Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

St. John Lutheran ELCA

Waseca MN

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

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

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 …

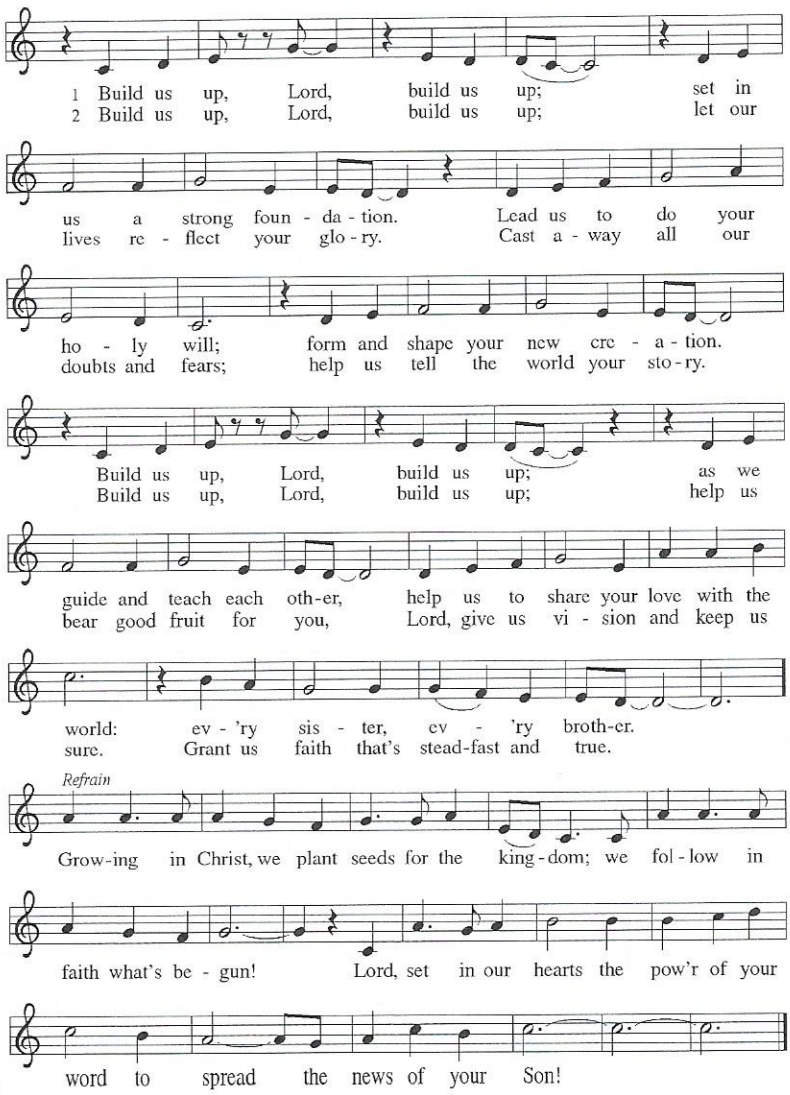
C. … to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.

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

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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."

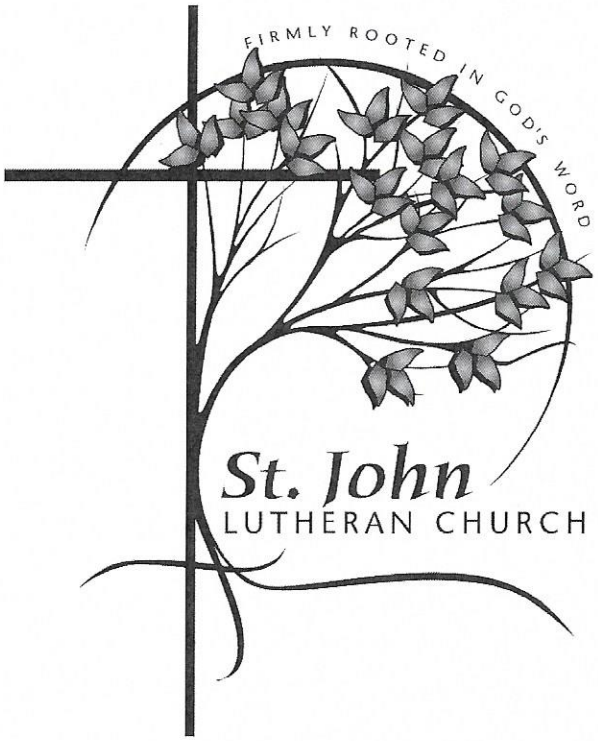
A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew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



Annual Report for 2020

Dated: January 31, 2021

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
ELCA

401 3rd Ave NE
Waseca MN 56093

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Updated 10/29/2020

CHURCH STAFF 2020

Pastor	John Omans	(Office) 507- 833-1703 (home) 507- 833-1525 (cell) 507- 201-1103
Director: Cross+Gen Ministries	Martin Aberle	
Administrative Assistant	Julie Keane	(office) 507-833-1703 (Cell) 507-521-1131

Custodian	Bill Erdman	507-461-1359
Financial Secretary	Allan Tonn	507-234-5737
Youth Finance	Suzie Root	507-310-4128
Organists/Pianists	Jan Macklay	507-835-8706
	Allan Tonn	507-234-5737
Scrip Co Coordinator	Kari Priebe	507-521-4723
Scrip Co Coordinator	Pam Grunzke	612-910-7230
Senior Choir Director	Deb Wantoch-Yess	507-835-3498
Assistant	Jan Macklay	507-835-8706
Senior Choir Accompanist	Allan Tonn	507-234-5737

CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

President	Michael Schlueter	507-304-3530
Vice-President	Michael Behsmann	507-461-7490
Council Secretary	Nancy Hansen	507-333-2876
Council Members At Large	Gary Conrath (2021)	507-521-9715
	Valerie Possehl (2021)	
	Merril Schultz (2021)	

Congregation Life	Dan Kuhns (2022)	507-461-2681
Education	Val Possehl (2021)	507-461-9677
Social Ministry and Outreach	Ann Ruedy (2022)	507-308-4779
Worship and Music	Merril Schultz (2021)	507-461-7240
Building and Grounds	Kyle Gallagher (2022)	507-461-3347

EMAIL ADDRESS

Pastor John Omans	faith.worker@hotmail.com
	stjohncrossgen5@gmail.com
Gary Conrath	garycwfd@gmail.com
Bill Erdman	erdmanwilliamharold@yahoo.com
Nancy Hansen	nanrevitup@gmail.com
Julie Keane	stjohn@hickorytech.net
Valerie Possehl	NO EMAIL
Kari Priebe	priek@waseca.k12.mn.us
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Merril Schultz	schultz.j.mary@gmail.com
Al Tonn	atonn@hikorytech.net
Michael Behsmann	mikeb54@outlook.com
Robert Sleen	randdsleen@outlook.com
Kyle Gallagher	kyle5013@hotmail.com

ABOUT US

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
401 3rd Avenue Northeast
Waseca, Minnesota 56093

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

Worship Services Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m. Family Education and Fellowship

FaceBook Live, YouTube channel

Video Voice of St. John Cable TV, Channel 8
Sunday at 5:00 p.m.
Monday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday SMART Bus – 1-855-762-7821 (call before Sat. 3pm for reservation)
Tokens available for members traveling to worship services, contact the church office

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John is a Christian family of disciples alive in a Scripture-based, Spirit-led mission of ministry, worship and play. Disciples at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church are expected to pray often, worship regularly, learn from the Scriptures, participate in the serving groups if physically able, offer their time and talent as the spirit calls them, and regularly contribute monetarily to support the mission and ministry of the church.

CONTACT US

Church Office: 507-833-1703
Office Hours: Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.
Email: stjohn@hickorytech.net
Web Site: www.stjohnwaseca.org
Facebook: St John Lutheran Church ELCA

John Omans, Pastor
400 9th Street Southeast
Waseca, Minnesota 56093
Home phone: 507-833-1525
Cell phone: 507-201-1103
Email: faith.worker@hotmail.net

WEEKLY FUNCTIONS (other than Worship)

Family Education
10:15 —11:00 a.m. following worship each Sunday (September through May)
(Suspended due to COVID)
Fellowship
10:15 —11:00 a.m. following worship each Sunday
(***Suspended due to COVID***)
Confirmation Wednesdays (September through May)
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Classes

MONTHLY FUNCTIONS

Executive Council — Second Tuesday of each month 5:30 p.m.
General Council — Second Tuesday of each month 6:00 p.m.
Commissions — First Tuesday of each month, or more often as needed 7:00 p.m.
Building and Grounds
Congregational Life
Education
Finance
Social Ministry and Outreach
Worship and Music

Joint Communion ***(Suspended due to COVID)***

Lake Shore Inn Nursing Home Second Thursday of the month at 11:15 a.m.
Colony Court Second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Women of the ELCA Bible Study Groups: ***(Suspended due to COVID)***

Mary — Second Monday of each month, 1:30 p.m. in Trinity Hall

Ruth — Third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at Latham Place 105 NW 8th St.

