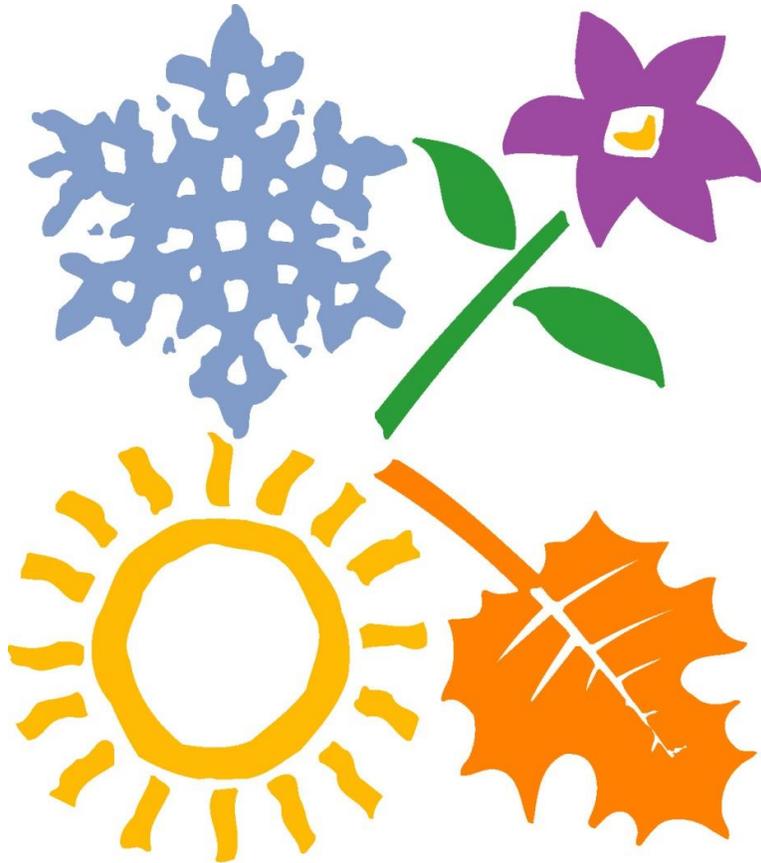


2020



ANNUAL  
MEETING

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 26, 2020

OCEAN CITY, NJ



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**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1001 CENTRAL AVENUE, OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY 08226  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING † SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020**

**SCHEDULE**

8:00 AM Spoken Service of Communion  
9:00 AM Christian Education for all ages  
10:30 AM Sung Service of Communion  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 PM Congregation Meeting  
2:00 PM Adjournment

**AGENDA**

1. Meeting called to order by Karl Yunghans, Council President
2. Opening Prayer
3. Report of the Teller (quorum present)
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Remarks by Congregation Council President, Karl Yunghans
6. Report of the Nominating Committee
7. Balloting
8. Approval of the Minutes, January 27, 2019 and March 24, 2019
9. Report of the Reverend Charles Ferreri
10. Report of the Minister of Music
11. Report of the Church Secretary
12. Report of the President of Congregation Council
13. Report of the Voting Members to the 2019 Synod Assembly
14. Report of the Standing Committees
15. Report of Organizations and Other Reports
16. Report of the Treasurer
17. Report of the Election
18. Old Business
19. New Business
20. 2020 Proposed Spending Plan
21. Acknowledgments
22. Closing Devotions





## 2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL AND OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

President----- Karl Yunghans

Vice President----- Mike Kern

Secretary----- Ada Henrich

Treasurer----- Maria Shumsky

Financial Secretary----- Rick Adamson

### Church Council Members

Karl Yunghans

Fred Beuttler

Lee Funk

Ada Henrich

Mike Kern

Susy Wilkins

Glen Stewart

Janice Mruz

Bob Oberg

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor----- The Rev. Charles Ferreri

Minister of Music ----- Julia L. Henrich

Church Secretary----- Melissa M. Adamson

Custodian----- Robert Gannon

## STANDING COMMITTEE LIAISONS AND OTHER LEADERS

Christian Education----- Janice Mruz, liaison

Evangelism/Stewardship ----- Bob Oberg, liaison

Finance ----- Maria Shumsky, liaison

Memorials -----

Property----- Lee Funk, liaison

Social Ministry -----

Staff Support -----

Worship ----- Ada Henrich, liaison

Servant Scheduler----- Janet Oberg

Fellowship Scheduler----- Alissa Lee

Synod Assembly Lay Voting Members-----

Ecumenical Council Delegates-----

## OFFICERS OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)

Co-Chairs----- Janice Mruz and Janet Oberg

Secretary/Treasurer ----- Susy Wilkins

Liaison to Council ----- Janice Mruz





## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This Committee's task is to seek out individuals to serve on Council to replace those persons leaving Council and to replace the current members of the Nominating Committee. Care is taken to have representation of the entire congregation.

Completing term in February 2020, not eligible for re-election

- Fred Beuttler

Completing terms in February 2020, eligible for re-election

- Janice Mruz
- Susy Wilkins
- Karl Yunghans

Completing term in February 2021, not eligible for re-election

- Bob Oberg

Completing terms in February 2021, eligible for re-election

- Lee Funk
- Ada Henrich
- Mike Kern

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

- Glen Stewart

Completing term in February 2022, eligible for re-election

- Maria Shumsky

Don Cassidy has resigned his position on Council and leaves a vacancy of a two-year term. The remainder of Ivan Bailey's term also leaves a vacancy of a two-year term. Janice Mruz, Susy Wilkins and Karl Yunghans would like to seek another term.

