

## St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

[www.svluka.org](http://www.svluka.org)

# Annual Assembly December 2, 2018

## AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Reading of the minutes from the 2017 Annual Assembly
3. Report of the Parish Priest
4. Report of the President
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of the Sunday School – Desa Elwell
7. Report of the Serbian Singing Society “Lira” – Colleen Bizic
8. Report of the Children’s Choir – popadija Jelena Vranic
9. Report of the Circle of Serbian Sisters – Nina Lojanica
10. Report of the Serbian School – Nena Djokic, Rada Bozic, Marija Eremic
11. Report of the Folklore Ensemble “Prelo” - Nena Djokic, Rada Bozic, Marija Eremic
12. Report of the Auditing Board – Mio Lazarevich
13. New Business; Questions & Answers
14. Closing Prayer

ST. LUKE  
SERBIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Fr. Vasilije Vranic

# METRICS

- Baptisms - 10
- Marriages - 3
- Conversions - 2
- Deaths - 3

# METRICS

- Ordinations – 1 (congrats to Subdeacon Dejan Bujak)
- Office protocol – 94 entries

# LITURGICAL LIFE

- Divine Liturgies – 115
- Vespers – Saturdays and Eve of Feasts (before every Divine Liturgy)

# LITURGICAL LIFE

- Full Liturgical Cycle as prescribed by the Typikon:
  - First Week of the Holy and Great Lent
  - Holy Week
- Sacrament of Unction

# ALTAR NEEDS

- Obtained covers
  - for the Sacred Vessels
  - For the Altar (Gospel & Blessing Cross)
- Donated by parishioners in December 2017 -  
January 2018

# ALTAR NEEDS

- Obtained festal Communion Set (used for high Church feasts and special occasions)
- Donated by the Opancici Serbian Cultural Center



# ALTAR NEEDS

- Obtained Blessing Cross for High Church feasts and special occasions
- Donated by a group of young parishioners – Српски хуманитарни строј

# ALTAR NEEDS

- TO OBTAIN:
  - Gospel Book with readings for every day of the year
- Funds already donated by a group of young parishioners – Српски хуманитарни строј

# COMMUNICATION

- Website redesigned: [www.serbianchurch.org](http://www.serbianchurch.org)
- Donated by Dejan Icitovic
- 29,763 people visited the website since launch in April 2018 (as of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018)

# COMMUNICATION

- Email distribution list
- Fully automated and automatically updated
- Automatic Email subscription added to the Website
- 694 subscribers (as of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018)

# COMMUNICATION

- Facebook page updated
- Content publication has changed
- Increased following:
  - Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 = 955 followers
  - Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 = 1949 followers

# COMMUNICATION

- Divine Liturgy Live Streaming Capability
- Donation: The Dukic Family

# COMMUNICATION

- Weekly Bulletin – email distribution

# MINISTRIES

- CIRCLE OF SERBIAN SISTERS:
  - Events organization (Sunday lunches and all the extraordinary events taking place in our parish)
- Collect funds for beautification and upkeep of our Church



# MINISTRIES

- CHOIR:
  - SSS “Lira” organized and registered with the SSF
  - Elected a new Board
  - Left a tremendous and lasting impression on everyone at the WWI Centennial celebration
  - Beautiful and uplifting Liturgies and worship
  - Thank-you to all singers and the Board
  - Special Thank-you to Popadija Jelena for her dedication

# MINISTRIES

- SUNDAY SCHOOL:
  - Thank-you to our dedicated teaching staff (5 teachers) for their love for our children and our church
  - Thank-you to Desa Elwell for coordinating our Sunday School program

# MINISTRIES

- SERBIAN SCHOOL “NIKOLA TESLA”:
  - Thank-you to our everyone for your heard work
  - Tremendous success this year – enrollment increased significantly = testimony to the quality of our program
  - will be exploring possibilities for cooperation with the Embassy of Serbia in obtaining new teaching materials as a donation from the Government of Serbia

# MINISTRIES

- FOLKLORE GROUP “PRELO”:
  - Children’s section
  - Adult section
  - Consider joining this important cultural program
  - Huge Thank-you to staff and members for enriching our cultural programs

# MINISTRIES

- BOOKSTORE

- Thank you to Reader John Buffalini for heading this ministry
- Improved and enriched offer of items
- Thank-you to Stanko Tomic and his friends for donating the shelving for display and organization of the Bookstore/Gift Shop

# MINISTRIES

- SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS:
  - Thank-you to our Circle of Serbian Sisters
  - Thank-you to Nena Djokic for agreeing to step in when necessary

# EVENTS 2018

- DETINJCI
- ST. SAVA CELEBRATION
- ANNUAL FUNDRAIZER
- SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

# EVENTS 2018

- VRBICA RETREAT
- SERB FEST DC 2018
- END OF SCHOOL YEAR
- LECTURE BY FR. ARSENIJE JOVANOVIC



# EVENTS 2018

- CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF WWI
  - 12 SEPARATE EVENTS IN 5 DAYS

# EVENTS 2018

- VISIT OF FR. ANDREJ OF DECANI  
MONASTERY IN KOSOVO AND METOHIJA
- INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE  
BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR

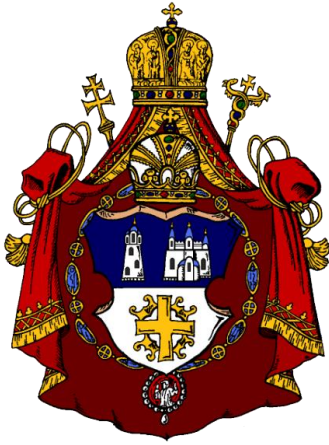
# EVENTS 2018

- PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND
- PERFORMANCE OF "TALIJA" FOLKLORE GROUP
- CHURCH SLAVA
- VISIT OF THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION OF THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MONTENEGRO

# THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!

- DEDICATION:
  - Tireless Help and Assistance
  - Generous Donations
  - Candle Shop
  - Choir
  - Kitchen
  - Festival

**THANK YOU  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
TRUSTEESHIP, ALL AUXILIARY  
PARISH ORGANIZATIONS  
AND  
YOU - OUR PARISHIONERS**



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### 2018 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 2, 2018

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

As our fiscal year draws to a close, we conclude the first year of Father Vasilije's tenure with our parish and I am happy to report that the parish has welcomed Fr. Vasilije and his family to our community with open arms. Father, popadija Jelena, Petar & Mila have quickly become a part of our parish and the local community.