Women of the ELCA Board — to be announced as needed
Women of the ELCA General Meetings — see Annual WELCA booklet
Senior Choir — Weekly practice following Sunday Worship approx. 10:30 a.m.
Senior Lutherans — Second Wednesday of each month, 11:30 a.m. in Trinity Hall
Men in Mission — Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. in Trinity Hall
Quilters —Mondays 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Quilters usually don't meet during the month of December

This is Christ's church.

There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all.
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Annual Meeting Agenda 2020

Sunday, January 31, 2020

10:30 AM St. Johns Sanctuary

Convening of the meeting	Michael Schlueter
Devotions	Pastor John
Approval of Minutes from previous meeting	Nancy Hansen
Financial Report	Al Tonn
Auditing Statement	Merril Schulz
Organizational Reports (Refer to Annual Report)	
Nominating committee report	Michael Schlueter
New council Members	
Voting members (4) for Synod Assembly	
Voting Members (6) for MN River Conference Assembly	
Nominating committee for 2021	
Election of new officers	Michael Schlueter
Presentation of financial budget	Al Tonn
Election results	Michael Schlueter
Pastor's report	Pastor John
Old Business	Michael Schlueter
New Business	
Thank you and passing of the gavel	Michael Schlueter
Closing prayer	Pastor John
Adjournment	

Minutes in italics,

Annual Meeting Agenda 2019
Sunday, January 26, 2020
10:30 A.M. Trinity Hall

Convening of the meeting — Don Wesseling

Don Wesseling requested that "Secretary Minutes 2019: be added to agenda. Motion made by Kathy Zabel, 2nd by Linda Sandborg. Motion to approve agenda as amended, passed.

Devotions — Pastor Omans

Financial Reports — Al Tonn

Motion made to except the financial report by Jody Schroeder and 2nd by Gary Conrath. Motion passed.

Secretary Minutes

Motion made to except the secretary minutes for 2019 made by Gary Conrath and 2nd by Bill Erdman to accept the 2019 min., motion passed.

Auditing statement — (Al getting to us)

Prepared by Amy LeCocq

Organizational reports (Refer to Annual Report)

Nominating committee report — Don Wesseling

New Council members
Voting members (4) for Synod Assembly
Voting members (4) for Mn River Conference Assembly
Nominating committee for 2019

Election of new officers — Don Wesseling

No nominations from the floor. Motion by Curt Yess and 2nd by Gary Conrath to cast a unanimous ballot, motion passed.

Presentation of financial and program budgets — Al Tonn

2020 proposed budget

Gary Conrath and 2nd by Kyle Gallagher to accept the proposed 2020 budget. Motion passed.

Election results — Don Wesseling

Pastor's report — Pastor Omans

Director: Cross+Gen Ministries — Marty Aberle

Question-Can job description be done in 20 hours/week? Yes.
Mission trips? Last week in July.

Old Business — Don Wesseling

No old business

New Business

No new business

Thank you and passing of the gavel — Don Wesseling

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - 2020
REPORT OF FINANCES

GENERAL FUND INCOME & EXPENSE COMPARISON

	2018	2019	2020
Weekly Offering	227,902.60	233,682.98	207,324.70
Loose Offering	3,201.69	4,255.41	2,826.71
Weekday Services	4,686.01	9,985.78	12,173.31
Interest	5.82	4.34	5.55
Trinity Hall rentals + misc	9,056.82	790.05	26,240.00
GENERAL FUND INCOME TOTAL	244,852.94	248,718.56	248,570.27
EXPENSES	252,498.02	250,433.81	233,178.82
NET DIFFERENCE	-7,645.08	-1,715.25	15,391.45

DIRECT DEPOSIT - SIMPLY GIVING

	2018	2019	2020
Total Received	63,532.86	40,275.64	44,978.62

BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank Balance 1-1-2020	73,288.19
Less: Unpaid checks 1-1-2020	-8,034.01
	65,254.18
Add: Deposits - 2020	282,676.99
	347,931.17
Less: Expenses - 2020	-280,700.40
Checkbook Balance 12-31-2020	67,230.77
Add: Checks yet to be cashed 12-31-2020	4,442.73
Bank Balance 12-31-2020	71,673.50

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - INVESTMENTS - 2020

MISSION INVESTMENTS FUND

Jan 1, 2020 Balance	113,808.83
Add: Payroll Protection Program Loan proceeds	26,000.00
Add: Interest earned in 2020	1,791.83
Dec 31, 2020 Balance	141,600.66

EDWARD JONES ACCOUNT - STRAND MEMORIAL

Jan 1, 2020 Balance	11,412.21
Value as of Dec 31, 2020	11,978.58

(508.636 shares @ 23.55 per share plus $0.20 cash)

EDWARD JONES ACCOUNT - K. SCHROEDER MEMORIAL

Jan 1, 2020 Balance	35,569.15
Dec 31, 2020 Balance	36,079.34

Presently invested in Federated Tr US Treasury Obligations

PERPETUAL FUNDS 2020

	Balance 1-1-20	Interest Earned	Balance 12-31-20
Diversified Credit Union (matures 5-29-21)	6,425.53		6,425.53
Diversified Credit Union (matures 1-29-21)	7,605.30		7,605.30
MM/Savings - Roundbank - DCU	1,575.49	304.60	1,880.09
Dec 31, 2020 Balance	15,606.32	304.60	15,910.92

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRUST FUND - 2020

DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

	Balance 1/1/20	2020 Income	2020 Expenses	Balance 12/31/20
Altar Supply/Flagon	75.23			75.23
Crisis Fund	187.13	370.00	25.00	532.13
Crossways Bible Study	185.08			185.08
Interest	752.01			752.01
Kitchen	255.00			255.00
Narthex Improvements	325.00			325.00
Other Choirs	293.80			293.80
Seminary Scholarship	605.81			605.81
Spirit Quest/Pneuma	519.85			519.85
St. John Youth - B. Penny	4,410.80			4,410.80
Stephen Ministry	1,995.98			1,995.98
Trinity Hall/Lord's House	7,791.98			7,791.98
VBS	45.84			45.84
Video Tech Ministry	1,857.95	220.00	68.00	2,009.95
Worship and Praise Hymnals	250.00			250.00
Undesignated-Memorials	14,824.63	3,513.22	1,906.60	16,431.25
Undesignated-Budget	18,283.59		1,715.25	16,568.34
TOTALS	52,659.68	4,103.22	3,714.85	53,048.05

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

DESIGNATED GIFTS - 2020

	Balance 1/1/20	2020 Income	2020 Expenses	Balance 12/31/20
Building Fund	5,017.50	8,436.02	8,791.02	4,662.50
Carpet - Fellowship Hall	3,200.01	2,050.00		5,250.01
Congregational Life - Pizza	-65.94	65.94		0.00
Debt Retirement	1,306.25			1,306.25
Facilities Improvement	9,403.07	5,481.63	2,101.58	12,783.12
Fair Trade Coffee	840.52	696.50	668.90	868.12
Fellowship Hour	1,640.58	172.00		1,812.58
Glory Singers	434.34			434.34
Handbell Restoration	86.38			86.38
Lenten/Advent Service Meals	716.49			716.49
Military Boxes	39.95			39.95
Mission Sponsorship/Operation Bootstrap	0.00	1,835.00	1,835.00	0.00
Neighborhood Service Center	0.00	2,306.00	2,306.00	0.00
Noisy Offerings	740.97	720.76	680.00	781.73
Outreach Programs	517.00			517.00
Sr. Choir	2,388.41	190.00		2,578.41
Sunday School	1,707.34			1,707.34
3rd Gear	934.46	637.50		1,571.96
Thrivent Choice	17,023.83	2,999.00		20,022.83
World Hunger	0.00	585.00	585.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Reimbursement	-1,273.67	29,828.15	28,554.48	0.00
Subtotal	44,657.49	56,003.50	45,521.98	55,139.01
IRA Payroll Withholdings	0.00	30,007.92	30,007.92	0.00
TOTALS	44,657.49	86,011.42	75,529.90	55,139.01

THRIVENT CHOICE

	Building Needs	Programs	Total
Balance in fund 1-1-20	109.00	16,914.83	17,023.83
Add: Deposits	1,499.50	1,499.50	2,999.00
	1,608.50	18,414.33	20,022.83
Less:			0.00
Balance in fund 12-31-20	1,608.50	18,414.33	20,022.83

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS for 2020

Project: Install a new Payne air conditioner	
Britton Plumbing	2,786.00
Project: Material and labor for completion of bell tower roofs	
Meisner Roofing	6,250.00
Project: Material and labor to remove and replace 4 parsonage windows (downpayment only - $1,200.00 more due upon completion)	
Peter McGannon Construction	3,713.20
TOTAL COST OF BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS for 2020	12,749.20
Paid from Building Fund	8,791.02
Paid from Facilities Improvement	2,101.58
Paid from Undesignated Memorials	1,856.60
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	12,749.20

WHAT IS THE OVERALL FINANCIAL PICTURE OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN?

