

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Arnprior  
Congregational Annual Report & Agenda – Annual Meeting for 2022**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>AGENDA</b> .....	2
Minutes of the 133 <sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting for the year 2021 .....	3
<b>REPORTS</b>	
Pastoral Report .....	5
Chairperson's Report .....	6
Altar Guild Report .....	7
Kitchen/Fellowship Report .....	8
Children and Youth Activity Report .....	8
Health and Safety Report .....	9
Outreach Report .....	10
Communications and Technology Report .....	10
Fundraising Report.....	11
Property Report .....	12
<b>FINANCIAL REPORTS</b> .....	13
Financial Secretary Report .....	13
2022 Financial Review Letter .....	14
2022 Finance Report .....	15
2022 Financial Statements: P & L Comparison Previous Yr., Budget; Balance.....	16
2023 Budget Commentary .....	19
2023 Budget .....	20
Bios for Candidates for Congregational Council.....	21
Message from Synod .....	22

## AGENDA

### 1. Welcome and Opening Devotions

### 2. Quorum Determination

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

*I move that the agenda be adopted as presented.*

### 4. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Meeting for 2021

*I move that the minutes of the Annual Meeting for 2021 of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior held on March 13, 2022 be approved as \_\_\_\_\_.*

### 5. Financial Reports

#### 2022 Financials

#### Approval of Reviewed Financial Statements 2022

*I move that the Financial Statements for 2022 of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior be approved as presented.*

#### 2023 Budget

#### Approval of Budget for 2023

*I move that the 2023 budget for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior, priorly approved by Congregational Council, be approved as*

*\_\_\_\_\_.*

### 6. Appointment of Financial Reviewer(s) for 2023

*I move that \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as financial reviewer(s) for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior for 2023.*

### 7. Reports - Questions or Comments

### 8. Election of Council Members

- Chair to name standing candidates and ask for any more nominations.
- Motion to close nominations.
- Either an Election by Vote or Election by Acclamation

### 9. Other Comments/New Business

### 10. Closing Devotions

## Minutes of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting for the year 2021

March 13, 2022

Membership Attendance: Andy Kalnins, David & Alison Burkett, Enid Blackwell, Lois & Henry Rosien, Lorne Rueckwald, Mel & Marion Bretzlaff, Lorne & Jo Anne Bretzlaff, Pastor Norine, Jeff & Debbie Kargus, Pastor Stan and Judith Johnstone, Cory Weckwerth, Beryl & Keith Richardson, Debbie & Bob Witt. Gwen, Fred, Kevin & Greg Steinke, Elmer and Marion Leeck and Barb & Gerald Formuziewich via zoom.

1. Meeting was called to order by Enid with a land acknowledgement at 11:43a.m. with Pastor opening with devotions and a prayer.
2. The agenda for the meeting was adopted as amended with date correction to 2021 in item 5. Moved by Lorne R, seconded by Judith Johnstone. CARRIED
3. Quorum was verified (29 members in attendance)
4. Motion for approval of the minutes of the 2020 meeting as distributed. David Burkett moved, seconded by Lorne R. CARRIED.

### **5. Financial Report:**

- a. Alison presented the financial report for 2021. We ended with Surplus of \$409. Donations to Benevolence exceed the budget by \$730. Donations to Outreach included \$1106 for Solar Panels, \$345 for BC Floods, \$170 to Camp Lutherlyn Camperships, \$1145 for Food Bank Chickens, \$2070 to Food Bank general and \$1000 Synod grant for the Healthy Snack program.
- b. Balance Sheet healthy. \$57,000 in cash/foundation assets. Reinvested the 10% earnings from ELFEC.
- c. A Letter of Financial Review from Ulla Schilling dated March 1, 2022, was read. The letter stated: "I have verified the income and disbursement accounts as at December 31, 2021 for St. John's Lutheran Church, the amounts are as stated".
- d. Bob Witt moved to approve the 2021 financials: Marion B seconded. **CARRIED**

### **6. 2022 BUDGET**

Council directed that a balanced budget be prepared. Assumptions were that we return to normal (with respect to COVID). Budgeted Expenses increase by 5.2%. The agreement with St. James remains the same. The Budget details are:

- a. Pastoral Ministry (Enid, Alison, Ulla and Marilyn), \$61,523, a 1.7% increase.
- b. Worship and Communications (Pastor and Enid), \$2,780, same as 2019 (last normal year)
- c. Youth Ministry (Alison and Ryan), \$1050. \$900 for UNPLUG and return to normal for Sunday school of \$150.
- d. Property (Dave B), Mandatory portion is \$12,710, 2% decrease over 2019. Discretionary portion is \$300.