On behalf of the Trusteeship, I have the following to report from our parish from the last year:

1. After over 8 and a half years in our current roles on the Trusteeship, Pete Bizic and I will be resigning our positions effective December 31, 2018. We are willing to stay on as members-at-large of the Trusteeship and the Trusteeship & the Diocese are working together to determine appropriate replacements for these positions. I would like to thank Pete as both a parishioner and as a member of the Trusteeship for his selfless & tireless efforts on behalf of the parish during his tenure.
2. We commemorated all major Orthodox feast days – particularly the Feast of St. Sava and our St. Luke Slava - with very well-received events.
3. The parish auxiliary groups – Kolo Srpskih Sestara, the Bratstvo, SSS "Lira", Sunday School, Children's Choir, Folklore Group "Prelo" and the Serbian School 'Nikola Tesla' – continue to do their good work to support the parish; the details of their activities are contained in separate reports (attached). I would like to thank all the auxiliary groups for their work in supporting our parish and representing our faith & culture in an exemplary fashion.
4. We held our Serbian Food & Cultural Festival (SerbFest DC) in May this past year. This event continues to fulfill valuable missions for our parish in terms of bringing awareness to

our parish within our local community and raising funds for the continued operation of our parish.

5. The parish e-mail distribution list keeps growing and continues to be the primary means of communication in the parish; e-mail distribution lists also continue to be used by the parish auxiliary groups. Social media has grown significantly as a means of communication as well.
6. All parish communications continue to be posted on the web site for access to all of our parishioners.
7. Policies and procedures to ensure compliance with Article 26 of the Uniform Rules & Regulations of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North & South America which were drafted and implemented in January 2011 continue to be used.
8. A stewardship plan with annual pledges for the ongoing care and maintenance of our parish and facilities which was drafted and implemented in January 2011 continues to be used; a pledge form for 2019 is attached.
9. Refinancing Initiative – in late October, through the initiative of Aleksandar Terzic, a small group of parishioners started a grass-roots campaign to raise funds to reduce our loan principal by securing loans from other parishioners at half the interest rate that our lender was proposing to charge us. Thankfully, we have exceeded all expectations – the committee raised over \$130,000 – roughly one-third at half the interest rate, one-third at zero percent interest and one-third as donations. The latter 2 categories came unsolicited through the generosity of our parishioners. Thank you to Aleksandar and the Refinancing Initiative Committee for all their efficient work on a very tight timeline.
10. Candle Business – through the initiative of Dejan Bujak, we have started the process of making our own beeswax candles which we are planning on marketing online and selling to other churches. Our candle-making equipment is scheduled to arrive later this month and we are planning to ramp up production in early 2019. We are hopeful that this business will create much-needed revenue for the parish. Thank you to Dejan Bujak and his team for all their work on this project.
11. After 4 years in our new parish facility, our parish continues to struggle to make ends meet financially. The parish leadership continues to explore ways to try & generate additional income and to control expenses, but the single most important source of financial support needs to come directly from our parishioners.
  - a. Despite the challenges, the Trusteeship has been working diligently since June of this year to secure refinancing for our loan which terms out December 12, 2018; thankfully, we were able to secure terms for our loan in early October and approval in early November (term sheet and commitment letter are attached).
  - b. On November 28, we received a letter from the Diocese stating that the Diocese is no longer willing to guarantee our loan and that they suggest we consider other options.

This decision had 2 immediate effects (1) it caused great strain on the process of the transaction already in place and (2) it put our ability to stay in our church and parish facility at great risk.

- c. On November 29, the Trusteeship held an emergency meeting to discuss the situation regarding the loan guarantee. Great concern and dismay were expressed at the substance and timing of the decision, in particular the latter.
- d. On December 1, I participated in a conference call with a majority of the members of the Diocesan Administrative Board. The outcome of the call was that (1) the Diocese is willing to continue with the guarantee for as short a term as our lender will agree to and (2) the Diocese wishes for us to try to find alternate financing or guarantors for the loan within 6 months and if that is not successful to put the property up for sale. The Diocese is adamant that they do not wish to remain on as a guarantor; it is also clear that the Diocese is not willing to keep supporting us financially, despite the obvious consequences for our parish if we have to sell the property.
- e. The Trusteeship is going to work diligently on completing our transaction with United Bank in the coming days and then focusing on next steps for the parish. We will communicate significant developments & results as things unfold.

I encourage all parishioners to participate in parish life as fully as possible as any community is only as strong as the level of participation in it. Come to church, bring your children to Sunday School, join one of our parish groups, volunteer for an event – or even better yet – come to the parish leadership with a new idea which you would like to implement.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Parish Trusteeship for their continued work on behalf of the parish.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mark A. Rasevic*

President, Trusteeship

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church





October 2, 2018

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church  
c/o Mark Rasevic  
10660 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854

Re: Modification of existing United Bank loan # 12380467-9001 to the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, secured by a 1<sup>st</sup> Deed of Trust on the Subject Property located at 10660 River Road, Potomac, Maryland, 20854.

Dear Mr. Rasevic:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the proposed terms and conditions under which United Bank (the "Bank") is willing to consider a request for the financing of the referenced property. **Please note that this letter is not intended in any way to commit or obligate the Bank to lend you money or otherwise extend credit to you for any purpose.** This letter is, instead, intended to facilitate discussion between you and the Bank regarding your loan request. The proposed terms are as follows:

Borrower: St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

Guarantor: Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America

Loan Amount: Up to \$2,044,387.77, or the outstanding loan balance on or before 12/10/18 - not exceed 70% of the appraised "As-Is" market value, to be determined by a new appraisal to be ordered by the Bank.

Purpose: To modify existing United Bank loan # 12380467-9001 to the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, secured by a 1<sup>st</sup> deed of trust on the Subject Property located at 10660 River Road, Potomac, Maryland, 20854.

Term: The Loan will mature 10 Years from the day of closing.

Rate: 5.75% fixed for ten (10) years.

Repayment: The Borrower will be responsible for monthly Principal and Interest Payments based upon a 22-year amortization. Borrower recognizes the property must operate at no less than a 1.00x Debt Service Coverage Ratio ("DSCR") as determined by the Bank; measured annually.

