



ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.





A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both

relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

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

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.” —Ephesians 4:11-16



**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends in Christ,

The preacher C.H. Spurgeon once said, "By perseverance the snail reached the ark." Sit with that for just a moment. 2020 felt to me a lot like the journey the snail undertook to the ark. So much of 2020 seemed like a slow crawl along a muddy, unknown, and uncertain path. Like the snail, we may have had days when we forgot what we were crawling toward or what the journey was all about. We may have lost track of the summons to go to the ark altogether.

But, by perseverance the snail reached the ark. This is incredible grace. This too was 2020. The 138 congregations and ministries of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin proclaimed God's Word, provided places and spaces for people to keep connecting to their community of faith, and reached out in generosity to neighbors. You persevered. Even as we felt it to be a muddy, unknown, unending path beneath us, the church kept crawling forward with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

You are reading this report because you care about your congregation. Thank you for that care, especially this year, and thank you for attending your congregation's annual meeting. I know you have had to adapt in ways you never imagined. Thank you for persisting.

Please know that your synod, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, is committed to being your partner in ministry. CARE-CONNECT-EQUIP are our values. In 2021 we will continue to foster partnerships that help us live out these values. We will persevere on the path together:

- With conferences, the synod council, and the office of bishop
- Among and between congregations
- Among and between rostered and lay leaders
- With ecumenical and global partners
- Between ELCA congregations, the synod and the national church

I am deeply grateful for this new calling to serve with you as bishop. I am honored to call this synod my home and believe that God is leading us forward together. Together may we find new ways to share God's grace, build community and to be Christ's presence along the path.

In Christ,

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission:

“Saved by Grace – Led by the Spirit – Called to Serve”

Vision:

In the context of Oregon and our local community, we, the people of St. John’s Lutheran Church, are called to:

- Welcome all persons into a life in Christ, fostering acceptance and love in the Spirit. (Community/Evangelism)
- Offer our diverse community varied Christ-centered worship opportunities that celebrate God’s grace and that affirm, educate, inspire and challenge us in our daily lives. (Worship)
- Teach the Good News of Christ and challenge (encourage) children, youth and adults to grow in their spiritual lives. (Education)
- Recognize and share our material and spiritual resources to serve God through church and community. (Service/Stewardship)

St. John’s Lutheran Church
625 East Netherwood St.
Oregon, Wisconsin 53575
(608) 291.4311
www.stjohnsoregonwi.org

Annual Meeting: May 2, 2021

Annual Report: Published February 1, 2021

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PASTOR AND STAFF

Naomi Garber, Intentional Interim Pastor
Jen Kooistra, Director of Youth, Family, and
Education Ministry
Ondra Williams, Director of Worship &
Music
Shirley Schiffner, Financial Director
Chris Staveness, Building and Grounds
Superintendent
Laura McGoveran, Coordinator for
Congregational Life
Barb Daane, Office Clerk
David Klarich, Technical Director
Beverly Brinkman, Nursery Attendant

CHURCH COUNCIL

*Kevin Oppermann
*Robert Lindmeier
*Mark Peterson
*Catherine Stang
Barb Hanna
Alan Lukazewski
Ryan Anderson
Janice Rockwell
Jeff Fishwild
Joanne Gladden
Ethan Johnson
*Pastor Naomi Garber
** Members of the Executive Team*

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Kevin Oppermann, President
Robert Lindmeier, Vice-President
Mark Peterson, Treasurer
Catherine Stang, Secretary
Pastor Naomi Garber

ALTAR GUILD

Sheila Andersen
Marla Byerly
Marge Christensen
Brenda Cuta
Linda Glassmaker
Marilyn Hermanson
Martha McGregor
Sally Mueller
Brenda Outhouse
Shirley Schultz

Norma Jenkins
Sandra Linstroth
Shirley Miller
Nell Mittelsteadt
Barb Daane
Pat Wieczorek

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT

Kevin Oppermann, Chair
Aaron Johnson
George Jolivette
Karen Kreul
Laura Nott
Rachel Berens-VanHeest
Erik Sande

CARE CALLERS

Jean Bailie
Rev. Allan Ness
Barbara & Larry Newhouse
Naomi Rockwell
Rose Lehnerr
Doretta Umnuhs

CARE FOR CREATION

Bob Lindmeier
Alan Lukazewski
Rona Lukazewski

CHURCH CHOW AND HOW

Linda Auer
Ken & Nona Brookbank
John Carter
Barb Hanna
Bonnie Haugen
Pat Wieczorek

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Robert Lindmeier, Chair/Council
Sheryl Lindmeier
Barbara Newhouse
Laura McGoveran, Staff Liaison

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lori DuPuis
Barb Carter
Suzan Johnson
Laura McGoveran, Staff Liaison

ENDOWMENT BOARD

Shane Dammen
Dan Lisowski
Roger Parsons
Sally Bertelson
Diana Peterson
Shirley Schiffner, staff liaison
Kevin Oppermann, ex officio
Pastor Naomi Garber, ex officio

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Lara Day
Hillary Carr
Taya Christensen
Jen Kooistra, Staff Liaison

FAMILY MINISTRY

Carol Wichmann
Linda Immenschuh
Susan Kosharek
Jen Kooistra
Emily Staveness

FINANCE TEAM

Kevin Oppermann
Cal Gilbertson
Jon Fishwild
George Jolivette
Ann Starr
Barbara Newhouse
Diana Peterson
Shirley Schiffer, staff liaison

GARDEN & LANDSCAPE

Larry Ladell
John Carter
Barb Hanna
Susan Kosharek
Sue & Phil Johnson

OFFICE VOLNTEER STAFF

Barb Hanna
Barbara Carter
Ann Benedict
Patricia Miller
Carol Wichmann
Fern Binger, Assistant Pianist

PERSONNEL

Jeff Fischer
Karen Hill
Barbara Newhouse
Pastor Naomi Garber

PROPERTY TEAM

John Carter
Dan Cobb
Cal Gilbertson
George Jolivette
David Klarich
Jan Rockwell, Council Liaison
Chris Staveness, Staff Liaison

SCHOLARSHIP

Barbara Newhouse
Barbara Carter
Ryan Anderson
Kevin Oppermann

SKAALEN HOME REP

Bonnie Haugen

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN/WELCA BOARD

Karen Gipp, President
Sherry Lange, Secretary
Bonnie Gilbertson, Treasurer
Sherryl Cobb, Mission Liaison
Barb Hanna, Council Liaison

VETERANS OUTREACH

Cal Gilbertson, Chair
Bonnie Gilbertson
Deanna & Val Zibung
Sherryl & Dan Cobb
Joanne Gladden

WORSHIP

Ondra Williams
Shirley Miller
David Klarich
Sandra Linstroth
Kevin Oppermann
Brenda Outhouse
Sarah Johnson
Carol Wichmann
Val Zibung
Pastor Naomi

CHURCH STATISTICS

2020 Membership Statistical Report
As of December 31, 2020

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
Membership December 31, 2019	1,301	1,012

Members Received 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020

a. By Baptism	6	
b. By Transfer from ELCA Congregations	5	3
c. From non-ELCA Lutheran Congregations	2	2
d. From non-Lutheran Churches	4	4
Total Received	17	9

Members Removed 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020

a. By death	12	12
b. Released at own request or Transferred	5	5
Total Removed	17	17

<i>Membership as of December 31, 2020</i>	<u>1,301</u>	<u>1,004</u>
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ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2020

**CONGREGATION ANNUAL
MEETING MINUTES,
1/26/2020**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:16 am and a quorum was achieved as we have 91 voting members in attendance (quorum is 62).
- Pastor Paul led us in an opening prayer.

Annual Congregation Agenda:

- Endowment Board elections were added to the Agenda

Motion: Motion carried to approve agenda as amended.. Motion carried

Review of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by Cal Gilbertson and seconded by Kevin Oppermann to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes. Motion carried.

2019 Reports: Jeff shared the committee reports in the annual report. There was no discussion.

Motion: Motion to approve 2019 minutes as submitted. Motion carried

St Johns Milestone: 2021 will be the 125th year milestone for St Johns. Jeff Fischer mentioned that a committee will be set up to help celebrate this milestone in case there is anyone interested in serving.

Elections

St. John's Council:

- We have three new candidates: Kay Bliefernicht, Emily Staveness, and Mark Peterson (bios in report)
- Those that are finishing their term include: Chloe Scholl, Sarah Johnson, Dana Olson, Jeff Fischer, Fred Bull and Deanna Thranow Zibung.
- Those that are continuing are Cal Gilbertson, Alan Lukazewski, Barb Hanna, Bob Lindmeier, Barbara Newhouse, Ryan Anderson and Kevin Oppermann, Catherine Miller Stang,

Everyone has a paper ballot and you can select candidates. Each candidate needs to receive a majority vote.

Floor was open for additional nominations. There were none.

Motion: There was a motion to close the nominations by Karen Kreul and seconded by Jon Fishwild
Motion carried. Paper ballots were collected and tallied resulting in the election of all nominees.

Skaalen Home Delegates:

2019 Delegates were Barbara Newhouse and Larry Newhouse. Thank you for serving.

- The term is one year. Barbara Newhouse shared her experience.

- The commitment is an annual meeting in March 22, 2020
- Bonnie Haugen and Diana Peterson were both nominated and accepted the nomination

Motion: A motion to close and approve the nominations of as Skaalen delegates for 2020 was made by Sarah Johnson and seconded by Nona Brookbank. Motion was carried

Synod and Assembly Representatives

- In 2019, our Synod assembly representatives were Jen Kooistra, Rob Schmidt, Sue Richards and Miller Stang, We thank them for their service.
- Pastor Paul explained the roles of synod assembly which includes how the church worships and participates in resolutions and the election of the bishop.
- It starts on a Friday May 1st to Saturday May 2nd at the Kalahari Resort
- We need three people, mix of male and female and option two youth or young adult
- Sarah Johnson accepted nomination, Rona and Alan Lukazewski and Chloe Scholl

Motion: A motion was made by John Cuta seconded by Jan Rockwell to close nominations and accept the nominations of Sarah Johnson, Rona and Alan Lukazewski and Chloe Scholl. Motion carried.

Nominating committee

- Current representatives include: Laura Nott, Scott Bourie and Wendy Parsons who worked with the current Council Vice President Bob Lindmeier.
- Bob shared what is involved which included calling members who might be interested. Time commitment is minimal, much is done by email.
- The floor was opened for nominations. The following accepted nominations:
Aaron Johnson, Laura Nott and Rob Schmidt

Motion: A motion was made by Kevin Oppermann and seconded by Brenda Outhouse to close nominations and elect nominees. Motion carried.