- e. Property- Major Capital Project. The property team (Dave, Jeff, Randy, and Bob) have recommended replacing the basement floor. Total cost estimate is \$10,000 to be funded from reserves.
- 7. **Motion** To approve the 2022 budget and the use of up to \$10K from reserves to fund the floor replacement. Lorne R moved and Jo Anne B seconded. **CARRIED**
- 8. **Appointment of Financial Reviewer.** Alison moved a motion to appoint Randy to lead the review of 2022 financials with Maureen R. Seconded by Kevin S. **CARRIED**
- 9. **Council: Election of Members.** Enid acknowledged and thanked Cory for his time on council. Expiring terms Dave and Enid. Rachel Roesner (who was appointed in October to fill a vacancy) has agreed to stand for election. Bob W nominated Fred Steinke. Motion to elect Enid, Dave, Rachel, and Fred S for one 2-year term. Andy moved and Lorne B seconded. **CARRIED**
- 10. Other Comments: Thanks to Debbie Kargus for leading refreshments this morning.
  - a. Masks: nothing has changed so far. Still require masks for now. Reopening team will review the situation on March 21<sup>st</sup>, to see what RCDH advises.
  - b. Lois thanked all those who provided support for members without computers.
- 11. Bob W. moved for adjournment. **CARRIED.** Enid adjourned the meeting at 12:45
- 12. Closing Devotions by Pastor.

## PASTORAL REPORT

To the good people of St. John's,

As of July 2023, I will have been your Pastor for 9 years. I am grateful that St. John's is blessed with talented people who offer their gifts of time, talents, and financial resources. I am sincerely grateful to each and every one of our church council for their dedication and continued partnership, support and encouragement. The most important core value of this faith community is that we continue to gather together for worship, to receive the gift of grace in Holy Communion, and for mutual support and outreach.

Our life at church, this past year, was still affected by Public Health protocols surrounding Covid. Finally, by the fall we were feeling a bit less restricted, as the issues were quietly and carefully monitored by our new **Health & Safety Team**.

I recognize the many blessings that we experienced this past year. Here are some from my list. *Our UNPLUG program, Grounded book study, Seasons of Creation, Christmas Pageant, our gardens for the Food Bank, new kitchen & basement flooring!, Visioning Retreat, **Pastoral Care Team, Prayer Team**, an Eastern Synod Scholarship awarded, Men's breakfast, Christmas Bazaar, a visit from *Guitarist, Philip Candelaria and our supply musician, Karen Prince.**

As an extension of the ministry of our church; it is good to meet and work with the **Upper Ottawa Valley Area Ministry Team**. This team sponsored an informative gathering of Lay Leaders and Pastors in June, led by assistants to the Bishop - **Rev. Adam Snook & Rev.** Many Eastern Synod congregations are visioning ahead and making plans for their futures, just as we are. I meet with our Lutheran colleagues every month as we rotate our meetings throughout the Ottawa Valley area.

St. John's remains in a shared ministry agreement with St. James, Renfrew. This means that St. James contributes to my salary through St. John's. I am in Renfrew on Wednesdays for administrative and pastoral care purposes and Sunday mornings to lead worship.

St. James hosted St. John's for worship in May and we had our special guest, **Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse, Bishop of the Eastern Synod**, join us. This was on exactly 1 year to the date that St. James had moved to Trinity St. Andrews United Church. We were all able to have our very first post-Covid coffee hour with him!

We pray that God shall continue to keep careful watch over us, as we embrace our hopes and expectations for the days to come. We hope to realize God's activity to come among us in grace, mercy and love that His light might continue shining on in even the darkest of places. May God bless our ministries in 2023!

Sincerely in Christ, Rev. Norine Gullons

**Record of Pastoral Acts ~ January – December 2022** The ministry of the Pastoral office is an extension of the ministry of the congregation. Total approximate number of Pastoral visits, Hospital and Nursing/Retirement-65; private home Communion-20; **Visits = 85**