Prepayment

Premium: 3-3-2-1-0%. Prepayment penalty applies to a refinance with another institution. There will be no prepayment penalty charged in the event of a true third-party sale.

Loan Fee: The loan fee will be one-quarter percent of the loan amount (\$5,110.97) assuming a \$2,044,387.77 Loan Amount.

Security: 1<sup>st</sup> DOT and an assignment of all rents, leases, management and security agreement on the subject property currently known as St Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, located at 10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

Appraisal: The Bank will engage an appraisal, which the cost is to be borne by Borrower, whether or not the subject loan closes. Acceptance of the appraisal is subject to review/approval of the Bank.

Deposit

Requirement: The Borrower (through itself and related entities) will establish and maintain its primary operating account with United Bank.

Other:

Prior to settlement, the Bank must receive an acceptable environmental report.

Verification of liquidity for the Guarantor (receipt acknowledged)

Borrower to maintain the project deposit account with the Bank.

No further liens or encumbrances will be permitted.

Timing

Requirements: In order for this term sheet to remain valid, the executed term sheet along with a check for \$10,000 must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

Unless accepted by 5:00 p.m. on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 United Bank reserves the right to cancel or amend the terms and conditions of this letter without notification. This is not a commitment by the Bank nor is it an offer to lend money. United will have to be satisfied as to the value of the property, the credit capacity of the borrower(s) and guarantor(s), the acceptability of all legal documents as well as other conditions incorporated into United's formal credit review and approval process.

In order for United Bank to proceed with your loan request, we need you to sign and return this term sheet and the other requested information along with a check for \$10,000 to be applied toward the appraisal, the structural and the origination fee. Should the loan request be approved at substantially the same terms as outlined above, then the origination fee is deemed earned and payable.

Please call with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you and want to thank you for considering United Bank for this request.

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church  
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Sincerely,

Joshua J. Phillips  
Senior Vice President – Commercial Lending  
United Bank

THE FOREGOING TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE HEREBY ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO  
THIS 22 DAY OF October, 2018. ~~ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR \$10,000.00  
MADE PAYABLE TO UNITED BANK.~~ *WJ*

BORROWER: St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

By:   
Authorized Signer

*Mark A. Rasenc*  
*President, Trustees*



## Balance Sheet St Luke Candles

#	Account	Nov 28, 2018
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash</b>		
1020	United Bank Account	\$10,566.03
<b>Total Cash</b>		<b>\$10,566.03</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>\$10,566.03</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
1300	Furniture & Equipment	\$12,743.02
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>\$12,743.02</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$23,309.05</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		
2301	Dejan Bujak	\$21,254.97
2304	Milutin Djurickovic	\$553.00
2302	St Luke Church	\$6,049.50
2303	Viktor Isailovic	\$1,055.00
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>		<b>\$28,912.47</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$28,912.47</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
<b>Equity from Earnings</b>		
Net Income		\$-5,603.42
<b>Total Equity from Earnings</b>		<b>\$-5,603.42</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$-5,603.42</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		<b>\$23,309.05</b>

Created on November 28, 2018

# Income Statement

## St Luke Candles

#	Account	Jan 1 - Nov 28, 2018
<b>Expenses</b>		
5520	Bank Charges & Interest Expense	\$100.00
5002	Beeswax	\$2,233.83
5600	Meals & Entertainment Expense	\$52.47
5620	Office Expense	\$465.59
5003	Office Supplies	\$396.19
5640	Professional Dues/Memberships/Licenses/Subscriptions Expense	\$348.65
5660	Professional Services Expense	\$1,849.50
5001	Wicks	\$157.19
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$5,603.42</b>
Net Income		\$-5,603.42

Created on November 28, 2018



November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church  
c/o Mark Rasevic  
10660 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854

Re: Modification of existing United Bank loan # 12380467-9001 to the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, secured by a 1<sup>st</sup> Deed of Trust on the Subject Property located at 10660 River Road, Potomac, Maryland, 20854.

Dear Mr. Rasevic:

We are pleased to advise you that United Bank (“**Bank**”) has approved your commercial mortgage loan (“**Loan**”) request, subject to the terms and conditions outlined in this letter (this “**Commitment**”).

Borrower: St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

Guarantor: Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America

Loan Amount: \$2,070,000 - not exceed 70% of the appraised “As-Is” market value, to be determined by a new appraisal to be ordered by the Bank (receipt and satisfactory review acknowledged).

Purpose: To modify existing United Bank loan # 12380467-9001 to the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, secured by a 1<sup>st</sup> Deed of Trust on the Subject Property located at 10660 River Road, Potomac, Maryland, 20854, as well as an assignment of all rents, leases, management and security agreements.

Term: The Loan will mature 10 Years from the date of the Note.

Rate: 5.75% fixed for ten (10) years.

Repayment: The Borrower will be responsible for monthly Principal and Interest Payments based upon a 22-year amortization. Borrower recognizes the property must operate at no less than a 1.00x Debt Service Coverage Ratio (“DSCR”) as determined by the Bank; measured annually.

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church  
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Prepayment

Premium: 3-3-2-1-0%. Prepayment penalty applies to a refinance with another institution. There will be no prepayment penalty charged in the event of a true third-party sale.

Loan Fee: The loan fee will be one-quarter percent of the loan amount (\$5,175.00) assuming a \$2,070,000 Loan Amount.

Security: 1<sup>st</sup> DOT and an assignment of all rents, leases, management and security agreement on the subject property currently known as St Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, located at 10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

Appraisal: The Bank will engage an appraisal, which the cost is to be borne by Borrower, whether or not the subject loan closes. Acceptance of the appraisal is subject to review/approval of the Bank (acknowledged).

Insurance: Borrower would be required to maintain insurances covering all such risks and in such amounts as Bank requires. Such insurance policies may include, but would not be limited to, property and casualty, builder's risk, terrorism, earthquake, flood and any such other insurances. All insurance policies will be in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank and written by insurance company(ies) acceptable to Bank.

Title

Insurance: Bank will be covered by a satisfactory title insurance policy which would insure a first-priority lien position on all real property, subject only to exceptions approved by the Bank.

Flood Certification: Prior to closing Bank would require satisfactory evidence that the Project is not located in a federally determined flood zone.