Memorial Endowment Board

Continuing Service will be Sally Bertelson and Diana Peterson

Term ending include Shane Dammen, Dan Lisowski and Roger Parsons

Candidates include Shane Dammen and Dan Lisowski and Doug Kohls.

Motion: A motion was made by Kevin Oppermann and seconded by Wendy Parsons to close and nominate _____ to the Memorial Endowment Board. Motion carried.

2019 Budget review

Kevin Oppermann current treasurer discussed the budget.

- We were positive at the end of the year by \$28 due to a strong December where many members contributed additional funds
- St John's members gave \$868,000 between the capital campaign and the 2019 operating budget
- We held our expenses down in 2019 assisting us in making budget
- We also made a capital campaign debt reduction. Our current mortgage balance is \$425,000.

2020 Budget Approval

Council is approving an increase in budget.

- Total Budget is \$613,962 which is a 1.4% increase
- Budgets and Grounds
 - Drainage to street project (delayed from 2019)
 - Ash bore treatments(every other year)
- Staff Salaries & Benefits
 - 2% salary increase to all staff
 - Custodial position changes allowed savings in benefits. However in 2020 we will have to rely more heavily on teams for set ups and tear downs related to events and meetings.
- Reduction in pledges for 2020
 - There will be a larger leap of faith pledge amount
 - Utilize Bills receipts and Thrivent Choice designations

Kevin asked for additional questions on the budget as there were no additional questions or comments.

Motion: A Motion was made by Kevin Oppermann and seconded by Nona Brookbank to pass the budget. Motion carried.

Constitutional Discussion

Types

- Asterisk indicates required language

C2.01. This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Approved by a majority of voting members in attendance today and is adopted immediately following approval

- No Asterisk indicates optional language
 - C10.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.
 - Matches the model constitution-Requires majority approval today. It is adopted immediately following approval
 - Differs from the model constitution-Requires majority approval today and ratification at the next annual meeting my two-thirds of voting members in attendance.

C12.05 (current)The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

e. ~~(current) The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the Church's insurance program and for its investments not included in an endowment fund. (current). The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of mission support monies to the synod treasurer. The memorial & endowment funds are excluded from council responsibility as independent management is specified in the bylaws.~~ Note: The

Jeff commented on the language of the Memorial endowment funds are excluded from Council responsibility.

C9.15. (current) Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synodical bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between ~~the~~ this congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synodical bishop and approved by ~~the~~ this congregation. (current)

Pastor Paul commented that leaders have to be rostered. However new language has been reclaimed in the term of Deacon . Word and Service as opposed to word and sacrament. There is currently not a plan to call a deacon to the congregation, but they are both roster positions.

C10.01. (current) ~~The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.~~ (current)

This congregation shall have at least one regular meeting per year. The regular meeting(s) of the congregation shall be held at the time(s) specified in the bylaws. Consistent with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the bylaws shall designate one regular meeting per year as the annual meeting of this congregation. Note: This language matches the model constitution

C10.02. (current) A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the senior pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of ~~the~~ this congregation Council, and shall be called by the president of this congregation at the written request of 10% of the voting members. The president of ~~the~~ this Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synodical bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted. (current) Note: The changes recommended will match the language of the model constitution.

C10.06. (current) All actions by ~~the~~ this congregation shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided in this constitution. (current) Note: this language matches the model constitution.

Motion: Motion made to approve all suggested constitutional changes by Council. Motion carried

C10.08. (CURRENT)(CURRENT) This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically. **Note: this language matches the model constitution.**

Acknowledgements

- **President Acknowledgement:** Pastor Paul made a special acknowledgement to our outgoing President Jeff Fischer. He served three two year terms, one term as secretary and two terms as President. Jeff had been a strong leader has shown a willingness to serve has been appreciated by both Pastor Paul and the congregation who gave him a standing ovation. Pastor Paul shared that Jeff has decided to be involved in our Personnel committee.
- **St John’s Staff Acknowledgement:** The congregation gave a round of applause for our hardworking and faithful staff.
- **George Jolivette** indicated that Janice Rockwell was missed in the members of the property team and acknowledged her contributions. He also indicated that they can always utilize new members.

Closing Prayer: Closing Prayer by Pastor Paul

Motion to Adjourn: Sarah Johnson made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Wendy Parsons. Motion carried.

Submitted January 26, 2020
By Dana Olson
Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS 2020

PASTOR REPORT



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Dear friends in Christ of St. John's Lutheran,

I thank God for the gift of all of you!

Each time I begin a new ministry, I say, "We are together for a season...we don't know if it will be a long or short season, whether it will be spring, summer, fall, or winter (or all of the seasons). What we know is, God is with us and the Spirit is guiding us."

Life is very complex and complicated right now. In many ways, it seems as if there is no settled place...social/racial tensions, political strife, raging pandemic...and pastoral retirement, sanctuary remodeling, worship on-line or around a fire in the middle of winter, Zoom confirmation....and the list goes on 'n on. We are truly living in a time of transition and transformation.

What we will do and who we will be when Covid-19 is more in our rearview mirror than filling our windshield is yet to be discovered.

This I know...God is always shaping and forming us, always. AND the resurrected Jesus says to us, "Peace."

Again, I say, I thank God for the gift of all of you! Together we are God's people and together we will grow in and deepen our faith and faithfulness.

Blessings God's beloved,
Pastor Naomi

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Like all things in 2020, our church life was disrupted, and different, and experienced many changes throughout the year. However, the one constant throughout the year was God's love for us. What a year of changes and challenges. The staff quickly adapted to creating a very high-quality virtual service during the early months of the pandemic. During the summer and fall months, we continued the virtual service, but also found ways to worship outside at the outdoor worship area and in the parking lot. As winter came, we once again adapted and changed worship to a shorter outdoor worship experience throughout Advent, culminating in a wonderful, short (and a bit chilly!) live nativity for Christmas Eve.

The way we worshipped in 2020 was not the only change we experienced. The summer also brought about a pastoral transition, as Pastor Paul Markquart retired after 14 years as our pastor, and in October, we welcomed Pastor Naomi Garber as our Interim Pastor to guide us through this transition.

As if that wasn't enough, our building also experienced changes as the Forward in Faith Capital Campaign continued its mission of remodeling the sanctuary and paying down our debt. Construction began in the fall, and in a few short months, our sanctuary was transformed, and brightened, with new windows, a new layout, and fresh colors. Led by the Building Improvement Team, with feedback from the staff and congregation, the new space will serve us well as we continue the mission of St John's.

It has truly been a remarkable year. As I've said many times, St John's Lutheran Church is in a remarkable position to adapt to the changing world. Our virtual service is of top quality, we have a beautiful new sanctuary for in-person worship, and most importantly, a congregation filled with people who love and serve our Lord.

Thanks be to God!
Kevin Oppermann
Council President

DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & MUSIC REPORT / WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT



As I begin my eighth year serving at St. John's, I am filled with hope for God's work to continue among God's people, I am filled with joy in the many ways I see God's work being done in this place and in the world, and I am filled with sadness in the loss of many loved ones, including an active member in the music ministry, Jeff Rosnow, and I wish I could say I am filled with peace, but honestly, it is anxiety as we continue to try to live into our calling together during this COVID-19 pandemic that began in March of 2020, almost a year ago. In that year there have been many changes to the way we worship and create music for worship, it has been quite the learning curve causing me to gain some new technology skills along the way, which is not a bad thing. I know many can relate, especially if you have tried using Zoom or other video conference platforms to connect with family members and friends, or for doctor appointments while in isolation. With the vaccine just starting to be administered, I look forward to the future when we will come together in worship and praise of our living God, and make music together, for God is our strength and shield, a mighty fortress in times of trouble.

2020 Music and Worship Ministry Highlights:

- ❖ Worship was moved to online only as the COVID-19 pandemic forced a time of quarantine and isolation for non-essential workers. It is premiered on Facebook and YouTube at 9am every Sunday, and may continue for the foreseeable future, even after in-person worship resumes.
- ❖ In addition to online worship, the congregation met to worship outdoors fairly regularly, weather dependent, with the help of several supply pastors following Pastor Paul Markquart's retirement in July, especially Rev. David Keesey-Berg, who turned 80yrs. old that summer. It was very special having David's granddaughter come and sing one Sunday.
- ❖ The loss of Jeff Rosnow was a very difficult one, as we could not all come together to celebrate his life during the pandemic. He was a faithful and fun-loving member of the Soulvation Band, coordinator of the capital campaign, chair of the Worship Team, and a great friend and follower of Christ. He is, and will continue to be, greatly missed.
- ❖ Pastor Paul retired on July 31, and his final Sunday in worship included him and I leading the music with guitar, piano, and singing. It was joyful to make music together and included a lot of laughter, mostly at our own mistakes. After his final worship service, there was a drive-through parade for congregation members to meet and greet him and his family. It was a celebratory and sad day all at the same time.

Looking Ahead:

- ❖ Plans are developing to create a virtual band or choir for upcoming online worship services. The learning curve is steep, but I am hopeful, especially with the help of David Klarich, who has been working with the technology and has been doing an outstanding job editing worship services for virtual services.
- ❖ Adding four octaves of handbells to the existing four octaves of chimes would be a welcome addition to the chime ensemble, and would expand the opportunities for music selections.

We are created in God's image, to love each other, unconditionally, fully, and without hesitation. May

we always strive to find ways to do this as we live out our mission together at St. John's, where we know we are saved by grace, led by the spirit, and called to serve, in the name of Christ. May you find, or continue to find, that peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ondra Williams
Director of Worship and Music

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH, FAMILY, AND EDUCATION MINISTRIES



*He has told you, **O mortal**, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**,
and to **walk humbly with your God**?*

Micah 6:8

2020 is the vision we all strive for and yet this past year, 2020, was anything but. Things we thought we could see with certainty went by the wayside. Yet, God, God remained with us. The above Bible verse from the prophet Micah reminds us of what we need to do in our faithfulness, even when the world seems to spin out of control. At the end of 2019, my mother suffered a heart attack and multiple blood clots throughout her legs and lungs. It was a really scary and difficult time for me and it was also a time when I really loved kindness that so many people offered. Medical staff, neighbors, my sisters, and you all provided compassion and kindness as they (and you) cared for me and as they cared for my mom.

In February, as we were painting chalices to prepare for the Communion Milestone that takes place on Maundy Thursday, we learned that the schools were going to shut down for probably two weeks. We **humbly** listened to the school district, the government, and the medical world as we entered what would become much longer than a two-week shutdown. We stayed, **humbly**, at home and listened to experts and talked with the children while many of the working poor continued to work in dangerous conditions to provide others with access to food, gas, and clean environments.

