

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

www.svluka.org

Annual Assembly December 8, 2019

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Reading of the minutes from the 2018 Annual Assembly
3. Report of the Parish Priest
4. Report of the President
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of the Candle Workshop
7. Report of the Sunday School – Desa Elwell
8. Report of the Serbian Singing Society “Lira” – Colleen Bizic
9. Report of the Children’s Choir – popadija Jelena Vranic
10. Report of the Circle of Serbian Sisters – Nina Lojanica
11. Report of the Serbian School – Nena Djokic, Rada Bozic, Marija Eremic
12. Report of the Folklore Ensemble “Prelo” - Nena Djokic, Rada Bozic, Marija Eremic
13. Report of the Auditing Board – Mio Lazarevich
14. New Business; Questions & Answers
15. Closing Prayer



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Annual Assembly Minutes December 2, 2018

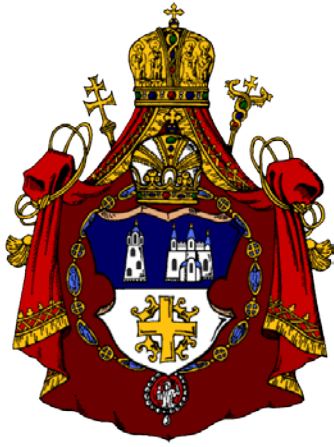
The annual meeting was called to order with a prayer at 12:45 pm in our church hall. Approximately 85 people were in attendance at the start.

Opening Remarks. Trusteeship President Mark Rasevic opened the meeting, welcoming those in attendance. Copies of the agenda and all reports (see attached) were distributed at the meeting and made available on-line.

Summary of Previous Year's Minutes. The Trusteeship Secretary presented a summary of the minutes from last year's annual meeting.

Priest's Report. Father Vasilije presented the Priest's Report in PowerPoint briefing format. Father began by thanking God for being able to serve as parish priest in Washington DC, due to its venerable history and for being able to defend our beliefs so near the nation's seat of power. Next, Father summarized key metrics for the year, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, and conversions to the Holy Orthodox faith. Father then gave a complete summary of liturgical, ministry, and other parish activities and events from 2018, and thanked all who have worked so hard in supporting our parish in so many ways.

President's Report. Mark Rasevic summarized highlights from the President's Report. He began by making the announcement that after over eight and a half years in their current roles as President and Treasurer of the parish trusteeship, he and Peter Bizic will be resigning their positions effective December 31, 2018. Both Mark and Peter are willing to stay on as members-at-large, and the trusteeship and Diocese are working together to determine appropriate replacements. Mark thanked Peter for his selfless and tireless efforts on behalf of the parish during his tenure. Mark next described key accomplishments over the year, and then invited Aleksandar Terzic to speak about the refinancing initiative that Aleksandar and his small committee of volunteers undertook to raise funds to reduce our bank loan principal by securing loans from parishioners at half the interest rate that our lender was proposing to charge us. We are pleased to report that the initiative has raised over \$130,000 – roughly one-third at half the interest rate, one-third at zero percent interest, and one-third as donations. Mark thanked Aleksandar, the committee, and our parishioners for all their hard work and generosity.



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Mark next gave an update on the parish's new candle business. Through the initiative of Dejan Bujak, Victor Isailovic, and a small team of volunteers, we have begun making our own beeswax candles and using them here within our parish. In the coming months we are planning to expand this operation by marketing it online and selling candles to other churches. Our candle-making equipment is scheduled to arrive soon and we are planning to ramp up production in early 2019. We are hopeful that this business will create a much-needed stable revenue stream for the parish. Mark thanked Dejan, Victor, and team for all their work on this project.

Mark next spent considerable time discussing our parish's continuing financial struggles and the events of the past week that have impacted the refinancing of our bank loan. As we have communicated, the trusteeship has been working diligently since June of this year to secure refinancing for our loan with lender United Bank, which terms out near the middle of this month. Thankfully, we were able to secure terms for the refinancing in October and approval in November. Then, on November 28th, we received a letter from the Diocese stating that the Diocese is no longer willing to guarantee our loan and suggesting that 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. After subsequent discussions with the Diocese and among the trustees, the current situation is this: (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. Mark stated that the trustees are 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 continue to communicate significant developments and results as events unfold.

Treasurer's Report. Peter Bizic presented the Treasurer's Report, including reviewing the fiscal year-to-date balance sheet, detailed summary of parish liabilities and equities, and anticipated 2019 income versus proposed expenditures. The data presented backed up Mark Rasevic's statements that we continue to struggle month-to-month to pay our bills, and we haven't been able to build up any reserve savings. As regards the moneys given as part of the refinancing initiative, Peter noted that those are being held in a separate account and not being used for other expenses. Peter also stated that we are hopeful that, once we are able to ramp up the candle making operation, it will help to stabilize the financial outlook of our parish but that it is the generous donations of our parishioners that will continue to be the backbone of our financial health.



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Other Reports. Next, reports were presented or submitted by the leads of the following parish auxiliary organizations—Sunday School (Desanka Elwell), Serbian Singing Society "Lira" and Children's Choir (Popadija Jelena Vranic and Colleen Bizic), Circle of Serbian Sisters (Dobriča Lojanica), Serbian School Nikola Tesla and Folklore Ensemble "Prelo" (Snezna Djokic, Rada Bozic, and Marija Eremic), and Audit Board (Miodrag Lazarevich and Marija Eremic).

New Business. Prior to concluding the meeting, in response to a question, Mark Rasevic again explained the importance of parishioners completing and submitting a pledge form and the approved procedures in place for evaluating parishioner standing.

We closed the annual meeting with a prayer at 4:00 pm.

ST. LUKE
SERBIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

December 8th, 2019

Fr. Vasilije Vranic

METRICS

- Baptisms – 16 (+6)
- Marriages - 1
- Conversions - 2
- Deaths – 5
- Office protocol - 129

LITURGICAL LIFE

- Divine Liturgies – 126
- 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 (served 2 times in 2019)

ALTAR NEEDS

- Donated by parishioners:
 - Bookstore Display Case finished – donated by Stanko Tomic and Ivan Radojicic (THANK YOU!)

