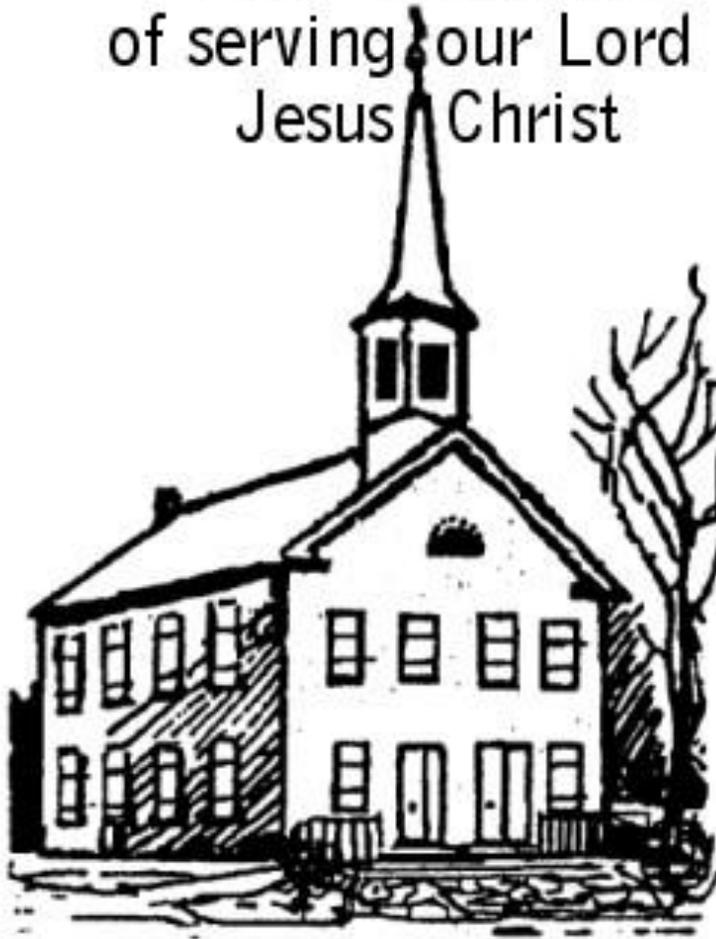


# **Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church**

## **Annual Report 2018**

Over 250 years  
of serving our Lord  
Jesus Christ



**Congregational Meeting**  
**February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 after 10:00am service**

Peter Kuritz, Interim Pastor

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**Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church**  
*Annual Report 2018*

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## **Pastor's Report 2018**

The Pastoral Office of Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church has undergone several transitions during 2018. Pastor David Danneberger was the Interim Pastor as the year began. Pastor Warren Egebo served as the next Interim Pastor for the summer through the end of September. I arrived the beginning of October.

The synod and the congregational leadership agreed that having a semi-permanent Interim Pastor during this time of Pastoral Transition would be best for the congregation. Since I recently retired from active ministry in the Lutheran church in September, I was asked, and I agreed to serve at this time. Living in the Wilkes-Barre area I commute 3 – 4 days a week providing 30 hours of pastoral time each week.

Since arriving I have led and preached at the Sunday worship services. Baptized three persons. Officiated at 2 memorial services. Visited 14 home bound members, and visited those who were hospitalized. Participated in the hanging of the greens, and the Blue Christmas Service. I've been involved with the pre-school: by providing twice a month chapel time with the children, attended their ice cream social open house, attended the Christmas program, and attended a Pre-school board meeting. I attend the monthly committee night meetings, the monthly council meetings, and lead the weekly staff meetings. During the Sunday school hour I make a point of sitting in on a different class each week. I have participated in rehearsals for this year's Christmas pageant. And I also attended the Sunday coffee hours to get to know members and they me. I have also made myself available to members, for pastoral support, and have been consulted on various congregational matters.

Administratively, I've been developing a plan for responding to emergency pastoral needs, since I, and any other future pastor may not always be available. Conversations will be had with area Lutheran clergy with the goal of resource sharing.

I've also have been a part of the up-coming council / leadership retreat for strategic planning. It seems to me like this is a key time to plan for the future. The congregation is blessed in so many ways, that it would be important to have a plan to use its many resources in a deliberate, focused way. It's an exciting time for the congregation to strategize and plan for the next few years, especially as you are in a process of searching to call your next full time pastor. The Spirit of God is truly alive and active throughout the membership and its ministries. May we all watch and listen for direction.