**Wedding:** Ryan Kargus & Shannon Power-November

**Funerals:** (William) Bill Koops-April; Helen Neuman-May.

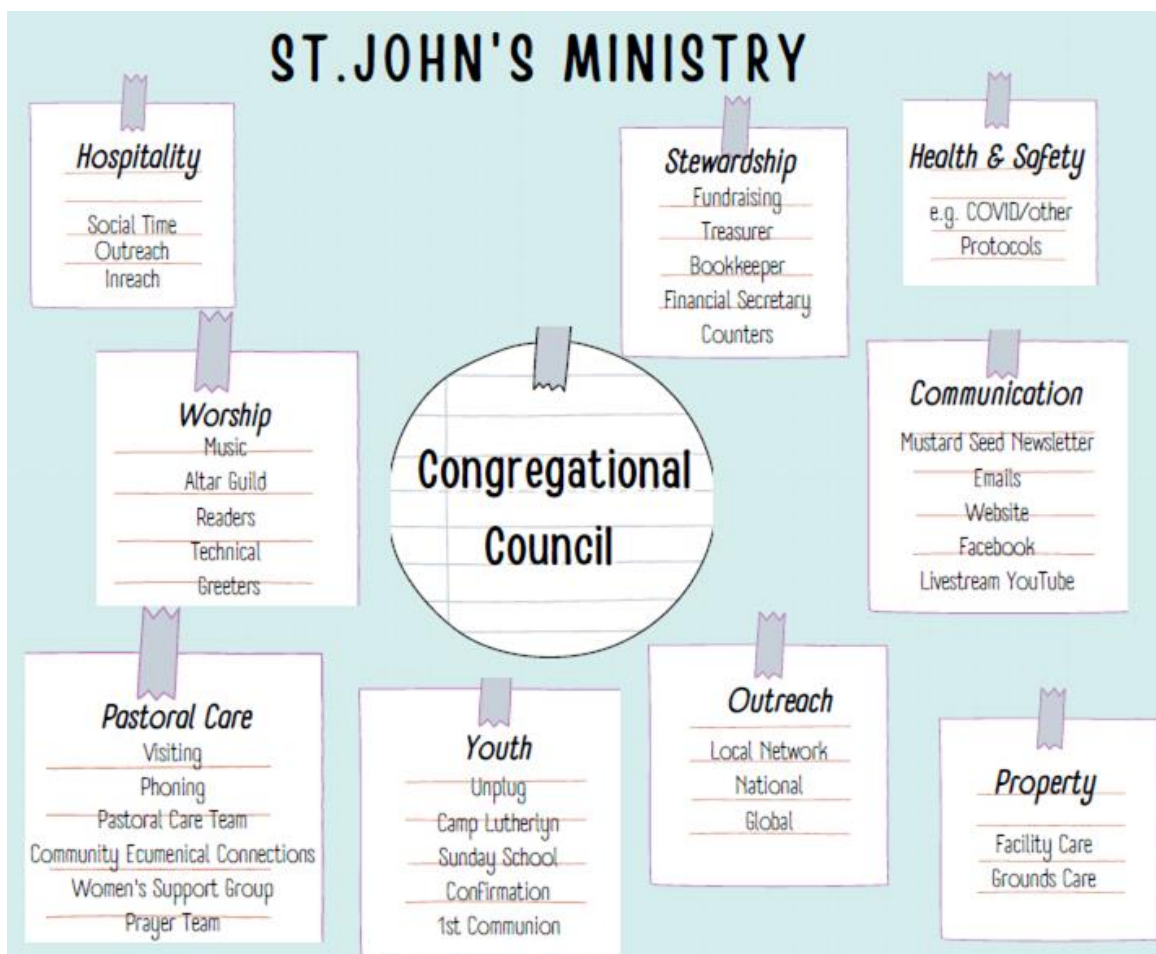
## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

*I do not understand the mystery of grace – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.*  
- Anne Lamont

As I reviewed 2022 council minutes, worship service videos, and Mustard Seed newsletter calendars, it gave me pause – pause at the amount of plans we made for our life together and pause at how many of those plans came to fruition by a small, caring community this past year. It also gave me pause at how some plans and hopes were changed, delayed, quietly tucked away or could not happen at all because of public health concerns, ‘unplanned’ weather events, the time needed to work things through together, a power outage or two . . . and the dance of COVID and other illnesses through most of council, dedicated members and our pastor!

But through all of these plans and happenings of this past year, the mystery of grace has indeed *met us where we are*, carrying us on together as we gather, grow in faith, and practise at being disciples, sharing in ministry together.

Take a look at the graphic of our ministry below, kindly developed by Jeff Kargus for a recent team meeting. Consider how grace has prompted the many blessings tucked into *each* of these areas of ministry. Now, think of all the places in this ministry where **you are part of those blessings - present, working, caring, and giving of your gifts of grace. Thank yourself!!** I and we thank you! Following, some blessing highlights for me.