ALTAR NEEDS

- Obtained festal size hand-painted icon of the Holy Apostle Luke – donated by Mark Rasevic and Aleksandar Terzic & their families

ALTAR NEEDS

- As last year, this year also Serbian Cultural Center “Opancici” offered to make a significant donation in kind – they will donate church wood carved church furniture in the excess of \$3000 (1 table for blessings, 1 central stand for the icon, 2 collapsible lecterns)
- More information to follow

ALTAR NEEDS

- Potential future projects:
 - Installing windows in the Altar
 - Beautifying Church with frescoes

ALTAR NEEDS

- TO OBTAIN:
 - One Cantor's Stand – price approx. \$1400
 - Festal Liturgical covers in various seasonal colors (red, blue, white, green)
 - Festal hand painted icons for major feasts (list will be created)

COMMUNICATION

- Website redesigned: www.serbianchurch.org
- Hosting again donated by Dejan Icitovic
- 75,155 people visited the website to date

COMMUNICATION

- Email distribution list via Mailchimp
- Subscription donated covered by Trusteeship
- Fully automated and automatically updated
- Automatic Email subscription added to the Website
- 719 subscribers (as of Dec. 7th, 2019)

COMMUNICATION

- Facebook page regularly updated
- Fully integrated with website
- Increased following:
 - Dec. 3rd 2017 = 955 followers
 - Dec. 7th 2019 = 2284 followers

COMMUNICATION

- Photographs from all parish events stored on Flickr
- Subscription for the last year donated by Miroslav Mitic
- Flickr is a photo storage platform
- Flickr connected to Church website

COMMUNICATION

- Twitter – fully functional
- Instagram – fully functional
 - Both integrated with Parish Website

COMMUNICATION

- PA System Update
 - Thank you to Slobodan Droca whose company donated equipment in the area of \$15,000 and who donates his time and expertise to make our PA system fully functional

MINISTRIES

- CIRCLE OF SERBIAN SISTERS (President Nina Lojanica):
 - Events organization (Sunday lunches and all the extraordinary events taking place in our parish)
- Collect funds for beautification and upkeep of our Church (example of fundraisers: baking of Slava breads, Christmas Bake Sale, Serbian Crest Apron Sale, etc.)

MINISTRIES

- CHOIR:
 - SSS “Lira” (Director Popadija Jelena Vranic; President Coleen Bizic)
 - Beautiful and uplifting Liturgies and worship
 - Thank-you to all singers for their tremendous dedication
 - “Lira” was honored at the Diocesan Celebration of the 800th Anniversary of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Boston (November 2019) as the main Liturgical choir.

MINISTRIES

- SUNDAY SCHOOL:
 - Thank-you to our dedicated teaching staff (3 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
 - Congratulations on the increased enrollment second year in a row!
 - Congratulations in participating in an international quiz on Serbian History (Thank you to Marija Eremic for the initiative!)
 - Thank you to teachers in the active participation in the life of our parish: Bojana Andrejevic for journalistic activities, Marija Zivkovic for general great help, etc.)

MINISTRIES

- FOLKLORE GROUP “PRELO”:
 - Congratulations on the record number of participations in various festival (as far as North Carolina!)
 - Prelo has:
 - Children’s section
 - Adult section
 - Consider joining this important cultural program
 - Huge Thank-you to Rada Bozic, our choreographer

MINISTRIES

- BOOKSTORE

- Thank you to Reader John Buffalini for heading this ministry and Joyce Visnick, Mark Stokrp, and Hanna Miletic for being valuable assistants
- Improved and enriched offer of items

MINISTRIES

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

MINISTRIES

- NEW MINISTRY – YOUTH CLUB “ZMAJ”:
 - Coordinators: Andrea Simic and Jelena Jeremic
 - Current attendance: 13 youth
 - Club met 2 times and is looking into making its work more structured and official

EVENTS 2019

33 EVENTS IN 2019!

(NOT COUNTING CHURCH SERVICES AND
LITURGICAL HOLIDAYS)

EVENTS 2019

- DETINJCI
- LECTURE BY FR. VASILIJE ON THE CHURCH AS COMMUNION (in Serbian)
- SCREENING OF THE FILM ON WWI (in cooperation with Embassy of Serbia)
- CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP
- CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS (THANK YOU TO THE KOLO AND THE "BADNJAK BRIGADE")

EVENTS 2019

- LECTURE ON THE THREEFOLD LOGOS IN THE DICTIONARY OF TECHNOLOGY
- THEOPHANY SWIMMING FOR THE CROSS
- ST. SAVA CELEBRATION
- LECTURE SERIES BY FR. VASILIJE ON THE HISTORY OF ORTHODOXY (8 LECTURES)

EVENTS 2019

- BOOK LAUNCH: "CEMERIKA" BY DANILO MARIC (in Serbian)
- SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
- LECTURE MOTHER PHILOTHEA FROM THE HOLY LAND (in Serbian)
- MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR NATO BOMBINGS OF SERBIA
- VRBICA CHILDREN'S RETREAT

EVENTS 2019

- EASTER WORKSHOP: EGG-DECORATING
CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP
- PARISH EFFORT: EGG DECORATION
- SERBFEST – SPRING 2019

EVENTS 2019

- FIRST TRIP OF "PRELO" FOLKLORE GROUP
- SLAVA OF THE SERBIAN SCHOOL
- GRADUATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS
- CHURCH PICNIC

EVENTS 2019

- VIDOVDAN LECTURE BY DR. TAMARA PETIJEVIC
- LECTURE BY PROF. MILO LOPAR, PROF. MILOS KOVIC & MR. BRANIMIR NESIC
- INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- JASENOVAC DAY 2019

EVENTS 2019

- "PRELO" PARTICIPATION AT THE ROMANIAN FESTIVAL
- SLAVA OF THE CIRCLE OF SERBIAN SISTERS
- SERBFEST - FALL 2019
- "PRELO" AT THE SECOND BALKAN CHESTNUT FESTIVAL

EVENTS 2019

- ST. LUKE'S REPRESENTED AT THE SLAVIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL
- SERBIAN MOVIE FESTIVAL (in cooperation with the SNF and RS Office)

EVENTS 2019

- IOCC Benefit
- CHURCH SLAVA – ST. LUKE
- BOOK LAUNCH: LITERARY WORKS OF DR.
BRANKO MIKASINOVIC

CONGRATULATIONS

- Dr. Branko Mikasinovic – awarded medal of Despot Stefan Lazarevic for literary work
- Mr. David Vuich – internationally honored for his contribution to the Apollo Space Program

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!