Financial Reporting: During the Loan Term the Borrower will provide the Bank with the following:

- Annual Borrower financial statement within 90-days of fiscal year end and Annual Borrower federal tax return within 30-days of filing (if applicable)
- Annual Guarantor financial statements within 90-days of fiscal year end and Annual Borrower federal tax return within 30-days of filing (if applicable)
- Other information the Bank may reasonably request to include interim financial statements and other information.

Deposit

Requirement: The Borrower (through itself and related entities) will establish and maintain its

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church  
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primary operating account with United Bank.

Other: Prior to settlement, the Bank must receive an acceptable environmental report (acknowledged).

Verification of liquidity for the Guarantor (receipt acknowledged)

Borrower to maintain the project deposit account with the Bank.

No further liens or encumbrances will be permitted.

Timing

Requirements: Please return the signed commitment executed term sheet along with a check for \$10,000 by 5:00 p.m. on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Please call with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you and want to thank you for banking with United Bank.

Sincerely,

Joshua J. Phillips  
Senior Vice President – Commercial Lending  
United Bank

THE FOREGOING TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE HEREBY ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO THIS 6 DAY OF November, 2018. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR \$10,000.00 MADE PAYABLE TO UNITED BANK.



St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church  
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BORROWER: St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

By:   
Authorized Signer

Mark Rasovic  
Trusteeship President

## Balance Sheet

As of November 30, 2018

	Nov 30, 18
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Loan Refinance Initiative Acct	21,000.00
United Bank Checking (New Checking Account)	1,455.10
Total Checking/Savings	22,455.10
Other Current Assets	
Loan To Candle Business (Loans/Payments made to candle business from checking. Funds to be repaid on date TBD.)	6,049.50
Total Other Current Assets	6,049.50
Total Current Assets	28,504.60
Fixed Assets	
Furniture & Fixtures	32,651.54
Improvements	102,190.32
River Road Property	1,240,900.51
Total Fixed Assets	1,375,742.37
Other Assets	
Design,Engr,Permits,Consultants	
Capital Campaign Expenses	47,288.51
X. Construction	2,670,563.48
Total Design,Engr,Permits,Consultants	2,717,851.99
Fidelity (Stocks/Investments)	991.50
Total Other Assets	2,718,843.49
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,123,090.46</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable (Unpaid or unapplied vendor bills or credits)	48,763.50
Total Accounts Payable	48,763.50
Other Current Liabilities	
IMT Design Construction Balance (Balance due to IMT Design for Construction.)	13,500.00
Micich Loan (Funds owed to Father Aleksa for residence renovations.)	40,000.00
Rasevic Loan (Short-Term Loan for Cash Flow)	3,500.00
Sagres Construction Balance (Balance due to Sagres for Construction)	6,264.08
Total Other Current Liabilities	63,264.08
Total Current Liabilities	112,027.58
Long Term Liabilities	
Mortgage - United Bank	2,036,408.55
Refinance Parishioner Loans	
Parishioner Loan 005	10,000.00
Parishioner Loan 015	1,000.00
Parishioner Loan 016	2,000.00
Parishioner Loan 018	5,000.00
Parishioner Loan 019	1,000.00
Parishioner Loan 020	1,000.00
Parishioner Loan 022	1,000.00
Total Refinance Parishioner Loans	21,000.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	2,057,408.55
Total Liabilities	2,169,436.13
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	206,766.80
Retained Earnings	1,737,252.69
Net Income	9,634.84
Total Equity	1,953,654.33
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>4,123,090.46</b>

INCOME FOR 2018

2019

BUDGET

ANTICIPATED

INCOME

<u>SOURCES</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL - ADJUSTED</u>	<u>ANTICIPATED</u>
I. <u>INCOME</u>	<u>GROSS INCOME</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
<u>CHURCH - Worship</u>			
Weekly offerings - Tasa	\$103,292.00	\$103,292.00	\$105,000.00
Christmas Offering	\$15,784.00	\$15,784.00	\$15,000.00
Easter Offering	\$11,428.00	\$11,428.00	\$11,500.00
Church Slava - Offering	\$5,641.00	\$5,641.00	\$5,500.00
Rituals (Trebe) Taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Candles	\$26,559.00	* \$22,753.00	\$25,000.00
Sales - Religious Articles	\$744.00	* <b>(\$1,697.00)</b>	\$2,000.00
Other _____	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>II. CONGREGATION</u>			
Membership/Stewardship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pledges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$40,503.00	\$40,503.00	\$30,000.00
Donations (Stocks/Securities)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Fund	\$126,231.00	* \$0.00	\$130,000.00
Rentals	\$4,250.00	\$4,250.00	\$5,000.00
Refunds/Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cemetery	\$0.00	* \$0.00	\$0.00
<u>III. SOCIALS, FUND-RAISING</u>			
Catering	\$0.00	* \$0.00	\$0.00
Banquets, Socials, etc.	\$26,687.00	* \$9,134.00	\$12,500.00
Special Events	\$22,269.00	* \$3,986.00	\$5,000.00
Ongoing Fund-raising Activity:			
<b>(SerbFest, Annual Fundraiser)</b>	\$69,973.00	* \$7,929.00	\$70,000.00
Other (Miscellaneous) List:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Interest Earned</b>	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00

TOTAL ACTUAL INCOME: \$453,371.00

\$417,510.00

TOTAL ADJUSTED INCOME:

\$223,003.00

(note: Figures in "Actual Adjusted Income" column are identical to those in "Actual Income:" except the items noted by an asterisk\*)