By the summer, many were recommitting to doing justice for our black siblings in Christ. In the midst of the pandemic, the **injustice** they've experienced for hundreds of years was being shouted from cities around the world. Even the virus itself seemed to act **unjustly** toward them.

We began facing our own mortality as healthy individuals fell prey to Covid-19. Those in the medical field and educational field, pastors and care givers, were losing their lives as they cared for communities. Politics played an undeniable hand in the US's response to the pandemic. The **humbled** became the confused. **Justice** felt forgotten. Stories of **kindness** seemed to get lost in the statistics.

As Christians, we felt fear, anger, frustration, depression, anxiety, sadness, and more and we know God

felt that sadness with us. God, who loves us and created us as precious children, cried with us. AND God reminds us that we know what to do when faced with the unfathomable – we **walk humbly with God** as we **do justice** and **love kindness**. The promises our parents made when we were baptized, the promises we affirm through confirmation, continue to call us to action.

We reject sin.

We live among God’s faithful people.

We proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

We serve all people, following the example of Jesus.

We strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

(ELW p.236)

Everything changes. We’ve seen that in unpredictable ways. As things continue to change, as we become aware of more injustices and inequities, as we love kindness and replicate it, as we walk humbly with our God, may you feel the warmth of God’s loving embrace, the strength to do justice, and the peace which surpasses all understanding.

Thank you for another year to grow in my faith alongside you.

Jen

2020: “FORWARD IN FAITH” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & BUILDING IMPROVEMENT TEAM



The generous gifts of our congregation to the Forward in Faith Capital Campaign have made it possible for us to make substantial payments on our debt over the past several years. Concurrently, the Building Improvement Team, with feedback from the staff and congregation, continued its work towards designing the new look for the remodeled sanctuary.

Giving to the Capital Campaign continues to be strong and we remain ahead of projections. Actual collection through December, 2020, was \$960,607 compared to the expected pledge of \$940,033. Even with the uncertainty of the economy during the pandemic, our congregation remained committed to their pledges to the campaign.

The Building Improvement Team’s work culminated in the remodeling of the sanctuary. Based on the goals of the Capital Campaign, we now have a new HVAC system in the sanctuary, new and improved parking lot lights, a new roof, and a fully remodeled sanctuary complete with windows, pew chairs, improved lighting, and more. The remodeled sanctuary space is so bright and welcoming. If you haven’t had a chance to see the space, I encourage you to do so. It truly is a stunning transformation.

The Forward in Faith Capital Campaign continues as we work to pay off the remaining church debt. If history is a guide, I fully expect our congregation to meet the commitments and goals of the Forward in Faith Capital Campaign.

If you have not pledged, you may still do so for the remaining years of the campaign by contacting the church office. Keep in mind, you can also transfer stocks and required IRA distributions tax free to the campaign.

Respectively Submitted,

Kevin Oppermann
Forward in Faith Capital Campaign Coordinator
Building Improvement Team Chair

EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

What a year this has been for Education at St. John's. Pastor Paul's sermon series offered some great opportunities for many different learning styles, the young children liked the colored postcards that announced the upcoming sermon topic and youth (and adults) were able to follow along and note questions in the Worship Guides. The Education Ministry Team and the Family Ministry Team worked together to keep Worship Tool Kits provided for children in our Congregation, and we thank Carol Wichmann for keeping them stocked. They are going through a transformation to bring a bright new feel into the newly remodeled sanctuary!

In January, our Table Prayer Milestone class made their Prayer Pails and filled them with prayers. In February, we celebrated with our K-1 Sunday School class as they created their Prayer Pillows and explored many different ways to pray. This Milestone, with its frog-themed, tied fleece pillows is always looked forward to by the children. We also celebrated the Gospel Milestone with our 2nd Graders. Part of our Communion Milestone was the last event we celebrated in person at St. John's. On Sunday, March 15, some of our 3rd graders gathered to paint their chalices. While we were gathered, the news came that schools would be closed starting that week. As this is written, their beautiful chalices sit in Jen's office, waiting a time when we can safely gather together as a congregation in support of its children's Milestone. On March 15, 2020, we certainly did not predict that by January of 2021, we would still be waiting. Also, in March, our great Lent experiment of combining worship and education into one hour was cut off by the sudden appearance of a new coronavirus. Our excitement to have the Care for Creation Team do a special GIFT on the Sunday before Earth Day also fell victim to the virus that was, by then, impacting the globe. We are planning some creative ways to celebrate Milestones again this year. Be sure to watch your emails and the newsletter for details!

Jen began to offer Sunday School lessons online, using the Zoom platform, to read Bible stories as they utilized the FAITH5 to check in with each other. As the school district began to provide education online, the online Sunday School attendance quickly declined. Children and families struggled with the amount of time they were spending online. In the fall of 2020, Sunday School teachers offered online opportunities for their individual classes. Currently, we are looking forward to the vaccine for Covid-19 to begin to change the trend of increasing cases of the virus and the warmer weather which allows us to gather safely outdoors. We are offering outdoor events during the winter weather that are more activity oriented for the grade school children. A big thank you to Rona Lukazewski for working with Thrivent to

obtain an Action Team Grant which allowed us to purchase materials for the StoryWalk at the north side of the building.

Confirmation transitioned through many versions during 2020. We met indoors, “socially-distanced”, we met outdoors around a fire in the outdoor worship area, and we met over Zoom. We shortened our time together and continued to meet each week, always beginning our time together by checking in with highs, lows, and God moments. 9th graders meet on Sunday evenings and the 8th graders meet after the 7th graders on Wednesday nights. 7th Graders focused on Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. 8th Graders work their way through the Bible. 9th Graders had intended to explore various religions and their similarities and differences. We’ve been able to do some of that online, but the events of 2020 – the pandemic, BLM, and politics in the US have allowed these youth to look at events through a Lutheran lens and engage in some heart-felt conversations. Confirmation Camp was not offered at Sugar Creek this year and was greatly missed, as were all camp options.

High School youth started off the year continuing to gather with youth from churches all over the synod at churches all over the synod on the third Sundays of the month. But, after January and February, those events could not safely be held. Since then, there have been many walks and talks with high schoolers as well as digital chats. The pandemic required the postponement of the ELCA Youth Gathering that was scheduled for this summer. So much of the bonding of the group of high schoolers who attend is done through fundraising events, which were also not possible during the pandemic. But we have high hopes for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, which will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, MN. Please keep all those involved with this gathering in your prayers.

Martin Luther felt strongly that faith education should be done at home, which is why he wrote the Small Catechism. Using FAITH5 has given our families tools to continue to explore their faith, even while gathering indoors at church is not possible. Please contact Jen if you need a refresher in how to make those Faith Acts In the Home part of your daily routine.

The Education Ministry Team included Jen Kooistra (staff), Hillary Carr, Taya Christenson, and Lara Day during 2020. An off-shoot, with its focus on Birth to Kindergarten, was also created at the end of the year. Anyone who is interested in any type of Education or Activity-based Event for children and/or youth of our congregation is encouraged to contact Jen at church.

PROPERTY TEAM

St John’s Property team has been very busy this past year with the remodeling of the sanctuary and other property related items.

I first would like to recognize and thank George Jolivette for being chairman of the Property Team for the last several years. His knowledge of the church infrastructure and his willingness to work with all parties is remarkable. When he became the church liaison for the sanctuary and other personal commitments to jobs, he asked to step down from the position but remains on the team as a team member

John Vogel was hired December 20, 2019, as the custodian of St. John's Lutheran. John resigned October 1, and Chris Staveness was hired as custodian this fall. Chris is a member of St. John's and a staff member of our team.

During the 2020 calendar year, we did the following projects along with the normal day to day items:

1. Replaced the HVAC heating and cooling systems for the sanctuary and gathering area as part of the Forward in Faith Campaign.
2. Reseeded the areas around the new outdoor lighting as part of the Forward in Faith Campaign.
3. Installed underground 4 inch PVC pipe drain system from the office parking area to drain toward Netherwood Street.
4. Saved the stone from the old sanctuary roof for members to use for their own projects.
5. Removed the old hillside plantings on Netherwood Street and installed top soil, reseeded the upper part of the hillside and planted shrubs near the retaining wall. We used the roof stones for weed control.
6. Allowed OPI to use more of the lawn area for outdoor classes due to Covid 19. OPI paid for the extra fencing needed.
7. Replaced the A/C unit for the church office area of the church.
8. Repurposed the cross that was removed from the sanctuary remodel to the East wall of the Friendship room.
9. Installed new LED bulbs in the ceiling lights in the Friendship room.

Projects for 2021 that are known at this time include:

1. Repair or replace the carpet in the John classroom if budget permits.
2. Remove the dead or dying trees on the property.
3. Finish seeding one area near the new light pole on the northwest corner of the sanctuary.
4. Replace the A/C unit for the old education office.
5. Repair the garbage enclosure gates and paint.
6. Install new heating registers on the north wall if the whistling noise can't be resolved.
7. Move banners from mezzanine to a new location due to fire code violations.
8. Install a camera system to improve the building security.

Current team members: George Jolivette, David Klarich, Dan Cobb, John Carter, Chris Staveness and Cal Gilbertson.

Respectfully submitted:
Cal Gilbertson, Property Chair

SCHOLARSHIP TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS: Barbara Newhouse, Deanna Zibung and Barb Carter

The Scholarship Team of St. John's was established to acknowledge one or more graduating high school students who exhibit academic excellence, faithful membership and excellent service to St. John's and the greater community.

The award recipients must be accepted by a college or university and be recommended by a St. John's member (non-family) who is familiar with the applicant's record of service. There were three applicant requests for the scholarship.

Scholarships of \$300 each were awarded to Blake Anderson, Isabella (Bella) Lindert and Nick Brown.

Submitted by: Chair, Barbara
Newhouse

COMMUNICATIONS

Team members are Bob Lindmeier, Sheryl Lindmeier, Barbara Newhouse, and Laura McGoveran

Our mission is to look at how we currently communicate (within groups, within the congregation, with the community) and determine ways to improve and strengthen that communication. Look at the processes currently used to disseminate information, especially through the use of social media, and work to create a more effective and efficient way, when appropriate. We're here to assist other ministries with their communication needs.

In 2020, the Communication Team implemented a new website. This redesign was based on congregational feedback from a survey done in 2019. We believe this new site will more effectively let the congregation know about the latest developments at St. John's and will be an effective recruitment tool to bring new members into the church. We continued to look at ways to enhance the use of social media platforms to more effectively communicate within the church.

In 2021, the team plans to continue an effort to become more proactive with the ministries to enhance communication with the other ministries.