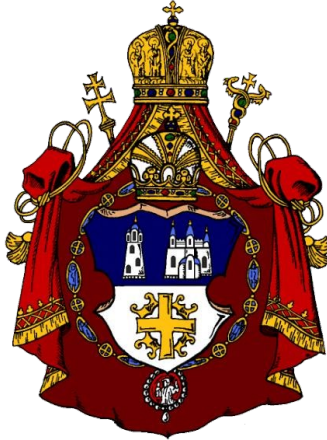
- DEDICATION:
 - Tireless Help and Assistance
 - Generous Donations
 - Candle Shop – Subdeacon Dejan Bujak
 - Choir
 - Kitchen
 - Festival

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!

This year we came together as a parish in April
and saved our Church by extending the
mortgage on the Church property!

God bless you all for this act of kindness and
generosity!

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



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2019 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 2, 2019

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

2019 has been a busy year for our St. Luke Parish. On behalf of the Trusteeship, I have the following to report from our parish from the last year:

1. With the Blessing of His Grace, Bishop Irinej, there were changes to the Trusteeship Board as a result of filling vacancies and shifting of positions. I want to thank Dejan Bujak and Miroslav Mitic, who left the board, for all of their contributions and hard work during their tenure; to Mark Rasevic, formerly president and now vice president and Pete Bizic, formerly treasurer and now member-at-large for their dedication and selfless efforts over the past 8 years and their willingness to continue to serve in their new capacities; to Mark Stokrp, Secretary and Predrag Djokic, Member-at-Large who are continuing in these positions and to welcome John Buffalini, Treasurer, Milica Tasic, Financial Secretary, and Maja Lojanica and Alexander Terzic, Members-at-Large.
2. We want to thank everyone who is participating in the Parish Self-funding Campaign, which reduced the amount needed to borrow from the bank for our refinancing initiative.

3. We successfully completed our refinancing initiative and closed on our new loan with John Marshal Bank in May 2019, on our own and without any required guarantees.
4. We implemented a committee structure for more efficient board administration. Items are first vetted through the responsible committee and then brought before the board for final action or with interim updates. Those committees are:

*Liturgical	*Building & Grounds	*Communications
*Events Management	*Loan & Finance	*Strategic Planning
*Bookstore	*60 th Anniversary	*Volunteer Recruitment
5. We issued under the Building & Grounds Committee, a request for proposals for catering support through all our communications platforms in order to reach out to everyone in our communications sphere. This action is intended to support the Kolo in the many demands that have been placed upon them and provide relief so that they can pursue other activities in support of our parish.
6. We commemorated all major Orthodox feast days – particularly the Feast of St. Sava and our St. Luke Slava.
7. 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.
8. We held our Serbian Food & Cultural Festival (SerbFest DC) in May and October of this 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.
9. We held a summer picnic in July and in October hosted a Serbian Movie Festival in conjunction with the Serb National Federation, which we hope to continue.
10. One of the fellowship activities of our parish, serving lunch after Liturgy on Sundays, has been gaining in popularity.

11. 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.
12. All parish communications continue to be posted on the web site for access to all our parishioners.
13. 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.
14. 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 2020 is attached and everyone is encouraged to participate.
15. The importance of Stewardship cannot be over emphasized. It is a mechanism to show our commitment to this parish by pledging our financial support and sharing the talents that God has blessed us with by volunteering and participating on committees and projects.
16. Candle Business – through the initiative of Dejan Bujak, we have started the process of making our own beeswax candles, which is currently in limited production. A separate report is attached. 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.
17. After 5 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 and generate additional income and to control expenses, but the single most important source of financial support needs to come directly from our parishioners.

18. The Trusteeship is committed to ultimately moving this parish from a Trusteeship to an elected Board of Directors. Before this can happen, we must have the monthly funding gaps eliminated, build a financial reserve for contingencies and loan paydown and a continued increase in demonstrated support and commitment to this parish by its parishioners. Continued and increased participation in the life of our parish is vital to making this happen.

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. But most importantly, I wish to recognize Father Vasilije and Popadija Jelena for their 2 years of energetic and transformative service to this parish. They have selflessly shared their gifts with us and made a profound difference in our spiritual health. May God bless them and grant them many years!

Respectfully submitted,

Milan Visnick

President, Trusteeship
St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church



**St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC
Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year 2019**

December 8, 2019

Fiscal year 2019 proved to be an above average for St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church. Donation income was higher this year than in fiscal year 2018. In addition, we successfully refinanced our commercial loan (mortgage) with a new lender, and were able to pay off a significant portion of residual debt. Even though monthly donations were higher than last year, we still rely heavily on fundraising events to bridge the gap between monthly donation income and monthly operating costs.

