

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Annual Meeting

January 30, 2022

Ocean City, NJ

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Meeting Schedule of Events and Agenda-----	Page 3
List of Officers, Staff, Chairpersons, and Leaders-----	Page 4
Report of the Nominating Committee-----	Page 5
Minutes of the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting & Special Meeting-----	Page 6
Report of the Reverent Kevin Hilgendorf-----	Page 9
Report of the President of Congregational Council-----	Page 10
Report of the New Jersey Synod Assembly-----	Page 11

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education & Vacation Bible School-----	Page 12
Faith & Fellowship-----	Page 13
Evangelism & Stewardship-----	Page 14
Finance-----	Page 16
Property-----	Page 17
Social Ministry-----	Page 18
Worship and Music-----	Page 19

## ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER REPORTS

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-----	Page 20
WELCA Financial Statement-----	Page 21
Fellowship Committee-----	Page 22
Audit Committee-----	Page 23
Memorials-----	Page 23
Designated Fund Descriptions-----	Page 24

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Designated Fund Transactions-----	Page 25
2021 Earmarked Funds Transactions-----	Page 26
Giving Analysis & Summary-----	Page 27
2021 Actual and Budget Expenditures and 2022 Proposed Budget-----	Page 28 &29

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1001 CENTRAL AVENUE, OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY 08226  
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING- VIA ZOOM Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022 at 2 pm

AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order by Karl Yunghans, Council Vice President
2. Opening Prayer
3. Report of the Teller (quorum present)
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Remarks by Congregation Council VP, Karl Yunghans
6. Report of the Nominating Committee
7. Balloting
8. Approval of Minutes- January 31, 2021
9. Report of the Reverend Kevin Hilgendorf
10. Report of the Minister of Music-no report
11. Report of the President of Congregation Council
12. Report of the New Jersey Synod Assembly
13. Report of the Standing Committees:

Christian Education & VBS  
Faith & Fellowship  
Evangelism & Stewardship  
Finance  
Rejoicing Spirits-no report  
Property  
Social Ministry  
Worship and Altar Guild

14. Report of Organizations and Other Reports:

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Finance Statement  
Men's Prayer Breakfast-no report  
Fellowship Committee  
Stitches and Scripture-no report  
St. John Book Club-no report  
Lutheran Youth Organization-no report  
Audit Committee  
Memorial Committee  
Designated Fund Descriptions

15. Report of the Treasurer
16. Report of the Election
17. Old Business
18. New Business
19. 2022 Proposed Spending Plan
20. Acknowledgements
21. Closing Devotions

2021 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL AND OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

President-----Mike Kern  
Vice President-----Karl Yunghans  
Financial Secretary-----Rick Adamson  
Treasurer-----Janice Mruz

**Church Council Members**

Mike Kern                      Lee Funk                      Judy Bailey  
Karl Yunghans.                Janice Mruz                    Alissa Lee  
Glen Stewart                  Susy Wilkins                  Deb Beuttler

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor-----The Rev. Kevin Hilgendorf  
Minister of Music-----Julia L Henrich  
Custodian-----Robert Gannon

STANDING COMMITTEE LIAISONS AND OTHER LEADERS

Christian Education----- Alissa Lee  
Stewardship/Evangelism----- Glen Stewart  
Finance----- Janice Mruz  
Memorials----- Susy Wilkins  
Property----- Lee Funk  
Social Ministry----- Deb Beuttler  
Staff Support-----Executive Board  
Worship----- Judy Bailey  
Servant Scheduler----- Janet Oberg  
Fellowship Scheduler -----Alissa Lee  
Synod Assembly Lay Voting Members-----Pastor, Mike Kern  
Ecumenical Council Liaison----- Susy Wilkins

OFFICERS OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)

Chairperson----- Janice Mruz  
Secretary/Treasurer----- Susy Wilkins  
Liaison to Council----- Janice Mruz

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee: Richard Deaney, Ada Henrich, Diane Bechtold

The Committee's task is to seek out individuals to serve on Council to replace those leaving Council and to replace current members of the Nominating Committee. Care is taken to have representation of the entire congregation. According to our Constitution we may have up to 12 members.

Completing term in February 2022, not eligible for re-election:

Glen Stewart

Completing term in February 2023, eligible for re-election:

Karl Yunghans

Completing terms in February 2023, not eligible for re-election:

Janice Mruz Susy Wilkins

Completing terms in February 2024, eligible for re-election:

Rick Adamson Judith Bailey Debbie Buettler

Completing terms in February 2024, not eligible for re-election:

Mike Kern Lee Funk

Alissa Lee has completed her one-year term to fill a Council vacancy and is eligible for re-election

Paul Best and Alexia French have completed their two-year term but have resigned and do not wish to be considered for re-election.

The following people have agreed to serve on Council for a three-year term:

Alissa Lee Drew Sykes Diane Bechtold

The following people have agreed to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee:

Nikki Odell Justin Odell Glen Stewart

St. John Lutheran Church  
Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2021

Pre-meeting notification: Glen Stewart informed everyone on line that the meeting was being recorded through the Zoom Meeting app to help with minutes.

President Karl Yunghans called the meeting to order at 2:05PM.

Pastor Kevin Hilgendorf opened the meeting with prayer.