Respectively Submitted,
Bob Lindmeier

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Team Members: Barbara Carter, Suzan Johnson, Lori DuPuis, and Laura McGoveran (Staff liaison).

Our Purpose: To enhance our life in Christian community with particular attention to integrating new members within our fellowship, while fostering our life together.

Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:7

In a normal year, the Congregational Life Team meets regularly on the second Monday of each month, in the Epiphany Room. This year has been anything but normal! Once we can meet together again safely, we will gladly welcome you as a new team member! Consider joining the Congregational Life Team.

Of course, 2020 was just starting to really take shape, when the pandemic hit, and put a stop to all meetings within the church. Since Congregational Life's main focus is the congregation, and gatherings are in such small numbers, the team has only met in Zoom meetings once or twice, to touch base with each other. In December of 2019, the team packed 'End of Term Survival Packages' for our college youth. We had hoped to repeat this effort, but with the year having been so unpredictable, and some college plans put on hold, we decided a note of encouragement on behalf of St. John's at Thanksgiving would be appreciated. Again, we look forward to 2021, to remember our college youth with survival packages again.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura McGoveran

CARE CALLING MINISTRY

The Care Callers Team consists of members of our congregation that make visits to homes, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This year, due to the pandemic, the visits are done by telephone.

We hope to resume our in-person visiting by September, 2021. Anyone wishing to join the team, please call the church office at 608-291-4311.

Submitted: Chair Barbara
Newhouse

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that when you have a prayer request, you can call or email the prayer chain? Then the prayers will be sent on their way with many praying for you! Prayers are not made public in the newsletter or during Worship unless permission is received.

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

To let the prayer chain know of your prayer, contact:

- Pastor Naomi or Laura McGoveran, in the church office at 291.4311, or LauraM@sjlserve.net
- Fern Binger at 455.8021, or lfbinger@frontier.com
- Rose Lehnerr at 835.5300, or rlehnerr6@gmail.com

If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, please let Laura know.

Submitted by Rose Lehnerr

CARE FOR CREATION MINISTRY

The members include Bob Lindmeier, Alan Lukazewski, and Rona Lukazewski.

The Care for Creation Ministry believes it is part of our responsibility as stewards to care for the earth in response to our faith. We are also aware of the links between climate change and hunger. People in poverty are usually those most immediately and profoundly impacted by climate change and are not among those most responsible for it. Stewardship as a congregation can take many forms. The ministry uses education and awareness to help the congregation know what they can do at church and at home.

Three years ago, the ministry started an evaluation to see if solar would be a viable option for St John's. This long journey is finally at its conclusion. The 29 kW DC rooftop solar array, consisting of 80 modules, became operational in October, converting energy from the sun into electricity that is directly used by our church campus.

Our future electricity costs will be reduced approximately 26%. We have completed the single most impactful effort a church can undertake to reduce its carbon footprint!

The installation was completed by Full Spectrum Solar at a cost of \$56,398. Grants totaling \$19,488 brought the system cost to \$36,910. In order to take advantage of a 30% federal tax credit not applicable to non-profits, we arranged to have a tax sponsor take on the remaining cost. St. Johns will pay the tax sponsor quarterly, equivalent to the electrical savings generated by the array.

To maximize long term savings, the goal is to buy-out the tax sponsor after six years. The remaining balance due, in order to take over total ownership, will be approximately \$20,000. By following this plan it is estimated that the church will realize a net savings of \$95,000 over the next 25 years. Keep in mind that we do not have to exercise the buy-out option after year six, but it is most financially advantageous to perform the buy-out at that time.

It is the hope of your Care for Creation team that the congregation will cover the \$20K through donations. Seventeen "solar families" donating \$200 annually will reach our goal. Please prayerfully

consider becoming a solar family! You can contact myself, Alan Lukazewski, or Rona Lukazewski, if you're interested.

With the solar project goal accomplished the primary goal of the ministry will switch to environmental education in 2021. We plan to work with the Education Ministry Team to include environmental issues in the Sunday school curriculum. More efforts involving youth are planned. We will also look at other ways that the church can reduce its carbon footprint

Respectively Submitted,
Bob Lindmeier

FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

Family Ministry strives to offer three events each year for the families of our community, plus the team coordinates our participation in Host-A-Family. We were able to serve one meal at the start of 2020 and had plans for a game event in April, and outdoor event in the summer, and a Fall Festival in the fall. Unfortunately, with the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, we did not encourage any gatherings this year. Our hope is that the vaccine will make it possible for us to safely gather during 2021 and we are getting creative in our brainstorming!

The Family Ministry Team included Jen Kooistra (staff), Susan Kosharek, Linda Immenschuh, Emily Staveness (council), and Carol Wichmann.

VETERANS OUTREACH MINISTRY

Just like all other functions and operations, Covid-19 did put a stop to our in person recognitions of our members.

We were able to get a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and purchased cards of thanks for your service to all Saint John's veterans on the church membership list. We sent cards to all the veterans.

We also purchased a banner to display on the church grounds facing Netherwood Street.

Hope that Covid-19 will be in check by next Veterans Day, so we can do something in person to honor our Veterans.

Veterans Outreach Committee: Val and Deanna Zibung, Dan and Sherryl Cobb, Joanne Gladden, Cal and Bonnie Gilbertson.

ALTAR GUILD

The year began with January 6, 2020, Epiphany. Then soon came February 26, with Ash Wednesday, and the Christian annual period of Lent. As in other years of our Altar Guild report, we started out the year with many duties which we so honorably and respectfully do.

Then we received an email message from our leader, Sandi Linstroth, on Saturday, March 14, stating that the church services of this Saturday night and Sunday morning, March 15, would be our last for at least two weeks . . . well we know how that ended . . .or has it? The good news was that our new Easter Banner for the sanctuary had arrived!!

In the summer we began outside worship, which Altar Guild assisted in setting up the alternate altar and we ordered the individual "safe" communion cups which included a small wafer. We ordered wine and grape juice options for our communion guests. We have adapted to the various changes in our church services, currently setting up for Pastor Naomi Garber to tape the Sunday worship services mid-week, for on line viewing on Sunday. Nell continues to organize the flower chart, pick up flowers from Oregon Floral and distribute to the thoughtful donor after the church service is taped.

Our meetings of course, have changed as well, we have not had many in person meetings, a couple of them were held outside when weather permitted. It was so pleasant to see our Altar Guild friends in person. I believe I can say for everyone that we enjoyed that very much.

We are to remember that even in these uncertain times, there is always something and someone to be grateful for. The apostle Paul wrote in many parts of the New Testament to give thanks and express gratitude. It is not easy to thank God "always" for sometimes argumentative and uncomprehending Christians and uncertain times. Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 1: 3 and Colossians 1: 3.

God's Peace,
Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Cuta, Co- Secretary with Sally Mueller

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S - WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (ELCA)

The women of St. John's completed a spiritually fulfilling year in 2020, despite the social distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All women who are confirmed members of St. John's are members of the women of St. John's. Many have joined the Altar Guild, a circle or a bible study group. These groups meet monthly for Bible study, social time and to assist with larger service and social events.

This was the first year we were unable to support our previous international missionaries due to the disbandment of our fall Smorgasbord. We continue to support the national and south central Wisconsin synod of women of the ELCA.

Our 2020 local mission support (available from 2019 Smorgasbord) included DAIS, Badger Honor Flight,

Helping Hands, Oregon Area Food Pantry, Lutheran Campus Ministry and Friends of Oregon School District—lunch kits.

Annual projects for Lutheran World relief included making quilts (111); and the collection, assembly, and shipping of personal care kits (21), school kits (50) and baby care kits (25). Several members have submitted and received Thrivent Action Team grants to help provide necessary funding towards projects including quilting, kitchen supplies, bible studies, etc.

Areas supported within St. John's include the purchase of daily devotional booklets, memorials, recognition of their birthday for our honorary members and maintenance of kitchen supplies. A large Funeral Committee exists to serve lunch upon request.

All events sponsored by the women were canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions this year. We look forward to time for fellowship at some point during 2021. We hope to be able to return to our annual Salad Luncheon in May or possibly in early Fall.

Officers continuing in 2021 are Karen Gipp—President, Bonnie Gilbertson— Treasurer, Sherry Lange—Secretary, Sherryl Cobb—Mission Liaison, Council Liaison—Barb Hanna.

Respectfully submitted
Sherry Lange, Secretary

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S – MISSIONARY/MISSIONS SUPPORT

Early in 2020, much discussion was held concerning Smorgasbord. In February, a decision was made that it was, unfortunately, time to cancel this annual event. The cancellation was primarily due to staffing before, during and after - for many reasons – we were losing people able to work, some people doing were getting tired, younger people had other commitments and the dedication that had been there for many years was diminishing. We thank Jan Rockwell for trying hard to keep it going and we all worried what a loss it would be to our community, the missionaries and the local missions we've supported for many years.

As soon as the decision was made to cancel, I notified the missionaries and their supporting agencies:

- The Reverend Rachel Eskesen & Zachary Courter, with the Young Adults in Global Mission Program
- Ed & Melissa Swanson, with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mitla, Oaxaca, Mexico
- Lori Lehnherr with OneCollective

They responded with understanding and gratefulness for our past support and for letting them know as soon as possible that there would be a gap to fill in their expected support. (Smorgasbord had been giving each missionary assignment \$2,200 per year.)

From the 2019 Smorgasbord profit, the Committee Chairs, Circles and Altar Guild voted to give to our local missions the following amounts and these were also paid out.

- DAIS - Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, \$500
- Badger Honor Flight, \$500
- The Helping Hands Fund, \$500
- Oregon Area Food Pantry, \$500
- Lutheran Campus Ministry, \$500
- Oregon School Lunch Kit Program, \$500

The WELCA Board budget has had to be adjusted to allow for no future Smorgasbord income and COVID to meet ongoing local expenses. In the future, we hope to find a Smorgasbord replacement to again have the ability to support missionaries.

Sherryl Cobb
 Missions Coordinator for the Women of St. John's

ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS

THE PURPOSE/MISSION of our ministry is to make simple warm quilts that spread love around the world.

Our quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief which in turn sends them where needed, mainly other countries. In September, 2020 we were able to send 111 on the train. The group was very happy with this amount because only 9 sessions happened before we quit meeting in early March, due to the pandemic. A handful of members worked at home cutting and sewing, but not everyone was able to do that. Some dropped in one or two at a time to assemble or tie quilts.

Lutheran World Relief is a wonderful, successful and dedicated organization spreading hope around the world through the thousands of volunteers who give of their time and money to make quilts. They believe that everyone is deserving of the dignity and hope that these items can give them. We are proud to be involved and put our faith into action.