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

- Janice Mruz
- Susy Wilkins
- Debbie Pruitt
- Karl Yunghans (has fulfilled one-year term and is eligible for a three-year term)

The following people have agreed to serve on Council for the two-year term vacancies, if elected:

- Paul Best
- Alexia French

Nominations for the 2020 Nominating Committee:

- Glen Stewart, Sonya Adamson and Bob Oberg

Submitted by 2019 Nominating Committee: *Fred Buettler, Julia Henrich, Diane Bechtold*





## MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

January 27, 2019

**Council Members Present:** Pastor Mark, Bob Oberg, Janice Mruz, Ivan Bailey, Ada Henrich, Susy Wilkins, Fred Prange, Heather Lin, Glen Stewart

President Bob Oberg called the meeting to order, announced that Council Secretary has stepped down, and that Melissa Adamson was taking the minutes. Pastor Mark opened the meeting with prayer. Justin Adamson and Sonya Adamson were named tellers for the meeting and asked if a quorum was present. Justin and Sonya reported yes.

President Oberg asked the Congregation to review the agenda. Judith Bailey made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Wendy Kern.

**Approval of Minutes:** Two mistakes were addressed by Ivan Bailey regarding attended tellers; one being Rick Adamson, not Glen Stewart. Motion to accept minutes was made by Ric Waechter, seconded by Willard Green. Motion moved.

**Remarks by President:** Bob Oberg recognized council members for their service, those completing terms (Heather Lin, Fred Beuttler and Fred Prange), and the resignation of member Susy Wilkins. Gave a few words about St. John's next 100 years.

**Report of Nominating Committee:** The following nominations were made for Congregation Council positions and agreed to serve if elected to three-year terms: Ivan Bailey, Glen Stewart, Maria Shumsky, Don Cassidy. A one-year term Karl Yunghans.

Additional nominations were opened to the Congregation. Rick Adamson made a motion to close nominations and move to close election. Ric Waechter seconded. Motion approved. There being no further nominations from the floor, ballots were distributed for voting.

Nominations were made for the 2019 Nominating Committee. The following people agreed to serve if elected: Fred Buettler, Julia Henrich and Diane Bechtold.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports submitted:

- Report of the Reverend Mark P Bruesehoff – Diane Bechtold raised a question about those baptized becoming members, discussion ensued. Motion to approve by Julia Henrich and seconded by Sandy Lilley.
- Report of the Minister of Music (the choir sang)- motion to approve by Rick Adamson and seconded by Ric Waechter.
- Report of the Church Secretary – Ivan Bailey thanked Melissa for stepping in for Donna. Motion to approve by Justin Adamson and seconded by Sonya Adamson.
- Report of the Congregation President – motion to approve by Bob Ellis and seconded by Janet Melven.
- Report of the Standing Committees – motion to accept all reports as submitted made by Wendy Kern and seconded by Bob Ellis

Sonya Adamson at this time spoke about the Pastor's report regarding the Youth Trip. She emphasized how safe the experience was and how God's Love reaches further and how much more everyone enjoyed the trip than they expected to. She continued by relaying the continued efforts of God's work in our church and how it would not have been possible without the graciousness of those that made the trip possible. She concluded with thank you.

PG.6





- Report of Treasurer: – Discussion included, capital improvements, giving vs expenses, pension clean up that was approved by Pastor Mark, and a budget plan for SJ Gas, money to be moved from Memorials to cover deficit. Motion to approve by Sandy Lilley and seconded by Bob Ellis.

**Report of the Elections:** Sonya Adamson and Justin Adamson reported the following results of the balloting for open positions on Church Council positions:

- Ivan Bailey (for 3-year term ending 12/21)
- Glen Stewart (for 3-year term ending 12/21)
- Maria Shumsky (for 3-year term ending 12/21)
- Don Cassidy (for 3-year term ending 12/21)
- Karl Yunghans (for 1-year term ending 12/19)
- Elected to serve on the 2019 Nominating Committee: Fred Buettler, Julia Henrich and Diane Bechtold.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:**

- Liz Rauenzahn has stepped down as Church Treasurer, the church has hired accountant Janet Shechter to handle our finances for \$3200/year. Still in need of Church Treasurer as they should be a member of our Congregation. Motion to approve by Judith Bailey and seconded by Heather Lin. Mary Bullock then took a moment to thank Dan Mulloy for his many years of service.
- Discussion ensued regarding St. John’s financial situation:
  - MIF Loan – sought approval for pre-application for a possible loan, collateral would be St. John property (parking lot). There were queries regarding a line of credit opposed to a loan, workshops for stewardship, selling the parking lot, as well as other options. Barb Ross took a moment to plea with the congregation regarding the seriousness of our financial situation, seeking a way to increase giving and reduce spending, and a matching fund program that had been tabled for the Stewardship Committee because of stipulations and had since been withdrawn. Motion to approve pre-application made by Heather Lin and seconded by Don Cassidy. Hard Count by Congregation: 5 opposed and 60 approved. A second motion was made by Diane Bechtold to pursue a committee to look at other options, a committee existed, query was made about making the committee more transparent motion was seconded by Barbara Piston.
  - Synod Redevelopment Program – a program to Reroute Ministry, Develop and Empower, and begin a Financial Stability Plan. Bishop Marisella will begin by meeting with the congregation on February 18 @ 6:30 pm to discuss the re-development program. Motion to move was made by Rick Adamson and seconded by Ric Waechter.
  - Request to extend the 2018 budget through to March 2019 for approval. Motion to move was made by Sonya Adamson and seconded by Ric Waechter. Hard Count by Congregation: 3 opposed and 57 approved. A second Congregational Meeting has been set up for March 24, 2019 @ 9:00 am.