Adoption of the agenda – Motion by Susy Wilkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Adamson. Approved

Report of the Teller: A quorum is present

Message from President Yunghans: He is very proud of the Congregation for the work achieved this past year. His focus and hopefully goal of the Congregation is to move past the pandemic, reopen the Church for live, onsite worship and call a full or part-time Pastor and Secretary. To reach these goals we must focus on growing the Church.

Report of the nominating committee: Six open Council positions, six names recommended. No additional nominations from the floor. Motion to close nominations by Judy Bailey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glen Stewart. Motion approved. Voting by show of hands for each nominee.

Results:

Rick Adamson elected to a 3 year term

Mike Kern elected to a 3 year term

Lee Funk elected to a 3 year term

Judy Bailey elected to a 3 year term

Debbie Beuttler elected to a 3 year term

Alissa Lee elected to a 1 year term

Nominating Committee: 3 open positions. No nominations from the floor. Motion to close nominations by Sonya Adamson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Oberg. Motion approved. Voting by show of hands.

Results:

Rich Deaney elected

Diane Bechtold elected

Ada Henrich elected

Approval of Minutes for the 2020 Annual Congregation Meeting. Motion to accept by Judy Bailey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susie Wilkins. Motion approved.

President Yunghans left meeting to attend to an emergency.

Pastor's Report: Pastor going to pray for Karl. Pastor Kevin thanked the Congregation for their support and participation in the Mission and Ministry this past year. Pastor thanked the family for his Christmas gift. Also thanked the Council members who have finished their terms. Personally participated in Confirmation classes. Ash Wednesday service will be recorded. Spoke on the challenges of the pandemic...we still need to serve. Thanks be to God.

Diane Bechtold asked about deaths in 2020. Pastor agreed to bring names and numbers to Council.

Vice President Mike Kern took over meeting in Presidents absence.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minister of Music – Julia Henrich - Thanked everyone for support and participation on recorded services and limited in person services. Vice President Kern thanked Julia for all her hard work during the pandemic.

Christian Education – Alissa Lee - Parents were not in favor of virtual Sunday School because of the current virtual schooling going on. Do not currently have materials available to send out. Janet Oberg offered up info on the Spark Bible as additional resources.

St John 101 – Rick Adamson – Holding virtual studies. Changed St John 101 became Fellowship and Faith on Zoom so we could see and be seen and share concerns and studies.

Stewardship/Evangelism – Bob Oberg – written report available. Stewardship Drive will be held off on the heels of the August Capital Campaign for the Heating/Cooling System. Have made calls to family members, food drive for Upper Twp. Necessity Bags provided for OC Housing Authority. Rick Adamson added a thank you for the family's continued support.

Fellowship – Alissa Lee – Nothing to report until we resume in person worship.

Finance – Janice Mruz & Susy Wilkins – Janice and Susy took over the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer when Maria Shumsky and Barb Ross relocated. Discussed Church finances during the pandemic – had to cut Secretary position and reduce Minister of Music salary. We did apply for a PPE loan but were deemed ineligible. 2019 audit was completed in March.

Property – Lee Funk – Fran Davish spoke on roof work concerning the Capital Campaign. Lee thanked Fran for his leadership on the HVAC project. Also noted that Sunday School room will need to be painted due to water damage.

Social Ministry – Barb Piston – Family Promise and OC Food Cupboard and Clothes Closet were still supported, just differently because of the pandemic. This year's focus will be on joining WELCA projects, continue using gift cards to help those in need and helping the homebound.

Worship and Music – Judy Bailey – Thanked everyone for continued support. Thanked Glen Stewart for his knowledge and help during our virtual services and our pre-recorded Christmas Eve service. Feedback on recorded services was good. Did have requests for better audio or microphone placement on YouTube services. Judy mentioned that we were deemed ineligible for the PPE loan that was intended to renew audio/video equipment.

WELCA – Susy Wilkins and Janice Mruz – Nothing to report due to pandemic restrictions. Hoping that a Spring and/or Fall Rummage sale will be possible.

Men’s Prayer Group – Bob Oberg – Numbers deeply reduced due to pandemic. Certainly miss Ivan Bailey. Hope to resume later in the year.

Youth – Sonya Adamson – ELCA Youth Gathering moved to 2022.

Rejoicing Spirits – Glen Stewart – No services were held. This was a very difficult year for our Rejoicers due to health concerns during the pandemic.

Designated Funds – No report other than paper copy.

Motion to accept Committee Reports en masse by Merryn Buck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Kern. Motion approved.

Treasurers Report – Janice Mruz – Asked folks to review detailed information in the meeting booklet.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Going back to page 8 of Meeting Booklet to approve Minutes of the August Zoom meeting for the Roof Capital Campaign. Motion to approve by Rick Adamson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glen Stewart. Motion approved.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Giving Envelopes – instead of mailing, hand deliver. That way members get them and they do not go to waste. Glen Stewart discussed availability of a Prayer Group on our Face Book page. 2021 Budget was discussed. Budget is based on a Part- time Pastor and Part-time Secretary. Motion to approve Budget as presented by Rick Adamson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Beuttler.

Acknowledgements: Vice President Kern thanked Glen Stewart for all his hard work in maintaining and operating our Zoom meetings and virtual services and helping us with new technologies needed during the pandemic. Also thanked Rich and Barbara Deaney for their help during our summer Capital Campaign.