Two quilts were donated to the New Library Fundraiser this fall. Our materials mainly come from congregation and community members and financial help from the Women of St. Johns and a Thrivent grant. We are so grateful for these donations. There is a box near the coat room for your donations of COTTON material, COTTON sheets without holes or spots, and light weight blankets. Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings in the lower level of the church WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO SAFELY MEET AGAIN.

Regular volunteers are: Barb Christensen (1st contact), Marlys Nettesheim (2nd contact), Karen Gipp, Sherry Lange, Shirley Schultz, Sandy Linstroth, Hazel Gaard, Martha McGregor, Sue Lawrence, Lauralyn Klarich, Doris Gerry and Carol Olp.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me”. Matthew 25:40

Submitted by Barb Christensen

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle members are Rose Lehnerr, Naomi Rockwell, Pat Miller, Ilah Breitbach, Fern Binger, Martha McGregor, Kathy Jolivette, Ruth Yaun and Barbara Newhouse. Honorary members are Gladys Sage and Jo Vernon. At the beginning of the year we drew names for prayer partners.

Due to the pandemic, some meetings were in homes, some at church and some in yards under the shade tree. The 7 months (Jan., Feb, Mar, Aug, Sept, Oct. Nov.) we did meet, we studied “God’s Comfort”. We had many good discussions.

Our monthly offerings this year totaled \$260.00. Donations were made to The Salvation Army (matching Saturday) and Oregon Area Food Pantry.

We will be accepting new members once pandemic restrictions are lifted and it’s safe to gather. Please call the office to obtain contact information.

Submitted: Chair Barbara
Newhouse

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle currently has 8 members. We only met eight times this year, as members were concerned about the coronavirus situation. When we did meet, we followed COVID guidelines regarding safe distancing and mask wearing.

We completed our study of the book of Genesis, using an on-line study guide led by Pam Peterson, and started the book of Leviticus. We thank Pam for not only leading our studies, but also providing the guide questions and maps to help with the study.

In September, Martha Circle again coordinated the collection of items for the LWR kits. Karen Kreul applied for a Thrivent grant to help purchase the items needed to complete the kits. She and Sherryl Cobb shopped for those items.

We thank Karen Gipp for storing the items in her home throughout the year as she has graciously done for many years now. In addition, and for the safety of all, Karen took it upon herself this year to assemble ALL of the kits! THANK YOU, KAREN! In total, the following was completed:

- 21 Personal care kits
- 28 Baby care kits
- 50 School kits

Karen Gipp again also coordinated the packing of the quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the collection of monies needed for shipping.

Karen Kreul & Gudie Huston coordinated lefse making sessions for fall sales. Karen applied for, and got, a second Thrivent grant for the lefse supplies.

Sherryl Cobb helped the Quilters group by applying for a Thrivent grant to purchase quilting supplies - batting and thread - and then shopped for those items.

Officers for the year were Karen Gipp, Chair; Pam Peterson, Vice Chair, Sherryl Cobb, Secretary and Shelly Boucher, Treasurer.

We miss getting together as a group, but try to keep up with each other's lives over email from time to time. We ended the year with \$215 in our treasury. This amount was a donation to the Oregon Food Pantry and held until December to obtain up to 25% matching funds.

Sherryl Cobb, Secretary

WELCA YEAR-END SUMMARY - 1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020

INCOME

Funeral Luncheon Income	\$ 200.00
Interest Inc	\$ 3.43
Lefse Sales	\$ 573.00
LWR Shipping Fund	\$ 574.25
Pennies for Poverty	\$ 80.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 1,430.68**

EXPENSES

Banking Correction	- \$ 0.40
Devotional Booklets	- \$ 370.00
Kitchen Expenses	- \$ 9.24
Lefse Sales Distribution	- \$ 573.00
LWR Shipping Fund	- \$ 574.25
Memorials	- \$ 200.00
Mission Gifts Local Quilters	- \$ 200.00
Mission Expenses Local	- \$ 3,000.00
Mission Gifts Local Skaalen	- \$ 100.00
Pennies for Poverty	- \$ 80.00
WELCA Membership offering	- \$ 200.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	- \$ 5,306.89	
OVERALL TOTAL	<u>- \$ 3,876.21</u>	
Kitchen CD		\$ 828.74
Scholarship CD		\$1,590.72

Submitted by Bonnie Gilbertson, WELCA Treasurer

2019 OREGON AREA FOOD PANTRY

It is with great appreciation that St. John’s Lutheran Church did not forget Oregon Area Food Pantry during this trying and unsettling year. 1,785 pounds of food was donated to feed families in the Oregon Area School District by St. John’s church family! The Food Pantry had 1,716 household visits to the pantry in 2020, and they distributed over 146,127 pounds.

Submitted by Sally Bertelson

2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF ST. JOHN’S ENDOWMENT/MEMORIAL BOARD (EMB)

The **Endowment Fund** receives gifts of cash, securities, and property that are placed into the fund; the principal is maintained in perpetuity with the interest earned to be made available (*after Board established thresholds for each fund*) for ministries and other purposes of the St. John’s Lutheran Congregation in Oregon, WI.

Currently, the St John’s Endowment Fund consists of five (5) funds:

- **The Linka Kempf Air Conditioning Repair Fund - acct #112**
(This fund doesn’t have a minimum threshold for expenditures but is a limited term fund supporting the repair of the sanctuary central air conditioning (A/C) system)
- **Money Market Fund - acct #116**
(This fund is a depository for the post-threshold earning from the four other Endowment Funds, and is used as a clearing account to disburse the post-threshold earnings when needed)
- **The Endowment Growth (General) Fund - acct #117**
(This fund has a \$250,000 threshold before funds can be disbursed/utilized)
- **The Youth Activity Scholarship Fund - acct #119**
(Previously known as the Noyce Scholarship Fund. This funds threshold is \$20,000,

therefore half (½) of the annual interest earned beyond the \$20,000 is available for approved youth activities)

➤ **The High School Scholarship Fund - acct #1200**

(This funds threshold is \$25,000. It is intended to enhance and eventually take over the funding of the High School Graduation Scholarship from the Congregation's annual budget)

➤ **Endowment Fund Balances as of End of Year 2020**

➤ Account 112, Linka Kempf A/C Repair Fund	\$25,323
➤ Account 116, Endowment Money Market Fund	\$6,559
➤ Account 117, General Growth & Investment Fund	\$227,608
➤ Account 119, Youth Activities Scholarship Fund	\$28,910
➤ Account 1200, High School Scholarship Fund	<u>\$31,349</u>
Total Endowment Funds	\$319,749
2020 overall growth (End of Year 2020 Statements)	+\$43,979

2020 ENDOWMENT ACTIVITY

- Half of the 2019 earnings from account #119 Youth Activities Scholarship (\$2445.07) were moved to the Money Market and Jen Kooistra was notified of the availability of these funds for youth activities.
- Half of the 2019 earnings from account #1200 High School Scholarship (\$2236.09) were moved to the Money Market and the scholarship committee was notified so the funds could be used for scholarships.
- Fern Klug bequeathed a life insurance policy worth \$11,146.65 to St. John's. These funds were added to account #117, the General Growth and Investment Fund.
- An unnamed donor began gifting \$25 per month for the Growth and Investment Fund. An amount of \$150 was contributed to account #117 in July, and another \$150 to account #117 in December in this manner.

The **Memorial Fund** receives memorial gifts and administers them according to the wishes of the donor. Donors can designate their memorials per a Church Council approved, and prioritized, list of Church Needs/Wants. This list is established, approved, and regularly updated by the Church Council. Any Member of St. John's, its Ministry Teams, Staff and Boards may ask the Church Council to consider adding items to the Needs/Want List. Donors can also leave their memorial undesignated to be administered by the EMB.

➤ **Memorial Fund Balances End of Year 2020**

➤ Restricted Memorials	\$14,672
➤ Unrestricted Memorials	\$3,528
➤ Undesignated Memorials	<u>\$2,623</u>
Total	\$20,823

2020 MEMORIAL ACTIVITY

- Funds from account #745 Clarice Christensen memorial and undesignated memorials were used to purchase miscellaneous pieces needed for the portable sound system, which was itself purchased with memorial funds in 2019. What a blessing it was to have that system when worship was moved outside.
- The old Memorial checking account (#115) was officially closed after all activity with the account cleared. Funds were transferred to a Money Market account (#858) so that the funds could earn some interest. This change was approved and reported in the 2019 annual report, but the funds transfer was completed in 2020.
- Funds from account #815 Marvin Severson memorial and from account #859 Fern Klug memorial were used to purchase piano dollies.
- Funds from account #822 Pauline Champion memorial were used to fund a large cross for the outdoor worship space constructed by local artist and St. John's congregation member Michael Berens-Van Heest.
- The family of Peter Maksymo established a designated Memorial account #876 in his name.
- The family of Ruth Swanson established an undesignated Memorial account #878 in her name.
- The family of Russell Bergeland established a designated Memorial account #879 in his name.
- The family of Jeff Rosnow established a designated Memorial account #880 in his name. Funds from this memorial were disbursed to the Forward in Faith capital campaign, to the Oregon Area Food Pantry, and for the new sanctuary cross.
- The family of Frank Bachim established a designated Memorial account #882 in his name. Funds from this memorial have been designated for the new sanctuary cross.

The **Endowment and Memorial Board** continues to work on ways to improve the operations of the Board and how to better communicate with the Members of St. John's and its Ministry Teams.

The St. John's Endowment and Memorial Board was established in 1990, and has just completed its 31st year as custodian of the Endowment and the Memorial Funds. Current elected Board members are:

Sally Bertelson, Secretary	(1st term; 2019-2021)
Dan Lisowski, Treasurer	(2nd term; 2020-2022)

Diana Peterson, Finance Liaison (1st term; 2019-2021)
Doug Kohls, Vice-Chair (1st term; 2020-2022)
Shane Dammen, Chair (2nd term; 2020-2022)

Ex-officio Members:

Interim Pastor Naomi Garber
Kevin Oppermann, Council President
Shirley Schiffner, Church Financial Director

There are no expiring positions on the board this year. Two positions will come up for election at the annual meeting in 2022. Diana and Sally will be eligible to run for re-election, if they choose.

I would like to thank all current and prior Board members for their time, talents and dedication to preserve, grow and administer the vision that is the St. John's Endowment and Memorial Funds. I truly appreciate each member's dedication to the mission of the church and their thoughtful stewardship of our financial resources in order to best fund that mission now and in the future.