In assets that could be spent immediately:

Mission Investment Fund		141,600.66
Roundbank checking		67,230.77
Total		208,831.43

Subtract from that amount the 2020 budget surplus		15,391.45	
and the balance in the Designated Accounts		53,048.05	
and the balance in the Designated Gifts Fund		55,139.01	123,578.51
Total	(RESERVE)		85,252.92

Of the balance in the Designated Gifts Fund these could be used for Capital Improvements (Building Fund)

Building Fund	4,662.50
Thrivent (Building Fund portion)	1,608.50
Facilities Improvement	12,783.12
Total	19,054.12

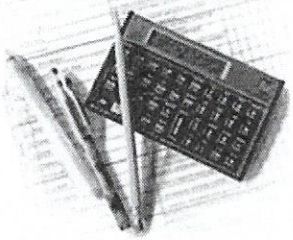
St. John also has these investments

Strand Memorial	11,978.58
Schroeder Memorial	36,079.34

There are two Perpetual Fund Certificates of Deposit - the principal may not be used - only the interest can be spent

Interest	1,870.09

Annual Audit



January 19, 2021

To the St. John Lutheran Church Council

On January 19, 2021 Vance Swanson audited the Financial Statement prepared by Al Tonn for the General Fund account. This audit was for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

The credits to the account that included the deposits tied out to the Roundbank statements and the financial statement prepared by Al Tonn.

The debits to the account included the checks issued tied out to the Roundbank statements, the check register and the financial statement prepared by Al Tonn.

The account for the General Fund, the check register and the financial statement prepared by Al Tonn appear to be in good order. As you know, Mr. Tonn is extremely well organized. He does impressive work.

This report submitted by Vance Swanson on January 19, 2021.

President's Annual Report 2020- Michael Schlueter

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Meeting: January 31, 2021

Wow what a year 2020 has been. As president of St. John Lutheran Church, I look back at this past year and am extremely grateful for the church staff, council members, and commission members. Thank you for all the hard work everyone has put into this crazy year. A special thanks to Pastor John for your guidance and leadership during this year, also thank you to Julie Keane for keep things on track and helping in the office. A special word of praise goes out to Val Possehl who has done a great job of picking up our youth program and continuing it during this pandemic.

Again, Wow what a year, the Church council member have had to juggle Zoom meeting, the adaptation of meeting with Mask, and the ever struggle to social distance. Thank you to Mike Behsmann who has served alongside me as Vice President this year, I appreciate your input and help. In addition, thank you to our council secretary Nancy Hansen: our financial officer, Al Tonn: and council members Merril Schultz, Gary Conrath, Dan Kuhns, Ann Ruedy, Val Possehl, and Kyle Gallagher. These individuals have served the council fearlessly and with out hesitation in this challenging environment we have found our self's in.

One of the largest accomplishments this past year has been the adaptation and opening of the church. Thank you to the opening committee consisting of Pastor John, Nancy Hansen, Ann Ruedy and Mike Behsmann. These induvial meet multiple times to discuss the safest and policy correct way to open the church.

As this tough year ends, we find the budget in a positive position. Thank you to all who have had financial hardships this year and still have supported your church. Thank you to each of you for putting faith in myself and the rest of the church council. Thank you for having faith in our ability to lead and ensure the safety of each congregational member.

Faithfully Submitted

Michael Schlueter, President of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2020

ATTENDANCE

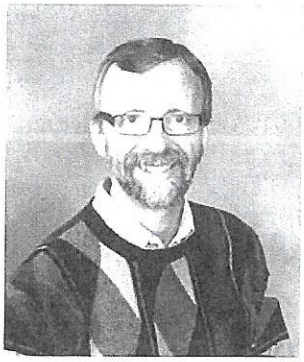
STATISTICAL REPORT 2020

	Average Attendance
Sunday morning service	
January-May	61
June – August	45
September-December	50
Overall Average	49.39
Wednesday night services	
Lent -COVID	126 Total
Advent-COVID	145 Total

Special Services	**Actual Head Count**
Maundy Thursday (1 service) COVID	10
Good Friday- COVID	10
Easter Sunday (1 service) COVID	10
Confirmation (Oct. 25) COVID	28
Thanksgiving Eve COVID	36
Christmas Eve (3 services) COVID	63+52+34=149
Christmas Day (No service) COVID	0

On-Line Worship Services	
Comments	10-20
Reactions (Likes)	30-50
Sunday Views	90-130

Dear Friends in Christ at St. John Lutheran Church,



"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
(1 Corinthians 12.12-14, 26-27)

I was thinking about the things I miss, during this pandemic – things we are not able to do at church because of the precautions we must take. And I have concluded that it is the children's sermon I miss the most.

We are told in the gospels that as Jesus welcomed the children, he told the adults that we must become like children if we wish to enter the kingdom. (Luke 18:17) Jesus meant we must receive the kingdom of God with a childlike trust, eager to learn, full of love.

Adults write annual reports. We look at statistics, trends, budgets, programs, and ministries as a way to discern the health of our congregation and the direction for the future. We discuss organizational structure and the needs of facilities.

These are serious things, but not the most important things. Let us heed Jesus' words about receiving him with a childlike faith and put that simple trust, eagerness to learn from Jesus' word, and love for one another at the forefront of our mission.

We receive Jesus most clearly in worship, and we strive to have every member of St. John Lutheran value and practice consistent worship as a central aspect in their life as a follower of Jesus. In all the things and activities that call for our time and allegiance in our world, we continue to see that receiving God's word, God's sacraments, and living together in God's community are essential building blocks for the living of our Christian life.

It is in building our Christians lives on these foundations that we can grow in faith and in lives of serving God's mission. And I thank you for your partnership in the ministries this year that have grown out of our mission. I am grateful for a committed staff: for our Church secretary Julie Keane, for our custodian Bill Erdman, for our musicians Al Tonn and Jan Macklay, and for our choir director Deb Yess. I am grateful for our children and family ministry director Val Possehl, who so generously volunteers her time and efforts. I am also grateful for all who provide leadership on our Church Council, and a special thanks to Nancy Hansen, Gary Conrath, Michael Schlueter, Merril Schultz, and Valerie Possehl who complete their terms of service as of this annual meeting.

And so, I'd like to thank every member of this church, because you all participate in this mission. You are a congregation with many gifts, and it is a blessing to be your pastor. I am continually blown away by your

compassion, generosity, and willingness to serve. I can only hope I have inspired you as much as you have inspired me.

I give thanks for the leadership we have, providing at-home teaching resources for our children and families. I give thanks for families who pass on faith in God and in Jesus to their children in so many various ways. There are many vital ministries that happen outside of church and passing on the faith to the next generation is one of them. The mission of the church extends far beyond our walls.

I give thanks for the consistent support of our Confirmation youth from the families of our confirmation students and from this congregation – welcoming, inviting, working together.

I give thanks for our Men in Mission group, their openness to new ideas and projects, and their support of world hunger, our local Neighborhood Center food shelf, and Bethlehem Inn.

I give thanks for the leadership of WELCA, for the fresh ideas and creative events that they plan.

I give thanks for all who quilt and sew and make our kits for Lutheran World Relief.

I give thanks for caring members of our church who have worked hard to stay connected to our homebound members, even when face-to-face has not been possible.