Income:

Total income for fiscal year 2019 was \$479,033.42. Donation income (Church/Worship, Congregation, Building Funds) continues to be the main source and driver of our month-to-month finances. Income is broken down as follows:

Church/Worship:	\$191,425.64
Congregation:	\$26,736.69
Building Fund Donations:	\$134,014.00
Socials/Fundraising:	\$115,790.69

Expenses:

Despite running a lean operation, our yearly expenses remain high. Total expenses for 2019 were \$455,990.25. The largest expenses are broken down as follows:

Mortgage Payments:	\$145,795.81
Building and Grounds/Office:	\$143,119.44
Socials and Fundraising:	\$65,022.92

Next year, cumulative mortgage payments will be over \$13,000 higher, as we did not have a May mortgage payment this year, due to the loan refinance. The building and grounds figure is elevated due to the purchase of a new HVAC unit for the second and third levels of the residence, repairs to all of our HVAC systems, and other unexpected maintenance issues. The new HVAC units replaced old units that required costly repairs over the past few years. The new units have started to yield energy cost savings due to their efficiency.

Trends:

As stated above, we rely heavily on fundraising efforts to supplement our donation (including candle) income and our monthly obligations. From January through November of 2019, donations averaged \$26,802 per month. On the contrary, expenses in the same period averaged \$31,722 per month. Thus, we are left with a substantial gap to bridge each month. Unfortunately, some months' bills remain unpaid because there are simply no funds available.

Our strong months remain those surrounded by holidays – December/January (St. Nicholas, Christmas, and St. Sava), March/April (Great Lent and Easter), May (St. George), and September. The summer months, especially July and August, remain our weakest.

In closing, I express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported our parish throughout the past year. Your support remains vital to maintaining our parish.

In Christ,

Reader John Buffalini
Treasurer
treasurer@svluka.org

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Income & Expenses

December 2018 through November 2019

12/06/19

Dec '18 - Nov 19

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
01. Church Worship	
Candles	33,622.83
Christmas Offering	10,562.00
Church Slava Offering	3,377.00
Easter Offering	9,651.00
Sales-Article	660.30
Tasa	133,552.51
Total 01. Church Worship	<u>191,425.64</u>
02. Congregation	
Donation	
ACH charges	252.95
Altar	3,400.00
Calendar	2,500.00
In Honor Of	2,512.25
InMemoriam	7,513.20
MalaGospojina	6,699.99
Slava	50.00
Sunday School/Youth Programs (Donations to Sunday School and related Youth act...	2,408.30
Donation - Other	50.00
Total Donation	<u>25,386.69</u>
Hall Rentals	1,350.00
Total 02. Congregation	<u>26,736.69</u>
02A. Pass-Thru Donations (Donations/Collections for Special Instances (which are subse...	324.00
02B. Sunshine Fund	5,000.00
03. Socials-Fund Raising	
Banquets/Socials	
Badnje Vece	3,633.46
July Picnic	4,800.00
Pig Roast	3,104.44
Serbian School Slava	1,160.00
StSava (Banquet & Celebration)	14,552.00
Sv. Luka Slava	2,642.55
Total Banquets/Socials	<u>29,892.45</u>
Ongoing Fund Raising Events	
Amazon Smiles	246.24
SerbFest	79,638.68
Slavic Heritage Festival	1,857.00
Tamburitza Extravaganza	1,563.00
Total Ongoing Fund Raising Events	<u>83,304.92</u>
Special Events	
SNF Movie Festival	1,123.00
Total Special Events	<u>1,123.00</u>
Sunday Lunches	1,470.32
Total 03. Socials-Fund Raising	<u>115,790.69</u>

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Income & Expenses

December 2018 through November 2019

12/06/19

	Dec '18 - Nov 19
Candle Income	5,742.40
Total Income	345,019.42
Gross Profit	345,019.42
Expense	
01. Church Worship Expenses	
Altar	2,904.00
Candles	6,166.78
Purchase Salable	2,472.06
Total 01. Church Worship Expenses	11,542.84
02. Religious Education	559.00
03. Diocese	
Assesment	1,000.00
Donation	500.00
Travel	2,733.00
Total 03. Diocese	4,233.00
04A. Pass-Thru Donations	
IOCC	221.00
Total 04A. Pass-Thru Donations	221.00
04B. Sunshine Fund	5,000.00
05. Priest	
Benefits	27,131.36
Car Allowance	6,000.00
Salary	36,800.00
Substitute	200.00
Travel	450.60
Total 05. Priest	70,581.96
07. Office-Administration	
Delegates Travel	750.00
Office Supplies	6,531.64
Office Support (Non-hardware/equipment, such as website, software and related costs.)	1,530.40
Other	
Bank Charge	3,916.55
Legal Fees	5,253.50
Parishioner Loan Interest Pmt	445.63
Total Other	9,615.68
Postage & Reproduction	1,242.72
07. Office-Administration - Other	348.00
Total 07. Office-Administration	20,018.44
08. Building & Grounds	
Building/Kitchen Equipment	17,025.16
Building/Kitchen Supplies	4,294.80
Cleaning	15,379.71
Furniture-Fixtures	7,179.50
Insurance	6,722.31
Maintenance	16,638.51
Repairs	15,812.49
Storage	5,183.00
Taxes	1,187.44

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Income & Expenses

December 2018 through November 2019

12/06/19

Dec '18 - Nov 19

Utilities		
Electric		20,522.06
Fire Alarm Monitoring		432.00
Gas		3,547.02
Phone		6,419.06
Refuse Collection		396.00
Water & Sewer		2,361.94
Total Utilities		33,678.08
Total 08. Building & Grounds		123,101.00
09. Socials - Fund Raising		
Banquets/Socials		
Badnje Vece		1,403.98
July Picnic		2,044.43
Pig Roast		1,685.32
Serbian School Slava		392.00
StSava		14,338.57
Sunday School Picnic		288.90
Sv. Luka Slava		197.93
Banquets/Socials - Other		969.76
Total Banquets/Socials		21,320.89
Ongoing Fundraising Activity		
Annual Fundraiser Banquet		750.00
SerbFest		40,408.88
Slavic Heritage Festival		237.76
Tamburitza Extravaganza		170.00
Ongoing Fundraising Activity - Other		375.00
Total Ongoing Fundraising Activity		41,941.64
Special Events		
Reception		742.10
SNF Movie Festival		313.77
WW1 Picnic		250.00
Total Special Events		1,305.87
Sunday Lunches		148.62
09. Socials - Fund Raising - Other		305.90
Total 09. Socials - Fund Raising		65,022.92
10. Miscellaneous		190.32
Candle Business Bank Fee		150.82
Candle Business Misc Expense		9,572.85
Reconciliation Discrepancies (Discrepancies between bank statements and company rec...)		0.10
Total Expense		310,194.25
Net Ordinary Income		34,825.17
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Building/Mortgage Funds		134,014.00