The Board would also like to especially thank Barbara Newhouse for her time writing the Thank You notes and cards for the Board this past year. I would be remiss if I did not call out Shirley Schiffner for her partnership, guidance, and good humor. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve on the Endowment and Memorial Board these past four years, the first two as Secretary and most recent two as Chair.

Please consider a gift to the St. John's Endowment and Memorial Funds in your Financial, Insurance and Estate Planning. Your gifts provide the foundation for our future ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Dammen
Chair of the St. John's Endowment and Memorial Board

ST. JOHN'S 2020 FINANCIAL REVIEW



After an extremely challenging year in all aspects, including financially, I am pleased to report that with all of the obstacles this year has placed in our path, we were able to show a \$2,663 gain. The budgeted expenses for 2020 were \$613,962 and our final expenses for 2020 were \$559,289. Total income for the year was \$561,952. Gifts dedicated to the Forward in Faith Capital Campaign were steady with \$290,516 given for the year. Total giving for 2020 was \$752,468, down from 2019, but a tremendous achievement for the entire St. John's community.

2020 Financial Highlights

1. Budgeted expenses declined \$54,673 for the year, a decline of about 8.9%
2. Budgeted Income was down \$52,010 for the year, a drop of 8.5%
3. Committee expenses for the year were down 35%. Many of these teams are still working behind the scenes to make our continued worshipping possible. Many thanks to their efforts!

4. The \$74,000 PPP (Payment Protection Program) Loan that St. John's obtained through the CARES Act was forgiven. We are not obligated to repay that loan.

Thank you for your continued generosity to St. John's as well as our other programs that continue to rely on our support. Going forward, we will continue to closely monitor our finances, and to try to anticipate and prepare for the unknowns that will present themselves.

Submitted by,
Mark W. Peterson, Treasurer

2020 HELPING HANDS SUMMARY

24 - Households Helped

Income: \$8,678.47

(Includes donations from St. John's Membership, St. John's Women, Hillcrest Bible Church, 1st Presbyterian Church, and a Memorial Gift.)

Expenses: Rent - \$2,777.00
 Utilities - \$2,563.67
 Misc - \$1,140.67

THANK YOU for your continued support and financial assistance to the Helping Hands Fund. With your generous support this year, we were also able to help Host a Family with a \$500 donation for Christmas gifts to children in our community.

BILL'S FOOD CENTER RECEIPTS REPORT

The Bill's Receipts came to a total for 2020 of \$1,855.31.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-OREGON, WI
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE IN FORCE
December 31, 2020

Insurer: Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company – Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Premiums are paid quarterly in Advance. Policy Period 9/1/2019-9/1/2022

Commercial Property Declarations:	<u>Limit of Insurance</u>
Buildings (Fire & Extended Coverage and Windstorm)	\$7,000,000
Contents (Personal Property)	\$1,000,000
Church Personal Property (Others)	\$15,600
Optional Coverage:	
Ordinance & Law A \$1,000 deductible	\$350,000
Ordinance & Law B \$1,000 deductible	\$100,000
Ordinance & Law C \$1,000 deductible	\$100,000
Theft Bld Mat \$250 deductible	\$5,000
Theft (M&S) \$250 deductible	\$10,000
Theft (Electronic Means) \$250 deductible	\$10,000
Theft by Coercion \$250 deductible	\$3,000
Pers Dishonest N/A	\$25,000
Earnings & Expenses N/A	\$50,000
Loss of Donations N/A	\$100,000
Extra Expense N/A	\$100,000
Sewers and Drains \$1,000 deductible	Bldg/Personal Property Limit
Water Damage \$1,000 deductible	\$10,000
System Equipment Breakdown \$1,000 deductible	Bldg/Personal Property Limit
Commercial Liability Declarations:	
Bodily Injury/Property Damage Liability	\$2,000,000/\$6,000,000
Medical Payments	\$5,000 per person /\$6,000,000
Products/Compensated Work	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Fire Legal Liability	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Additional Coverage & Supplemental Coverages:	
Church	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Media Liability	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Counseling Acts	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Directors and Officers	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Non-Owned Property Damage	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Sexual Acts (With Screening)	\$500,000 /\$1,500,000
Religious Athletic Medical	\$5,000 per person /\$6,000,000
Excess Liability	\$2,000,000 /\$2,000,000
Non-Owned Vehicle Liability Coverage	\$1,000,000 /\$3,000,000

Non-Owned Vehicle Medical Payments	\$5,000 per person /\$150,000
Cyber Liability	\$500,000 /\$1,500,000
Relief Activities	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Worldwide Liability Extension	(see form)
Traumatic Incident Response	\$50,000 per person /\$300,000
Clergy Accidental Death Benefit	\$15,000 per person /\$100,000
Religious Freedom	\$2,000,000 /\$6,000,000
Benefits Administration	\$1,000,000 /\$3,000,000
Employment Practices	\$1,000,000 /\$3,000,000
Defense Reimbursement	(see form)
Wage Reimbursement	\$3,500 per person /\$35,000 per occurrence
Workers' Compensation Insurance	Statutory Limits on entire Payroll
Additional Fidelity Bond Coverage	
South Central Synod of Wisconsin/ ELCA - Insured by Thrivent Financial For Lutherans	\$25,000

**SCHEDULE OF DEDICATED ACCOUNTS
DECEMBER 2020 – CHURCH OPERATIONS**

DEDICATED LAYSTAFF:

824 Laystaff Educational	<u>\$1,345.55</u>
Total Laystaff Educational:	\$1,345.55

**DEDICATED YOUTH
ACCOUNTS:**

703 Youth Church Camp Scholarships	\$400.00
717 Youth Activities Pass Thru	\$0.00
758 Youth Ministry Fund Raising	\$1,793.26
759 Youth Service Projects	\$196.13
838 LAB (Lutherans Against Bullying)	<u>\$1,569.35</u>
Total Youth Accounts:	\$3,958.74

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

860 Solar Project	\$11,831.00
721 Bldg/Site Maintenance Reserve Fund	\$6,208.86
736 Build & Ground Special Improvements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Building & Grounds:	\$18,039.86

**OTHER DEDICATED
ACCOUNTS:**

700 Helping Hands Pass- Thru	\$0.00
701 Third Sacrament Care	\$254.19
704 Missions	\$1,833.79
705 Fish Frys	\$87.97
708 St. John's Quilters	\$449.78
711 Music Fund	\$90.64
718 Garden Fund	\$2,318.70
725 NINA Fund Pass-Thru	\$0.00
727 Danish Model Ship Fund	\$87.44
728 Advent by Candlelight	\$278.19
732 Helping Hands Dedicated	\$5,146.17
741 Prayer Retreat	\$164.90
754 Council Discretionary - Thrivent	\$1,550.30
765 Wedding Deposits	\$595.53
793 Retired Pastors' Luncheons	\$45.95
845 Key Deposit	\$940.00
Total Other Dedicated Accounts	<u><u>\$13,843.55</u></u>

**TOTAL DEDICATED
ACCOUNTS:**

\$37,187.70

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 31, 2020 - CHURCH OPERATIONS

<i>Assets:</i>		12/31/2019	12/31/2020	
<i>LIQUID ASSETS</i>				
100 Petty Cash - Office		\$61.62	\$10.74	
102 General Checking Acct. OCB		\$27,122.40	\$33,935.00	
1002 Venmo - Checking Acct OCB			\$800.00	
802 Helping Hands Acct OCB		\$2,830.90	\$5,146.17	
108 OCB&T C/Ds due 7/14/2014		\$13,155.54	\$13,287.79	
101 OCB&T CD-HVAC 2/3/13		\$7,779.94	\$6,208.86	
109 Money Market Account- OCB&T		\$27,096.70	\$27,197.43	
2003 Money Market - CC Forward in Faith		\$207,037.39	\$5,244.27	
	<i>Total Liquid Assets</i>	\$285,084.49	\$91,830.26	\$91,830.26
<i>FIXED ASSETS</i>				
103 New Building Addition-2002		\$1,695,684.32	\$1,695,684.32	
104 Church Land and Site Impts.		\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	
105 Church Building 1975/1982		\$1,750,000.00	\$1,750,000.00	
	<i>Total Fixed Assets</i>	\$4,045,684.32	\$4,045,684.32	\$4,045,684.32
<i>OTHER ASSETS</i>				
<i>Prepaid Expenses</i>				
110 Prepaid Insurance Premiums		\$1,659.28	\$834.71	
121 Life Insurance Policies		\$2.00	\$0.00	
	<i>Total Other Assets</i>	\$1,661.28	\$834.71	\$834.71
	Total Assets:			\$4,138,349.29
<i>Liabilities & Net Worth.</i>				
<i>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</i>				
201 Federal Income Taxes Withheld		\$1,064.00	\$1,107.00	
202 State Income Taxes Withheld		\$763.00	\$798.00	
203 FICA Taxes Payable		\$1,886.02	\$1,984.06	
204 Medicare Taxes Payable		\$441.06	\$463.98	
205 Deferred Comp. Reductions		-\$4.54	\$0.00	
209 EE Pay Supplement Life Ins		\$0.00	\$3.75	
	<i>Total Accounts Payable</i>	\$4,149.54	\$4,356.79	\$4,356.79
<i>DEBT -Mortgage</i>				
200 Mortgage Loan Payable OCB&T		\$424,483.53	\$381,305.95	
2005 Construction Line-of-Credit			\$100,000.00	\$481,305.95
	Total Liabilities:			\$485,662.74
<i>DEDICATED ACCOUNTS</i>				
Without Donor Restrictions		\$25,768.87	\$28,297.97	
With Donor Restrictions		\$6,574.46	\$8,889.73	
	<i>Total Dedicated Accounts</i>	\$32,343.33	\$37,187.70	\$37,187.70
<i>EQUITY ACCOUNTS</i>				
300 Net Worth		\$3,919,946.52	\$3,814,629.27	\$3,814,629.27
Current Period Changes		-\$48,492.83	-\$199,130.42	-\$199,130.42
	<i>Total Equity & Changes</i>	\$3,871,453.69	\$4,013,759.69	
	Total Net Assets:			\$3,652,686.55
Total Liabilities & Net Assets:				\$4,138,349.29
sms1/25/21				

REPORT of 2020 BENEVOLENCE GIVING

FROM 2020 CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET:

MISSION SUPPORT & LSS

500 ELCA Benevolence Payments	35,114.04	
501 Lutheran Social Services	3,121.05	
TOTAL MISSION SUPPORT & LSS		38,235.09

LOCAL BENEVOLENCE

502 Skaalen Home Ministries	835.00	
503 Sugar Creek Ministries	209.00	
504 Dane County Jail Ministries	1,043.00	
505 Oregon Food Pantry (see below/directed giving)	33.50	
506 Senior Foot Care Program	209.00	
507 Habitat for Humanity Benevolen	105.00	
508 NINA (see below/directed giving)	0.00	
509 Seminarian Assistance Program	261.00	
803 Campus Ministry	522.00	
TOTAL LOCAL BENEVOLENCE		3,217.50

Total Budgeted Benevolence Paid **\$41,452.59**

DIRECTED GIVING:

707 Food Pantry Dedicated Acct.	639.77	
725 NINA	6,259.70	
709 ELCA Lutheran World Relief	50.00	
803 Campus Ministry	401.00	
732* Helping Hand Dedicated	6,481.34	
Total Dedicated Accounts		13,831.81

COMBINED BENEVOLENCE GIVING (All Sources) **\$55,284.40**

Income from 1 Fish Fry profits given to Oregon Youth Center, NINA, and St. John's Helping Hands Fund	1,173.05	1,173.05
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TOTAL OF COMBINED BENEVOLENCE GIVING AND FISH FRYS **\$56,457.45**

Women of St. John's Benevolence Giving	4,727.25	4,727.25
		\$61,184.70

*Donations for Helping Hands Fund have come from Oregon/Brooklyn Churches, Memorial Gifts, St. John's Women, and the generous support of the St. John's Lutheran Church congregation.