I give thanks for our reopening committee who gave us a way to continue offering in-person worship and communion is a safe, socially distanced way. I give thanks for all who help our worship to thrive – greeters, ushers, acolytes, communion servers, bread bakers, singers, musicians, and so many more!

I give thanks for the ways we can continue to share our worship, children's sermons, Bible studies, and meetings on-line via Facebook, Zoom, and YouTube. I give thanks to our "video ministers" who make this possible each week.

I give thanks that with your consistent financial support, we have been able to keep the ministry and mission of St. John strong, even during this pandemic.

I give thanks for our Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for the support they give to pastors and congregations. I have benefited from a monthly spiritual direction group, video visits with our Bishop and staff, and devotionals.

Receiving and Giving, caring for one another and for a suffering world – to suffer together and to rejoice together –where the love of Jesus shapes all we say and do. We are the church together!

Thank you for the privilege of being your Pastor!

Peace, Pastor John Omans

PASTORAL ACTS

Annual Report of Activities for 2020

Baptisms 2020 (4)

Zoey Elizabeth Cooper (6/28/2020)
Carson Edward Heagly (7-12-2020)
Danielle Marie Sommers (8-30-2020)
Aurora Tetzloff -Ortiz (09/20/2020)

Burials 2020 (18)

Candy Binnder 3/13/2020
Alan Humphries 3/16/2020
Etta Baker 3/30/2020
Lois Mae Ptacek 5/3/2020
Robert (Bob) Edward Tetzloff 5/19/2020
Dennis O'Rourke 5/23/2020
Donna Lavon Cooper 5/28/2020
Joann Egeness 5/31/2020
Leo John William Fette 6/19/2020
Lois Byrne7/9/2020
Jeanne E. Boyd 7/18/2020
Jacquline (Jackie) Krause 7/30/2020
Barbara Clausen 8/31/2020
Luetta Eberline10/14/2020
Dorothy Wobschall 10/28/2020
Kathy Gessner 10/30/2020
Myla Inberg 12/16/2020
Larry Tilney 12/24/2020

Marriages 2020 (3)

Benjamin Johnson/Amanda Madigan 9/19/20
Dylan DeMarce/Kimberly Possehl 10/10/20
Katelyn Miller/Jeff Sprunk 10/17/20

Transfers in 2020 (6)

Art Sorgatz
Nancy Sorgatz
Donald Dickie
Matt Anderson
Lexi Knott
Harlan Bauman

Confirmations 2020(2)

Dominic Grunzke
Suzanne Kuhns

Transfers out 2020 (3)

Megan Dobberstein 1/2020
Lori Hjelle Sommers 8/2020
Dustin Baungaard 11/2020

IN MEMORY

2020

Leo Fette	**$1000**	**Parsonage Windows**
	25	**Undesignated**
	$1025	
Jackie Krause	**$2050**	**Carpet**
	140	**Sr. Choir**
	95	**Undesignated**
	$2285	
Barb Clausen	**$ 955**	**Undesignated**
Lois Byrne	**$ 100**	**Undesignated**
Howard Lundquist	**$ 30**	**Undesignated**
Etta Baker	**$ 25**	**Undesignated**
Denny O'Rourke	**$ 50**	**Undesignated**
Memorial Donation	**$ 600**	**Undesignated**
SUBTOTAL	**$5460**	

This is partially complete as I was unaware that it was to be captured. JK

St. John Communion Bread Bakers
Annual Report 2020

We have a faithful group of women who volunteer to bake communion bread which is provided at our twice-monthly regular communion services as well as a few other special services and events. We use the recipe provided by Luther Seminary. We follow health and safety guidelines to make sure the bread is not touched after it is baked. Due to the Covid shutdown and slowdown of services this year, the bread was not needed as frequently as before. Our bakers are: Marcia Bartz, Rhonda Behsmann, Cindy Coy, Pam Grunzke, Vickie Hill, Ardean Klampe, Amy LeCocq, Mary Meyman, and Mary Schultz.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Schultz

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Members of St. John have been knitting and crocheting prayer shawls to be given to persons in need of comfort or solace. The prayer shawls are begun with prayers and blessings for the recipient. Prayers are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Many blessings are knitted and crocheted into each one. When the shawl is completed it is offered a final blessing during a worship service before being sent along its way.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry met in March of 2020, with on-hands lessons to help teach the children and women in attendance to knit or crochet. It was a fun time and the enthusiasm was a blessing. Our plans to meet monthly were put on hold, however, and we are looking forward to a time when it will be safe to meet again.

Prayer Shawls are available at the church office when you know of someone, member or nonmember, that needs the comfort and blessing that a shawl can bring. There is a three-ring binder to record finished shawls and to record the name of the recipient. A copy of a blessing that may be used when delivering the shawl is also available.

Anyone wishing to donate yarn, knit/crochet a shawl, or ask questions, please contact the church office or Marie Tesch at 835-3843.

Donated yarn can be left or picked up in Trinity Hall. Monetary gifts may be given left in the church office or marked and left in the offering plates at worship services. Thank you and blessings to everyone for supporting and praying for this ministry.

Submitted by Marie Tesch

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Education Commission 2020

The year started out normal, having lessons in Trinity Hall with children and their parents participating, about 4-5 families.

Then Spring started our Social distance teaching with only 2 families participating in Learning the 10 Commandments with Star Cross-off sheets after each one was memorized. Two families were given McDonald gift cards for ice-cream treats. We also grew flowers in pots for a take home project.

Marty Aberle and I got together a 4-week VBS family program called, The Amazing Race Adventure. Each week the families picked up a tub with materials, with a theme for the Bible Story, Action item, Dress-up-days, songs and destination pertaining to each theme.

One of the story lines was, "A Seed of Faith", with 4 families completing a quarter of a picture using colored lentil beans. All 4 quarters came together to make a beautiful work of art.

Marty put announcements on the website, and I put the packets together for the families to pick up in Trinity Hall entrance, each week.

The Fall started in again with Social Distance learning. Marty and family moved up North to be close to his daughter. Pastor John and I with the help of Julie making copies, an Illustrated Ministry curriculum was used with the same family pick up folders each week containing Bible Stories, activities and color pages pertaining to The Lord's Prayer.

We had a "Virtual Christmas Program" with 4 of our church families participating. Each family was given a scene from the Christmas story to perform by video. (Dressing up to play the parts) They turned their video into Pastor John. He put them all together and our church congregation got to see it along with Bible readings and Christmas Carols sung by all in church on Dec. 20, 2020.

The year was a challenge, but we all made it through with God's help.

I was reimbursed $80.00 + $70.00= $150.00 for project expenses.

Sincerely,

Val Possehl

Children's Education Director

Cross+Generational/FAITH5 Ministries Martin Aberle

2020

Those numbers represent a year that could go without explanation because it brought significant changes for all of us. So as a church how did we respond to this pandemic-type call? The below questions were present in 2019's annual report so let's see how we did:

1. **If there was no such thing as Sunday School, what would we create to ensure the future of faith formation in the next generations?**
   We used creativity, art, and the internet! Thanks to Val Possehl and Kimberly Possehl DeMarce, opportunities to grow in faith with families and those near to us were abundantly offered at our Faith Formation Station!

2. **Would our creation look more like a class or a community?** We at St John were challenged, rather forced, to reach out to our church family in creative, strategic and safe ways with the hope that families were equipped to engage in faith with each other.

3. **Would parents be encouraged to drop children off at our doors or would they be drawn into the midst of what we engaged in?** Our hope was that while households were confined together, they would taken advantage of the time and grow in faith together.

4. **Would our creation encourage families to establish faith formation within their homes so they could grow together?** See above!

5. **Are we sharing the faith of all generations and growing because of the stories we hear and prayers we say together?** Through social media we encouraged people to tell stories – their stories – and pray together even though we were distanced physically.

The goal for 2020 was to make the position of Director of Cross+Generational Ministries more VISIBLE by:

- **Being more active in communication in as many means as possible**
- **Provide opportunities for parents (and other caring adults) to journey with our young ones through their faith formation.**
- **Co-plan with Pr. John regular opportunities for worship that spans across the generations.**
- **Explore and implement mission opportunities for people of all ages in our church family.**

Let the church discern that.

Thank you to the St John family for the continued prayers, support, and showing God's love!