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Sonya Adamson and seconded by Justin Adamson

**Closing Devotions:** Pastor Mark led the Congregation in a closing devotion.

Faithfully submitted,  
*Melissa Adamson*  
PG.7





## MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING March 24, 2019

The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor Mark.

Karl Yunghans, acting Congregation Council President, then spoke conveying his hopes for our church and his commitment to work hard for our church.

Janet Shechter spoke next. She handed out the proposed Spending Plan and Financial Summary to all in attendance and then proceeded to explain and answer questions. The bottom line is that our church is struggling to meet our current bills. But Janet's reports were very helpful in order to see a complete picture.

Rev. Scott Schantzenbach spoke to the congregation about the possible ways to move forward in obtaining a pastor. One possibility is to use a neighboring pastor as a Vice Pastor and use a Supply Pastor for weekly services. The other was to find a Pastor who could work part time to help us heal and grow. It would have to be a specific person who would be able to serve with our limited resources.

Several members of the congregation then spoke of their own thoughts (pro and/or con) the selling of the church parking lot as a way of gaining more money to help us through this difficult time.

After that the motion to approve this Proposed Spending Plan was made by Rick Adamson and seconded by Lee Funk. The Proposed Spending Plan was approved.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judy Bailey and seconded by Maria Shumsky. Meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by

*Ada Henrich,*

Congregation Council Secretary





## PASTOR'S REPORT

***"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."-- Joshua 1:9***

The year of 2019 was a year of transition for the congregation of St. John. During 2019 Pastor Mark retired and I began serving as your interim pastor. Times of transitions can be challenging and unsettling as the familiar fades away and the future becomes uncertain. However, during times of transitions one thing can be counted on; that God is present leading and guiding his people.

If we look back on 2019, through the eyes of faith, we can see that God was present as the Holy Spirit guided the people of St. John to continue to live out our mission statement, ***Saved by Grace, Through Faith, To Share God's Love.*** This was evident as this congregation remained faithful in worship, faithful in service and faithful in stewardship.

As disciples of the risen Christ, we remained faithful in worship as we gathered around word and sacrament. Through worship we continued to give praise and thanksgiving to God for all God has done for us through his son Jesus Christ. Through our worship we had the opportunity to share God's lifesaving message with one another and many visitors during the year. Our worship was vibrant and varied. On Choir Sunday in August the choir shared God's life-giving word through sacred music. In September we celebrated 100 years of ministry in a special worship service led by Bishop Tracie Bartholomew. For three consecutive Sundays during the fall we had members of our congregation share their faith stories as part of our stewardship program, *Walk With Jesus*. During the season of Advent, we gathered on Wednesday evenings for *Holden Evening Prayer*. The people of St. John remain faithful in their worship to God and the risen Christ.

The Holy Spirit continues to guide this congregation as we remained faithful in our service. The mission of the church continues to touch many lives. Our Sunday school touches the lives of the children of this congregation. This is accomplished through the dedication of faithful followers of Jesus. Our Rejoicing Spirits ministry continues to reach out to special needs families. The Rejoicing Spirit ministry also began a partnership with the statewide organization Parents of Autistic Children in an effort to touch more families with God's love. We continued the tradition of serving Thanksgiving dinner to people in need. A care team was formed in conjunction with Social Ministry to help those in need of meals, needing a ride, doing an errand etc. The disciples of this congregation continue to volunteer and support our community organizations including Ocean City's Ecumenical Council, Food Cupboard, Clothes Closet, Angel & Mitten Trees and Moms Demand Action Group. The people of St. John remain faithful in service to the mission of the church.

The people of this congregation have remained faithful in stewardship. Over this past year we have been faithful stewards of continuing the ministry of Christ Jesus and the ministry that began here in Ocean City 100 years ago. We continue to maintain the wonderful sanctuary and property that God has given to us. The members of this congregation remain generous in their giving. This was evident in the response to our *Walk With Jesus* stewardship program. It is through the collective generosity of all the members of this faith community that we are able to share God's love locally and globally.

As we enter this new year, I ask each of you to pray how you might grow in your faith, stewardship and service to Jesus. I believe we have each been blessed with unique gifts and talents. Reflect upon the gifts that God has given to you and seek God's direction on how you may best use those gifts in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.