Statement of Financial Position - St. John's Lutheran Church

December, 2020 - MEMORIAL FUND				
	Balance as of	Balance as of	Year to Date	
	1/1/2020	12/31/2020	Change	
Assets:				
<i>MEMORIAL FUND ASSETS</i>				
115 OCB&T MEM FUND	\$943.83	\$0.00	-\$943.83	
858 MONEY MARKET - Memorial Account	\$16,301.93	\$20,920.04	\$4,618.11	
Total Assets:	\$17,245.76	\$20,920.04	\$3,674.28	
Liabilities:				
<i>RESTRICTED MEMORIALS</i>				
208 Chancel Choir Stoles	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Liabilities:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Net Assets:				
<i>EQUITY ACCOUNTS</i>				
302 MEMORIAL FUND EQUITY	\$32.31	\$32.31	\$0.00	
<i>Designated Gifts</i>				
Without Donor Restrictions	\$9,551.55	\$14,310.89	\$4,759.34	
With Donor Restrictions	\$7,661.90	\$6,511.84	-\$1,150.06	
<i>Total for Designated Gifts</i>	<i>\$17,213.45</i>	<i>\$20,822.73</i>	<i>\$3,609.28</i>	
Current Period Changes	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	
Total Net Assets:	\$17,245.76	\$20,920.04	\$3,674.28	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets:	\$17,245.76	\$20,920.04	\$3,674.28	

Statement of Activities - St. John's Lutheran Church

December, 2020 - MEMORIAL FUND				
	December	Year to Date	Annual	
	Actual	Actual	Budget Bal.	
Income:				
<i>MEMORIAL FUND</i>				
MEMORIAL FUND INCOME				
435 Memorial Fund Interest Income	\$4.85	\$65.00	\$65.00	
436 Gain on Memorial Fund Investme	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Income	\$4.85	\$65.00	\$65.00	
Expense:				
<i>MEMORIAL FUND</i>				
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES				
602 Memorial Fund Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
MEMORIAL FUND				
603 Losses on Memorial Fund Invest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
604 Expenses of Memorial Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Income - Expense	\$4.85	\$65.00	\$65.00	

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Dedicated Accounts - St. John's Lutheran Church

December, 2020 - MEMORIAL FUND

	Beginning <u>1/1/2020</u>	Year to Date <u>Receipts</u>	Year to Date <u>Expenses</u>	YTD Balance <u>1/31/2020</u>
<i>UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS</i>				
815 Marvin Severson Memorial	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$0.00
826 Charles Anderson Memorial	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
828 Dee & Louis Spink Memorials	\$970.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$970.00
831 Marvin Campbell Memorial	\$705.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$705.00
835 Robert Hacker Memorial	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$160.00
840 Don Linstroth Memorial	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
857 Craig Schley Memorial	\$0.14	\$0.00	\$0.14	\$0.00
859 Fern Khug Memorial	\$1,186.00	\$0.00	\$485.00	\$701.00
861 Vera Riemann Memorial	\$245.00	\$0.00	\$245.00	\$0.00
875 Casper Yaun Memorial	\$0.00	\$245.00	\$245.00	\$0.00
878 Ruth Swanson Memorial	\$0.00	\$341.97	\$0.00	\$341.97
738 Undesignated Memorials	\$2,785.41	\$10.14	\$172.63	\$2,622.92
<i>UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS</i>	\$6,701.55	\$1,447.11	\$1,997.77	\$6,150.89
<i>DESIGNATED MEMORIALS</i>				
724 Clarence Rockwell Memorials	\$414.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$414.01
733 Irene Larson Memorial	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
745 Clarice Christensen Memorial	\$38.88	\$0.00	\$38.88	\$0.00
816 Heaton Memorial	\$1,115.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,115.00
822 Pauline Champion Memorial	\$2,264.00	\$0.00	\$1,811.18	\$452.82
837 Betty Schwenn Memorial	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.00
839 Ralph Bergeland Memorial	\$2,850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,850.00
842 Mark Riese Memorial	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
846 Norrairie Kvammen Memorial	\$85.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85.01
854 Arnold Johnson Memorial	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
874 Sue Knudson Memorial	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$90.00
876 Peter Maksymo Memorial	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
879 Russell Bergeland Memorial	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
880 Jeff Rosnow Memorial	\$0.00	\$9,840.00	\$4,840.00	\$5,000.00
881 Frank Bachim Memorial	\$0.00	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00
823 Challenge Fund Youth Scholarship	\$2,510.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,510.00
<i>DESIGNATED MEMORIALS</i>	\$10,511.90	\$10,850.00	\$6,690.06	\$14,671.84
<i>Total for selected ded. accounts</i>	\$17,213.45	\$12,297.11	\$8,687.83	\$20,822.73

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Statement of Financial Position - St. John's Lutheran Church

December, 2020 - ENDOWMENT FUND				
	Balance as of 1/1/2020	Balance as of 12/31/2020	Year to Date Change	
Assets:				
<i>ENDOWMENT FND ASSETS</i>				
112 THRIVENT INV-KEMPF A/C Repair	\$22,126.89	\$25,323.50	\$3,196.61	
116 AMERFUNDINV-Money Market	\$1,866.54	\$6,558.84	\$4,692.30	
117 AMERFUNDINV-Grow&Invest	\$195,425.66	\$227,607.79	\$32,182.13	
119 AMERFUNDINV-G&I (Scholarship)	\$27,227.87	\$28,909.69	\$1,681.82	
1200 AMERFUNDINV-High School Graduation	\$29,122.93	\$31,349.50	\$2,226.57	
<i>ENDOWMENT FND ASSETS</i>	\$275,769.89	\$319,749.32	\$43,979.43	
Total Assets:	\$275,769.89	\$319,749.32	\$43,979.43	
Liabilities:				
<i>RESTRICTED MEMORIALS</i>				
206 Endowment Account	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Liabilities:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Net Assets:				
<i>EQUITY ACCOUNTS</i>				
301 ENDOWMENT FUND EQUITY	\$275,029.89	\$270,348.73	(\$4,681.16)	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
With Donor Restrictions	\$740.00	\$5,421.16	\$4,681.16	
Current Period Changes	\$0.00	\$43,979.43	\$43,979.43	
Total Net Assets:	\$275,769.89	\$319,749.32	\$43,979.43	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$275,769.89	\$319,749.32	\$43,979.43	

Statement of Activities - St. John's Lutheran Church

December, 2020 - ENDOWMENT FUND				
	December Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Bal.	
Income:				
<i>ENDOWMENT FUND</i>				
ENDOWMENT FUND				
433 Income on Linka Kempf Funds	\$3,205.62	\$8,261.91	\$8,261.91	
434 Income on Non-Kempf Fund	\$0.00	\$34,124.99	\$34,124.99	
437 Interest on Investments .	\$29,623.96	\$45,082.28	\$45,082.28	
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$32,829.58	\$87,469.18	\$87,469.18	
Total Income	\$32,829.58	\$87,469.18	\$87,469.18	
Expense:				
<i>ENDOWMENT FUND</i>				
ENDOWMENT FUND				
600 Expenses of Endowment Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
601 Losses on Endowment Fund Inves	\$0.00	\$38,424.45	(\$38,424.45)	
610 Linka Kempf Fnd Expenses/Losse	\$0.00	\$5,065.30	(\$5,065.30)	
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$0.00	\$43,489.75	(\$43,489.75)	
Total Expense	\$0.00	\$43,489.75	(\$43,489.75)	
YTD Income - Expense	\$32,829.58	\$43,979.43	\$43,979.43	

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Dedicated Accounts - St. John's Lutheran Church

December, 2020 - ENDOWMENT FUND					
	Beginning	Year to Date	Year to Date	Current Balance	
	<u>1/1/2020</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>12/31/2020</u>	
<i>BEQUESTS</i>					
798 AmerFunds MM-HS Scholarship Earnings	\$0.00	\$2,236.09	\$0.00	\$2,236.09	
843 AmerFunds MM-Youth Act Scholarship Earnin	\$740.00	\$2,445.07	\$0.00	\$3,185.07	
844 AmerFunds MM-Growth&Income Earnings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<i>BEQUESTS</i>	\$740.00	\$4,681.16	\$0.00	\$5,421.16	
<i>Total for selected dedicated accounts</i>	\$740.00	\$4,681.16	\$0.00	\$5,421.16	
sms1/25/21					

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INCOME/EXPENSES		
2020		
Capital Campaign:		
CC-Income		\$190,515.62
CC-Line-of Credit Loan		\$100,000.00
CC-Expenses		<u>\$492,308.74</u>
Net Income (Net Loss)		<u>(\$201,793.12)</u>
CC-Expenses:		
CC-Consult		\$0.00
CC-Interest Expense		\$305.56
CC-Misc Expenses		\$1,971.62
CC-Design Professional Fees		\$37,482.06
CC-HVAC		\$3,354.70
CC-Building Renovation		\$328,975.00
CC-Mortgage Paydown		\$13,520.35
CC-Outdoor Lighting		\$28,497.38
CC-A/V Equipment		\$73,813.07
CC-Sanctuary Cross		\$4,389.00
CC Expense Total		<u>\$492,308.74</u>
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN -Money Market Check Acct:		
Balance	12/31/2019	\$207,037.39
	Income	\$190,515.62
	Loan	\$100,000.00
	Expense	\$492,308.74
Balance	12/31/2019	<u>\$5,244.27</u>
sms 1/25/21		