ST JOHN LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP

January 1 – December 31, 2020

	Beg Balance	Ending Balance
CHECKBOOK BALANCE	$ 15,462.02	$ 15,462.02
Undesignated Funds	$ 6,890.45	$ 6,890.45
Designated Funds	$ 8,571.57	$ 8,571.57
Designated Funds		
3rd Gear Fundraiser	$ 6,777.41	$ 6,777.41
Youthwork Service Group	$ 74.92	$ 74.92
Memorials	$ 960.00	$ 960.00
Inbetweeners	$ 201.45	$ 201.45
Boundary Waters Trip	$ 557.79	$ 557.79

Submitted by: Suzie Root

Congregational Life Annual Report 2020

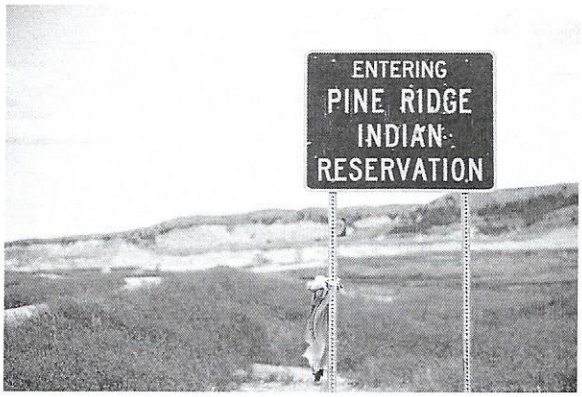
"Highly Caffeinated Worship" was on Sunday, March 8th.This is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time so worship was in Trinity Hall with coffee, juice and water offered during the service. Doughnuts were served after worship.

"Splash" magazine is mailed each month to thirteen children (ages 1 month- 36 months) in our congregation.

Fair Trade Coffee continues to be sold. 507-461-5108 .

Congregational Life also partners with Social Ministry and Outreach for Pine Ridge.

Sue Erdman



Pine Ridge

Because of Covid 19, all trips to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation were canceled. St. John and Grace churches were able to send school supplies to Red Shirt School (grades K-8). We also sent school supplies to the Fragile Rock community in the city of Pine Ridge as well as other youth we knew to be in need.

Just before Christmas we again partnered with Grace, and with Thrivent funds we were able to send over $700.00 in winter socks, gloves, scarves and hats to Fragile Rock as well as to Cecelia Spotted Bear's kids. We thank St. John WELCA and St. John Men- In- Mission for their financial support in this project. Thank you also to Rhonda Beshmann for making 50 masks that we mailed to Red Shirt School. We did receive other financial donations that will be used in upcoming trips.

St. John and Grace will continue our support of this program with a trip hopefully in May to attend the 8th grade graduation at Red Shirt School. We currently have enough beds, furniture and summer clothes to fill a trailer. We know that we are welcome as soon as we are safe from Covid 19.

Continue to pray for those in Pine Ridge as they face the daily challenges of having enough food on their table, heat in their homes and the challenges of Covid 19.

Sue Erdman

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Lutheran Men in Mission Annual Report – 2020

Officers: President Dennis Sommers, Vice President Steve Schroeder, Secretary Russell Tesch
Treasurer Bill Erdman

As our world experiences change due to the coronavirus pandemic, God's love and compassion remains the same, as well as the vision of LMM: for every man (young and old) to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus. Here at St. John, we are an intentional, purpose-filled ministry that invites and encourages men in our congregation to live out their faith and service in a variety of ways, some which we had not thought of in the past. In the months of January, February, August, September, October, and November we had our regular meetings in Trinity Hall. We shared devotions followed by a program consisting of topics from videos and DVD's, discussions and prayer, or worked on service projects such as the College Care Packages and Bethlehem Inn. Different in-house chefs in the group take turns serving a tasty meal as the health guidelines allow.

For three months, men from the congregation were found in the kitchen the first Sunday of the month help in the kitchen and clean-up as we always have a good time working together. We especially enjoyed participation of the congregation's children as we take time to honor the Sunday School classes and the teachers.

Virtual "Zoom" Bibles Studies and Book Studies were offered through the National Men in Mission Organization, offering much appreciated socialization and meeting new fellow Christians throughout the United States. All are welcome and contact information can be found at lutheranmeninmission.org.

Events and Projects Summary

- Challenged the congregation to match our $300.00 gift to the Neighborhood Service Center Food Shelf and gave another donation in October.
- Packed and mailed Fall Care Packages for college students with the support of a Thrivent Action Team Project.
- February and December supported a Thrivent Action Team Bethlehem Inn Project with donations of money and items from their Needs/Wish Lists.
- Attended the Virtual Breakfast with the Bishop on August 8th. Bishop Regina shared her message titled "**Old Leadership for a New Church**" where participants explored Old Testament leaders and the ways their leadership informs ours as we lead the church into a new future.
- Several attended the LMM Synod Retreat on October 3rd at Good Earth Village with Professor Rolf Jacobson from Luther Seminary. We discussed the way the Psalms offer insight into our relationship with God and each other. Rolf titled his presentation as **"The Peace that Passes Understanding and The Psalms,"** and it reminded us about our God who never abandons us and how we can find assurance even in difficult times, and find praise and hope in the Psalms.
- Sent the men in our congregation who are homebound, living in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, and those with special needs Christmas cards.

The treasurer's report reflects the stewardship of the gifts and offerings we have collected, supporting various ministries of the ELCA and special mission and fellowship project

Submitted by Russell Tesch, secretary

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Building men for Christ

MEN IN MISSION FINANCIAL REPORT

2020

Checking Account: January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

January 1, 2020 starting balance	$548.77

Expenses:

Lau's	161.97
Cash Wise	94.00
Bethlehem Inn	1020.00
St. John Scrip (200.00 100.00)	300.00
Food Shelf	500.00
St. John Food Shelf	250.00
Marty Aberle	50.00
Dominoes	45.00
Pine Ridge	125.00
Paper Fees	24.00
Total of bills paid.	2569.97

Starting Balance	$ 548.77
Total of Deposits from Men in Mission activities	$ 2823.95
Total Balance	$ 3372.72
Less Checks	- $ 2569.97
Ending Balance	$ 802.75

Submitted by: Bill Erdman

Worship and Music Commission Report 2020

Members: Jan Macklay, Carol Randall, Mary Meyman, Sue Michaels, Merril Schultz (council rep)

The commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Trinity Hall.

From Matthew 18:20 *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.* This year the worship and music commission's duties have been to oversee all worship gatherings, from just "two or three" all the way to a full church. A special thank you to Curt Yess for keeping the St. John family connected during the pandemic shutdown and beyond. We would also like to thank the leadership including Pastor John, Al Tonn, Jan Macklay, Mike Harvey, the Senior Choir under the direction of Deb Yess, and the Glory Singers for the many ways they enrich our worship. Thank you to the many St. John members who volunteer to be a lector, usher, do communion prep, or bake bread. Our worship services depend on you.

The commission is responsible for taking care of the altar, such as changing the paraments and banners according to the liturgical calendar and Christmas decorating. We are responsible for finding lectors, ushers for worship and funerals, and communion prep.

We welcome new people to serve in any of these capacities! Just contact any one of the commission members. All are welcome here!

St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Team Ministry

- We pray for all requests that come to Pastor John, Julie at the church office, Jean Miller and Marie Tesch
- Each Thursday the prayer list is updated with current information and emailed or regular mailed to members
- Some requests are for private prayers only, and we honor those requests and do not make those requests public
- Updates are very much appreciated so that our lists remain current
- The following individuals were participants in this ministry in 2019:

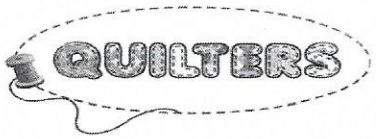
Nina Carlson	Pastor John Omans	Paulette Krenke
Loraine Menke	Jean Miller	Shirley Raetz
Bob Sleen	Marie Tesch	Lois Warszynski
Cindy Wegner	Beverly Draeger	Julie Keane, office

Types of prayers: Thankfulness and praise
Strength and support
Help and guidance
For God's presence and blessing
For health and wholeness when sick or facing surgery
For a friend or loved one facing a problem or difficult decision
For those grieving the death of loved ones
Concern regarding your life, the community, the church, the world

I John 5:14-15 *"And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him."*

We encourage all congregation members to pray weekly for those included in the Sunday morning prayer list. God has given us the privilege of prayer. As a member of the Prayer Team you can up-hold our church, pastor, and staff. You can be a strength for those in need and intercessor for those with a burden to bear. Please let us know if you desire to be a part of this prayer ministry by contacting the pastor, the church office, Jean or Marie. Blessings to all who accept this Christian responsibility.