**Worship** - children bringing us the word by screen and in person, some raised up by a booster step, caringly repurposed by Lorne B., and the many young present for our new time, Season of Creation. Thanks to producer Dave, 50 services reached us and others online, during early months when none could meet together, and beyond, when we gathered and knew some were 'out there' with us. Singing again!

**Pastoral Care** - hearing how the new Prayer Team is holding us and many others up. Knowing P+ Norine is able to care for many individuals in person again.

**Youth** - learning survival and social skills with children, at Ryan and Julie's, a place full of the 'beauty of the earth', in one of the many UNPLUG events coordinated by Alison. Hearing of the exciting plans being developed with and for our young families.

**Hospitality & Property** - clever, 'pivoted' coffee time arrangements as we gathered again in the midst of dedicated, excellent downstairs floor renovation. Admiring the skill and innovation of Fred in creating an exhaust vent water drainage system for our furnace. **Health & Safety** gentlemen giving good advice here and throughout the year.

**Outreach** - new blessings! of the Community Garden and blessing of a few pets in photos and of dogs who 'stopped in'. The great generosity of members to the Food Bank over and above our community commitment.

**Communication** - exchanges with faraway appreciative friends via our Facebook. The thanks received from those in homes and residences for deliveries of the Mustard Seed Newsletter, Eternity for Today, and more.

**Council** - updating our constitution in 2021, and in 2022, beginning to work on the task of visioning and planning our future, an effort postponed by COVID years. We gained insight from the membership survey, had positive discussion at a retreat day, and received a well-researched proposal from Alison and Dave on possible building renovation, rental and accessibility. In December, a representative Renewal Team was formed to help 'rejuvenate' us post-COVID and is now ongoing, while a projected Long Range Planning Team will study and advise on options for 2-5 years down the road.

**Stewardship** - our dedicated, skilled 'background' workers, carefully tracking and monitoring our finances and responding to many questions. I am grateful that Randy stepped in to be our knowledgeable interim Treasurer in November, and thank Alison for continuing as our excellent Bookkeeper. The amazing generosity shown by members present and present in spirit from their homes, who, at year's end, brought us through to an unexpected landing that grounds us well for further gathering, growing in faith and practising at being disciples.

Faithfully yours, Enid Blackwell

## **ALTAR GUILD REPORT**

Our sincere thanks to all who donate to the flower fund each year.

Your Altar Guild donated new stars for the Christmas trees, as the others were no longer functioning.

Beryl & Keith Richardson, Barbara & Gerald Formuziewich and Jo Anne & Lorne Bretzlaff

## **KITCHEN/FELLOWSHIP REPORT**

Thank you to all volunteers who donated their time and delicious treats for our coffee hour. It is now available twice a month after Sunday Service. This gives our community a chance to socialize and to enjoy each other's company.

In June 2022 we were able to socialize for the first time. Due to Covid-19 still being around it was decided to make changes so everyone would be safe. The basement was unavailable due to construction until after Thanksgiving, so the boardroom and the lounge were used. Extra tables and chairs were set-up outside to accommodate those who preferred the outdoors. Our thanks to Lois and Henry Rosien for allowing us to use their cabinet (made by son, Kevin) for storing our items. Our coffee machine was also relocated to boardroom.

On Canada Day we celebrated with cake, strawberries and ice cream. It was great to hear the sounds of laughter and people looking happy.

The end of October, we were back to normal in our newly renovated parish hall.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the following:

Barbara Formuziewich, Debbie Kargus, Pastor Norine or Enid Blackwell. There is also a sign-up sheet in kitchen.

Volunteers (hosts) provide cream and milk for coffee and tea, and the treats for social. All other things are supplied. Training is available. This ministry gives us all another fun way to serve each other. If unavailable and you love to bake treats, we can arrange for the someone else to host for you.

Your Kitchen Coordinators, Barbara Formuziewich and Debbie Kargus

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Unplug program continued in 2022, giving children from our congregation and from surrounding areas the opportunity to "unplug" from technology and connect with nature. We held 14 activities this year including several trips to the Zimmerling farm (always a favourite), snow shoeing, bird walks, exploring the Mill of Kintail and Morris Island, drumming at Waba cottage, and learning about rehabilitating birds from the Wild Bird Centre. 49 children came out to at least one event; 14 children came to 3 or more events.

Our children and youth under Ryan and Julie's leadership led 3 of the Seasons in Creation worship services: Fauna and Flora, Storm, and Cosmos Sundays. These started with a procession of the children bringing in a symbol for that Sunday; readings were done by the youth; the Children's Address was done by the Youth Leader and music was chosen to appeal to the young.