During this time of transition may the Holy Spirit continue to lead and guide the members of this congregation as we live out our calling and our mission statement, *“Saved By Grace, Through Faith, To Share God’s Love.”*

Peace,

*Chuck Ferreri, Pastor*



### STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

Average Weekly Attendance	86
New Disciples by Affirmation of Faith	1
New Disciples by Baptism	0
Confirmations	0
First Communions	0
Marriages	0
Funerals	5



### REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

This has been a year of changes for St. John, but one thing that remains true and unchanging is that St. John is certainly a family of faith. I am thankful to be a part of this family. I am also forever thankful for my choir family.

Musically yours,

*Julia Henrich*



### REPORT OF THE CHURCH SECRETARY

It was a great pleasure working with Pastor Mark this past year, he taught me a lot and I, like many, was sad to see him retire. It has also been a great pleasure to be one of the many who have worked along and been guided by Pastor Ferreri, he is soft but firm, and has taken great strides to redirect the vision of our members to a place of Grace.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the ladies of St. John! I doubt there is one of you out there who has not reached out in some way to my little office. It has been a true pleasure being of assistance to all of you and being at the receiving end of your many kindnesses.

If you need me, I will be here doing my very best to support the St. John family.

Thank you.

*Melissa Adamson*





## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL

The year 2019 has been a year of transition here at St. John Lutheran Church. This meant that change was inevitable. Most people have a tendency to resist change, which enables them to stay in their comfort zones. However, when forced to change, as we did here at St. John, we tend to learn more about ourselves and the people around us than we could ever imagine. That is what happened to me on March 24, 2019. On that day, I became acting congregational president and had one hour to prepare before I addressed the congregation. I was certainly put in an uncomfortable position, but asked God for strength as I took on this leadership position. My prayers were answered, because, looking back, I would do it all over again.

So what happened here at St. John in 2019? After 22 years of service, Pastor Mark retired at the end of May. He will be sorely missed. In June, Pastor Chuck was hired to temporarily serve as our interim pastor. We are grateful to the NJ Synod for their swift action in finding Pastor Charles Ferreri. Welcome, Pastor Chuck!

During this time, church council was working feverishly to prepare for our 100th anniversary celebration in September. We were also very busy reevaluating how we operate as a church. The process has not been easy. Several times I felt that, as a religious institution, we often took two steps forward and one step backwards. I have learned since then that this is a normal progression. With that being said, I believe we have stayed on course and kept making forward progress, thanks to the dedication and persistence of our council members and others in the church. God has blessed us with a wonderful group of caring, dedicated people who were committed to doing His work.

As we continue down this path, there is still much work to do. The committee reports outline the progress that has been made, along with the results of what we have accomplished during this past year. We will continue to work hard in 2020 to make St. John Lutheran the best it can be.

I am proud of how far we have come together as a church in just a short period of time. I would like to thank Pastor Chuck, Church Council, committee, and congregational members whose hard work and generous contributions of time, treasure and talents have helped us move forward. Being St. John's council president has been a rewarding experience. I have learned that change can be a blessing.

Peace!

*Karl Yunghans*





## REPORT OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

On August 29, 1919, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ocean City was formally incorporated. On that day, the trustees of the church, seven brave Christians, signed a certificate formally declaring that we henceforth will be God's church in Ocean City. Two days later on August 31st, the whole congregation consecrated the grounds here, at 10th Street and Central Avenue.

The congregation commemorated those historic events with a month-long 100th Anniversary Celebration in September. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the celebrations, especially our Anniversary Committee: Pastor Ferreri, Susy Wilkins, Bob & Janet Oberg, Rick Adamson, and myself.

We started with Rally Day, when we kicked off the Christian Education school year at St. John by celebrating the future of the church: our children. We continued with our 100th Anniversary Gala on September 22nd, when the Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop of the New Jersey Synod, was our guest preacher at both worship services. Immediately following worship, the congregation and community members joined for a celebration luncheon, featuring hymns and music from the past 100 years, and a historical presentation.

The month-long celebration culminated with a servant project, packing 100 necessity bags for those in need, here in Ocean City. As we honor the past, we need to think about where this church is going...where do we see God's church in the next 100 years? We found it only fitting to kick off the next 100 years with an act of service...and to live out our church mission statement: Saved by Grace through Faith, to Share God's Love!

Yours in service, *Glen Stewart*





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**CHAIRPERSON AND LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL:** Janice Mruz

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Alissa Lee, Sonya McElwee, Julia Henrich, Alexia French, Janice Mruz, Diane Bechtold, Barb Piston and Pastor.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Proclamation of the Good News of God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ through Christian Education for all ages.

Classes for the 2019-2020 Sunday School year kicked off with a fabulous Rally Day in conjunction with our month long 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in September. Pastor Ferreri presented all our students from kindergarten thru junior high with an age appropriate bible. We also added a new class for grades 7<sup>th</sup> thru high school taught by Alexia French. Currently we have 13 children enrolled in our pre-K through high school program.

We are continuing with our Cokesbury Sunday School curriculum for grades pre-K thru 6<sup>th</sup>. Pastor oversees the confirmation materials with Alexia. Julia continues to lead our program with a musical opening each Sunday in the sanctuary throughout the school year. We all witnessed Julia and Sonya's wonderful hard work during the Christmas Season when the children performed 2 songs with bells and drums and read the Christmas Story.

Adult Forum continues to meet each week in the lounge. The Christian Education Committee meets 4 times a year. With Pastor Mark's retirement at the end of May, our Vacation Bible School was postponed for June 2019.