Submitted by Marie Tesch and Jean Miller



St. John Quilters – 2020

In 2020 our quilts and blankets went to the following:

184 - Lutheran World Relief
73 - Neighborhood Service Center
31 - waiting to go to Pine Ridge
26 - Individual sales
7 - Made for St. John to give to high school graduates
80 - Quilts and flannel receiving blankets for WELCA Baby kits sent to LWR
19 - Quilts to Bethlehem Inn and New Hope Board and Lodge
420 - Total distributed (Due to the pandemic, we have more in stock than other years.)

In addition, we donated 60 yards of fabric and 10 spools of thread to WELCA for Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief. To Haiti we sent over 1,000 bandages, several boxes of fabric and 36 pillowcase dresses sewn by Rosie Thissen. We made 46 dog beds for the Humane Society by putting our fabric scraps into a pillowcase and sewing it shut.

Financial Summary:	Balance January 1, 2020			$7191.57
Income:	Memorials	$ 185.00		
	Quilt sales	1045.00		
	Donations	527.00		$1757.00
Expenses:	Batting, fabric, sheets		$ 1978.85	
	LWR Shipping		414.00	
	Supplies		115.04	
	Misc.		106.33	
	Donation to St. John budget		1000.00	$3614.22

Balance 12/31/2020 includes Thrivent Choice dollars (Roemhildt). $5334.35

Some of our quilters used their Thrivent memberships to apply for Thrivent Action Team Projects and received Community Impact Cards in the amount of $250 each. We could not do what we do without this help and we are so grateful to Thrivent.

Because of the pandemic, quilting came to an abrupt halt in March and again in November. When we could have 10 attending a work session, we divided the group and the ladies worked on either Monday or Tuesday. We also had to give up our wonderful lunches, but we are looking forward to the time when we can safely resume our regular schedule.

We appreciate any help we get with this project. Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Financial records were audited by Mary Conway. Report submitted by Jean Miller

2020 Annual Scrip Report

	Receipts from Sales	Inventory Expense	Operating Expense
January	$775.00		
February	$1,555.00	$540.00	
March	$745.00		
April	$950.00		
May	$645.00		
June	$545.00		
July	$325.00		
August	$0.00		
September	$0.00	$225.00	
October	$560.00		
November	$0.00		
December	$1,450.00	$1,336.88	$8.50
Totals	$7,550.00	$2,101.88	$8.50

Disbursements for Youth Activities in 20	$0.00
Ski Trip	$0.00
Car Rental	$0.00
Good Earth Village	$0.00
Twins Game	$0.00

2020 Profits from sales: $5,448.13

Total Assets December 31, 2019 = $46,329.09

Card Balance:	$8,270.00
Savings:	$25,000.00
Checking Acct:	$13,059.09

Thank you to the local businesses and national vendors for their contributions.
Thank you to the people who participate by purchasing scrip.
Thank you, Scrip Team, for giving your time to sell scrip.
We're all working together to support valuable Christian youth experiences.†

Submitted by Kari Priebe and Pam Grunzke, Scrip Coordinators

Social Ministry and Outreach Commission

Annual Report 2020

Our objective is to involve all the members of our congregation in the work of spreading the gospel, deepening the faith and activity of our members, and welcoming and nurturing new members and visitors.

Commission meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

The Neighborhood Service Center food drives in March and October were the highlights of the commission in 2020. In March we were collected $622. In October our members generously contributed 107 pounds of food and $1,684.

The pandemic prevented our congregation from completing two very popular actions which included the school bags and the Christmas gift giving to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Goals in 2021 include:

- Neighborhood Service Center food drives
- Pine Ridge school bags and Christmas gift giving
- Undie Sunday or sock Sunday
- Military boxes
- Reaching out to all members to update our data base, create service opportunities, and welcome new members
- Seeking members to serve on the commission

We are looking forward to adding new members to the social ministry and outreach commission in 2021. We are always looking for new ideas. Please notify the church office or any council member if you are interested in getting involved with the commission or if you have an idea you would like us to explore.

We would like to thank our members for all the time and talent they have contributed to all the projects the church is involved in as well as the very generous monetary giving.

Members: Ann Ruedy

Respectfully submitted by Ann Ruedy

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (WELCA)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

BOARD MEMBERS

Shirley Raetz-Chair
Marie Tesch-Treasurer
Myra Battenfeld
Linda Sandborg
Nadine Omans

We the Women of St. John Lutheran Church have accomplished the following in 2020

Service -

- Celebrated Bold Women's Day
- Hosted Sacrificial Breakfast on Ash Wednesday
- Held four General Business meetings, including a Mission Project work day in the fall

Projects-

- Clean acolyte gowns
- Provide Baptismal Banners and Napkins
- Collect postage stamps, Campbell soup labels, and cards
- Provide 3rd grade Bibles
- Support the Sunbeam Pre-Sunday School Ministry, including newborns with the SPLASH program
- Visit St. John WELCA Honorary/Shut-in members and provide a Friendship gift in the spring and a Christmas card in winter- did not visit them this year due to COVID but sent them cards
- Send sympathy and get well cards to all WELCA members and birthday cards to the Honorary members
- Continued a project to sell All Occasion Cards and napkins with any proceeds directed to WELCA projects.
- Activated the following Thrivent Action Teams – LWR Personal Care Kits (137), School Kits (150), Fabric Kits (24), Baby Care Kits (50), and Tower of Soups (502 lbs.) for Waseca Food Shelf. The Quilters also did several Thrivent Action Teams for quilting supplies.

Mission-

- Lutheran World Relief Kits sent–School Kits(150), Personal Care Kits(137),Baby Care Kits(50)Fabric Kits(24), Quilts(See Quilters Report), and money for shipping. Projects were blessed at a Sunday Service.
- Haiti Missions-sent multiple items and contributed to Global Health Ministries (Bandages)
- Annual Christmas giving of $850 to 11 various outside ministries and missions and 1 St. John program (Crisis Fund) and to St. John staff.
- Sent Welcome packets with the Gather magazine to new women members

In person **Bible Study** meetings, using the magazine **'Gather'** was put on hold in 2020 due to the COVID. Members were encouraged to use the on line Bible Study offered by **'Gather'.** Each General WELCA meeting has devotions with a short program on a subject that is of interest to the women. Women of all ages are invited and there is a Women's Ministry Booklet available listing all the activities for the year. . WELCA activities were scaled down in 2020 due to the COVID The WELCA Board wishes to thank all the Women of St. John for their stewardship in offering their time, talent and donations this past year. You are an important part of St. John's ministry.

Respectfully submitted by Shirley Raetz, WELCA Chairperson

WELCA Gift Giving & Monetary Support Report 2020 - St. John Lutheran, #11962

Mission Statement: ***To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ***

1. $ 94.00 Women of the ELCA – Bold Women's Sunday & Katie's Fund
2. $800.00 Women of the ELCA Quarterly Offerings
3. $448.00 Women of the ELCA Thankoffering
4. $ 15.00 Minnesota River Conference/SE MN Synodical Women of the ELCA Conv. Exp. Fund
5. $230.00 Lutheran World Relief for Donation & Shipping
6. $ 80.00 Bethlehem Inn, Waseca
7. $ 70.00 Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center Back Pack Program
8. $ 40.00 Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center for Feminine Hygiene
9. $ 50.00 New Hope Board & Lodging
10. $ 50.00 Aberle Farewell Gift
11. $ 50.00 St. John's Staff Christmas Gift
12. $120.00 St. John Lutheran Crisis Fund
13. $ 80.00 Lutheran Disaster Response
14. $ 40.00 Marie Sandvik Center
15. $ 50.00 Good Earth Village Bible Camp
16. $ 80.00 ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministry, Mankato
17. $ 50.00 Global Health Ministries
18. $ 40.00 Operation Bootstrap Africa

2020 total $2387.00 for our mission and ministry focuses

PURPOSE STATEMENT: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Thank you to your generosity and loving hearts and helping hands through the St. John Lutheran Women of the ELCA!