*"The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps."*

- Proverbs 16:9

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Peter Kuritz

## Council President Report

When we say “Yes” to God and invite Him into our lives, amazing things happen. When we say “Yes” to the nomination for Council President, well... Amazing things happen. 2018 has definitely been a challenging year for sure, but look, we are still here! As I look back to last year’s council report, our main goal was finding a permanent pastor. That’s still our goal today, but it’s not our only goal. We are moving forward with hope and encouragement. When the Israelites left Egypt, they didn’t just sit and wait, they wandered. I think most of us would agree that we are wandering in the wilderness right now. Let me tell you from my experience as a hiker and backpacker, absolutely amazing things can be discovered from wandering, not only about where we are, but also WHO we are. Various committees and teams have streamlined the way we do some things; the ICE team kicked off a shepherding program for us to grow closer together, Stephen’s Ministers still are doing the great work with our members, our Sunday school numbers are up from last year, and through it all, God has been in the middle of it. By the time we have the annual meeting, the church leadership teams will have completed a retreat focusing on one thing; “What does our mission statement of Glorifying Christ and Making Disciples really look like here at Christ Hamilton?” I invite you all to join us in this exploration we are on over the next few years. God inspired our founders to build this church for a purpose. Please join us as we fulfill that purpose. After all, we’re on a mission from God!

Together in Christ,  
Steve Metzgar, Council President

## February 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Brian Powers opened the meeting at 12:00pm and thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as Council President the past two years.

Pastor David led in prayer and shared his opening remarks. David shared that he is deeply honored and privileged to be our pastor and that Christ Hamilton and said that Christ Hamilton will continue to be a blessing to the next pastor.

**Review & Approval of Congregational Minutes:** George Butts made a motion to accept the Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 minutes, followed by a second and approval by the congregation. Beth Ross made a motion to accept the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes, followed by a second and congregational approval.

**Report of Nominating Committee:** Nominations were opened to the floor. No nominations were brought forth so nominations were closed. A vote from the floor was conducted and all nominations were approved.

- The new council members elected for a three year term are: John Field, Jeff Gilbert, Sandra Lee, and Rob Provitera.
- Youth Council members for a one year term are: Hope Porter & Caroline Metzgar
- Financial Secretary – Shirley Frable
- Synod Delegates – Ed & Carolyn Jones
- Ark II Reps. – Ed Jones & Debbie Kolb for a 2 year term

**In Memorium:** Pastor David led the congregation in praying for those we lost this past year.

**Review and approval of Committee Reports:** No discussion and a motion was made from Victor Houtz to accept the committee reports. The motion was seconded and the congregation approved the reports.

**Financial Report & Proposed 2018 Budget:** We finished the year with a \$16,348.70 deficit primarily due to a decrease in member contributions. Last year we set aside \$10,000.00 in a contingency fund from a large bequest we received. This will be applied to the deficit.

The proposed 2018 budget will leave us with a faith challenge of \$23,346.00. The floor was open for questions and concerns and none were brought forth. A motion was made to accept the financial report by Donald Paynter and with a second motion, the congregation approved.

**Other Business:**

- Tassy Gilbert, chairperson of the Call Committee - Tassy noted that there has been a personnel change on the committee. Janet Weidensaul has stepped down and Sandra Lee has taken her place. The congregation chose a multi-candidate process and now we are just waiting for candidates to be brought forth.
- Sue Butz announced the next community meal will be Feb 18th. Janis Bechtel will be making her chicken pot pies. The van is available to pick people up so they can come to the meal.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.

## **The Nominating Committee**

Linda Barnas, Amanda Balas, Ed Jones, Victor Houtz, Brian Powers

The nominating committee met and proposed the following members to be nominated to church council:

Adrian Maillet 1<sup>st</sup> (3yr term)

Ron Schlegel 1<sup>st</sup> (3yr term)

Andy Porter 1<sup>st</sup> (3yr term)

4<sup>th</sup> Candidate still being determined as of printing

## **2 youth/young adult positions**

Caroline Metzgar

Hope Porter

## **Synod Delegates**

Ed Jones, Sandy Lee

## **Financial Secretary**

Shirley Frable

**Other nominations may be made from the floor at the congregational meeting.**

## **Church Council Members**

Pastor Peter Kuritz	Linda Barnas	Rob Provitera	Sandy Lee	Jeff Gilbert
Victor Houtz	Brian Powers	Suzanne Sodl	Sue Butz	Steve Metzgar
Jerry Kramer	John Field	Adrian Maillet		

**Youth Members:** Caroline Metzgar, Hope Porter

## **Church Council Officers**

President: Steve Metzgar

Vice President: Victor Houtz

Secretary: Amanda Balas

Financial Secretary: Shirley Frable

Treasurer: Joyce Weishaupt

## **Church Council Members on Committees**

Property	NO REPRESENTATIVE
Finance	Brian Powers, Adrian Maillet
Christian Education	Suzanne Sodl
Worship & Music	John Field
Stewardship	Sandy Lee
Community Service & Missions	NO REPRESENTATIVE
Evangelism	Sue Butz
Ark II	Jeff Gilbert
Youth	Steve & Caroline Metzgar, Hope Porter
Personnel	Linda Barnas
Stephen Ministry	Sue Butz