St. John's Lutheran Church					
Spending Plan - 2021 Budget					
	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income:					
GENERAL/SPECIAL FUNDS:	\$514,199.10	\$508,075.42	\$521,838.57	\$445,256.15	\$588,503.34
DEBT RETIREMENT	\$29,874.02	\$23,004.31	\$30,000.00	\$10,554.71	\$0.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS	\$205.38	\$108.05	\$150.00	\$145.47	\$0.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME:	\$145.00	\$437.12	\$400.00	\$291.86	\$400.00
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$17.00	\$500.00
OFFICE INCOME/EXPENSE	\$652.82	\$625.53	\$700.00	\$698.97	\$700.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	\$15,040.00	\$15,125.00	\$15,100.00	\$15,150.00	\$15,100.00
CONFIRMATION INCOME	\$0.00	\$1,424.94	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
EDUCATIONAL INC.-OTHER	\$3,248.79	\$2,558.39	\$2,500.00	\$1,855.31	\$1,700.00
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ADULT EDUCATION/FORUM	\$426.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$143.00	\$200.00
FORWARD IN FAITH - Principal Paydown		\$33,801.84	\$41,473.58	\$13,520.35	\$0.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$206.78	\$229.55	\$200.00	\$319.25	\$200.00
*PPP - COVID 2020- Forgiven Loan				\$74,000.00	\$0.00
Income Totals:	\$564,002.89	\$585,390.15	\$613,962.15	\$561,952.07	\$607,303.34
Expense:					
MISSION SUPPORT & LSS	\$37,485.00	\$37,485.00	\$38,235.00	\$38,235.09	\$38,235.00
LOCAL BENEVOLENCE	\$3,748.03	\$4,045.00	\$4,124.00	\$3,217.50	\$4,124.00
CLERGY SALARIES/HOUSING:	\$88,428.08	\$88,428.08	\$88,428.00	\$71,206.50	\$82,428.00
CLERGY BENEFITS/ALWS:	\$21,021.58	\$20,448.43	\$20,948.38	\$18,501.67	\$35,168.78
OTHER CLERGY EXPENSES:	\$4,257.48	\$4,410.63	\$6,250.00	\$3,821.45	\$3,600.00
LAY STAFF SALARIES	\$201,210.16	\$206,303.68	\$211,523.28	\$202,201.29	\$217,049.81
LAY STAFF EXPENSES	\$32,069.44	\$29,399.93	\$32,852.96	\$29,968.25	\$32,159.21
PAYROLL TAXES	\$14,995.34	\$15,440.69	\$16,181.53	\$15,318.00	\$16,604.31
WORKERS INSURANCE.	\$3,636.22	\$3,488.21	\$3,500.00	\$3,326.96	\$3,133.00
OFFICE INCOME/EXPENSE	\$18,657.60	\$19,094.96	\$19,100.00	\$16,460.10	\$18,300.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS:	\$74,737.80	\$68,532.83	\$82,343.00	\$76,937.58	\$79,410.00
COMMITTEES:	\$12,296.58	\$12,277.28	\$18,300.00	\$11,963.07	\$12,000.00
EDUCATION EXPENSE:	\$3,179.28	\$3,204.84	\$4,000.00	\$2,956.35	\$3,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:	\$3,570.12	\$2,792.78	\$3,800.00	\$1,873.23	\$2,300.00

	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
CONFIRMATION	\$807.91	\$3,351.62	\$2,000.00	\$87.69	\$800.00
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ADULT EDUCATION/FORUM	\$1,156.35	\$268.51	\$500.00	\$293.19	\$100.00
YOUTH PROGRAMS EXPENSE	\$874.17	\$810.69	\$1,000.00	\$341.45	\$500.00
LOAN PRINCIPAL PAYDOWN	\$28,836.51	\$38,504.11	\$41,473.58	\$43,177.58	\$40,151.55
LOAN INTEREST EXPENSE	\$34,436.49	\$27,074.16	\$19,402.42	\$19,402.42	\$18,239.68
<i>Expense Totals:</i>	\$585,404.14	\$585,361.43	\$613,962.15	\$559,289.37	\$607,303.34
<i>TOTAL Income vs Expense:</i>	-\$21,401.25	\$28.72	\$0.00	\$2,662.70	\$0.00
sms 1/26/21					

ACTION ITEMS WORKSHEET

Thank you to these two for their services as their terms on St. John's Council ends:

Cal Gilbertson

Barbara Newhouse

2021 CONTINUING COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ryan Anderson

Kay Bliefernicht

Barb Hanna

Bob Lindmeier

Alan Lukazewski

Kevin Oppermann

Mark W. Peterson

Catherine Stang

Emily Staveness

2021 NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joanne Gladden

John Fishwild

Janice Rockwell

Ethan Johnson

NEW COUNCIL BIOS



Joanne Gladden

I grew up outside Cleveland, Ohio, youngest in a family of seven. I was fortunate to have my grandmother live with us throughout my upbringing and her presence was undoubtedly the source of my special fondness for elders. My current family consists of Fred (spouse of 48 years), two sons and four grandchildren, and extended family living out of state. I met my husband at the U of Minnesota School of Public Health where I completed a master's degree in public health nursing with certification as an adult and geriatric nurse practitioner. Later, I completed a PhD in nursing with a specialty in gerontology. My nursing career played out in various healthcare settings that included a combination of both clinical practice and serving on the nursing faculty of several universities.

I was raised Catholic and became a member of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine at age 18, a diocesan order of nuns whose mission included nursing, teaching, and social work. I was a member for 8 ½ years and gratefully attribute my deepest spiritual development during that time. I became a member of the ELCA Lutheran Church after my marriage to Fred (1972) and have been active in Lutheran churches in Alaska, N Dakota, and Maryland serving on Church Councils, volunteering, and serving as a Parish Nurse with a cadre of other nurses. Fred and I joined St. John's faith community in January, 2011, happily experiencing the friendship, community outreach/mission commitment, and spiritual growth that it abundantly offered. I have tried to give back by serving St. John's in a variety of ways: Member of St. John's Church Council (2011-14), current member of the Veterans Outreach Committee, past chair of Health Ministry and Family Ministry teams, volunteering in community outreach initiatives and fundraising (ex: mask initiative for the NINA Fund), supporting congregational life events, leader in the beginning stage of *Forward in Faith* campaign, and serving in worship, primarily as a reader and communion assistant.

I accepted this nomination to serve in St. John's Church Council because I was invited to become a member during this pivotal phase in our church's development and mission. I am offering my past service and personal experiences to support the challenging work ahead in ways that are not fully known to me. Simply, "I am here, Lord." I will do my best to represent and support members as we continue in faith to fulfill our Church's mission.



John Fishwild

My name is Jon Fishwild. I am excited at the prospect of serving on St. John's church council, after having last served nearly 20 years ago. I am currently serving on the Finance Team, and Sara and I also recently served as pledge visitors, as we kicked off our *Forward in Faith* campaign.

I was born and raised in Iowa, and earned a degree in physics from Iowa State University. I taught physics at a parochial school for three years in Wilmette, IL, before moving to Madison to teach science and math in the Oregon School District. I

have been with the OSD for 30 years.

Long-time church members, Royce and Karen Kreul, introduced Sara and I, and we married here at St. John's in 1998. Shortly after, Sara and I started our journey toward adoption and brought our son, Jaison, home in 2001, and our daughter, Arathi, home in 2005. Jaison is a freshman at UW-La Crosse, and Arathi is a senior at Oregon High School.

One of our favorite things to do, as a family, is to spend weekends camping at many of our beautiful state parks. It is an extra pleasure to take our camping experience to the Rocky Mountains. Sara and I also enjoy evening walks, and in the warmer months, grilling and sitting by a campfire on our patio.

While this pandemic has in many ways strengthened my faith, I have missed attending services. I accepted the nomination to serve on church council as an opportunity to re-engage with St. John's as we soon approach (hopefully) a re-opening and begin to enjoy communion in our new sanctuary.



Janice (Jan) Rockwell

I was baptized and confirmed at St. John's and I'm very proud to be a life-long congregation member. Serving St. John's started early as a youth singing in the Youth Choir and working side-by-side with my mother at Smorgasbord. Over the years, I have taught Sunday School, ushered and served communion, served as Smorgasbord Chair and was a member of the Nomination Committee and Property Committee.

I was raised on our Oregon family farm, with seven siblings, and very loving and Christian parents, and I still reside in Oregon. After graduating high school, I worked at the Department of Revenue, Department of Transportation, UW Extension and UW Madison and retired in 2015 after 37½ years of state service. I am blessed with my daughter and son-in-law, Kristin and Tyler Cate, and grandson, Peyton, who reside in Belleville.

Since retiring, I work part-time jobs at Kopke's Greenhouse, Hann's Christmas Farm and Duluth Trading Company. I enjoy walking, hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, reading, traveling and watching Peyton.

I look forward to continuing my service to St. John's as a member of the Church Council.



Ethan Johnson

My name is Ethan Johnson am 17 years old, I go to Oregon High School and have been going to St. John's my whole life. I've played my violin for church a lot, and I'm definitely going to play more in the future as well. I'm definitely going to focus on this service and am looking forward to being a part of the council.

SKAALLEN HOME REPRESENTATIVES

(need 2 for a 1-year term)

NOMINATING TEAM 2021

(Need 3 for 1-year term)

Must be received from the floor

2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

No date set – possibly fall of 2021

(Need 3)

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Litany

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.

L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain
Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in
faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your
word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952
Music: BUILD US UP, Mark Glaeser and Donna Hanna
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In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form “one body.” Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word “one” appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the “unity of Christ.” He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” This oneness reflects God’s gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to “bear with one another in love.” This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to “maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by “speaking the truth in love,” each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God’s work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God’s glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into “unity in Christ.” We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

LET US PRAY: LORD, LET THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL DWELL IN US DEEPLY. MAY WE EMBRACE THE RECONCILING POWER OF ONENESS WITH CHRIST. MAY THIS ONENESS GUIDE OUR CONGREGATION AS WE LIVE INTO THE NEW REALITIES OF THESE TIMES. AS WE MEET NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY, MAY WE TAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW THEM WITH PATIENCE, HUMILITY AND LOVE. HELP US TO SEE HOW SHARING OUR GIFTS WILL MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER AND MORE FULFILLING WHILE BRINGING ALL OF US CLOSER TO CHRIST. MAY THE BLESSINGS YOU GIVE EACH DAY STRENGTHEN US TO A LIVING, DARING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR GRACE. AMEN.