Vice President Kern asked Pastor Kevin to lead our closing devotion. Meeting adjourned.



## INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

Epiphany Greetings Brothers and sisters in Christ!

“60 Days of Prayer” devotional June 7 caught my attention. The scripture verse for meditation is Psalm 27:14 (NIV) – “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” The writer commented, “It has been said that anything worth pursuing takes time.” God is worth our time. You are worth my time. Waiting for a permanent part-time pastor is worth our time. Giving thanks to God for our annual meeting is worth our time. Saved by Grace through Faith to share God’s Love is worth our time. Anything worth pursuing takes time, what is yours? In the midst of waiting for a situation to unfold – or patiently anticipating God’s answer – we are building the valuable qualities of strength, trust, and affirming God hears us and knows what’s best. Thanks be to God for you and your prayers as we share God’s mission.

Love to Christ, Interim Pastor Kevin Hilgendorf  

## STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

Average Weekly Attendance 47\*

\*In-person service, 1 service each Sunday, Sunday School resumed with 12 students registered from pre-k thru high school.

New Disciples by Baptisms 2

*Gracie Ann Garza*  
*Emerson Mae McManus*

Confirmations 1

*Abigail Henrich*

Memorial Services 1

Transfers 3

*Jeanette Szigethy*  
*Barbara Ross*  
*Maria Shumsky*

In Memory of:

*Theodore Szigethy*    *Robert F. Garrett*    *John Sheeler*  
*Albert Fred Beuttler*    *Helen Longacre*

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [John 1:5](#)*

2021 has certainly shown us that the darkness of Covid 19 will not overcome. This past year was a year of adjustment. We started the year worshipping and attending Zoom meetings from home and looking forward to our vaccinations (and Booster) and the days we could worship together again. Thanks to God and many of our St. John family members we are again able to worship together. We started slow, cautious, and now are working our way back to what may be our “new” normal. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make this happen. We still have a ways to go but we are returning to pre-pandemic attendance numbers and continue hosting members and visitors on Youtube.

While we continue our quest for a full-time part-time Pastor. Thanks be to God we are blessed by Pastor Kevin’s guidance. If you share a special life event or concern with him, he will immediately bless you with a prayer of comfort. His bright smile and warm greeting on the patio welcome us to St. John each Sunday. *While ushering one Sunday, he had not made it outside yet and an attendee ask, “Where’s Pastor Kevin”?* Thank you, Pastor Kevin, for continuing to bless us with your faith, love, and guidance.

We rejoice in Julia’s beautiful music and now the return of our wonderful choir. I know the congregation is happy to be participating in the service and singing again.

I need to personally thank each Council member, despite personal challenges, work schedules and the limits put upon us by Covid, they continue to serve God and the congregation.

We need to thank Glen Stewart, who will be leaving Council after many years of dedicated service. Glen has been the man with his finger on the controls, our Zoom Master. Glen has hosted every, Council and Committee meeting from the start of the pandemic. He set up the technology that make our Youtube worship services possible. Thank you, Glen, we will miss you on council.

So, what do we have to look forward to in 2022? Council has approved an investment of \$10,000 into what we are calling the Cedar Fund. This Fund that you will hear more about, will in time guarantee the future of St. John for another 100 years.

St. John has been a part of our family for over 40 years. It has been my honor to serve as Council President for this past year.

God’s Peace,

Mike Kern

## NEW JERSEY SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

### Springing Forth

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do

You not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:9

In May Pastor Kevin and I virtually attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> NJ Synod Assembly “Springing Forth.”

As Bishop Bartholomew said it was “A new venture in gathering as a synod to celebrate our common mission and tend to our work.” For me it was the first time I participated in a Synod Assembly. Even virtually I found the experience to be spiritual, educational and informative.

The Assembly invited NJ Lutheran congregations to educate themselves on the issues, accept our responsibility to respond in faith, and work to address racial inequity and injustice in our world.

We heard the story of Reverend Jehu Jones the first Black Lutheran Pastor in the US, ordained in 1832. Reverend Jones purchased two plots of ground in Philadelphia for a building for his Black congregation. Rev. Jones lost the mortgage after the Synod refused to rescue the project. I encourage you to go to the Synod website [njsynod.org](http://njsynod.org) to read the story.

Bishop Bartholomew issued the “Bishop’s Challenge”

- Commit to follow the Bishops Challenge
- Have conversations about race, (specifically the African American experience)
- Help raise \$50,000 to support the lives of emerging leaders of African descent in our church today. As part of the Challenge St. John has donated \$375 for the purchase of a quilt square, which represents a congregational commitment to growing in awareness and moving toward action in Christian love. The quilt squares will be combined into a quilt, that will symbolize our faith response and witness as Christ’s church in our time.

Synod Council Members were nominated and elected by voting members of the NJ Synod. Please go to the Synod website for all the results of the election.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kern, Council President

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE & VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORT

CHAIRPERSON: Alissa Lee

LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL: Alissa Lee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Alissa Lee, Janice Mruz, Sonya Adamson, Alexia French, Julia Henrich, & Pastor Kevin

COMMITTEE FUNCTION – MISSION STATEMENT: *To educate our members in the Christian faith. We encourage our members to grow their faith and increase their knowledge of God's Love and Jesus' teachings.*

We have approximately 10 students who attend Sunday School ranging in age from 4 years old to 14 years old. We offer four classes: PK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades, 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades, and High School.