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Income & Expenses

December 2018 through November 2019

12/06/19

	<u>Dec '18 - Nov 19</u>
Overpayment of United Bank Loan	308.64
Serbian School	1,440.00
Transfer between JMB Accounts	0.00
Transfer from John Marshall	5,000.00
Transfer from United Bank	23,513.91
Transfer to John Marshall	-23,513.91
Transfer to United Bank	-5,000.00
Total Other Income	<u>135,762.64</u>
Other Expense	
Closing Costs	60,382.01
Mortgage Interest	105,124.04
Mortgage Refinance	109,689.50
Serbian School Expenses	2,533.16
Total Other Expense	<u>277,728.71</u>
Net Other Income	<u>-141,966.07</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-107,140.90</u></u>

Sources of Income	INCOME FOR 2019		BUDGET FOR 2020
	Actual Gross Income	Actual Adjusted Income	Proposed Anticipated Income
1. Church / Worship			
Weekly offerings – Tasa	\$133,553	\$133,553	\$134,000
Christmas Offering	\$10,562	\$10,562	\$11,000
Easter Offering	\$9,651	\$9,651	\$10,000
Church Slava – Offering	\$3,377	\$3,377	\$3,500
Rituals (Trebe) Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$0
Candles	\$33,623	* \$27,456	\$34,000
Sales-Religious Articles	\$660	* \$0	\$1,000
Other _____	\$0	\$0	\$0
2. Congregation			
Membership/Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pledges	\$0	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$18,716	\$18,716	\$20,000
Building Fund	\$134,014	\$0	\$135,000
Rentals	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$1,500
Refunds/Reimbursements	\$6,670	\$6,670	\$7,500
Transfers from other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cemetery	\$0	* \$0	\$0
3. Socials / Fund Raisings			
Catering	\$0	* \$0	\$0
Banquets, Socials, etc.	\$29,892	* \$8,572	\$30,000
Special Events	\$1,123	* \$0	\$1,250
Ongoing Fundraising			
Activity <small>SerbFest, Slavic Heritage Festival, Picnics, etc.</small>	\$83,305	* \$41,363	\$90,000
Other (Misc) List	\$1,470	\$1,321	\$2,500
Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTALS	\$467,966	\$262,591	\$481,250

Note: Figures in “Actual Adjusted Income” column are identical to those in “Actual Gross Income” except the items noted by an asterisk (*). Also, negative amounts are to be reported as 0 (zero).

EXPENDITURES (DISBURSEMENTS) IN 2019**BUDGET FOR 2020****1. Church / Worship**

Wine, prosfora, oil, etc.	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
Altar inventory acquisitions (Vestments, utensils, books, articles, etc.)	<u>\$2,904</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>
Candles, icons, incense	<u>\$6,167</u>	<u>\$7,500</u>
Purchases: saleable items, religious articles	<u>\$2,472</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>

2. Religious Education

Church School Materials – Text Books	<u>\$559</u>	<u>\$750</u>
Supplies & Furnishings	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
School Activities	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
Awards & Gifts	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$250</u>
Library purchases & Visual Aids	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Subscriptions to periodicals, etc.	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Teachers: Conference expenses, Travel, etc.	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

3. Diocese

9% Gross Assessment of Cong. Income	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>\$1,200</u>
Diocese Day sponsored by Parish	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Donations	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>
Travel – Bishop / Dean	<u>\$2,733</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>

4. Donations by Congregation

St. Sava Church / Vracar	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Charities	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Gifts	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

5. Priest

Salary	<u>\$36,800</u>	<u>\$38,400</u>
Benefits (SS, Pen. Plan, Hospitalization, Ins.)	<u>\$27,131</u>	<u>\$13,900</u>
Gasoline allowance	<u>\$6,000</u>	<u>\$6,000</u>
Utilities / Rectory or Housing	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Substitute / Vacation pay	<u>\$651</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>

EXPENDITURES (DISBURSEMENTS) IN 2019**BUDGET FOR 2020****6. Other / Personnel**

Salaries	\$0	\$0
Benefits	\$0	\$0
Other (describe) _____	\$0	\$0

7. Offices / Administration

Equipment purchases & maintenance	\$0	\$0
Supplies	\$8,062	\$9,000
Postage	\$1,243	\$1,300
Delegates travel, etc.	\$750	\$750
Other (describe) <small>Bank Charges, Legal Fees</small> _____	\$9,964	\$5,000

8. Buildings & Grounds

Mortgage payments on <small>10660 River Road Potomac, MD 20854</small> _____	\$145,796	\$156,496
Insurances	\$6,722	\$7,000
Taxes	\$1,187	\$1,250
Utilities (Church, Hall, School)	\$33,678	\$30,000
Supplies	\$4,295	\$5,000
Maintenance	\$16,639	\$10,000
Equipment	\$17,025	\$2,500
Improvements	\$15,812	\$12,500
Cemetery	\$0	\$0
Other (describe) <small>Cleaning, Fixtures, Storage</small> _____	\$27,742	\$27,500

9. Social / Fund Raising Activities, etc.

Church Slava	\$198	\$500
Banquets / Dinners, etc.	\$21,123	\$22,000
Catering expenses	\$0	\$0
Special Events expenses	\$1,306	\$1,400
On-Going Activities / enterprises	\$41,942	\$52,000
Other (describe) <small>Sunday Lunches</small> _____	\$455	\$1,000

10. Miscellaneous

(Describe) _____	\$0	\$0
T O T A L S	\$440,856	\$424,696



РАДИОНИЦА СВЕЋА CANDLE WORKSHOP

СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦРКВА СВЕТИ ЛУКА

ST. LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Washington, DC

2019 Candle Shop Report

(Dec 2019, by Dejan Bujak)

Introduction

Our candle shop is established and works under the auspices of the Diocese of Eastern America (Serbian Orthodox Church) and with the blessings of His Grace Bishop Irinej of Eastern America. We aim at providing a reliable supply of quality beeswax candles. The candles are hand made using the traditional techniques of candle dipping and taper-molding.

