churchwide organization in the United States and around the world.

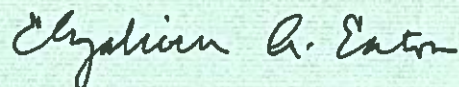
The Mission Support offering your congregation sends to your synod is undesignated, meaning it will always be spent when and where funds are needed most. These dollars enable the ELCA to share the good news of Jesus Christ by starting new ministries, renewing congregations, developing leaders, alleviating poverty, working toward justice and peace and partnering with churches around the world. The following pages provide information about how your congregation's Mission Support dollars are used to support ELCA ministries.

Our church is engaged in a five-year, \$198 million campaign to deepen relationships and expand ministry opportunities that serve our neighbors. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is another way that we can do more. Through the campaign, individuals, congregations and synods can make designated gifts that will expand the ELCA's growth and mission capacity. Learn how your congregation can participate at [www.ELCA.org/campaign](http://www.ELCA.org/campaign).

I am deeply grateful for your generous Mission Support in 2014. As you begin planning for your congregation's ministry and giving for 2015, I ask that you continue and grow in your generosity so that the entire church can benefit from your offerings.

As I travel across this church, each week I see the many ways you are stewarding your gifts to love and serve your neighbors. This has shown me how together we can achieve things on a scale and a scope that we could never do alone. Indeed "we, who are many, are one body in Christ." We are church together!

Faithfully,



Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Photo by Michael Watson