We also offer Vacation Bible School for one week during the summer for students in Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Our Adventure Island Vacation Bible School, that took place the week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, was a great success! We had 11 kids join us for a week of fun on Adventure Island. We learned about various Bible stories through crafts, music, science experiments, and yummy snack crafts. The kids had a blast as we learned how to shine God's light in our lives. Special thanks to Janice Mruz, Julia Henrich, Sheri Apple, Linda, Diane Bechtold, Deb Buetler, Apple Sykes, Abby Henrich, Tony Henrich, Barb Piston, Carol Prange, Carol Piechoski, & Pastor Kevin for making VBS shine so bright this summer!

Thank you to all who help make our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School a great success! New members are **ALWAYS** welcome to join us in educating our youth in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

SUBMITTED BY: Alissa Lee

## FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH

**COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT:** *Saved by grace through faith to share God's love.*

CHAIRPERSON: Rick Adamson

LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL: Glen Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rick Adamson, Glen Stewart

COMMITTEE FUNCTION – MISSION STATEMENT: To explore our Gospel heritage in Lutheranism And engage participants in understanding the faith (past, present and future).

SPECIAL EVENTS OR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021:

Fellowship and Faith replaced St John 101 during our Covid 19 quarantine period. The need to see and hear each other expressing our concerns and hope during the pandemic fostered our Zoom/online meetings. This was a change from our study format and a great comfort to be able to be in community (digitally) again. This past year the group took on 2 Synod emphases. First was a global survey of local Lutheran history,

practices and traditions and was submitted to the Church at large on behalf of our small group.

Second has been the Bishop's Challenge with studies involving racism, cultural bias, systemic inequalities and the church's response and responsibility in bearing the Good News to all people.

We continue with weekly discussions and continue to invite all to join as they are able. As always

it is our goal to grow in faith as we bond personally with one another in Fellowship.

CONCERNS AS YEAR CLOSES:

Class growth! Everyone is welcome to join the conversation or just sit back and listen. Contact Glen Stewart or Rick Adamson for more information.

HOW WILL THIS COMMITTEE GROW THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF ST. JOHN?

Deepening member commitment and ability to share the Gospel through education, study and familiarity.

HOW WILL THIS COMMITTEE REACH OUT TO THE FULL MEMBERSHIP (active and inactive) OF ST. JOHN?

Maintaining an open invitation to ALL members by posting themes, questions and topical bits of conversations in Church publications, websites and on Social Media.

SUBMITTED BY: Rick Adamson

## EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Members: Rick Adamson, Judith Bailey, Diane Bechtold, Rich Deaney, Pastor Kevin, Bob Oberg, Barbara Piston, Jim Piston, Glen Stewart, and Susan Wilkins

*“Saved by grace through faith, to share God’s love”*

We gather, pray and act to live out our mission statement to continue in this place and in the world as the Body of Christ!

Again, we continued to feel an extended Evangelism/Stewardship Committee, meeting occurring on a regular basis, would best suit our congregation’s needs. Sharing commonality between evangelism and stewardship, the committees continued to meet together. As one of Church Council’s committees, summaries of our meetings and recommendations are presented at Council meetings.

With the continuing concern about COVID-19 and its variants it has been an interesting yet challenging year. Our committee continued meeting via ZOOM conferences at least once a month. We have been fortunate and blessed to have the technical expertise of Glen Stewart to set up availability of the ZOOM meetings.

The Spring Stewardship Program, *Get a Grip* was presented to the congregation during Lent through Temple Talks and letters sent with pledges to be returned on Palm Sunday.

We discussed the Bishop’s Challenge, which stressed the importance of actions taken, by the Lutheran Church in Colonial Times, limiting racial equality. Our committee suggested to Council that St. John take part in this undertaking. Fellowship and Faith is taking part in the Bible Study presented by the Synod addressing these issues.

The concept of Estate Planning and how it can have a positive effect on the mission of St. John in the now and in the future was examined. An Endowment Fund, known as The Cedar Fund, was established following approval of Council and seed money of \$10,000.00 was approved by Council to begin the Fund. A special pew envelope was approved for people who wish to contribute to the Cedar Fund. There will be further information about how people may donate through Estate Planning and how contributions may be made through retirement required distributions while saving on taxes from that distribution.

Wayne and Mindy Grant, from Thrivent, presented an informative afternoon and evening program open to the congregation explaining Estate Planning and how it benefits St. John, while possibly helping those who contribute through some retirement mandatory distributions (RMD’s) plans with their tax obligations.

Reaching out to victims of an apartment fire on Rt. 50, St. John was able to collect money and furniture to assist families with obtaining needed items.

There are plans to welcome new members during services along with a welcoming gathering after the first of the year. There have been visitors who have expressed interest in becoming members.

All of us, the family of St. John, gathering, praying, and acting to live out our mission statement are being the Church. Though this past year has been difficult, when we pray, let us be thankful for what God has given us---His Grace!