Our program would not be successful without the love and support of our children, their families, our teachers, our Pastor and our congregation. The St. John family truly provides an open, wonderfully supportive church home in which we can all learn and grow in our Christian faith.

Respectfully submitted, Janice Mruz, Chairperson





## LUTHER 500 (ST. JOHN 101) REPORT

**CHAIRPERSON:** Rick Adamson

**LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL:** Jan Mruz

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Rick Adamson, Glen Stewart

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

**SPECIAL EVENTS OR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019:** St John 101 concluded its study of Luther's Small Catechism and shared many in depth conversations on those teachings in a modern society. These studies have inspired ideas and plans as to how best "To share God's love!" St John 101 has reviewed our 100th Anniversary history and aided in providing information for our anniversary celebration! The class has moved on to an in depth study of the Book of Concord which contains all the elements of our "Lutheran Confession of Faith."

**CONCERNS AS YEAR CLOSES:** Class growth!

**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*





## STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT

**MEMBERS:** Rick Adamson, Judith Bailey, Diane Bechtel, Pastor Chuck, Bob Oberg, Barbara Piston, Jim Piston, Glen Stewart, and Susan Wilkins

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

We continued to feel an extended evangelism/stewardship program, occurring on a regular basis, would best suit St. John’s needs at this time. Sharing a commonality between evangelism and stewardship, the committees continue to meet together. As one of Church Council’s committees, recommendations are presented at Council meetings.

It has been a year of transition and adaption for our church---plans for stewardship changed as we determined our financial situation was headed for more difficulty as the year progressed. Initially we met with Pastors Scott Schantzenbach and Marisela Freiberg from the Synod---two approaches developed—a Redevelopment Plan and a Stewardship Plan—we were not able to institute these two concurrent plans. As we continued to meet, it was necessary for us to alter our plans. Pastor Mark retired and we persued a different approach as our financial needs and spending plan needed to reflect change.

Instead of asking how much of my money does our church need we encouraged asking the question how generously does God call on me to respond to all the blessings God has showered upon me. Our members were asked to think about our walk with Jesus and how our use of the financial resources God has entrusted to us is an important part of this walk. Letters and Estimate of Giving Cards were distributed and mailed to the congregation; bulletin inserts prepared; temple talks by Rick Adamson, Judith Bailey, and Glen Stewart; and sermons given. On November 24, Estimate of Giving Cards were brought to the Altar during a special hymn following the sermon.

The Stewardship Program this year stressed our gifts to God is in response to what God has given and continues to give to us. Let us all think about and consider our own faith stories and prayerfully consider increasing our weekly commitment to God and the mission of our church and work towards tithing.

The committee also considered presenting and encouraging the congregation to enter into an automated giving program such as Simply Giving.

Thanks be to God for all our blessings!

*Glen Stewart, Bob Oberg, Council Liaisons, Evangelism/Stewardship Committee*





## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

**CHAIRPERSON:** Alissa Lee

**LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL:** Alissa Lee

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Judith Bailey, Ivan Bailey, Rick Adamson, Janet Yunghans, Susy Wilkins, Deb Buettler, Mary Bullock, Carol Piechoski, Glen Stewart, Maria Shumsky, 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.

I would like to thank the late Ivan Bailey for his years of service to Fellowship. We could always count on Ivan to make the coffee and he was always willing to lend a helping hand. Ivan will be missed dearly. Thank you to all the members of Fellowship who 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*





## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL:** Janice Mruz

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Maria Shumsky, Treasurer, Barbara Ross, Accountant, Janice Mruz, Karl Yunghans, Mike Kern, Rick Adamson, Pastor Ferreri

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

After 17 years, our Treasurer, Dan Malloy stepped down at the end of 2018. In early 2019, we hired an outside accounting firm, JMS Bookkeeping. We moved our expenditure and earmarked accounting records from the ICON System to QuickBooks as the firm requested. In April 2019, a member of our congregation, Maria Shumsky volunteered to be our Treasurer. Our anticipated expenses for the accounting services far exceeded what we expected and church member Barbara Ross, a former CPA graciously volunteered to handle the accounting responsibilities in-house beginning October 2019. We purchased our own QuickBooks program so this could be accomplished. The Finance Committee spent this year working diligently to stay within our income while fulfilling our expenditures. This enable us to present an accurate financial picture to the congregation throughout the year. We met with church member Justin Odell, our financial advisor and reviewed with Council all the investment funds. Service contracts were reviewed and renegotiated when possible, saving dollars. Constant communication among our accountant, treasurer, financial secretary, committee chairs and staff enabled us to control expenditures in accordance with our revised spending plan (March 2019) and our income. The audit review for 2018 was completed and Alissa Lee will head the 2019 audit. We will continue to keep the congregation informed of our financial position throughout the year.

With the dedication of our qualified volunteers handling these duties, Pastor Ferreri's guidance, a supportive Council and most importantly, the strong commitment of financial support from all our church families near and far, we have far succeeded our intended goals for 2019.

Respectfully submitted, *Janice Mruz*, Chairperson





## REJOICING SPIRITS REPORT

At St. John we celebrate “Rejoicing Spirits,” a ministry tailored specifically for those with mental disabilities. Rejoicing Spirits reaches out and encourages people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become part of a welcoming faith community through an inclusive worship service full of music and the joyous message of sharing God’s love for all his children.