## Pastoral Acts 2018

### Baptisms

Elise Adelyn Cassidy	Parents: Craig and Karen Cassidy	Jan. 7, 2018
Josiah Jacob Valencia	Parents: Jose & Tania Valencia	Feb. 18, 2018
Killian Isaiah Werkheiser	Parents: Kenneth & Stephanie Werkheiser	Feb. 25, 2018
Liam Robert Kolb	Parents: Andrew & Jamie Kolb	April 15, 2018
Jolene Marie Shillady	Parents: Steve & Katie Shillady	June 24, 2018

### Deaths

Wayne J. Colabaugh  
 Jerry Catina  
 Laverne Condit  
 Edith V. Pirie  
 Sonya Datesman

### Death

Feb. 7, 2018  
 March 20, 2018  
 May 19, 2018  
 Oct. 26, 2018.  
 Dec. 27, 2018

### Service

Feb.13, 2018  
 Private  
 Private  
 Nov. 10, 2018  
 Jan. 2, 2019

### First Communion May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Ava Elizabeth Swanson	Chloe Makayla Safin	Madison Ada Parton
Anthony Michael Fudro	Marlo Isabella El-Bassiouni	Adriana Josephine Borzio
Josiah Jacob Valencia	Jason Leo Cameron	Mackenzie Lorraine Cameron
Joseph John Marshall	Lexie Ann Bednarek	

### Confirmation May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Logan Borger	Jimmy Foglio
Kloie Kneisly	Brooke Richardson
Avery Walsh	

### New Members

Elizabeth Marshall	Jose Valencia	Camille Maillet
Joseph Marshall	Tania Valencia	Adrian Maillet
Joey Marshall	Alina Valencia	
Madalyn Marshal	Josiah Valencia	

<u>Gains</u>		<u>Losses</u>		<u>Members</u>		<u>Net Gains</u>	
Transfers	0	Adult Deaths	4	Voting	393	2018	+7
Baptisms	5	Adult Transfers	4	Communing Child	48	2017	-23
Confirmation	5	Child Transfers	0	Baptized Child	45	2016	-30
New Members	10	Child Confirmation	5	Inactive Members	296	2015	-9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>782</b>		

## Attendance 2018

### Average Attendance

2018	132 (+19)
2017	119
2016	161
2015	198
2014	217
2013	246

### Average Sunday Attendance

January—Memorial Day	79 (-58)	Ash Wednesday	56 (-28)
Summer Schedule	99 (+5)	Palm Sunday	166 (-38)
September—December	143 (+25)	Maundy Thursday	62 (-1)
Thanksgiving Eve	36 (+1)	Good Friday	58 (-30)
Blue Christmas	16 (-26)	Easter	249(-106)
Christmas Eve	266 (-104)		

## **Ark II Preschool**

### **Current Staff:**

Director: Debbie Lamson

Registrar: Colleen Garis

3 year old class: Amber Ratti and Jessica Achey

Pre-K Class: Debbie Lamson and Amber Ratti

### **Ark II Board of Director and Officers:**

- Chairperson: Ed Jones
- Treasurer: Emil Suarez
- Secretary: Bonnie Wrazien
- Members: Debbie (Also Curriculum Development Director), Interim Pastors David Danneberger, Warren Egebo, Peter Kuritz
- Parent Representatives: Stephanie Bush and Leslie Henley
- Council Representative: Jeff Gilbert

2018 was a year of positive change for Ark II. Debbie Lamson accepted the calling of our Lord to return as Director, and with the exception of Colleen Garis, who provided needed continuity, revised the curriculum, moved to a two class offering, and re-staffed all teacher and assistant teacher positions, bring new energy, excitement, and interest in Ark II. Debbie moved the program, which includes 18 -4 and 5 year olds, and 5 - 3 year olds, from needing support from Christ Hamilton to meet operating expenses to a position of income exceeding expenses, becoming financially self-sufficient once more, and allowing the building of a reserve and re-investment in the school. A new computer system was donated, and all of software was upgraded. Special programs, including a Thanksgiving Fest, a Fire Engine Day, Bi-Weekly Bookmobiles from the Library. A Special "Enrichment" programs (14 children participated in Pumpkin Science, Native American Study, and Sports.) Stay and Play, an ice cream social, and a wonderful Christmas program in the church sanctuary with crafts afterward's have all brought renewed enthusiasm and excitement. Our two parent reps are active parts of the Monthly Board meetings, and enthusiastic supporters of the School.

The Pastor has held Chapel time each week, and Donna Molan holds monthly Music with all children, with special times at Christmas. Debbie Kolb enhances faith formation with weekly "Fruit of the Spirit" sessions.

Our vision for 2019 includes additional focus on younger ages (children not yet ready for preschool – 1 and 2 year olds) with free hours of "Mommy and Me" play sessions, to allow parents and children to experience Ark II before enrolling as the children as 3 year olds. We plan to continue one 4 and 5 year old class, with enrichment curriculum, and a rolling 2 year curriculum so that 4 year olds returning for one more year as 5 year olds before kindergarten will have a new experience.

Fundraisers included a Pancake breakfast and an event at Longhorn steakhouse.