Peace,

Rick Adamson, Glen Stewart and Bob Oberg  
Evangelism/Stewardship Committee

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND LIAISON TO COUNCIL: Janice Mruz, Treasurer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Janice Mruz, Treasurer, Susy Wilkins, Assistant Treasurer, Karl Yunghans, Council Vice President, Mike Kern, Council President and Rick Adamson, Financial Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT: *We will annually develop a spending plan to be presented to the congregation and council. Along with the Treasurer and Council, we will monitor all congregational spending and maintain the expenditures in accordance with the spending plan.*

2020 tax filings and forms were completed on time. Financial Reports were provided by Rick and myself to Council on a monthly basis throughout the year. The ELCA Annual Congregational Report, Forms A & C were completed on time. In the 2022 Budget we have proposed a part-time secretary, one day a week for 8 hrs. a day to assist with the office duties. 5% raises are proposed for our employees, Pastor Kevin and Julia Henrich and also our contract employee Robert Gannon. In the office, volunteers have been filling in the duties of church secretary and Melissa Adamson has graciously helped us out from time to time.

Rick and I along with committee members and Council have spent this year reviewing previous practices and fine tuning our financial procedures. Some forms and accounts have been revised and discussion with Council how to better utilize our money. Some account categories have been simplified. Justin Odell continues to handle our investments with Wells Fargo, and the committee again wants to thank him enough for his help and guidance throughout the years.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Rick Adamson, our financial secretary. For over thirty years he has been keeping track of our coming and goings regarding our financial giving records and our finances in general. He has provided invaluable advice and has been a sounding board to many of us. He has the patience of a saint! Thank you Rick!

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Mruz, Chair



## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: Lee Funk

LIASON TO CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL: Mike Kern

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mike Kern Karl Yunghans, Rick Adamson, Lee Funk

MISSION STATEMENT: *Maintaining building and properties at minimal cost to budget.*

SPECIAL EVENTS OR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021:

- New toilet installed in first floor bathroom
- Roof repaired with new material to stop leaks
- Replaced fans and switches in sanctuary
- Plumber started and serviced boilers for heating church and installed new control panel
- Replaced lights and alarms where needed
- Replaced and repaired outside lights and timers
- Replaced new filters and cleaned air conditioner units in offices and sanctuary.

We cannot thank all members enough for all their help and support and financial contributions this past year. Without this none of these improvements would have been possible. With all the church family working together, we will grow the mission and ministry of St. John. Also thanks to all the families for their help in maintain and up keep all of our outside grounds.

SUBMITTED BY: Lee Funk

## SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

According to the bylaws set forth in the Constitution of St. John Lutheran Church: *The Social Ministry Committee will be responsible for the on-going outreach of our family of faith, reaching out with our resources to help the poor and comfort those in need.*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Barbara Piston, Carol Piechoski, Deborah Beuttler, Mary Bullock, Karen Ellis

ACTIVITY IN 2021: The continuation of the Covid Pandemic of 2021 has caused us to again, slow our activities. We are grateful to the church council and our church family for their support with the projects we were able to do this year.

Our committee members continue to send cards to homebound members seasonally. Cards to members of Rejoicing Spirits have been suspended due to the ceasing of group meetings. They have been given the church's number for any issues that might arise.

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner was not held this year due to continuing spread of Covid. Hopefully we will be able to continue the dinners in the near future.

We changed our Advent projects this year due to the lack of the need of non-perishable food at the Ocean City Food Cupboard. We continued collecting and donating gift cards to Family Promise in North Cape May to be donated to families in need. We also collected money for the ELCA Good Gifts program which was donated to people in both the U.S.A. and around the world to both fight hunger and improve living situations.

Social Ministry and WELCA have continued the tradition of collecting hats and mittens on the tree in the narthex during January.

Social Ministry has assisted the following charities during the year:

- Ocean City Food Cupboard and Clothes Closet
- Hope Pregnancy
- Seafarers
- Upper Twp. Fire Disaster Fund
- VBS donations to Beacon Animal Rescue and Eagles Wings

PLANS FOR 2022: Our committee hopes to continue the above-mentioned programs this year as well as to again assist with WELCA in organizing a Mother's Day Collection for unwed mothers and their babies who are connected to Hope Pregnancy Center in Ocean City/Cape May. We also hope to continue the collection of Gifts Cards and also detergent to provide help to Family Promise families. Also Social Ministry hopes to begin focusing on support the families of the Atlantic City Rescue Mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Beuttler, Chair

## WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Worship is the center of who we are as children of God. Offerings of our prayer, praise, and thanksgiving are not static; they are ever-changing and evolving. This year worship began with masks and social distancing, no singing, and recorded choir anthems. We have now moved to masks being optional, singing hymns, and the choir being with us to help lead worship and sing an anthem each week in person. Thanks to Julia, our parish musician, we were also blessed with the bell choir for both Easter and Christmas.

Christmas Eve service was very special! We were able to sing Christmas carols including "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Each worship service, including Christmas Eve, is live-streamed on our website. A big thank you to Glen Stewart for handling the technical expertise to be sure the broadcast happens each week.

Our worship will continue to change. We pray that God will always be with us guiding and directing us as we plan and offer our praise to the Lord who is our King and Savior.

O, Come Let Us Worship!

Judith Bailey

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (WELCA) REPORT

CHAIRPERSON AND LIAISON TO COUNCIL: Janice Mruz

TREASURER: Susy Wilkins

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: The Women of St. John Lutheran Church (and some really guys!)