All profits are to benefit our St. Luke, Serbian Orthodox Church in Potomac, MD.

Until we are 100% ready to support all Eastern Diocese with the production, our only customer is our church (St. Luke). Once we are ready to support the Eastern Diocese, our plan is to hire a part-time or full-time person.

As you read through the report, when we say a week worth of work, we do reference 40 work hours, however, it could be easily a period of 1 month or more, since we don't have a full-time person working in the Candle shop.

There are so many parishioners who've helped in the candle shop, we don't have enough space to name everyone, may God bless you all for your help!

Attached to this report are financial statements.

Candles made by dipping method

This is our main technology for making candles (until taper-molding machines are in service).

We started this technology pretty primitive with six frames and a dipping tub, heated by a heating element. It would take us between 15 and 30 minutes to hand string one frame (80 candles), then 60 minutes to dip the frames, another 60 minutes to cut candles off the frames and 120 minutes to clean the 6 frames. So, in total it would take 7 to 8 hours to make 480 small candles.

In 2019 we developed a stringing machine which cuts stringing 1 frame to 5-8 minutes. This could be further improved (one of many things on our long todo list).

We also made 30 additional frames, so we could make bigger batches of small candles.

We'd love to figure out how to spend less time on cleaning the frames - another thing on our long todo list.

Table below shows how many hand dipped candles were sold in 2019:

Small candles	12,121
Slava candles	204

Taper-molding Machines

We acquired 3 taper-molding machines for:

1. small candles (10mm x 230 mm 560 molds),
2. medium candles (16mm x 250 mm 240 molds) and
3. Slava candles (25mm x 500 mm 120 molds)

It takes considerable time to wick strings through each mold and make the machines operational (2 day for medium candles, 4 days small candles and 4 days for Slava candles).

We had very good success with making medium candles during winter (cold weather).

However, 70-80% of Slava candles would get stuck in the machine and it would take 10-15 hours to extract them and make machine operational again. During the summer, 100% of the candles were stuck in the machine, so we came to a conclusion that we need to introduce cooling process (another big todo on our list).

We were able to make a few batches of small candles but then gears mechanism used to extract candles on the machine broke down and we had to disassemble the whole machine (a full week worth of work) and rebuilt it (2 more weeks), this time with hydraulics, which we hope will improve the extraction process considerably - we still need a full work week to finish putting it together.

Table below shows how many candles we were able to make for sale using the machines in 2019:

Small candles	450
Medium candles	720

Looking for help

Below are major tasks we still need to solve before we could become 100% operational. If you have experience in any of these please let us know.

1. Cooling process for taper-mold machines.
 - a. Needed to connected hoses with quick release mechanisms to each machine.
 - b. Connect a pump to circulate cooling fluid through iced barrel
 - c. If above step produces good candles, purchase a chiller and equip it with quick release hoses, so the chiller can be switched between machines
2. Cleaning of frames for hand dipped candles.

After making hand dipped candles, metal frames have beeswax on them, that needs to be cleaned before new candles can be made. Right now, we put these frames in the melter (we can pack 8 frames at the time) and it takes about 2 hrs for the wax to melt. So, it takes 8 hrs to clean 30 frames. We're hoping we could either:

 - a. Connect all frames together and heat them up within minutes to above 70F so wax can melt and fall off. Could this be done using electricity?
 - b. Build new frames using materials that would allow for quick cleaning.
3. Improve our hand dipped wicking machine. Please ask and we can show you current design and suggested improvements.
4. We'll need somebody to help us figure out packing and shipping rates and set up a system for it.
5. We'll need a photographer and a web designer to build us a web site to sell candles.
6. If you can commit to regular volunteer hours for making candles please let us know.

Below is a list of other work we need help with:

1. Decorative candles. We could produce decorative candles which are much more profitable. If you have time to spearhead this effort please let us know.
2. We do recycle beeswax, we need help in turning out candles when they are close to the sand (if they get mixed with the sand very little to none can be recycled). Also, cleaning wax from the sand and melting it and getting it ready for production of new candles. We're also contemplating switching to containers with water instead of sand, so wax can be recycled much easier, help needed to design these containers and build them.
3. Need to weld some parts together, please let us know if you have welding experience.

Please, contact Dejan Bujak at 301-675-1682 or DejanBujak@gmail.com if you can help or if you have any questions.

2019 Summary

In Dec of 2018 we acquired 3 candle making machines (for small, medium and Slava candles) and melter from China. However, we're still struggling to put candle making machines in service.

Melter is working perfectly. During 2019, Candle Workshop has been making candles using hand dipping method and spending time on research and development on how to make candle making machines operational and reliable.