God has blessed Ark II, and the board is actively working on plans for 2019 to maintain the viability and important mission of teaching God's children into the Fall of 2019 school year.

## Ark II Treasury Reports:

School Year ending June, 2018 (Financial Report Reviewed by Ark II Board 1/1/18 through March 31, 2018)

**Income:** \$50,920.88 \*  
**Expense:** 48,766.06  
**Net Income:** \$ 2,154.82

**Checking Account Balance:** \$1,101.81 \*  
**Savings Account Balance:** 172.72  
**Norton Scholarship Fund Balance:** 1,548.49

\* Notes: Includes funds provided by Christ Hamilton needed to supplement income and meet expenses, and allow payment of expenses in May and June.

## School year beginning September, 2018 (Financial Report Reviewed by Ark II Board 1/1/18 through 10/31/18)

**Income:** \$15,367.16  
**Expense:** 11,901.98  
**Net Income:** \$ 3,466.18

**Checking Account Balance:** \$17,625.49 +  
**Savings Account Balance:** 172.79  
**Norton Scholarship Fund Balance:** 1,230.20

+ Notes: Checking account balance includes \$ 13,808 in Pre-paid tuition which will be applied against expenses during the school year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Lamson, Director of Ark II  
Ed Jones, President of the Ark II Board and Director of Christian Education

## Call Committee Report

Bishop Zeiser and Pastor Niels Nielsen came to Christ Hamilton for a special congregational meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Council had elected a multiple candidate process. This process has been modified by Synod to allow call committee to review matched Rostered Ministry Profiles as they are presented to us, either singly or in pairs to facilitate the process. After that adjustment, the paperwork for the first candidate was delivered in mid-March.

The Committee has received and reviewed Rostered Ministry Profiles for 6 candidates as of 12/20/2018. The Committee will have interviewed 5 candidates by the time of the annual meeting.

Bishop Zeiser met with Call Committee on Tuesday, December 3rd to provide guidance and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tassy Gilbert, Call Committee Chair

## Christian Education Committee

2018 was a year of building and growth for Christian Education at Christ Hamilton. The Christian Education Committee, Sunday School Team, Confirmation team, First Communion team, Adult Education team, Children's Sermon team and Vacation Bible School team used solid, biblically based, Lutheran and Christian Education Curriculums to provide faith formation and experiential learning, activities, programs, and events to complement and reinforce Faith Formation and Christian Education in the home, with the family, and as provided by Youth Ministry.

- The Christian Education committee (Team) met monthly, and focused on further developing and implementing each of the major focal points of Christian Education at Christ Hamilton. Exceptional support and leadership was provided by Debbie Kolb, Sandra Lee, Suzanne Sodl, Lisa Anthony, and Beth Ross.
- Sunday School: A dedicated group of 11 teachers, teacher assistants, and substitute teachers supported our Sunday School Program. 100% of 2017 teachers continued to support Sunday School in 2018 – a tribute to their engagement, enthusiasm, dedication, and desire to bring God's word to our children. We average of 21 children attended each Sunday.
- Confirmation: A dedicated group of 4 teachers (Brian Powers, Debbie Kolb, Steve Metzgar, and our Interim Pastor) brought Sunday Morning Confirmation Classes, Retreats, and other events to our First Year Second Year Confirmation students, who worked together in one group.
- First Communion: Debbie Kolb and Rob Provitera brought an 8 week Sunday Morning bible underlining class using the Faith Inkubators video based curriculum to 6 - 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents, in preparation for 3 pastoral First Communion Classes. 6 Children received First Communion.
- The Adult Bible Study group, led by John Boyer and Jim Butz used the ELCA Daily Discipleship Series to study each weekly Lectionary Gospel Reading, and ended the year with a study of the Lord's Prayer (David Bechtel). Average attendance was approximately 6.
- The Adult Discussion Group, led by Gary Kapostas and Bill Molan studied several Christian books. Average attendance was 8.
- Vacation Bible School: Debbie Lamson and Debbie Kolb co-directed our 2 week VBS program this year, with the theme: God's Amazing Love. 100 teachers, youth leaders, and other support staff provided a wonderful experience to 88 children.
- A Sunday School and Christian Education Summer Picnic was held to communicate and implement the Fall FaithWeaver Now Sunday School Curriculum.

Christian Education Communications included Monthly Christian Education Articles published in the "Good News For Christ's Disciples" Newsletter, frequent updates by email to the Congregation, and email and home address mailings for Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation, Youth, and Adult Education.

Expanded Christian Education pages were implemented on [www.chrighthamilton.org](http://www.chrighthamilton.org) including the Christian Education program calendar and contact list, Sunday School, First Communion, and Confirmation Pages, and a password protected "Teachers Portal", which includes all Sunday School Teachers Guides, Confirmation Attendance Roster, Adult Bible Study Group Weekly Participant and Teacher materials, and Junior and Senior High Youth Group Activity Calendars.

In the Fall of 2018, teacher communications updates were continued on a weekly basis, with the latest program information, previous weeks attendance numbers, and latest news about future events.