MISSION STATEMENT: *“As a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship 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 society and the world.”*

In spite of the Covid pandemic we managed to get some things done this year! With numbers still high, we cancelled our spring rummage sale. However, we did do our annual Mother’s Day Donation Drive from Easter through May, filling a pack-n-play full of stuff and raising \$145 for the agency. We also hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in May, collecting 23 units of blood. In August, the ladies volunteered with a very successful and joyful Vacation Bible School week, directed by Alissa Lee and our music director, Julia Henrich. In September we finally had a Rummage Sale! We received an incredible amount of stuff and it was quite exhausting, but we raised \$520 for each charity, UT Fire Victims Fund, ELCA Disaster Response and the Bishop’s Challenge. Speaking of which, a couple of our ladies will be designing and making the quilt square for the NJ Synod Quilt display for June 2022. In November we collected our Thank Offering Jars, and they were full! So full we raised \$462 for the ELCA Global Women’s Missions. We also managed to get some seafarer ditty bags off to NYC, along with collecting \$170.00 from our members for our long shore men. We partnered up with Social Ministry again supporting Family Promise and the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Our annual Cookie Walk took a different path this year. Due to Covid, we made 25 individual tins and gift bags of cookies for our St. John family, homebound members, staff and El Tabernacula. It was a winner and may just be the future of our “cookie walk.”

Some comings and goings.....We welcome 2 new members, Robin Lewis and Carole Raymond to our group! Unfortunately, in March, we lost one of our very longtime active members Helen Longacre. She was one of the first ladies I met at my first Rummage Sale 40 years ago. In June, we hosted the memorial luncheon for the family of Fred Beuttler, one of our coolest honorary members. He has a very cool family too. It was an honor for us not only to do this, but to spend time with Fred’s family friends too. Moving on, some of our very active members, Barb Ross, Sharon Fish and Maria Shumsky all relocated away from the area.

For 2022, we are looking forward to a Spring Rummage Sale, a May Blood Drive and a November Christmas Bazaar!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Mruz, Chair

	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>
Opening Balance	\$ 3,014.26	
Year End Interest	\$ 0.33	
St. John (Memory of Helen Longacre)		\$ (50.00)
St. John (Memory of Fred Beuttler)		\$ (50.00)
Palms for Palm Sunday		\$ (27.20)
Rummage Sale Proceeds	\$ 1,658.00	
Lutheran Disaster Relief		\$ (520.00)
NJ Synod		\$ (520.00)
Fire Victims		\$ (520.00)
Kitchen Fund		\$ (100.00)
Thank Offering	\$ 461.18	
ELCA Women's Mission		\$ (462.00)
Dues Collected	\$ 21.00	
Women of the ELCA Dues		\$ (21.00)
Cookie Tins for Christmas		\$ (25.59)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 5,154.77</b>	<b>\$ (2,295.79)</b>
<b>BALANCE AS OF 12/31/21</b>	<b>\$ 2,858.98</b>	

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

CHAIRPERSON: Alissa Lee

LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL: Alissa Lee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Judith Bailey, Rick Adamson, Janet Yunghans, Susy Wilkins, Deb Buettler, Mary Bullock, Carol Piechoski, Glen Stewart, and Alissa Lee.

COMMITTEE FUNCTION – MISSION STATEMENT: *To give the members and visitors of St. John an opportunity to socialize and discuss the Word of God over a cup of coffee and a delicious snack. Also, a treat that our youngest members look forward to each week.*

Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, Fellowship had to stop in March of 2020 and remained paused during 2021. We look forward to providing Fellowship again when it is deemed safe to resume it.

Thank you to all the members of Fellowship who have and will provide much appreciated treats for our congregation to enjoy. New members are **ALWAYS** welcome to help us provide fellowship for our church family and visitors.

SUBMITTED BY: Alissa Lee

## 2019 Year End Audit Report for

St. John Lutheran Church, 1001 Central Ave., Ocean City, NJ 08226

Audit Committee: Judy Funk, Alissa Lee, Jan Mruz, Justin Odell, Burt Wilkins and Susy Wilkins. Also in attendance were Rick Adamson, financial Secretary, Maria Shumsky, Treasurer and Barbara Ross, Church Accountant.

We performed the audit as per the Financial Review Procedures. The following discrepancies were noted during the audit:

Of the 10 donor confirmation letters sent out, 8 were returned. One member noted that an EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) contribution in the amount of \$100.00 made during the year was not noted on her statement.

1. Upon the review of cancelled checks, once check was found to have only one signature instead of the required two signatures.
2. One employee's W-4 form is missing. We are in the process of replacing this form
3. One variance was found on the recording of revenue. It was a \$5.00 difference.
4. We could not find documentation for disbursement of a Good Gift Offering.

None of these discrepancies were material in nature.

**Please note: The 2020 & 2021 Audit's should be completed this year. Since the audits require in-person participation, the 2020 audit was postponed due to covid.**

## RECORD MEMORIALS RECEIVED IN 2021

Memorials contributions made to St. John Lutheran Church during the year 2021 were received in memory of the following past members:

Fred Beuttler  
Robert Garrett  
Helen Longacre  
Theodore Szigethy

## **DESCRIPTION OF DESIGNATED FUNDS**

### **Deaney Memorial**

This memorial is to provide services for people who are disabled with special emphasis on the developmentally disabled.

### **Kyle-Breneiser Music Fund**

This fund is to provide music scholarships for members of St. John, as well as the enrichment of our music program.