EXPENDITURES (DISBURSEMENTS) IN 2018

BUDGET - 2019

PROPOSED

EXPENDITURES

<u>I.</u>	<u>CHURCH - WORSHIP</u>	<u>ACTUAL:</u>	
	Wine, prosfora, oil, etc.	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
	Altar inventory acquisitions: Vestment utensils, books, articles, etc.)	<u>\$3,972.00</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
	Candles, icons, incense	<u>\$3,806.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
	Purchases: saleable items, Rel. articles, books, etc.	<u>\$2,441.00</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
<u>II.</u>	<u>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</u>		
	Church School Materials - Textbooks	<u>\$66.00</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
	Supplies & Furnishings	<u>\$1,734.00</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
	School Activities	<u>\$188.00</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
	Awards & Gifts	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
	Library purchases & Visual Aids	<u>\$372.00</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
	Subscriptions to Periodicals, ect.	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Teachers: Conference expenses - Travel, ect.	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
<u>III.</u>	<u>DIOCESE</u>		
	9% Gross Assessment of Cong. Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Diocese Day sponsored by Parish	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Donations	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
	Travel - Bishop/Dean	<u>\$626.00</u>	<u>\$700.00</u>
<u>IV.</u>	<u>DONATIONS BY CONGREGATION</u>		
	Charities	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	ST. SAVA CHURCH -VRACAR	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Gifts	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<u>V.</u>	<u>PRIEST</u>		
	Salary	<u>\$36,000.00</u>	<u>\$36,000.00</u>
	Benefits (SS, Pen. Plan Hosp Ins.)	<u>\$30,235.00</u>	<u>\$33,000.00</u>
	Gasoline allowance	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
	Utilities -Rectory (or Housing)	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Substitute (or vacation pay)	<u>\$4,362.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>

<u>VI.</u>	<u>OTHER PERSONNEL</u>		
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>VII.</u>	<u>OFFICES - ADMINISTRATION</u>		
	Equipment purchases & maintenance	\$1,146.00	\$500.00
	Delegate's Travel	\$0.00	\$250.00
	Supplies	\$10,679.00	\$5,000.00
	Postage	\$1,702.00	\$1,750.00
	Bank Charge	\$5,221.00	\$5,000.00
<u>VIII.</u>	<u>BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS</u>		
	Mortgage payments on _____	\$175,625.00	\$156,000.00
	Insurances	\$5,512.00	\$5,512.00
	Taxes	\$1,169.00	\$1,200.00
	Utilites (Church, Hall, School)	\$29,670.00	\$30,000.00
	Supplies	\$5,259.00	\$5,000.00
	Maintenance	\$19,481.00	\$10,000.00
	Equipment	\$1,335.00	\$0.00
	Improvements <b>(Construction)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Cemetery	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Other: <b>(Storage)</b>	\$5,224.00	\$5,300.00
<u>IX.</u>	<u>SOCIALS: FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES, ETC.</u>		
	Church Slava	\$0.00	\$500.00
	Banquets/ dinners, etc.	\$17,553.00	\$12,000.00
	Catering expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Special Events - expenses	\$18,283.00	\$2,500.00
	On-Going Fund Raising	\$62,044.00	\$50,000.00
	Other:	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>X.</u>	<u>MISCELLANEOUS (LIST)</u>		
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (EXPENSES)	\$450,205.00	\$385,512.00
<hr/>			
	PROPOSED 2019 INCOME:		\$417,510.00
	PROPOSED 2019 EXPENSES:		\$385,512.00
	NET INCOME/(LOSS)		\$31,998.00

**2018 Sunday School Summary**  
**St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church Sunday School**  
**Potomac, MD**  
**Submitted by Desanka Elwell, Sunday School Administrator**

Our Sunday School program provides an educational opportunity for our parish children to grow and learn in their faith. The curriculum that we provide to the students' is age-appropriate and encourages them to think about how they can apply the teachings of the Church and the Bible to their daily lives. We continue to have a solid Sunday School program with 20 families enrolling a total of 35 students; on a weekly basis we have an average attendance of 15 students.

Our Sunday School program would not be successful if we didn't have the dedicated teachers that we have: John Buffalini (grades 6-12), Desa Elwell (grades 3-5) and Dejan Bujak (grades pre-K - 3), who continue to show their love of their church, their faith and the children every week with their well-prepared lessons. The children who attend each Sunday are eager to learn and always amaze us with their knowledge.

We could not have a Sunday School program without the support of our priest, church board, parish and especially the parents who bring their children. As adults, we all have a responsibility to teach our children that their faith is important and must be "fed" and cared for, just as we feed and care for our bodies. As we look ahead, we hope that each and every one of you will continue to support and nurture our Sunday School program by making sure that your children regularly attend Divine Liturgy, partake of Holy Communion and Confession and regularly attend Sunday School.

Highlights of the past year:

- January 2018 at the annual parish St Sava program, our Sunday School students' recited poems and our oldest students presented a reading on the life of St Sava.
- The Sunday School families hosted the Cheesefare Sunday coffee hour luncheon, this is one the Sunday School's largest fundraiser of the school year. The students did an amazing job preparing, serving and cleaning up, with minimal help from the parents and teachers.
- A number of our Sunday School students volunteered at SerbFestDC this past May, and many look forward to helping serve their community at future SerbFest's.
- At the end of the Sunday School year, we celebrated all of our Sunday School students. We had two seniors graduate this past year – Natasha B. and Teodora H., each was presented with an icon to take to university.
- The National Youth Conference was in Cleveland Ohio, one student was scheduled to attend.
- At the end of July, six Sunday School Students, greeted Bishop Irinej and Bishop Maxim when they were in Washington DC for Hierarchal Liturgy at the Commemoration of the Centennial of "The Day the Serbian Flag flew at the White House".
- We welcomed the children and families back to Sunday School in September with a Welcome Back Bruch hosted by the Sunday School Teachers.

# Why I Would Never Force my Kids to go to Church

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Posted on [March 24, 2014](#) by Ruth Meyer

*My parents forced me to eat three times a day growing up. No joke. Three times. Every. Single. Day. And it wasn't always stuff I liked, either. Matter of fact, I complained a lot about what my mom made. "Ewww, gross! Sautéed zucchini? Seriously? Mom, you know we hate this stuff!" So as I approached adulthood I made an important decision. Since my parents forced me to eat while I was growing up, I decided I was done with meals. Oh, here and there I'll eat out of obligation. I mean, family traditions like Thanksgiving and Christmas, yeah, I'm there. But daily eating? No way. I'm done.*

Set in any other context, excuses people make for not going to church sound completely ridiculous. But set in the context of Christianity, people say these things in all seriousness while others nod sagely in somber agreement.

*My son told me a few weeks into school that he didn't like the teacher. He wasn't getting excited enough about learning, and he didn't really feel connected to the other kids in his class, so I told him he never had to go back to school again. Who wants to waste their time going somewhere where they aren't being fulfilled?*

*We've never forced our daughter to stay off the road when playing. We don't want to restrict her imagination. We allow her the freedom to make her own choices in life.*

Okay, Ruth. Come on. That one was just ridiculous. No loving parent would ever say that. That's a safety issue- a matter of life and death. Exactly. And that's just my point.