### Sunday School

We started in the Fall of 2017 using the curriculum FaithWeaver Now, a Christian, Biblical Based experiential learning curriculum from Group Publishing that rotates through the Bible every 3 years, and allows each Sunday School Class to study the same Bible Lesson, using age appropriate experiential learning materials and activities. As a result, we have been able to:

- Minimize Teacher preparation time,
- Allow teaching “teams” to work with each grade, and share class teaching assignments.
- Improve our ability to use church members willing to teach, but who may not have a teaching background,
- Make it easier for “substitute teachers” to pick up a class when the regular SS Teacher cannot,
- Standardize supplies, and
- Improve family faith formation opportunities

We again kicked off the Fall program with a Teachers/ Christian Education Team Picnic

In preparation for “Rally Day”, we mailed 200+ Sunday School invitation post cards, using our church membership data base and VBS registrations. On Rally Day, “Theo” (Beth Ross) made a surprise appearance, one of many planned for 2018.

For Advent 2018, we implemented a 4 Sunday Christmas Pageant Program – ‘Super Christmas’, with Teachers acting out the Christmas Story the first week of Advent, Children practicing the second and third weeks, and Children presenting the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 23rd.

Andrea Bittenbender collected Sunday School offerings for January through May of 2018. Ed Jones did so for September through December of 2018. Attendance was recorded each week by each teachers on an attendance chart, and compiled and reported by Ed Jones each week.

#### **Sunday School January – May 2018 Attendance**

Children	26/week average
Adults	16/week average
Sunday School Teachers	15

#### **Sunday School September – December 2018 Attendance**

Children	26/week average
Adults	16/week average
Sunday School Teachers	15

#### Confirmation

The team of Steve Metzgar, Debbie Kolb, Brian Powers, and the interim pastor used “/Co lab orate/” - a robust CD based 4 part, 2 year Lutheran Confirmation Program from Augsburg Press, to confirm 7 young men and women in May, 2018. The program grew as we enrolled 3 second year, and 10 first year students in the fall of 2018. The program remains a 2 year program, with community and church service, worship participation, retreat, and classroom participation requirements.

#### First Communion

6 Children aged 9 – 11 attended the 8 week Bible Highlighting classes and 3 pastoral classes with their parents, and received first communion in May. The pastoral classes used the CD Based, Lutheran “fed and forgiven” curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. The church membership donated bibles, in memory of loved ones, to each child.

## Adult Classes

The Adult Bible Study Class used the ELCA “Daily Discipleship” series, based on the Gospel lesson for the week in the 3 year lectionary to study each Sunday’s Gospel lesson. In Advent, the class also studied the Lord’s Prayer. The Adult Discussion Group Class read and discussed several Christian books chosen by the group.

## Vacation Bible School

Christ Hamilton’s Vacation Bible School was a great success this past summer! After many phone calls in January, ensuring that we had the support of our Teachers, Helpers, and Support Staff, our Co Directors Debbie Kolb and Debbie Lamson elected to develop a curriculum for our traditional 2 weeks program, which was held from 9am to noon July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup>. We had over 88 children from ages 3 to 12 come through our doors and learn about God’s holy word. Our theme was God’s Amazing Love.

VBS would NOT be possible without all our more than 100 incredible volunteers. We cannot express how grateful we are to all our teachers, aides, kitchen helpers, support staff, recreation volunteers and visitors, crossing guard crew and our wonderful VBS committee who began planning in January to put this undertaking together. We are so very blessed. This year’s program featured classroom education, puppet show, video, crafts, T-Shirt and recreational activities and opportunities for learning, and a special Stained glass educational series in our Sanctuary.

Over the two weeks of VBS we collected change each day which went to bee hives through Heifer International. These hives will go to needy families all over the world to be a source of income and food. We also collected many of canned goods for PVEN. Lastly, the children filled 85 Christmas Shoe Boxes with school supplies for Samaritan’s Purse that were shipped out in time for Christmas 2018.

Lastly, we’d like to thank our wonderful congregation for all the love, support and time they give to our VBS program. This was truly a congregation wide effort, with Youth and Adults of all ages. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family that is always here to give us hope and encouragement as we spread God’s Word and Love to the children in our community.

It is interesting to note that many children who attended our VBS came from other area churches who for a variety of reasons do not offer a summer VBS program, or who have shortened their program.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Kolb and Debbie Lamson – VBS Directors – 2018

### **VCS Financial Report**

Beginning balance 1/1/2018		3095.34
Expenses:		
	Decorating supplies	51.84
	Snack foods and disposables	392.11
	Technology expense	77.25
	Craft supplies	838.66
	Staff supplies	38.66
	Postcard mailing	77.61
	Donation to Samaritans’ Purse	810.00
	Total expenses	2286.23
Donations:		1431.89
Ending balance		2241.00
<i>Submitted by Janis Bechtel</i>		

## Special Events

An **Easter** Egg hunt was held in the Spring of 2018, continuing a long held tradition, and featuring the Story of Easter, after the hunt was over. Our Youth hid the eggs, and lead the fun Hunt, with Eggs filled with treats provided by the Congregation.