### **McFaul Memorial**

This memorial is to provide a yearly pledge to St. John in the form of interest which it earns years. It is designated for operating funds.

### **Parsonage Investment Fund**

This fund to provide the interest earned each year to pay for the Pastor's housing allowance.

### **Payne Medical Emergency Fund**

This fund is to be utilized as an interest free loan for terminally ill patients, their care and medications. The loan is to be paid back out of the patient's insurance proceeds.

### **Board Designated Fund**

This fund is to be utilized should the operating account for St. John fall below a level in which it cannot pay the bills to operating the church.

### **Capital Improvement Fund**

This fund is to be utilized to fund capital improvement projects for the building.

### **Kitchen Fund**

This fund is to be utilized to pay for repairs, replacement of items or renovations of the kitchen.

### **Lynn Ann Baker Fund**

This fund is to assist with the emergency medical expenses of children at St. John whose parents are having financial difficulty paying for said expenses.

### **Pastoral Assistance Fund**

This fund is to be used for pastoral assistance.

### **Seminarian Fund**

This fund is to assist members of St. who enter seminarian school with their costs.



DESIGNATED FUNDS	2021 ENDING VALUE	2021 TOTAL INCOME	2020 ENDING VALUE	2020 TOTAL INCOME
Kyle-Breneider Music Fund	\$ 78,209.95	\$ 3,978.86	\$ 75,173.07	\$ 2,953.88
McFaul Memorial	\$ 22,126.94	\$ 1,082.41	\$ 22,461.43	\$ 942.41 *
Payne Medical Emergency Fund	\$ 3,294.13	\$ 259.08	\$ 2,731.57	\$ 83.76
Pasonage Investment Fund	\$ 21,734.37	\$ 1,922.10	\$ 1,789.96	\$ 640.64 *
Deaney Memorial	\$ 16,044.69	\$ 1,457.47	\$ 13,016.28	\$ 524.66
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				
Board Designated Fund	\$ 13,373.46	\$ 1.31	\$ 13,415.02	\$ 48.99
Pastoral Assistance Fund	\$ 5,393.54	\$ 420.28	\$ 4,454.44	\$ 135.88
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 160,177.08</b>	<b>\$ 9,121.51</b>	<b>\$ 133,041.77</b>	<b>\$ 5,330.22</b>

\*These totals represent a correction to the 2020 Annual Report.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	BALANCE		RECEIPTS	DISBURSED	BALANCE	
	12/31/2020				12/31/21	
HVAC Capital Campaign	\$	41,637.09	\$	(39,371.67)	\$	2,265.42
Mission	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$	(300.00)
Capital Improvement	\$	6,165.97	\$	7,178.00	\$	(6,051.19)
Roof	\$	-	\$	125.00	\$	-
Kitchen Fund	\$	2,008.34	\$	100.00	\$	-
Men's Prayer Group	\$	114.27	\$	-	\$	-
Music Account	\$	2,313.35	\$	1,476.94	\$	-
Rejoicing Spirits	\$	90.00	\$	-	\$	-
Lynn Ann Baker Fund	\$	693.00	\$	-	\$	-
Seminarian Fund	\$	1,830.66	\$	-	\$	-
Sign	\$	732.00	\$	-	\$	(275.00)
Thanksgiving Dinner	\$	193.88	\$	-	\$	-
Parish Education	\$	462.50	\$	20.00	\$	(197.52)
Youth	\$	5,110.94	\$	-	\$	-
Holiday Flowers	\$	55.00	\$	-	\$	-
The Lutheran	\$	58.75	\$	-	\$	-
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$	45.00	\$	-	\$	-
Unrestricted Reserve	\$	10,474.62	\$	-	\$	-
Packing Event	\$	205.00	\$	-	\$	-
Family Promise	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$	-
Cedar Fund	\$	-	\$	1,120.00	\$	-
VBS Missions	\$	-	\$	897.25	\$	(897.25)
Bishop's Challenge	\$	-	\$	750.00	\$	(750.00)
Fire Recovery	\$	-	\$	3,450.00	\$	(2,587.50)
Good Gifts	\$	250.00	\$	650.00	\$	(280.00)
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$	-	\$	200.00	\$	(200.00)
Pastor's Gift	\$	130.00	\$	365.00	\$	(130.00)
Seafarers	\$	-	\$	170.00	\$	-
WELCA (Hope Pregnancy)	\$	-	\$	145.00	\$	(145.00)
Other	\$	-	\$	6,218.00	\$	(6,218.00)
interest	\$	4.25	\$	3.85	\$	
TOTAL	\$	72,574.62	\$	23,469.04	\$	(57,403.13)
					\$	38,640.53

## 2021 Operating Income

Special Envelopes	\$	3,279.00
Envelopes	\$	138,263.08
Plate	\$	4,878.50
Use of Facilities	\$	3,040.00
Thrivent	\$	737.00
Memorials	\$	4,792.41
Amazon Smile	\$	40.46
Other Income	\$	500.00
TOTAL Operating Income	\$	<u>155,530.45</u>

\*Special Envelopes are all the non-weekly regular giving envelopes collectively for the year.