Marie Tesch, Unit Treasurer
St. John Lutheran Women of the ELCA

St. John Lutheran WOMEN OF THE ELCA Treasurer's Report 2020

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE January 1, 2020 $ 7347.41

INCOME

Funerals	$ 50.00
Memorials/Donation	120.00
Fellowship Hr Trien. Scholarship	54.00
Interest	3.72
Total Income	$ 227.72
Transferred from checking	$ .00

[Designated Funds]

{Kitchen Fund	$2137.87}
{Dishwasher Fund	2630.12}
{GEV Scholarship	386.00}
{Triennial Scholarship	838.00}
{Sales Cards&Napkin	16.10}
{Projects	494.45}
{Flower Memorials	512.79}

EXPENSE (to checking)

Undesignated	100.00
Preschool/Sunbeams/Splash	.00
Projects & Designated	54.60
Flower/Altar & Corsages,etc	88.25
Total Expense	- 242.85
Balance December 31, 2020	$ 7332.28

Total Designated Funds	$7015.33
Total Undesignated Funds	$ 316.95
Savings Account balance	$ 7332.28

****

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE January 1, 2020 $ 465.22

INCOME

Circle/General Meeting	$ 763.29
In & Out	100.00
Altar Flowers & Corsages	502.50
Fair Trade Chocolate	20.00
Service Group Donations/Fall Festival/Tower of Soups	880.00
Fellowship Hour/LWR/Action Teams/WELCA	229.00
Lenten Supper	106.00
Thankoffering	448.00
TOTAL INCOME	$ 3048.79
From Savings(projects/designated/flowers/misc)	$ 242.85

TOTAL $ 3756.86

EXPENSES

In & Out	$ 100.00
Food/Supplies/Hospitality	95.14
Kitchen Items	.00
Cards/Postage/Fees/Office Supplies	49.95
Altar Flowers/Plants	619.75
WELCA Synodical Offering	800.00
RiverChannels/Subscriptions/Devotions/Misc	188.33
MN River /SE MN Synod Offerings/Conv. Exp	15.00
Women of the ELCA & Katie's Fund	94.00
Gifts/Donations	680.00
Fall Festival/Tower of Soups	30.00
St. John's Crisis Fund	120.00
Preschool /Sunbeams-Splash	.00
Third Grade Bibles	54.60
Lutheran World Relief Shipping/Donation	285.73
Thankoffering	448.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 3580.50

Checking Balance December 31, 2020 $ 176.36

Detailed treasurer's reports were printed and approved at WELCA Board and Business Meetings and placed on file along with an audit review statement.

Marie Tesch, St. John WELCA Treasurer

Video Ministry – 2020 Report

For many years, St. John Lutheran Church has recognized the needs of many elderly members who may be home-bound and other community citizens who are unable to attend Sunday worship services. Thus each Sunday, the worship service is video-recorded for broadcasting on the Waseca PEG (Public-Education-Government) channel the following Monday (10:30 a.m.) and Sunday (5:00 p.m.). A team of long-term videographer volunteers consisting of Marcia & Dennis Bartz, Pam and Dominic Grunzke, Merril Schultz, Dennis Sommers, Curt Yess, and Gyles Randall provided this service in 2020. We miss Jackie Krause, a dedicated long-term member, who passed away this year. Curt also duplicates the video disk for special occasions such as baptisms for presentation to the baptismal family. I am most grateful to the members of this team, who amongst their other responsibilities in our church, have stepped forth to record our worship services so they can be shared with the Waseca community.

Gyles Randall, Coordinator 835-4511

In addition, our video ministry has been enhanced this year by Curt Yess using his camera to provide a live service each Sunday on Facebook and Pastor Omans using his camera for weekly recording of Friday Faith and Family messages and Sunday worship services available from our website (stjohnwaseca.org) on YouTube.

St. John Seniors 2020

Seniors of St. John and friends meet on the second Wednesday of every month in Trinity Hall to enjoy fellowship, food, devotions, and a variety of programs:

- January Bethlehem Inn-Roger Ashland, Ron Brie-Concertina & Conversation
- February State Street Singers-Pastor Brian Johnston, Army Chaplin
- March COVID19
- April COVID19
- May COVID19
- June COVID10
- July No Meeting
- August COVID19
- September COVID19
- October COVID19
- November COVID19
- December COVID19

Meals are usually catered by the Pheasant Café to provide ease for all attending. The cost is $7.00, paid at the door. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. All seniors and their guests are welcome to enjoy the food and fellowship. We look forward to continued attendance. We ask that you RSVP by calling the church office before 12:00 noon on the preceding Monday if you plan to attend the Wednesday noon meal. This is needed to turn in a head count to the caterer.

A senior is defined as any individual 55 years and older. You need not be a member of St. John's congregation and guests are always more than welcome.

Financial Report:

Balance 1-01-2020	728.51
Income	690.82
Expenses	(-715.03)
Balance 12-31-2020	697.43

Included in expenses is the cost of meals, guest speaker (fees/mileage), guest speaker's lunches, coffee, and paper supplies (plates, place mats, glasses and napkins).

Committee members: Cindy Wegner, Myra Battenfeld, and Amy LeCocq

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

- **About LSS of Minnesota**

Since 1865, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota has responded to Minnesota's changing needs by being wholly committed to making life better for our citizens.
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota traces its history to 1865 when Vasa Lutheran Church opened its church to care for four children in need. Pastor Norelius came up with a community response that inspired hope and changed the life of the community. Today, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota holds these values at the core of its vision and mission. Our work is grounded in two principles – God loves all people without condition and God yearns for us to love the neighbor.

Mission

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota expresses the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives, and builds community.

Vision

All people can live and work in community with dignity, safety, and hope.

Serving to Meet Growing Demands

Our 2,300 staff serve 1 in 65 people in Minnesota. We serve in each of Minnesota's 87 counties and in more than 300 communities. With an annual budget of $98 million funded from public, private and charitable sources, LSS is one of the state's largest, nonprofit social service organizations.

Strategic Imperatives

Our service outcome goals are organized around children, youth and families; people with disabilities; and older adults. They shape our planning and action.

Jackie Wood, MA, LPCC, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor

Areas of Expertise: Geriatric/aging population, Grief and loose, Mood/anxiety disorders, Self-esteem/identity concerns, thought disorders and therapy support to individuals, families, couples and those who are military connected. She is taking new clients in the Lutheran Social Service Mankato office and in the St. John's Lutheran Church counseling office in Waseca. Call 612-879-5212 for information or to make an appointment.

Ashley Hall, SE MN CORE Case Manager, LSS Behavioral Health

Our CORE Case Manager, working with our veterans and military connected individuals in the Mankato, Waseca & Rochester Areas. She is taking new clients in the Lutheran Social Service Mankato office and in the St John's Lutheran Church counseling office in Waseca. Please call 612-879-5212 for information or to make an appointment.

St. John Money Counters Annual Report of Activities 2020

The money counters continue to meet each Monday at 9:00 AM to count and record the weekly offerings and other specific times if required to come in and count donations. The money is deposited in the church general fund account. The information is then given to Julie Keane, Administrative Assistant, who enters all donations into the Church Windows database.

Currently, the counting members alternate dates, and consist of:

Myra Battenfeld, Wayne Johnson, Amy LeCocq, Barb Wheelock, Mary Meyman, and Don Wesseling

Submitted by: Julie Keane, Church Administrative Assistant

Buildings and Grounds 2020 Annual Report

Commission members: Wayne, Jody, Steve, Dennis, Bill, and others.

Council member: Kyle Gallagher

First, I would like to say thank you to all the members of St John church for their support over this past year.

Some repairs made this year.

The two bell tower roofs were replaced, funding was approved in 2019. With COVID-19 the hiring of a contractor to repair the ceiling in the bell tower area has been all but impossible. Will be working on that again this Spring.

LED lighting was purchased for Fellowship hall, cake room prep area, women restroom in church basement. These are yet to be installed but will be shooting for this Spring or Summer.

Some replacement windows for parsonage were ordered last Fall, with the install happening within the past few weeks. In the front yard a flower garden was installed where a damaged tree had been removed. On the West side of house, we removed the grass between house and sidewalk, and installed a three-level garden. Mud jacked up a West side slab leading to sunroom, and raised the yard level to control water runoff.

A new thermostat was installed in church office area for better control of the heating and cooling.

The flower cooler was cleaned and repaired for better cooling control.

A few fasteners were installed on the outside of education building to help with the lighting for the Christmas live nativity, and lighting for next year. By the way thank you to (all) that helped with that program.

Again, I want to say - Thank You - for allowing me to work with you this past year. We have accomplished a lot and look forward to another good year.

This year will bring more surprises and needed repairs, we have a list off a few things that still need to be done. When we all work together, we do, and will accomplish great things.