We continued the tradition of **Children's Sermons** at both services, thanks to the Children's Sermon Team of Pastor David, Emil Suarez, Steve Metzgar, Debbie Lamson, Debbie Kolb, and Butch Herfurth.

The **Angel Trees** drive in December, 2018 benefited Children (part of the PVEN Toy Program) and Seniors – For Monroe County Area Agency on Aging. This year, as last, we hosted the 7 day event in the lighthouse. The Scouts set up tables. A number of Christ Hamilton Stephen Ministers along with many from PVEN member churches, acted as Client hosts for individual parents who participated in the program. Families for 350 children received toys this year.

**Learning Ministries Day**, the NEPA Synod sponsored event was hosted in January with the theme "Church as Wonder-Land". This well attended event brought members of NEPA Synod Lutheran Churches together for a wonderful opportunity to work and learn together as we continue to build our Learning Ministries. Several members of the Christian Education Team presented a "Re-booting Sunday School workshoop. Bishop Samuel Zeiser presided.

**Group Publishing Youth and Children Educators Workshops:** 2 half day workshops: "Growing Spiritual Grit in Teenagers" and "Cultivating Courage" were hosted by our church. Many members from the Christian Education and Youth Ministry teams participated in both workshops. Many Churches from Pennsylvania and New Jersey participated.

### **Wise Boundaries; Pastoral and Ministerial Relationships Synod Workshop**

More than 50 pastors, rostered leaders, and lay leaders participated in this important boundaries workshop conducted by the Synod and hosted here at the requested by the NEPA Synod.

#### Other Activities:

1. Christian Education Storage Room in Covenant House
  - a. Special thanks to Debbie Kolb and Shirley Fenner who re-organized the room, and made weekly supplies available to Sunday School Teachers.
2. Participation in the NEPA Synod Faith Formation Team – who sponsor Learning Ministries day, provide an annual faith formation resources event at the Synod office and hold an annual retreat. Churches throughout the NEPA Synod participate with this team. We're pleased to represent Christ Hamilton on this important Team.
3. Participation in the newly formed Men's Ministry Team – With representatives from churches throughout the Synod. We're pleased to represent Christ Hamilton on this important Team.
4. The Christian Education Team, and Director are pleased to provide synergy with Ark II Pre-school by our representation on the Ark II Board, and active work with the Ark II Director.
5. Provided and actively reported to the Congregation on Christ Hamilton Events and activities using words, pictures, and movies, on Social Media, including Facebook, email, and other platforms.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward W. Jones, Director of Christian Education

## Community Service and Missions Committee

Purpose	Serving God through serving others. Remembering Christ's call to minister to those in need, this committee shall dedicate itself to the caring of the less fortunate members of our society by providing the congregation opportunities to serve locally, nationally and internationally as loving and faithful Christians.
Chair/Council Rep.	Jane Person/ no council representative (since Gloria Handling moved)
Projects/Events	<p><b>Glucolodge:</b> Committee members assisted with bingo games 6 times during the year and provided prizes and baking treats for the bingo games. Gift bags of cookies and candy were assembled and delivered to residents near Easter and Christmas. A platter of cookies was given to the staff. Committee members baked and delivered 8 apple and pumpkin pies for Glucolodge residents on November 13<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Lenten Soup and Sandwich</b> made and served soup on the first Wednesday of Lent.</p> <p><b>Community Meal:</b> assisted with the monthly community meals.</p> <p><b>Stroudsburg Methodist Soup Kitchen:</b> served a chicken dinner to 68 people.</p> <p><b>Coffee Hour:</b> The committee members hosted coffee hour in July.</p> <p><b>Harvest Festival:</b> Deb Huber assembled items donated by committee members for 2 movie-themed baskets for the Tricky Tray fundraiser for the organ installation fund. Members made pies, cakes, soups, breads, and helped in various ways to make the harvest festival a success.</p> <p><b>Voice of the Martyrs:</b> Information from this organization is shared with the congregation through articles in the newsletter. Six church members attended the movie Tortured for Christ.</p> <p><b>Collecting Empty Pill Bottles:</b> Bottles were initially collected and sent to the Bushkill Lions Club and are now sent to the Matthew25 Ministries for shipment to areas where doctors are in need of bottles for pills to give to patients at health clinics. Committee members are funding the shipment of the bottles.</p> <p><b>Pregnancy Resource Center:</b> A list of baby items requested by the PRC was placed in the newsletter and the items collected were delivered to the PRC by committee members. The congregation donated \$245, and Kathy Koch and Jane Person were among the 95 walkers, for the PRC Walk on October 6<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>CHULC Christmas Card:</b> The 40-year tradition continues with Hope Porter illustrating the annual Christmas card. Congregation members participating donated \$455 to PVEN.</p> <p><b>Lamb's Wool Knitters:</b> Donated 74 sweaters through Samaritan's Purse, distributed to needy children at Christmas.</p> <p><b>Piecemakers:</b> 21 adult quilts and 8 children's quilts to PATH, 3 given to PVEN Raffle. Fabric and batting are donated by CHULC members.</p>