Income Statement

Praying Shop (St Luke Church)

Account	Nov 29 2018 - Nov 29 2019
Income	
Medium Candles (Sales Income)	\$324.00
Shipping and Handling	\$25.00
Slava Candles (Sales Income)	\$2,550.00
Small Candles (Sales Income)	\$5,390.31
Total Income	\$8,289.31
Expenses	
Bank Charges & Interest Expense	\$28.17
Beeswax	\$3,264.50
Meals & Entertainment Expense	\$0.00
Melter Heating Oil Fluid	\$725.25
Office Expense	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$320.19
Packaging	\$1,388.04
Paraffin wax	\$133.59
Professional Dues/Memberships/Licenses/Subscriptions Expense	\$199.95
Professional Services Expense	\$0.00
Repairs & Maintenance Expense	\$419.45
Sales Tax	\$6.08
Shipping	\$409.49
Wicks	\$774.40
Total Expenses	\$7,669.11
Net Income	\$620.20

Created on November 29, 2019

Balance Sheet

Praying Shop (St Luke Church)

#	Account	Nov 29, 2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash		
1021	John Marshall Bank	\$400.00
1010	Undeposited Funds	\$0.00
1020	United Bank Account	\$6,984.76
Total Cash		\$7,384.76
Unpaid Invoices		
1100	Accounts Receivable	\$2,246.91
Total Unpaid Invoices		\$2,246.91
Total Current Assets		\$9,631.67
Fixed Assets		
1300	Furniture & Equipment	\$20,649.50
Total Fixed Assets		\$20,649.50
Total Assets		\$30,281.17
Liabilities & Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Unpaid Bills		
2100	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Total Unpaid Bills		\$0.00
Total Current Liabilities		\$0.00
Long Term Liabilities		
2301	Dejan Bujak	\$22,859.42
2304	Milutin Djurickovic	\$596.67
2302	St Luke Church	\$4,200.00
2303	Viktor Isailovic	\$7,615.00
Total Long Term Liabilities		\$35,271.09
Total Liabilities		\$35,271.09
Equity		
Equity from Earnings		
Net Income		\$-1,697.48
3000	Retained Earnings	\$-3,292.44
Total Equity from Earnings		\$-4,989.92
Total Equity		\$-4,989.92
Total Liabilities & Equity		\$30,281.17

Created on November 29, 2019

2019 Sunday School Summary
St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church Sunday School
Potomac, MD
Submitted by Desanka Elwell, Sunday School Administrator

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6

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 15 families enrolling a total of 26 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 Naela el-Hinnawy (grades pre-K - 2), 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 unwavering support of our priest Fr. Vasilije, the Parish Trusteeship, parish and especially the parents who bring their children. 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 2019 at the annual parish St Sava program, our Sunday School students recited poems and our students presented a reading on the life of St Sava.
- The Sunday School families hosted the Cheesefare Sunday coffee hour luncheon. The students did an amazing job preparing, serving and cleaning up, with minimal help from the parents and teachers.
- At the end of the Sunday School year, we celebrated all of our Sunday School students. We had one senior graduate high school this year – Tijana D. and she was presented with an icon to take to university.
- We welcomed the children and families back to Sunday School in September with a Welcome Back Bruch hosted by the Sunday School Teachers.
- A number of our Sunday School middle and high school students volunteered at SerbFestDC this past October, and many of our younger siblings and younger students look forward to helping serve their community at future SerbFest's.

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church Choir Serbian Singing Society “Lira” President’s Report

In 2019, Serbian Singing Society Lira continued to support our church by singing responses during most Sunday Divine Liturgy services. We continued our weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00pm. Our director, Popadija Jelena Vranic, uses these rehearsals to teach us new hymn arrangements, troparions for special services and improving our existing arrangements.

In addition to singing responses during Sunday Divine Liturgy services, S.S.S. Lira sang:

- Responses for Badnje Dan (Liturgy), Badnje Veče (Great Compline and Nativity Matins) and Božić (Liturgy).
- The National Anthems for the Slava celebration of St. Stephen the Archdeacon for the Office of Republika Srpska on January 9th
- A performance at our Sv. Sava Celebration with Bishop Irinej, HRH Prince Alexander and HRH Princess Katherine of Serbia in attendance.
- Responses for the Heirarchal Divine Liturgy for Sv. Sava.
- Responses for assorted Pascha Services
- At the request of Bishop Irinej, we sang responses at a hierarchical Divine Liturgy in honor of the 800 year Autocephaly of the Serbian Orthodox Church. We then performed at the program following the service. This took place on November 2, 2019 at Saint Sava Cathedral in Boston, MA.
- Responses at 2 funerals and one wedding.

S.S.S.Lira recently selected Synaxis of the Heirarchs (February 12) as our Slava. We look forward to celebrating it for our first time in the coming year. We are always looking for strong voices to join us. If you are interested, speak with Myself or our director for more information.

Each year we grow a little more as a choir and look forward to doing so again in the coming year. We could not do this without our director, Popadija Jelena, teaching us the skills that make us stronger singers and a more cohesive group. Please watch the church website and Facebook page for any of our future endeavors.

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 welcomes children ages 5 and older. The purpose of our program is introducing our children to the Serbian sacred and secular musical tradition.

Children's Choir has 17 singers who regularly attend rehearsals. Our rehearsals are held on Fridays from 6:15-7:00pm, right before Folklor practices. We rehearse in the church hall where we have plenty of space and can use the piano.

This past year, Children's Choir sang in church at the services on Badnje vece, Christmas and Easter. The choir also performed at St. Sava Celebration and at the Serbian School's End-of-Year Program. Our last year's repertoire consisted of liturgical, spiritual, and traditional Serbian folk songs, as well as Serbian composed music for children.

We are now learning music for Christmas and St. Sava. Our repertoire this school year will also include a few songs from the Divine Liturgy so that the children can join the adult choir when they are in church.

Popadija Jelena Vranic
Children's Choir Director

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church
Circle of Serbian Sisters 'Mala Gospojina'

2019 Report

Board:

President: Dobrila Lojanica

Vice President: Snezana Djokic

Secretary: Nellie Mikasinovic

Treasurer: Joyce Visnick

Members at Large: Judy Terzic, Marija Eremic

2019 has been a very successful year for the Kolo. The following is a list of our accomplishments:

1. The Kolo participated and wholeheartedly assisted in all events organized by the Church.
2. It helped the church in terms of funding;
3. It fulfilled all its obligations under the Federation;
4. It was involved in the social and cultural life of the Parish and cooperated extremely well with all other organizations in the Church.
5. The greatest success of the year has been our increase in the Kolo membership. By the end of the year, the Kolo had 30 members. The Kolo will continue to work with the mostly young members who joined to help their Church. The plan for 2020 is to be more active and through our work we preserve our faith and tradition and that we all feel that our Church is a spiritual home where we can all find peace and tranquility.