Planning started in August for the restart of Sunday School after the pandemic. Ryan and Julie had chosen a VBS curriculum (Rocky Railway) to use for Sunday School just before the pandemic started. A survey was held with the young families to see whether their children would be interested in attending Sunday School, and if so, how often. From those results, the decision was made to run Rocky Railway for 5 months, starting in January. Dates will be decided each month based on leader and children's availability.



Thirteen children are registered for Rocky Railway. Recruiting for Sunday School leaders from young parents/adults was successful – with 3 teams scheduled for the Rocky Railway program. We also have 3 Youth (Zach Zimmerling and Phoenix Mosiondz-Sagmeister who continued to support the Unplug program in 2022 plus Liam Cameron), who will be assistants for Sunday School. Support (administration, getting supplies and doing the room décor for each day of the curriculum plus preparing and serving snacks) involves a team of grandparents. And Property helps get the basement cleared for Sunday School and in other setup tasks.

It takes a village, or a congregation, to support the youth programs and it's gratifying to see the enthusiasm from St. John's church family for Sunday School. To put it in context, we have 13 children involved, and 19 others helping (8 leaders, 3 teen assistants, 5 support plus 3 from property)!

St. John's was successful in getting a short-term Synod mission grant to restart Youth Movie nights; a large screen TV was purchased with that money; it is being used for Sunday School as well. Plans are to hold a Movie Night several times in 2023, with the first planned for this spring.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Burkett

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The Health and Safety Committee is not so much a new committee, but more of a rebranded committee (to use a trendy verb tuned adjective). Originally a group was created to deal with the challenges of COVID-19. This disease has unfortunately not disappeared, and seems to be ever evolving into something a little more beyond the grasp of eradication. And it has been joined by RSV and the Seasonal Flu. That is the bad news.

But the good news is that all of us have made personal decisions that give us the best level of comfort in dealing with these challenges. Vaccines, masking, sanitizing, staying home when in doubt, eating more fruit, and other tools are working. The church is open to all, and socials and events are back. We all have enough faith in our brethren to know that they are doing all they can to keep themselves, and others safe.

If things were to suddenly change, rules can be brought back. As our guide and leader, our pastor has the responsibility and authority to be able to cancel services and meetings and entry to the church if needed, and that authority has always been there. It would be used only if drastic conditions warranted a nimble response.

So, as we finish the first quarter of 2023, we are in a good place compared to where we have been for almost the last three years. The Health and Safety Committee will of course continue to monitor and advise, but the focus will now shift to other areas such as lighting, entry and exit ways, fire plans, safety in the kitchen, and so forth. Please bring any issues to our attention or to a member of Church Council.

Respectfully submitted by Lorne Rueckwald and Andy Kalnins

## OUTREACH REPORT

2022 dawned with a lot of uncertainty. We were very unsure where COVID would take us, despite the optimism of vaccines and enhanced safety protocols. So Outreach took a different tack - since "people to people" meetups were still questionable, it was felt that the best path to move forward was to simply budget an Outreach Budget of \$1875 and this would be part of "commitments". The intent was that most of this would go to supporting the Food Bank at Christmas with chickens, as we have done in the past, as well as supporting 2 Lutherlyn camperships, and providing smaller amounts to a CLWR appeal, and the Fountain. This way, those in need would still have our support, and we would not expose people to risk by having events.

The result was perfectly satisfactory. We were able to buy all the chickens we could, and still have money left to give added funding to CLWR at Christmas. In fact, the CLWR donation was trebled in value as the donated money was boosted by support from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. We did as always and supported those in need.

It is now of course 2023. COVID and other infectious diseases are not swept away, but we have a pretty high comfort level in dealing with them. Public gatherings, with some cautions, are normal again. It is a time to rethink and recommit.

The primary purpose of the collection plate is to support the church and its operation and that is necessary, because without it, the church would not exist. But Outreach is beyond the plate, it is doing something extra that helps the many in need.

So what best helps those in need? There is certainly an argument that money is what is needed. That is a very valid answer. But so is compassion, recognition, and commitment. It the intent of the Outreach Committee to build that foundation in 2023. If we can build a team of individuals who are willing to work towards a cause, that is perhaps the best seed that can be planted for a robust harvest.

So 2023 is going to be team building year. We already are in the midst of creating our first Bowl Event and we hope to do a few more in 2023. How much money do we hope to raise? We are saying between zero and a million dollars! That statement is not facetious ... it means we have an open agenda that can only be filled by what this community wants. And how do we know what this community wants? By joining the Outreach Committee! Please consider doing that in 2023!