Church isn't a place you go to get pumped up about life. It isn't entertainment like a movie or concert. It is literally a life and death matter. Eternal life. Just as a loving parent wouldn't allow their child to wander in the road or to quit school, a loving Christian parent also does not give the option to their children about going to church, learning Bible stories at home, and praying together. Do your kids always jump for joy when they hear you say, "Time to get up! Let's get ready for church!" No. They won't. Do they get excited for school every morning? Hardly. But you still make them go. Why? Because you are the parent and you know what's best. Even when they complain, you serve them healthful meals and limit their junk food intake. You set boundaries for their own safety when playing outside. You insist they go to school because you're looking at the long term picture. And you are right to do those things. How much more so are you responsible for doing all you can to secure their eternal well being?

Yes, kids can be brought up in a loving Christian home and still turn away later. That's on them. But you, parents, have a task of the utmost importance. God has placed these precious

children into your homes for such a brief while. You have them with you for perhaps 1/5 of their lives. Set a strong foundation while they are under your roof. Take them to church. Make sure they understand that they are sinners and that Jesus is their Savior. They are never too young to learn this. My one-and-a-half year old sees a cross and excitedly shouts, "Jesus!" Don't use the excuse that "they wouldn't understand this." Try them. I don't understand it all myself, but I still believe. And you'd better believe that the Holy Spirit works in their hearts effectively. My children sometime amaze me with the insights they pick up during devotions or Bible readings. The strength of their faith often humbles me. Once when I was having a terrible day, my oldest asked, "Can I pray with you?" He was nine at the time. He knows there is power in prayer. He perceives that sometimes there's nothing he can say that will make it better, so he'll just go straight to the One who does have that power. Do my own kids complain about church? Yes. Do they tell me it's boring? Sometimes, yes. They say the same things about school. But church and school are different environments for a reason. School is centered around learning and thus has its own schedule and structure. Church is a hospital for sinners. That would be all of us, mind you. You, me, the drug dealer a few streets away- all of us are sinners in need of a Savior. So what do we do at church? We confess our sins. Why do we do this at the start? To "wipe our feet" before entering God's house, so to speak. Then we are assured of forgiveness. We hear God's Word. We sing hymns proclaiming what Christ has done for us. We hear sermons where our pastors preach Christ. We don't go to church to hear what we have to do to gain heaven. No, Christ did it all. 100%. We can't do one thing to merit salvation for ourselves. That's why we hear sermons about Jesus and not about us. We take the body and blood of Jesus in Holy Communion for the strength of our souls. And we depart refreshed to serve God by serving our families, friends, and neighbors in Christian love.

So parents, don't give in to outside pressures telling you not to force your kids to go to church. Don't give in to *them*, either, when they complain about it. Because at some point an amazing thing happens- that kid who complains about church grows up and takes his or her own kids to church every Sunday. Going back to my opening analogy, believe it or not, there came a point in my own life where I realized I actually *liked* sautéed zucchini (although I never would have admitted that to my mother). Keep at it, parents. Just as we need three meals a day for physical strength and nourishment, so do we need regular worship to refresh and strengthen our souls. Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to go make breakfast.



# **St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church Choir**

## **Serbian Singing Society “Lira”**

### **Director’s Report**

Since December 2017 the Choir of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church continued to regularly sing responses at the Sunday Divine Liturgies. In the beginning of 2018 the choir had a number of special rehearsals and prepared for the performances at St. Sava Celebration and the parish’s Annual Fundraiser.

In March, the choir started with weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00pm. Initially, the goal was to prepare for the Easter services, but it was later decided to keep the regular rehearsals and work on building the choir toward organizing into a Serbian Singing Society that would also join the Serbian Singing Federation of the US and Canada.

After Easter, the choir expanded its repertoire and prepared a few secular folk songs that were performed together with the Children’s Choir at our SerbFest in May. This performance showcased our Serbian musical heritage to the wider audience, but also gave more visibility to our choir. We are happy to say that after that performance we gained a few new singers who now very regularly and actively participate in the life of the choir.

On May 30, the SSS Lira was officially established and elected its first executive board. This was a wonderful structural beginning of the choir’s first large project – celebration of the Day Serbian Flag Flew at the White House. The choir had a big role in the celebration – Concert of Serbian Patriotic songs from WWI, Pan-Orthodox Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral, performance at the Banquet and Hierarchical Liturgy at St. Luke’s Church. LIRA diligently prepared for two months and was joined by a few singers from pan-orthodox community of the DC area, as well as the wider Serbian choral community, and successfully added to the magnificence of the whole celebration. Through this project, the choir built its repertoire with music of other Orthodox jurisdictions and Serbian folk songs, and also improved its general tone and level of musicianship.

In September, Lira performed a selection of Serbian folk songs at St. Nicholas Cathedral’s annual Bazaar, at our own Slava celebration in October and are currently preparing for the Christmas season and services. The choir is also planning a concert of Serbian Christmas music at the Sunrise Retirement Home where two of our parishioners live and will also try to organize Christmas caroling at the homes of our shut-in elderly parishioners.

Popadija Jelena Vranic  
Choir Director  
S.S.S. Lira

## President's Report

Under the tutelage of our Director Popadija Jelena Vranic we have grown by leaps and bounds as a choir this past year. With regular practices we have become a more cohesive group that has been able to be more visible within our parish and in the greater Orthodox community.

As mentioned above, on May 30, 2018 we adopted by-laws and became Serbian Singing Society Lira and a member choir of the Serbian Singing Federation of North America. We currently have 23 regular members. Our choir executive consists of Colleen Bizic (President), Mirjana Marden (Vice President), Matthew Marcetich (Treasurer), and Vera El-Hinnawy (Secretary). Our audit board consists of Natalie Visnick, Branko Terzic and Alexandra Zarembo.

Our director has been assisted in conducting by myself, Zoran Bucalo and Nevena Arizanovic on the few occasions that she has been unable to conduct the Liturgy.

As mentioned in the director's report we have had an active year. Our goals moving forward in 2019 will be working to establish a concert weekend, fundraising events and our choir Slava.