## SUMMARY

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OPERATING ACCOUNT BANK ENDING BALANCE AS OF 12/31/2021:

\$ 122,210.96

OPERATING ACCOUNT:

2021 Income	\$	155,530.45
2021 Expenditures	\$	<u>(110,558.11)</u>
DIFFERENCE	\$	<u>44,972.34</u>

<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>2022 Proposed Budget with Interim Pastor</b>	<b>2022 Proposed Budget with PT Pastor</b>	<b>2021 Expenses</b>	<b>2021 Proposed Budget with PT Pastor</b>
<b>Mission Support</b>	\$ 10,350.00	\$ 10,350.00	\$ 10,411.86	\$ 11,625.00
Bishop's Challenge			\$ 375.00	
<b>Total Mission Support Expense</b>			<b>\$ 10,786.86</b>	<b>\$ 11,625.00</b>
<b>Administration</b>				
Internet & Bulletin Board	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,942.25	\$ 1,641.33
Office Supplies	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 96.85	\$ 1,000.00
Postage	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 309.18	\$ 650.00
Payroll Tax (FICA)	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$ -	\$ 960.00
Secretary Salary	\$ 8,320.00	\$ 12,480.00	\$ -	\$ 12,480.00
Telephone	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,871.84	\$ 1,560.00
Copier Monthly Service & Supplies	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 311.26	\$ 750.00
Conventions & Meetings	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 750.00
Other Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 329.25	\$ 400.00
<b>Total Administration Expense</b>	<b>\$ 16,080.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,240.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,960.63</b>	<b>\$ 20,191.33</b>
<b>Evangelism</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Acct System</b>				
Annual Report Certificate	\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 30.50	\$ 90.00
Payroll Processing Fee	\$ 480.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 495.00	\$ 600.00
Bank Fees/Pay Pal/Checks	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 221.99	\$ 17.50
Accounting/Bookkeeping Services				\$ 150.00
Finance & Acct. Systems (Icon)	\$ 605.00	\$ 605.00	\$ 572.04	\$ 600.00
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>\$ 1,470.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,470.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,319.53</b>	<b>\$ 1,457.50</b>
<b>Ministry</b>				
Books	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Auto	\$ -	\$ 4,400.00	\$ -	\$ 4,400.00
Permanent Part-Time Pastor (total pkg.)	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00
Interim Pastor Salary	\$ 31,500.00		\$ 30,200.00	
Additional Sundays & Services	\$ -		\$ 200.00	
Mileage & Tolls	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,603.05	\$ 400.00
Supply Pastors	\$ 800.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 900.00
Supply Mileage	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total for Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 35,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 65,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,003.05</b>	<b>\$ 65,850.00</b>
<b>Parish Education</b>				
Vacation Bible School	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 275.93	\$ 275.00
Sunday School	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 237.82	\$ 400.00
Adult Education	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Confirmation/Communion	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
<b>Total for Parish Education</b>	<b>\$ 800.00</b>	<b>\$ 800.00</b>	<b>\$ 513.75</b>	<b>\$ 925.00</b>

<b>Property</b>				
Building Repair and Maintenance	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,467.15	\$ 3,500.00
Fire and Security	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,245.56	\$ 1,900.00
Instrument Maintenance/Sound System	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Insurance-Workers' Comp	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,534.00	\$ 1,750.00
Insurance-Umbrella	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 352.10
Insurance Property	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 6,469.50	\$ 8,154.64
Electric	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,652.78	\$ 5,000.00
Gas	\$ 7,380.00	\$ 7,380.00	\$ 5,576.60	\$ 6,800.00
Water & Sewer	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 930.64	\$ 720.00
Snow Removal	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Sexton	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,516.00	\$ 8,517.00	\$ 8,516.00
Equip. Repair/Main.	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 288.61	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total for Property</b>	<b>\$ 48,080.00</b>	<b>\$ 47,596.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,681.84</b>	<b>\$ 42,192.74</b>
<b>Social Ministry</b>				
General	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Thanksgiving Dinner	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00
Other Advertising	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
<b>Total for Social Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 600.00</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>				
Giving Envelopes for 2023	\$ 235.00	\$ 235.00	\$ 208.04	\$ 230.00
Other Exp.	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 144.00	\$ 500.00
<b>Total for Stewardship</b>	<b>\$ 735.00</b>	<b>\$ 735.00</b>	<b>\$ 352.04</b>	<b>\$ 730.00</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>				
Altar & Candle Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,303.55	\$ 500.00
Bulletins	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 287.17	\$ 600.00
Choir & Music Supplies	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 528.00	\$ 1,500.00
Director Salary	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 18,231.00	\$ 18,990.50	\$ 18,231.00
Director FICA	\$ 1,395.00	\$ 1,395.00	\$ 1,452.75	\$ 1,395.00
Devotional Materials	\$ 216.00	\$ 216.00	\$ 240.44	\$ 500.00
Flowers	\$ 1,144.00	\$ 1,144.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 900.00
Misc. Worship Events	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Lenten & Advent Material	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 200.00
<b>Total for Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>\$ 25,205.00</b>	<b>\$ 24,236.00</b>	<b>\$ 22,940.41</b>	<b>\$ 24,326.00</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 139,470.00</b>	<b>\$ 162,227.00</b>	<b>\$ 110,558.11</b>	<b>\$ 168,197.57</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 139,470.00</b>	<b>\$ 162,227.00</b>	<b>\$ 110,558.11</b>	<b>\$ 168,197.57</b>
<b>Operating Income for FY 2021</b>	<b>\$155,530.45</b>			