For sure, certain words used in conjunction frighten people. One example is income, tax, and audit. Another is committee and join. But please don't be put off! Come to one meeting. Help out in one event. Help us make 2023 a year that reaches beyond the plate.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Kargus and Andy Kalnins

## COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

The ministries within communications help connect us, and, hopefully, help us grow in faith! They included:

- **Deliveries** to 22 members (most without internet) during Jan/Feb shutdown, and often to 12-14 members beyond, of: some service texts, all newsletters, devotional booklets, and Easter/Christmas packages. Thank you, delivery team and all who shared in preparing care packages, including Easter artists Katie Burkett, Phoenix Barnhart, and Stephanie Shipman. Lately, a 'formalized' **Pastoral Care Team** (Lois, Beryl, Debbie W., Enid with P+ Norine and her direction) has given a boost of camaraderie.

- **Chats** over the phone continue to take place by this team.
- 11 issues of the **Mustard Seed newsletter** were prepared, printed, emailed and appreciated by members and friends – 148 pages of content delivered to over 100 households: 81 by email, and 20-25 by hand. We got to know one another better through sharing of some special occasion photos and messages. ‘Meet Our Members’ articles: Jacob Elliot visited us in our January issue. We could do with some more stories- your own or others’. **If you like writing or interviewing, feel free to check in with Enid.** We make sure the content is what you wish. Thank you, editor Dave Burkett and contributors.
- **Taped and/or live-streamed services:** 50 services were available throughout the year (8 pre-recorded and 42 live streamed). A total of 1100 people viewed our services on-line in 2022: (average of 22 per service). Thanks again, Dave, and Jeff Kargus. Thank you, P+Norine for worship leadership, messages and communion, and all who led with sanctuary preparation, reading in person and sometimes from your homes. Thanks, lay leaders/message givers Andy and Jeff, and seasoned and new greeters and bell ringers.
- Our website: **stjohnsarnprior.com** has 14 informative pages regarding life at St. John’s. The site was visited almost 6000 times in 2022 (2,200 directly and 3,800 from facebook).
- **Facebook** continued with over 340 posts. See: **St. John’s Lutheran Church Arnprior** Posted: All our service texts and videos, solidarity/action items, prayers, photos, music, humour, affirming quotes, kid-friendly posts, UNPLUG photos and news from the broader church, Lutheran World Federation, CLWR, and multifaith bodies. I thank our most steady known ‘reviewer’ Greg Steinke for his encouragement! Members, your contributions for our page are welcome! [eblackwell.ca@gmail.com](mailto:eblackwell.ca@gmail.com) Posts of UNPLUG on **What’s Up Arnprior** contributed to community awareness. **What’s Up McNab/Braeside** is a new spot to share some of our happenings.
- **Information packages to wider community:** - thanks to Alison Burkett for preparation of materials, and Alison, Dave and Debbie W. for delivery of St. John’s information to neighbours’ homes, and Cathy Z. for Sunday market time! Hoping for some more deliveries in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Enid Blackwell and David Burkett

## FUNDRAISING REPORT 2022

Another successful Christmas Bazaar was held at the church on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> raising \$2594!

Our newly renovated basement was packed full of amazing items for sale including kitchenware, Christmas decorations, house décor, some furniture, and the most delicious homemade baked goods that filled three long tables. Upstairs, an assortment of children’s clothing and toys, craft supplies, hand knitted articles, linens, outdoor items, jewelry, books, and puzzles were available to shoppers.

A lovely Christmas themed café was held in the kitchen area where soups, chili, fresh buns, and muffins were available for purchase. Some shoppers took a break and ate at the café while others bought take out to enjoy at home.

A Festive Holiday gift basket and wall hanging were raffled as well. Karen DeLuca won the gift basket and Vicki Weichenthal won the wall hanging. The winners were thrilled with their prizes.

The success of the bazaar was due to the 28 faithful and dedicated volunteers who generously donated their time and talents to baking, knitting, creating signs, decorating the café area, donating raffle items, working the day of the bazaar plus setting up and packing up the leftover items.

Remaining items from the bazaar were donated to the NeighbourLink Fountain, here in town, to support other members in our community.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Rueckwald

## **PROPERTY REPORT**

The past year was a very eventful year for our church. The following are items completed in 2022:

1. Dealing with several water issues in the basement:
  - a. The eaves troughs on the Manse side of the church were modified to avoid dumping all the water through one drain in the middle of the building,
  - b. The furnace room wall was excavated and waterproofed,
  - c. Fred came up with a solution to the condensation water collecting in the furnace vent and ultimately spilling through the furnace. A valve system is now in place to easily drain the vent.