Colleen Bizic  
President  
S.S.S. Lira

# **St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church Children's Choir**

## **Director's Report**

The Children's Choir of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church was started in December 2017, for children ages 5 and older, with the intention of introducing our children to the Serbian sacred and secular musical tradition.

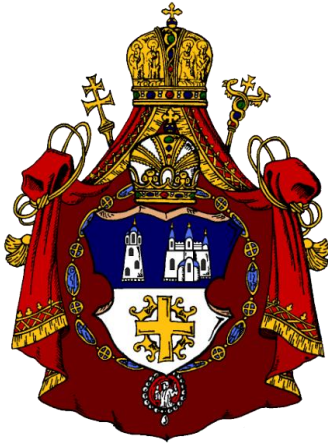
In the 2017-18 school year our rehearsals were held on Sundays in the church itself. The time frame (12-12:30pm) was such so that it would fit right between the Sunday School class and children's folklore practice.

Last school year we had 12 singers who attended rehearsals regularly and 8 who would join rehearsals only occasionally. The Children's Choir sang in church together with the adult choir at the services on Badnje vece, Christmas and Easter, they performed at St. Sava Celebration and also at our SerbFest in May. Our last year's repertoire consisted of liturgical, spiritual, and traditional Serbian folk songs.

This school year, Children's Choir is holding rehearsals on Fridays from 6:15-7:00pm, right before Folklor practices. The change in the schedule was made so that Sundays are a bit less hectic and more relaxed for our children. Our rehearsals are in the church hall where we have the privilege of using the piano donated to our church through the efforts and generosity of Radmila Bozic and Sanja Grujic-Vlajnic. We thank them for finding this piano for our church and tuning it so we can use it for our choirs.

The choir has 15 registered children this year. The children have already sung at the Church Slava and are now preparing for the Christmas services and St. Sava. Our repertoire this year will include songs from the Divine Liturgy so that the children can join the adult choir when they are in church. Right now we are also learning a few Christmas songs – folk and children's, and are starting on our St. Sava repertoire.

Popadija Jelena Vranic  
Children's Choir Director



## St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

[www.svluka.org](http://www.svluka.org)

### 2018 Kolo Report

The Kolo is extremely grateful for collaborative support of Fr. Vasilije and Trusteeship, and most importantly all the parishioners for helping make 2018 a successful year of service. The Kolo played an integral role in hosting and supporting various programs and receptions this past year, starting with the Christmas Eve dinner and bake sale. In collaboration with other auxiliary organizations at St. Luke and help from parish volunteers, the Kolo successfully organized the following events:

St. Sava Program and Reception, SerbFest 2018, 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI, Slava Celebrations for Mala Gospojina and Parents Association, Talija Folklore Performance and Reception. St. Luke Slava.

Under the supervision of Snezana Djokic, the Kolo took over the role of organizing weekly Sunday post-liturgy luncheons and coffee hours. Throughout the year, our membership has grown around 20 new members.

This past year the membership has grown to more than 20 women, we encourage all women who wish to be part of a collaborating and welcoming service community to join us.

The officers are as listed:

President: Nina Lojanica

Vice President: Snezana Djokic

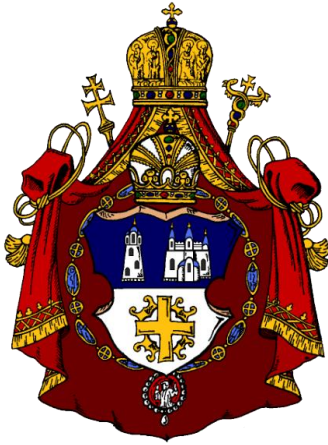
Secretary: Snezana Mikasinovic

Treasurer: Joyce Visnick

Financial Secretary: Marija Eremic

Members-at-Large: Julika Basaric, Colleen Bizic, Stana Grcic, Judith Terzic

Submitted by Nina Lojanica, President of Mala Gospojina, Circle of Serbian Sisters



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Наша Српска школа “Никола Тесла” наставља са успешним радом и у четвртој години постојања. Као и до сада циљ школе је да се одржи српски језик у нашој парохији и да се деца што више заинтересују за српску историју, културу и традицију. Исто тако важно је и међусобно дружење деце и играње, али и дружење њихових родитеља што доприноси успостављању јачих веза у нашој парохији.

Поред класичне наставе, часова и учења, деца уживају и у припреми представа као и у радионицама које подучавају неговање српске традиције (имамо часове традиционалног кувања, правимо украсе и китимо Бадњак, имамо активности за празник Врбице, фарбамо јаја за Ускрс и сл.) На крају школске године, деца добијају дипломе и сви заједно прослављамо школску славу Св цара Константина и царицу Јелену. Тим поводом организујемо прославу са вечером и музиком и скупимо мали али значајан новчани допринос нашој цркви (\$2500).

Ове 2018/19 на нашој листи имамо 56 пријављених детета за похађање школе. Деца су подељена у 5 група, по узрасту и нивоу знања српског језика.

У најмањој групи ([3 до 6 год](#)) имамо 15 ученика. Настава се одвија кроз песму и игру. Трудимо се да уз интерактивно учење деца науче основне појмове и једноставну конверзацију на српском језику. Највеселији део часа за млађу групу као и за родитеље су дечије песме и игре из Србије. Такође, најмлађе упознајемо и са српским народним баснама и бајкама.

Средња група ([7 до 10 год](#)) је најбројнија (20 ученика) и подељена је на две подгрупе:

- а) деца која знају да пишу и читају ћирилицу,
- б) деца која незнају да пишу али разумеју српски језик.

Средња ([7-10 год](#)) и старија група ([11-15 год](#)) имају поред часа српског језика и час историје и географије. Први део часа базиран је на причама из српске историје док на другом делу часа ученици уз помоћ географске карте уче о природним лепотама Републике Србије. Деца су савладала основне географске појмове као и сналажење на географској карти.

У петој групи, по годинама мешовитој групи, спадају деца која не причају српски језик. Уз добро организовану наставу за њихов ниво знања, ова деца такође показују интересовање и напредак у учењу.

Ученици редовно добијају и домаће задатке које успешно завршавају.