In November, we celebrated our 7th anniversary of holding Rejoicing Spirits worship services at St. John. This year, we have partnered with POAC (Parents of Autistic Children). POAC is a nonprofit organization which annually provides hundreds of events for the autism community throughout the state. Our first event at St. John, of what we hope to be many, was a successful “Breakfast with Santa.” We received a great deal of positive feedback from that event. Folks loved being able to meet with Santa in a safe and comfortable place, they thought the food was great, and they really enjoyed the variety of games available. I would like to thank Santa, our many church volunteers, and especially our Rejoicing Spirits Team, for their hard work and dedication that made this event such a success. Here’s what one happy parent posted on the St. John Facebook page:

“Wow! We were so blessed to attend St. John Lutheran Church and POAC Autism Services' collab Breakfast with Santa today. Thank you so, so much. I must say, I was so touched by the kids (thumbs up to our breakfast host Ricky A!) and all the lovely members who participated at event and made Cape Atlantic families feel so welcomed. Truly great service to God done with such love, kindness and spirit.”

Rejoicing Spirits services are held the 1st Sunday of every month at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all members of the St. John family to participate in our services to find out just what all the rejoicing is about! In the words of the Rejoicing Spirits theme song, we are: “One church, one body, one faith, one Lord. Together in one Spirit, rejoicing in His word.”

Rejoicing with you,

*Glen Stewart*





## PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

**CHAIRPERSON:** Lee Funk

**LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL:** Lee Funk

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Mike Kern, Karl Yunghans

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

### **SPECIAL EVENTS OR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019:**

- Completed Drainage in front of Church on Central Avenue
- Cleaned, painted and waterproofed all closets in downstairs of Church plus storage areas
- Replaced carpets in Pastor's office and storage areas
- Painted gym and installed new base moldings
- Painted Pastor's office
- Replaced al lock on Church
- Replaced and repaired ovens in kitchen
- Replaced thermostats in gym and office
- Repaired heater on gym roof and had boilers serviced
- Had new hinges installed on alley door

I can't thank all the people enough who helped put in so many hour of sweat and hard work to accomplish so much. You are a great Church Family and by working together we will grow the mission and ministry of St. John.

We are still in need of two new roofs and will try to start a drive to replace both along with the air conditioner on the roof.

**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 ongoing outreach of our family of faith. This outreach may include education of our membership on important social, economic and/or political issues as well as reaching out with our resources to help the poor, comfort those in need, seek justice or provide shelter for the homeless.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Barbara Piston, Carol Piechoski, Deb Beuttler, Mary Bullock and Diane Bethas

**LIASON:** Fred Beuttler

**ACTIVITY IN 2019:** We, as a committee, are very grateful to the church council and the congregation for their support of our many projects that help the less fortunate.

In January, the Angel Tree becomes the Mitten Tree. Donated items of mittens, hats, gloves and scarves are placed on the tree, then donated to the Ocean City Clothes Closet at the end of the month.

In the Spring, the Committee assisted WELCA in organizing a Mother's Day Collection to donate items to unwed mothers from Hope Pregnancy Center in Ocean City.

Throughout the month of July, a Noisy Offering was held to benefit the Atlantic City Rescue Mission.

In November, our largest project occurs which is the community Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by our church. Chefs Joe and Kenny oversaw the cooking of the meal. We are very grateful to them, as well as to all the volunteers who assisted in preparing the the vegetables, setting up the tables as well as making desserts and providing cranberry sauce and waiting on tables. Without volunteers from our church and others in the community, we would not be able to provide this meal. This year we fed almost 200 people.

In December, the Angel Tree is set up to enable our congregation to buy gifts for children in the Family Promise program. The gifts are greatly appreciated.

We also have a Good Gifts tree which enables our church members to provide gifts for people in the U.S.A. and in countries around the world to fight hunger and improve their living situations. These donations go to the ELCA World Relief.

Also in December, Pastor Ferreri recommended that our church form a Care Committee to help members of the congregation with emergency needs. This is underway.

**CONCERNS FOR 2020:** We are looking for members for our Care Committee as well as someone to head the Thanksgiving Dinner Project.

Respectfully submitted,

*Deborah Beuttler*





## WORSHIP/ALTAR GUILD COMMITTEE REPORT

This has been a year of change and transition in the worship life of St. John. Pastor Mark left us with a rich tradition of worship styles.

During midweek Lent we sang together Evening Prayer-Vespers. Good Friday was observed with Stations of the Cross on the boardwalk and Tenebrae Service in the evening. Easter Sunday was a joyous celebration shouting "Christ Is Risen!" often during the service.

Pastor Ferreri has continued that tradition of introducing us to new ways to give praise and thanksgiving to our God. Holden Evening Prayer was introduced during midweek Advent worship. This service quickly became special and meaningful to all who attended.

Julia Henrich and Sonya Adamson put together a beautiful Sunday School and Choir Cantata worship service for Christmas. The choir continues to offer God's word through music. The group, though small, works very diligently each week, under the direction of Julia Henrich. We are truly blessed to have Julia with us.

Altar Guild continues to keep the altar set for communion each week, change the paraments and banners when necessary and prepare the sanctuary for worship. This is a "behind the scenes" ministry which always need more volunteers.