The end result is that we have the basement water situation under control for the first time in a very long while.

2. One of the stoves in the kitchen was replaced.
3. The floor in the basement was removed and replaced.
4. A storage room was built in the basement for table / chair storage.
5. Equipment for maintaining the grounds was acquired.

Over the past five years, significant progress has been made on the building (roof, floor in Boardroom, ramp at the back door, basement walls painted).

Planning has begun on options to utilize the church space differently and to address accessibility.

In summary, the building is in the best shape it's been in decades. Many thanks to all the property team for significant contributions; in fact, in one way or another, virtually the entire congregation has contributed to make this happen. Particular thanks to Randy for his vision and leadership.

Respectfully submitted by David Burkett

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**

#### **Income Tax Receipts / Church Envelopes / PAR / Electronic Giving**

Receipts for income tax purposes were emailed to donors and paper copies were available for pickup in the Narthex by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Envelopes were handed out in late December and donor numbers were assigned to 51 households. Envelopes were assigned to 38 families and the rest donate either through PAR or e-Transfer or Canada Helps. Please use current envelopes or blank envelopes found in your pew and recycle envelopes from prior years. If you use older envelopes scratch out the old number and print your current number on the old envelope. This will ensure that your offering is credited to your number, and it will be reflected on your receipt for income tax purposes.

Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q:** How do I donate through e-Transfer?

**A:** This transaction is done online through your local bank. Email your donation to [sjltreasurer@outlook.com](mailto:sjltreasurer@outlook.com). Your donation will automatically be recorded as current/commitments unless you specify otherwise. You may also enter your donor number.

**Q:** How do I sign up for PAR – Pre-authorized Remittance?

**A:** There is a form to fill out. You will need to provide either a blank cheque or credit card information. Your donation is withdrawn from your account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month and deposited directly into St. John's bank account.

**Q:** How do I donate using Canada Helps?

**A:** An easy way to do that is to go to [stjohnsarnprior.com](http://stjohnsarnprior.com) and press the "Donate Now" button. It will take you right to the link. You will need to use a credit card or Pay Pal to complete the transaction. Note: Canada Helps keeps a small percentage (about 4%) of your donation as a service.

**Q:** I don't use envelopes and don't know what my donor number is.

**A:** Speak to me and I will let you know what it is. Members who donate electronically are all assigned donor numbers.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Zimmerling, Financial Secretary

## 2022 FINANCIAL REVIEW LETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Review for 2022

For internal discussion purposes only

Jan. 24, 2023

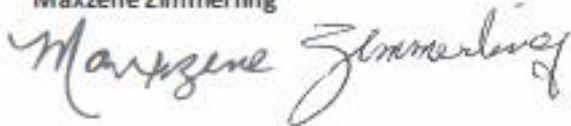
This year's review was conducted by Maxzene Zimmerling and Maureen Rueckwald and the scope of the review included:

- reviewed both balance sheet and profit and loss changes from previous year
- completed 100 verification of the income entries and reconciled with the actual bank statements.
- verified payroll entries and year end T4.
- completed a detailed financial review check list.
- reviewed a sampling of expense reimbursements to members.

Our findings: Based on our review we believe the income statement and balance sheet to be an accurate reflection of the year's activities and the church's bank balance.

No major control issues were found. Detailed findings along with recommendations have been provided to church council.

Maxzene Zimmerling



Maureen Rueckwald

## **2022 FINANCE REPORT**

### **2022 P & L Comparison to Previous Year**

#### **Notes:**

1. Financial commitments at highest level in our 131-year history – \$91,307
2. Poor year overall for investments (loss of \$1,482); turning point in 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. with almost \$900 positive return.
3. Good overall expense management: property expenses increase in needed minor repairs, utilities and insurance = fixed cost increases.
4. Net income for 2022 was a positive \$7,693.
5. Other income reflects continued generosity of donors to our commitments to Outreach activities and specific designated gift. Donations to youth and unplug fees were recorded here as well.

### **2022 P & L Comparison to Budget**

Total Income was \$6,479 (7.5%) greater than budgeted. Donations to commitments were \$12594 greater than planned. (16%)

Expenses were just slightly lower than budgeted levels (\$181).

Other income comments see above.

Other designated expenses include \$10,000 for new basement floor installation.

### **2022 Balance Sheet**

Our bank balance returned to almost the same level as 2022 Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> at \$28,299.42 due to the outstanding generosity of our members.

Special thanks to the finance team: Alison Burkett – accountant and treasurer for 10 months, Maxzene Zimmerling and Maureen Rueckwald – financial reviewers, Cathy Zimmerling – financial secretary and of course all the weekly offering counters.