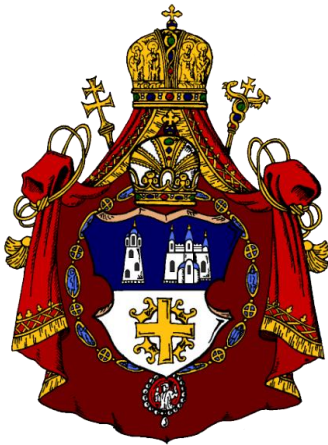
Школарина за ову школску годину је \$160 (\$20 x 8 месеци), што покрива трошкове потрошног материјала.

Часови се одржавају сваке друге недеље [од 1:00-3:00](#) у просторијама наше Цркве. Између часова је одмор од 30 мин. када деца имају ужину и слободну игру у Црквеном дворишту.

Захваљујемо се свим нашим учитељима-предавачима на великом труду и раду у организацији школе као и свим родитељима који редовно доводе своју децу, без којих наша школа не би могла да постоји.

Хвала пуно!

Тим Српске школе



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Folklorna grupa Prelo ima za cilj ocuvanje srpske tradicije, kulture, pesme i igre. Trudimo se da sacuvamo od zaborava autenticne korake srpskih kola iz svih nashih krajeva i da se podsetimo divnih srpskih obicaja iz davnina. Nasa prva koreografilja "Prelo" kroz igre iz Sumadijei Leskovca opisuje stari srpski obicaj pripremanja darova za svadbeno veselje. Trenutno vezbamo svakog petka od 20:00 do 21:00 casova i spremamo gradske igre iz okoline Beograda. Odrasla grupa trenutno broji 15 clanova. Nasu ljubav prema pesmi i igri prenosimo i na nasu decu. Srecni smo da prijavimo da ove godine u nasoj maloj grupi igra 21 dete. Probe se odrzavaju svakog petka od 19:00 do 20:00 casova. Deca su prosle godine ucila igre iz Vojvodine, a trenutno vezbamo igre iz centralne Srbije. Zbog velikog broja dece koja su nam se pridruzila potrebno nam je 9 novih decijih nosnji. Srpska Skola Nikola Tesla je u procesu kupovine tih nosnji koje ce donirati crkvi Svetog Luke.

Prosle godine clanice folklorne grupe su donirale crkvi Svetog Luke 7 kompletnih zenskih sumadijskih nosnji.

Veliko hvala svima volonterima koji pomazu folklornoj grupi, kao i svim roditeljima koji redovno dovode decu na probe.

18 November 2018

## **St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church Annual Audit Report**

In accordance with the parish bylaws and Church constitution, an audit of the financial records for the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Potomac, MD, was performed on 11 November 2018. The audit was performed by Marija Eremic and Mio Lazarevich, assisted by Peter Bizic, Trusteeship Treasurer. The reports provided to the audit team included the expense/income report (December 2017 – October 2018), transaction details by month and event, a special report requested on the expenses of the events during 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the commemoration of the Serbian Flag raised over the White House for the contributions and sacrifices made by Serbian People during World War I. We performed the review by selecting 6 sample months from the 12 months of records provided as a statistical sampling to determine accuracy of the records. We verified expenditures and gross receipts against the QuickBooks reports and found the receipts matched the summary records. All church expenditures were fully documented and substantiated with appropriate receipts, compliant with accounting rules and appropriately authorized by the Trusteeship Board, in accordance with bylaws.

Our review revealed that the overall expenses generally equaled the revenue. We determined that the monthly collections combined with the special fund raising events such as Christmas, St. Sava Celebration, and others exceeded expenses for December 2017 – May 2018. However, the collections for June 2018 – September 2018 (except for July 2018 which included the WWI Memorial events) were significantly underfunded by collections. The reason for the shortfall for those months was the majority of the parishioners were on vacation and did not send in their contributions to cover consistent monthly expenses. The Trusteeship Board's urging parishioners to contribute via automatic bank transfers and credit card charges softened the shortfall this year over past years, but the shortfall was there never the less. For those who do not use the automatic electronic donation method, we ask you to please remember your church and to provide your donations in advance of your vacations, and help pay for our every day expenses. We still have construction and other debts including our diocese assessment outside of our mortgage loan in the amount of approximately \$109,000.00 . This amount needs to be paid off as soon as possible so that any profits made from fund raising events can help build up our cash reserves to cover unexpected expenses such as air conditioner break downs and other building and mechanical problems. We understand there are discussions with the diocese to temporarily deal with the assessment, which makes up one third of that additional debt, which would make paying it off manageable over the next year or two.

The Board has made a considerable effort to renegotiate our commercial loan (what we formerly called our mortgage) and we have come to an agreement with our bank for a new loan which the Treasurer has discussed in his report. Through the generosity of members of our parish, some of our altar expenses have been offset by donations of supplies and funds. This generosity has reduced our expenses, but in reality is only masking what should be paid for by weekly/special donations in accordance with our planned budget.



The board has also established a creative loan initiative whereby parish members may loan funds to the church at a reduced rate than our commercial loan, thereby reducing our loan interest expense overall on the outstanding balance of the loan, which our Financial Secretary explained on 11 November. We applaud such innovative thinking and ask each of you to search your hearts, and do what you can to help us retire our debt that much faster.

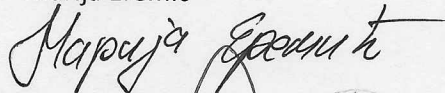
We also reviewed the special events the Church Board had sponsored, such as Serb Fest, and Holiday celebrations such as St. Sava and St. Luke Slava, and recommended that we continue these events for both social and fund raising reasons. These events have created much needed fellowship amongst the church community, and provides needed revenue. We should review what worked at those events and fine tune the events to make them more enjoyable and profitable.

The Serbian School continues to provide much benefit to the parish culturally and is self-sustaining financially. This is a successful model for any new activities we stand up to serve the needs of our parish community. The same is true of the lunches served after liturgy on Sundays. It provides much welcomed fellowship in the parish and helps raise funds for the church. A new activity happening is the making of candles within our parish for liturgical and worship needs. Mr. Dejan Bujak has graciously agreed to manage this activity and it appears that it will be another way to reduce our expenses while potentially raising more funds by selling candles to other parishes within the diocese – a great innovation.

Finally, we encourage others in our greater Serbian community to join in and pledge support to help the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church grow to meet their collective spiritual needs and our faith. Call your Orthodox friends and family to join us to help build a stronger and larger worship community.

Your sister and brother in Christ,

Marija Eremic



Mio Lazarevic