## Evangelism Committee Report

Purpose	"The Evangelism Committee sponsors and leads activities at CHULC to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ."
Chair/Council Rep.	Debbie Kolb, John Field & Sue Butz
Projects/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share the Word Activity, Church wide, Monthly</li> <li>- Helped update a Church Visitor Trifold Information</li> <li>- Sponsored the Blue Xmas Service</li> <li>- Provided Christmas Eve Gift Bags</li> <li>- Harvest Festival Support             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- donated Pasta Gift Basket to support organ fund</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Supported the Synod Boundary Training Event</li> <li>- Support cards for sick and shut ins</li> <li>- Sponsored the Community Meals</li> <li>- Participated in New Member Meal</li> <li>- Refreshed Children's busy bags in church</li> <li>- Sponsored weekly Pickleball Fellowships events</li> </ul>

## Heritage Room

Purpose	To preserve and display the historical artifacts which depict the history of our church.
Chair/Council Rep.	John Field
Projects/Additions	Added framed greeting card of the church by James Cox, framed copy of the CHULC Christmas from Rev. Ritterpusch era, (both donated by Jane Person) framed painting of the Bossert-Gumm Farm (donated by Joan Gumm), office safe was moved to Heritage Room

## Hamilton Church Women (HCW)

Volunteers prepared and/or served 2 funeral dinners/desserts. Families only pay for the cost of the food plus \$1 per table (for placemats, coffee, dish detergent, etc.). This is an important ministry. Thank you to all Christ Hamilton members who helped in any capacity with funeral dinners in 2018.

An important source of income for HCW (\$494.01 in 2018) is the rebate provided by Weis Markets. Please continue to donate your Weis grocery tapes and encourage others to do the same by placing them in the can in the Covenant House kitchen.

This year the HCW group combined with the Community Meal group and is now helping to sponsor this ministry. This is a donation only event and HCW will continue to provide the food and ongoing costs for this event.

Funds in the HCW bank accounts insure our ability to maintain and replace kitchen supplies (including propane) and equipment (including ice makers, refrigerators, and stoves) as necessary.

**Hamilton Church Women (HCW) Treasurer's Report 2018**

Checkbook Balance as of January 1, 2018 **767.34**  
 Checkbook Balance as of December 21, 2018 **1608.11**

**CASH RECEIPTS/checking account**

Funeral Dinners **492.08**  
 Donations in kind **100.00**  
 Grocery Tapes (Rebate Weis) **494.01**  
 Community Meal Donations **1604.19**  
 TOTAL **2690.28**

**CASH DISBURSEMENTS/checking account**

Funeral Dinners **457.08**  
 Community Meal **751.66**  
 Kitchen Equipment **0**  
 Kitchen Supplies **225.88**  
 Kitchen Repairs **312.68**  
 Propane LH Kitchen **102.21**  
 TOTAL **1849.51**

**Savings Account**

Balance as of January 1, 2018 **11,468.71**  
 Interest deposited quarterly : **+ 5.74**  
 Savings Account Balance as of December 21, 2018 **11,474.45**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Theresa Quinn

**Property Committee**

Purpose	Oversee the maintenance and repairs of the building, working in conjunction with the Facilities Director and Church Council.
Chair	Buddy Stephani, cell 570-664-3206, e-mail: wstephani@farmersagent.com
Projects	This past year we worked with the DEP to make sure the water treatment system was up to code, working properly and within the DEP guidelines. We also repaired the septic pump in the Light House and cleaned the grease trap. The horse shoe in front of the church was replaced, along with the walk in the middle, to pitch the water to the drain and minimize falling hazards. The office has been updated with new furniture, paint and flooring.

## Christ Hamilton Seniors

We begin all of our meetings with Devotions, Prayer and Flag Salute. The gathering is informal and after meetings we have lunch and desserts. Sadly we have lost several members so we are in need of new people to join. We do not just sit around a table and talk. Although our members have interesting stories to tell, places they have been and things they know how to do. In Spring we go out somewhere for our meeting and lunch. Summertime we tend to stay in with the air conditioning, so games and bingo are enjoyed. Fall was special this year as we had a speaker talking about Medicare fraud in September. October Fest was celebrated with a special meal. The group was scheduled in November to go to Shawnee Playhouse but due to weather it was canceled. This last month of the year, we went to The Old Mill Pizza for our annual Christmas Party.

Yours in Christ.