Gods Peace,

Kyle Gallagher

Report on Nominations 2021

The following persons have been nominated and have indicated their willingness to serve, the positions left blank (?) indicate the need for a volunteer to step forward:

Council Positions (vote for one each)

President (One-year term) Michael Behsmann

Vice President (One-year term, following year president) Ann Ruedy

Council Secretary (26-month term)2023 Koni Hudak

Council members at large
(26-month term)2023 Sue Michaels
(26-month term)2023 Terry Huber
(26-month term)2023 Brian Knutson

Voting Members for the Minnesota River Conference Assembly (nominate six)
Sunday, February 14, 2021 2pm -- Virtual

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Voting Members for Synod Assembly
(Nominate three-plus one youth or young adult)
Friday and Saturday, May 8, 2021 Virtual

1.
2.
3.
4.

Nominating committee for selecting new Council members in 2021

1. Dan Kuhns
2. Kyle Gallagher
3. Michael Behsmann
4.
5.
6.

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - PROPOSED BUDGET 2021

		2020 budget	2020 actual	difference	2021 proposed	+ or - change
PERSONNEL						
	Pastor					
101	- salary	53,592.00	53,592.00	0.00	55,200.00	1,608.00
102	- pension, medical, housing equity	40,624.00	39,849.54	774.46	41,639.00	1,015.00
103	- HSA	450.00	450.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
104	- mileage	2,000.00	669.88	1,330.12	2,000.00	0.00
105	- parsonage utilities	3,850.00	3,765.41	84.59	3,850.00	0.00
106	- parsonage internet, phone, cable	2,000.00	2,085.56	-85.56	2,100.00	100.00
107	- professional library	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
108	- continuing education	700.00	605.00	95.00	700.00	0.00
	Possible Position to be determined					
111	- salary	26,268.00	17,735.78	8,532.22	10,000.00	-16,268.00
112	- pension	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
121	Church Administrative Assistant	25,625.00	23,769.09	1,855.91	25,000.00	-625.00
131	Church Custodian	12,672.00	12,945.16	-273.16	13,056.00	384.00
141	Organists	6,840.00	6,224.84	615.16	7,006.00	166.00
151	Sr. Choir Director	3,816.00	2,840.64	975.36	3,930.00	114.00
152	Sr. Choir Accompanist	1,000.00	496.38	503.62	1,000.00	0.00
161	Financial Secretary	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
171	Support Staff - Continuing Ed	300.00	18.00	282.00	300.00	0.00
181	FICA/Medicare - Employer portion	6,000.00	5,056.21	943.79	5,000.00	-1,000.00

SYNOD, CONFERENCE & COMMITTEES		2020 budget	2020 actual	difference	2021 proposed	+ or - change
201	Benevolence	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00
202	MN River Conference	290.00	280.00	10.00	290.00	0.00
203	Good Earth Village	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00
204	Waseca Ministerium	60.00	60.00	0.00	60.00	0.00
211	Synod/Conference Expense	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	0.00
221	Stewardship	200.00	65.00	135.00	200.00	0.00
222	Social Ministry/Evangelism	750.00	69.00	681.00	750.00	0.00
223	Congregational Life	1,000.00	39.18	960.82	1,000.00	0.00

SUPPLY		2020 budget	2020 actual	difference	2021 proposed	+ or - change
301	Worship devotionals	1,500.00	1,147.33	352.67	1,500.00	0.00
302	Worship envelopes	900.00	588.54	311.46	700.00	-200.00
303	Worship supplies - wine, wafers, candy	750.00	395.66	354.34	750.00	0.00

			2020 budget	2020 actual	difference	2021 proposed	+ or - change
311	Computer	- technology - hardware, software	800.00	526.36	273.64	800.00	0.00
312		- storage and backup	480.00	627.30	-147.30	650.00	170.00
313		- repair, technical support	1,000.00	237.94	762.06	1,000.00	0.00
321	Office	- copying costs - fixed leases	2,800.00	2,793.44	6.56	2,800.00	0.00
322		- copying costs - per sheet cost	1,900.00	776.95	1,123.05	1,500.00	-400.00
323		- general	3,500.00	1,428.17	2,071.83	3,000.00	-500.00
331	Church phone, internet		2,700.00	3,057.39	-357.39	3,100.00	400.00
341	Postage		1,900.00	2,100.54	-200.54	2,000.00	100.00
351	Music and music supply		300.00	63.51	236.49	300.00	0.00
361	Copyright licenses		400.00	405.00	-5.00	450.00	50.00
371	Miscellaneous		800.00	1,355.73	-555.73	800.00	0.00

MAINTENANCE			2020 budget	2020 actual	difference	2021 proposed	+ or - change
401	Custodial supplies		1,000.00	109.66	890.34	600.00	-400.00
402	Church maintenance - routine		6,500.00	2,768.39	3,731.61	6,500.00	0.00
411	Insurance - property		9,650.00	9,454.50	195.50	9,650.00	0.00
412		- workman's comp	2,000.00	1,820.00	180.00	2,000.00	0.00
421	Utilities	- church	9,500.00	6,801.66	2,698.34	9,500.00	0.00
422		- education building	9,500.00	6,512.84	2,987.16	9,500.00	0.00
431	Elevator/Lift - license and maintenance		1,750.00	1,673.13	76.87	1,750.00	0.00
441	Labor - lawn mowing, snow removal, facilities set-up		2,100.00	360.00	1,740.00	2,100.00	0.00
451	Miscellaneous		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

EDUCATION		2020 budget	2020 actual	difference	2021 proposed	+ or - change
501	Vacation Bible School	1,000.00	87.49	912.51	1,000.00	0.00
511	Sunday School	800.00	357.92	442.08	800.00	0.00
521	Confirmation	500.00	268.02	231.98	500.00	0.00
531	Cross-Gen Ministry - Faith 5	2,500.00	214.32	2,285.68	0.00	-2,500.00
541	Adult Bible Study	0.00	43.32	-43.32	500.00	500.00

MISCELLANEOUS		2020 budget	2020 actual	difference	2021 proposed	+ or - change
601	Substitute Pastors	1,200.00	732.00	468.00	1,200.00	0.00
611	Substitute Secretary	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
621	Sunday bus tokens	160.00	77.00	83.00	160.00	0.00
631	Miscellaneous Gifts	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
641	Simply Giving charges	500.00	478.04	21.96	500.00	0.00
		274,527.00	233,178.82	41,348.18	**257,241.00**	**-17,286.00**

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BUDGET PRESENTATION

Proposal from council:

Pastor John	
proposed salary increase of 3%	1,608.00
health ins and pension increases	1,015.00
Julie Keane	
2% salary increase took effect Nov 1, 2020	
hourly rate increased from 14.07 to 14.35	
proposed 1% salary increase for 2021	
hourly rate increased from 14.35 to 14.50	644.00
(annualized salary = 24,244)	
Bill Erdman	
proposed salary increase of 3%	384.00
Organists	
proposed increase of 3% - from $94.50 per service	
to $97.30 per service	165.60
Deb Wantoch-Yess	
proposed salary increase of 3%	114.00
	3,930.60

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2020 SYNOD MINISTRY REPORT

Welcome to the new year! Many of us are entering 2021 full of hope; 2020 was a year of unexpected challenges. There were disappointments: canceling our 2020 Synod Assembly ranks among them, as I was so looking forward to gathering with all of you. There were steep learning curves: moving worship and gatherings to digital platforms. There were radical adjustments: finding new ways to connect when in-person visits were unsafe, learning to work from home while caring for those who depend on us, to name a few.

Yet, as I reflect on 2020, I am filled with deep gratitude. In the face of a quickly and constantly changing reality, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod rose to the occasion. You learned to worship in new ways. You reinvented confirmation, Sunday school, and adult education. You found new, primarily outdoor, spaces to gather in. You found ways to continue your outreach to your communities and beyond. You proclaimed the gospel with grace and fervent hope.

It has not always been easy. There have been moments of tension, fear, and uncertainty. There have also been moments of joy, creativity, and sacred spaces.

As I reflect on 2020 and look forward to 2021, I am immensely grateful to be called to serve among you. As we look to another year of ministry, I pray we will continue to be full of grace, truth, courage, and hope. I pray that the lessons we have learned will continue to shape and inform us. I pray we will remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit, and I trust, by God's grace, we will continue to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you, dear church, for your tenacity and generosity. Thanks be to God for God's faithfulness in all things.

Our work continues. If you have not yet taken space for deep Sabbath rest – please do so (and ensure the people around you do too!). No matter what our new year brings, our call to proclaim the gospel remains. May God gift us with all we need to share this Good News!

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop Regina Hassanally