St. John is involved with many wonderful ministries of outreach and social ministry, and yet worship attendance continues to decline. Worship is at the center of who we are and what we do. We need to come together regularly to offer prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to our loving Lord. We need to be forgiven and energized to spread the love of Jesus to all.

Hope to see you all at woship!

Respectfully submitted,

Woship Committee

*Sonya Adamson, Mary Bullock, Ada Henrich, Julia Henrich, Judith Bailey*





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

**CHAIRPERSON AND LIAISON TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL:** Janice Mruz

**TREASURER:** Susy Wilkins

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** The Women of St. John Lutheran Church

Committee Function-Mission 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, society, and the world."

We kicked off our year in early March with some of us attending the International Ecumenical Women's World Day of Prayer held at Cape May Lutheran Church lead by their women's group. At the end of March, we participated in the first Ocean City Women of Faith Conference held at the OC Tabernacle hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City. In April we kicked off our month-long donation drive for the Hope Pregnancy Center in Ocean City.

May brought us to our Spring Rummage/Book Sale on the 16th, 17th & 18th for our mission and ministry. Also, in May and August we hosted 2 successful blood drives for the Red Cross. In June, about 10 of us joined 200 others for the second annual Wear Orange Jersey Shore Bridge Walk to End Gun Violence. With an event planned every Sunday in September in honor of our 100th Anniversary, we managed to pull off the Fall Rummage/Book Sale, Sept. 10th, 11th & 12th to benefit CASA and our mission and ministry. The ladies assisted with food, set-up, clean-up, decorating etc. for Rally Day, the fall barbeque (in place of our picnic this year) and our wonderful 100th anniversary luncheon. In early October, the ladies pulled together and hosted a lovely luncheon for the Bailey family following the funeral for Ivan.

In November, we held a very successful Christmas Bazaar/Lasagna Dinner event with Santa visiting for pictures! This was a first since this event was usually held during our OHC dinner event. This was a 2-day event, Friday, Nov. 15th serving a lite fare dinner and Saturday, Nov. 16th. Santa with his 2 elves just happen to stop by too! The St. John Annual Community Thanksgiving dinner was again a huge success, hosting about 180 with some of our ladies assisting the chefs with the dinner including peeling over a 100 lbs. of potatoes! Yikes! We also collected our Thank Offerings to benefit the Women's ELCA Worldwide Mission Program. This is an offering that the ladies collect all year long for the many things we are thankful for throughout the year.

Since our Christmas Bazaar was so close to Christmas, we hosted just a cookie walk in December for our St. John family and made cookie packages for our shut-ins and our wonderful employees. Near and dear to hearts are our seafarers. We collected 9 gift bags and monetary donations for the seamen for their Christmas at sea.

This year it became very apparent that a lot of us are both WELCA and Social Ministry members. We decided to pull our resources and form a partnership with our outreach programs. At the suggestion of Pastor Ferreri, a care team was formed in conjunction with Social Ministry to help those in need of meals, needing a ride, doing an errand, etc. The ladies donated a goat to the Good Gift Program. We plan more noisy collections to benefit such programs as Eagles Wings. We continue to volunteer and support our community organizations including Ocean City's Ecumenical Council, Food Cupboard, Clothes Closet, Angel & Mitten Trees and Moms Demand Action Group.





One of our most memorable events this year was a sad one. We hosted our first candle lite vigil for the El Paso gun violence victims on the front of our steps. El Tabernacula joined us and led us in prayer.

Finally, just a few reminders, our Leah Ruth Bible Study Circle is held on the 4th Monday of each month at 12 noon, led by Pastor Ferreri. Everyone is welcome. Please join us and try it out! You won't be disappointed. Feel free to bring your lunch and a beverage. Our 2020 Spring Rummage Sale is tentatively scheduled for April 23rd, 24th & 25th.

Respectfully submitted, *Janice Mruz*, Co-Chairman



## WELCA 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Balance as of January 2019	\$ 4,709.27		
Dues	\$ 52.00		
General Donation	\$ 84.44	Upper Twp. Sandwiches-100th Anniversary	\$ 800.00
Interest	\$ 0.50	St. John-Fall Rummage Sale	\$ 1,351.00
		Jan Mruz-Racks for Rummage Sales	\$ 183.32
Fall Rummage/Book Sale	\$ 1,351.00	Voltaco's-Bazaar	\$ 180.00
Christmas Bazaar	\$ 1,689.55	Jan Mruz-Banner Bazaar	\$ 149.26
Thank Offering	\$ 633.28	Maria Shumsky-Bazaar Misc.	\$ 19.34
Cookie Walk	\$ 183.00	Banks (Change Boxes) for Bazaar	\$ 270.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR 2019</b>	<b>\$ 8,703.04</b>	<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2019</b>	<b>\$ 2,952.92</b>
		<b>ENDING BALANCE AS OF DEC. 31, 2019</b>	<b>\$ 5,750.12</b>

### RUMMAGE SALES REPORT

Please note the Spring Rummage Sale proceeds were processed through the St. John account.

### SPRING RUMMAGE/BOOK SALE REPORT

Book Sale \$197.25 (for Christian Education Program)  
 Bob Gannon (\$100.00) setup  
 \$1338.21 for St. John Mission & Ministry

### FALL RUMMAGE/BOOK SALE REPORT

\$350.00 Donation to CASA

\$1001 for St. John Mission & Ministry

Dues and Thank Offering were disbursed in January 2020.





## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST REPORT

Sadly, we lost a devoted member, Ivan Bailey, from our group this year. Many years ago, Ivan suggested to Pastor Mark Bruesehoff Saint John form a men's prayer breakfast group. Under Ivan's leadership the group was formed and met early every Thursday morning. The group varied in size over the years, welcoming new members and some drifting away---we did remain, over the past few years, a steady and loyal gathering for which we are thankful---however, we would more than welcome other men to join us.

We now meet every Thursday morning at eight for about an hour in the lounge---time may change after Memorial Day. We begin with a prayer, followed by faith based conversation over coffee and "goodies" while exchanging ideas and ends with the Lord's Prayer. The conversation or discussion facilitator changes each week with the volunteer selecting the focus of discussion which can change as the conversation goes on.

This year, as in the past, we decided to contribute to ECLA's GOOD GIFTS by purchasing a goat along with seeds and gardening tools. Thanks to all who contributed to the "water jug" in the narthex---this made it possible for us to add to the many gifts our congregation purchased for GOOD GIFTS.

Respectfully submitted, *Bob Oberg* for the whole group---Fred Beuttler, Charles Dutch, Ric Waechter, Mike Kern, John Sheffey, Pastor Mark---retired in May, and Pastor Chuck.



## STITCHES AND SCRIPTURE REPORT

Stitches & Scripture at St. John continues to meet the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the church from 5:30-7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted in the bulletin. Gatherings begin with a Bible verse reflection led by the members.

In the past year the group knitted and donated nine items to hospice patients. Eileen Ready of the Cape May county office of Holy Redeemer was here to accept the knitted prayer shawls and lap robes on November 17. Pastor Chuck provided a very meaningful dedication of the work which was displayed in the front pews of the church.

You might also have seen some scarves and hats on the Mitten Tree that have been made by our members as well as baby blankets for the Mother's Day collection. We also provided a display showing various knitted and crochet patterns along with stories of how members became involved with Stitches & Scripture.

We continue to welcome all needle crafters, not just knitters, of all experience levels. We enjoy sharing our skills and ideas in an atmosphere of fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

*Diane M. Bechtold*





## ST. JOHN BOOK CLUB REPORT

St. John Book Club meets on the second Monday evening of each month in the lounge. The books we choose are suggested by members based on something they've recently read, a favorite author, or a recommendation from a friend in another club. Selections are usually fiction, especially historical fiction, also current themes, non-fiction and the occasional classic. We keep our discussions to about an hour and always are interested to share opinions and life experiences as they relate to the subject.

Books read in 2019 were: *The Other Einstein*, *A Spark of Light*, *Just Mercy*, *We Were the Lucky Ones*, *Beartown*, *Code Girls*, *The Last Days of Night*, *Hillbilly Elegy*, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *Us Against You*. *Where the Crawdads Sing* was chosen as the 2019 book for Ocean City Reads. The author, Delia Owens, spoke at the Music Pier in November.

It's a very informal group and new members are always welcome. And it's not just for women!!

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Bullock*



## LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION REPORT

Alexia French went as adult advisor with Abigail Henrich as participant to the NJ Synod Youth Retreat from November 15-17th. This weekend retreat combined the middle school aged "Among the Wolves" and the high school age "Winter Youth Assembly." Taking place in Halmilton Square, this event held approximately 130 participating members.

The ELCA National Youth Gathering will take place in the summer of 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This event is open to youth who have just finished 8th grade through those who have just graduated high school.

Submitted by,

*Sonya Adamson*





## REPORT OF THE 2019 NEW JERSEY SYNOD ASSEMBLY

No report submitted.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORT

No report submitted.

## STAFF SUPPORT REPORT

No Report Submitted.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

No Report Submitted.

## MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

No Report Submitted.





## DESCRIPTION OF DESIGNATED FUNDS

### **Deaney Memorial**

This Memorial is to provide services for people who are disabled, with a special emphasis on the developmentally disabled. In 2019 it funded the POAC breakfast.

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

This fund is to provide music scholarships for members of St. John. As well as, the enrichment of the music program at St. John. There is a committee that oversees the application process.

### **McFaul Memorial**

This Memorial is to provide a yearly pledge to St. John in the form of the interest which it earns yearly. It helps to fund the Operating Budget.

### **Parsonage Investment Fund**

This fund is to provide the interest earned each year, 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 is cannot pay the bills to operate the Church.

### **Capital Improvement Fund**

This fund is to be utilized to fund capital improvement projects at St. John.

### **Glenn-Fryers Fund**

This fund is to be utilized to purchase new fryers for St. John. The fryers are mainly utilized during the Oyster Chicken Ham dinner.

### **Kitchen Fund**

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

### **Music Account**

This fund is to be utilized for the Music program at St. John.

### **Pastoral Assistance Fund**

This fund is to be used for Pastoral Assistance.

### **Seminarian Fund**

This fund is to assist members of St. John who enter Seminarian School with their costs.

### **Undesignated Memorial Fund**

This fund is to utilized for large expenditure support spending decisions such as funding a new roof, replacment of heating/air conditioning systems, etc.