Audrey Gould, President

### Christ Hamilton Seniors Treasury Report as of December 2018

Balance as of December, 2017 \$1,089.23

#### RECEIPTS

SUPPLIES	90.00	
PVEN	92.00	
DUES	65.00	
LUNCHEONS	842.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>1,089.00</b>

#### DISBURSEMENTS

SUPPLIES	65.87	
PVEN	92.00	
LUNCHEONS	992.00	
POSTAGE	18.25	
DONATIONS	50.00	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>1,218.12</b>
<b>BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018</b>		<b>\$ 960.11</b>

Shirley Frable, Treasurer

## Stephen Ministry Report

Purpose	We desire to care for all members of our congregation and our community as children of God.
Chair/Council Rep.	Denise DeVivo/Sue Butz
Events/Projects	<p>2018: Stephen Ministers had 14 caring relationships.</p> <p>Stephen Ministers met twice a month for continuing education and Supervision.</p> <p>A Stephen Leader Retreat was held in January to plan the 2018 calendar.</p> <p>A Fall Retreat was held in October with guest speaker Teri Gaglione.</p> <p>Stephen Ministry Sunday was held in October.</p> <p>We sponsored coffee hour every other month.</p> <p>We hosted a luncheon for Pastor David Danneberger in July.</p>

## Youth Committee Report

Purpose	The mission and purpose of the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups are "Glorifying Christ, Making Disciples, Helping Families Win." The Youth Committee plans trips, lock-ins, and retreats for our youth, and gives feedback to our youth mentors in order to foster the best possible environment for our youth's spiritual and personal development.
Chair/Council Rep.	Chair: Angie Rupprecht / Council Rep: Steve Metzgar <a href="mailto:Chadnang2@yahoo.com">Chadnang2@yahoo.com</a> / <a href="mailto:steve.akela84@gmail.com">steve.akela84@gmail.com</a> 570-350-6447 / 570-350-2346
2018 Projects/Events	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser, YouthQuake, Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up, Mazezilla, and Summer Mission Trip to Morgantown, WV.  A separate Junior High Youth Group started up again in Fall 2018.

## Director of Music Report

As I reflect on 2018, it was a year of many blessings for our music ministry. It always amazes me how much music can unite us and bring us closer together. God continues to shower us with his blessings!

The Senior Choir had a very busy year. Besides leading worship every Sunday, they sang on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve. On Good Shepherd Sunday the choir presented the inspirational cantata "Psalm 23" by Pepper Choplin. They also performed this cantata at Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church. In August the choir participated in "The Joyful Noise Choir Competition" at The West End Fair. It was fun to share our music with other choirs in the area. In December the choir sang the beautiful Christmas cantata "The Winter Rose" by Joseph Martin. It is always a joy to have our friends from the community join us in singing for these cantatas. . I am so thankful for this great group of people. Thursday evenings are the highlight of my week. We get a lot of work done but we do it with joy in our hearts. Thank you choir for all the ways you serve God and our congregation through music. I appreciate you more than words can say!

I want to give a special thank you to Jane Person. She has taken on the task of washing and repairing all the choir robes. Jane, you are a blessing!

Project One Step continues to be a wonderful outreach for us. Christ Hamilton was one of several churches who hosted rehearsals each week. Once again the concert was a great experience for all who participated. This year's guest composer/conductor was Patti Drennan. Project One Step helped raise money for "Bridges out of Poverty" and "Fill a Glass with Hope" which provides milk to local food pantries.

One of my goals this year was to keep our youth involved in music as much as possible. We continued to give the Sunday school children music two times a month. They sang in church once a month. I also brought music to the Ark II children once a month. They sang four songs for their Christmas program. As always the music at

VBS this year was awesome. This is the best music outreach for our children. Gail and I had a special Saturday morning of music in October. We taught the children a song to ring and sing in church. We had a great time! Because of that, we were able to have some of our youth ring and sing on Christmas Eve. Gail and I plan to do more special music events in the coming year.

We had some great special music again this summer from our youth and adults. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts!

Gail continues to do a great job directing the Joyful Noise Ringers. They did a special outreach in December ringing Christmas carols at Spring Village at Pocono Nursing Home.

Once again I want to thank my dear friend and coworker, Gail Haydt for all she does for this music ministry. She is such a blessing to me and everyone she works with.

May God continue to bless us with glorious music in the coming year!

In Christian Love,  
Donna Molan

**Worship and Music Committee**

Purpose	It is our committee’s responsibility to guide our congregation’s worship life and shepherd our music ministries.
Chair/Council Rep.	John Balas – Chairperson    John Field – Council Rep
Projects/Events	<p>Friendship pads are back</p> <p>Used complete bulletins for largely attended services</p> <p>Introduced prayer slips for special prayers during the worship service</p> <p>Developed written procedures for communion</p> <p>Managed the flower sales</p> <p>Got the nursery up and running for Christmas Eve</p> <p>Organized the Tricky Tray Organ Fundraiser. We raised \$706.00</p> <p>Replaced the Advent Hanging of the Greens Service with a fellowship event to decorate the church for Advent.</p> <p>Jane Person, Altar Guild Coordinator, got Altar Guild volunteers and ordered supplies.</p>