Званични извештај о раду Српске школе “Никола Тесла” у Вашингтону 2019/2020

Српска школа “Никола Тесла” у Вашингтону наставља са успешним радом и у петој години постојања. Као и до сада циљ школе је одржавање српског језика у нашој парохији као и упознавање српске деце са српском историјом, културом и традицијом. Поред тога, још један од циљева школе је омогућавање деци као и родитељима да се међусобно друже и на тај начин додатно учвршћују међуљудске везе у парохији.

Часови се одржавају сваке друге недеље од 1:00-3:00 у просторијама Цркве Свети Лука у Потомку. Одмор између два часа је 30 минута, током којег деца имају ужину и време за слободну игру у Црквеном дворишту.

Поред редовне наставе на часу, деца такође учествују и у другим додатним активностима као што су драмска секција и радионице очувања српске традиције (часови традиционалног кувања, прављења украса и кићење Бадњака, фарбање јаја за Ускрс, прављење венаца за Врбице и друго). Школска година се завршава свечаним уручивањем диплома деци која су похађала наставу током године уз заједничку прославу школске славе Свети цар Константин и царица Јелена. Школа тим поводом редовно организује прославу уз музику и вечеру како бисмо прикупили мали али значајни новчани допринос нашој цркви (у просеку око \$2500). Школарина за ову школску годину је \$160 (\$20 x 8 месеци), што покрива трошкове школског материјала.

Ове 2019/20 на нашој листи тренутно имамо 33 пријављене деце за похађање школе, иако је чест случај да се нова деца прикључују и касније током школске године. Малишани су подељени у 5 група, по узрасту и нивоу знања српског језика. Приликом уписа, сваки ђак добија тест знања који нам омогућује да равноправно разврстамо децу по групама сходно њиховом нивоу познавања језика.

У најмањој групи (3 до 6 год) 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) поред часа српског језика такође има и час историје и географије.

У петој групи (мешовитој по узрасту) припадају деца која не говоре 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 савладавају.

Изузетно смо захвални свим нашим учитељима-волонтерима, који из године у годину вредно раде на организацији школе и развијању школског програма, као и свим родитељима који редовно доводе своју децу на часове.

С поштовањем,

Тим Српске школе

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church
Folklore Ensemble 'Prelo'
2019 Report

Folklorna grupa "Prelo" nastavlja sa radom i ove godine. Probe folklor se odrzavaju svakog petka. Mala i srednja grupa vezbaju od 7:15 do 8:30, odrasla grupa vezba od 8:30 do 9:30. Mladja grupa je sa koreografijom "Igre iz centralne Srbije" nastupala na proslavi dana Svetog Save, slavi Srpske Skole , Srpskom festivalu u Severnoj Karolini, Rumunskom festivalu, nasem Srpskom festivalu i Balkanskom festival kestena. Trenutno spremamo novu koreografiju " Igre iz Vojvodine". Mala i srednja grupa broji 18 igraca. Grupa odraslih pocinje da sprema novu koreografiju gradskih igara i broji 12 igraca. Sa predhodnom koreografijom gradskih igara nastupali smo na proslavi dana Svetog Save i na srpskom festival u Severnoj Karolini. Prosle godine folklornoj grupi se pridruzio I harmonikas Milos Majkic, koji nam svira na probama i nastupima

Folklorna grupa Prelo nastavlja da prima nove clanove i poziva sve koji su zainteresovani da igraju ili pomognu na bilo koji drugi nacin da nam se pridruze.

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 10 November 2019. The audit was performed by Marija Eremic and Mio Lazarevich, assisted by John Buffalini, Trusteeship Treasurer. The reports provided to the audit team included the expense/income report (December 2018 – October 2019), transaction details by month and event, a summary report for the year. We performed the review by selecting 4 sample months (March, June, August and October 2019) from the 12 months of records provided as a statistical sampling to determine accuracy of the records. Extra care was needed due to the refinancing of our building loan, and creation of another checking account with the new lending bank. 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, including the review of all 5 checking/savings accounts for the various church functions, 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, better than the previous year, and that we had a deficit of \$ 133K on paper against the budget, of which over 75% being retired debt paid by the refinancing of our building loan, and will not be seen in 2020. 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 2018 – May 2019. However, the collections for June 2019 – September 2019 again were underfunded by collections. As compared to last year, the amount of the deficit was mitigated by the automatic deductions of donations from some of our parishioners' financial accounts. For those that do not do automatic deductions, several provide advanced donations before going on vacation. We encourage our remaining parishioners to please follow these examples to help our cash flow during these summer months when attendance is low.

The Board has renegotiated a new building loan with a new bank with more favorable terms and conditions, as well as a lower interest rate. This new loan has helped reduce our monthly loan payment and put us on a path of lowering our monthly obligations overall.

Additionally, we reviewed the expenses of your Serbian School (Nikola Tesla), festivals and fund raisers, our Congregation's Religious Education School, the Circle of Serbian Sisters, and the Altar expenses, are self-sustaining, all with positive balances in their individual checking accounts.

The Candle making ministry received an investment from the church trusteeship this year in a goal to reduce our candle costs and potentially use this as a fund-raising effort by selling candles to other congregations. To date, they are making progress and the financial viability of this enterprise is under review pending repair of some of the equipment. We recommend that the status of this effort continue to be watched and readdressed in the coming year.

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.

We noted that the lunches served after liturgy on Sundays by our Circle of Serbian Sisters, provides much welcomed fellowship in the parish and helps raise funds for the church. We encourage more of these activities as creative ways in which we can further augment much needed revenue.

Finally, we continue to 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 Lazarevich