You were all important parts of the financial success story at St. John's this year, and it was my pleasure to work with you.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Zimmerling, Interim Treasurer

## 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 2022 P & L Comparison to Previous Year

	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 21	\$ Change
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
IN-Investment Income	-1,482	2,850	-4,332
<b>COMMITMENTS</b>	91,307	73,815	17,492
IN-Fun(d) Raisers for Current	2,547	2,992	-445
IN-Rental Net	120	0	120
IN-Grant & Other NR			
Operating	0	1,041	-1,041
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>92,492</b>	<b>80,698</b>	<b>11,794</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Pastoral Ministry-St. James	60,882	60,488	394
Worship & Communications	1,991	1,545	446
Youth Ministry	698	651	47
Property	13,391	9,884	3,507
Administration	1,582	1,634	-52
Benevolence Remitted	4,380	5,010	-630
Outreach Remitted	1,875	2,896	-1,021
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>84,799</b>	<b>82,108</b>	<b>2,691</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>7,693</b>	<b>-1,410</b>	<b>9,103</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
IN-CLWR Designated	50	1,481	-1,431
IN-CLWR Undesignated	10	150	-140
IN-Food Bank	1,525	2,070	-545
IN-Hospice	0	100	-100
IN-Memorium	1,770	0	1,770
IN-TR Designated	1,650	1,000	650
In-NR Designated	1,210	919	291
IN-YOUTH (TR)	200	0	200
IN-UNPLUG Fees (NR)	545	339	206
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>6,960</b>	<b>6,059</b>	<b>901</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>			
CLWR - Undesignated			
Remitted	10	150	-140
Food Bank Remittance	1,525	2,070	-545
Hospice Renfrew	0	100	-100
Other Designated Expense	12,361	1,919	10,442
Transfer to/from Balance			
Sheet	1,995	0	1,995
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>15,891</b>	<b>4,239</b>	<b>11,652</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-8,931</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>-10,751</b>



## 2022 P & L Comparison to Budget

	<u>Jan - Dec 22</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>COMMITMENTS</b>	91,307	78,713	12,594
<b>IN-Fun(d) Raisers for Current</b>	2,547	3,800	-1,253
<b>IN-Investment Income</b>	-1,482	2,500	-3,982
<b>IN-Rental Net</b>	120	1,000	-880
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>92,492</u>	<u>86,013</u>	<u>6,479</u>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Pastoral Ministry-St. James</b>	60,882	61,523	-641
<b>Worship &amp; Communications</b>	1,991	2,780	-789
<b>Youth Ministry</b>	698	1,050	-352
<b>Property</b>	13,391	13,010	381
<b>Administration</b>	1,582	1,395	187
<b>Benevolence Remitted</b>	4,380	4,380	0
<b>Outreach Remitted</b>	1,875	1,875	0
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>84,799</u>	<u>86,013</u>	<u>-1,214</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	7,693	0	7,693
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
<b>IN-CLWR Designated</b>	50		
<b>IN-CLWR Undesignated</b>	10		
<b>IN-Food Bank</b>	1,525		
<b>IN-Memorium</b>	1,770		
<b>IN-TR Designated</b>	1,650		
<b>In-NR Designated</b>	1,210		
<b>IN-YOUTH (TR)</b>	200		
<b>IN-UNPLUG Fees (NR)</b>	545		
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>6,960</u>		
<b>Other Expense</b>			
<b>CLWR - Undesignated     Remitted</b>	10		
<b>Food Bank Remittance</b>	1,525		
<b>Other Designated Expense</b>	12,361		
<b>Transfer to/from Balance     Sheet</b>	1,995		
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<u>15,891</u>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	-8,931		
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,239</u>

## 2022 Balance Sheet

	<u>31 Dec 22</u>	<u>31 Dec 21</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Chequing/Savings</b>		
Chequing Account 0066818	28,299.42	28,696.55
<b>Total Chequing/Savings</b>	28,299.42	28,696.55
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
Accounts Receivable	1,402.34	405.27
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	1,402.34	405.27
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
Evangelical Lutheran Foundation	26,367.53	27,849.69
Prepaid Expenses	509.93	137.53
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	26,877.46	27,987.22
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	56,579.22	57,089.04
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Church Building & Land	302,000.00	302,000.00
Furniture and Equipment	50,000.00	50,000.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	352,000.00	352,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>408,579.22</u>	<u>409,089.04</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Accounts Payable</b>		
Accounts Payable	2,815.45	1,621.03
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	2,815.45	1,621.03
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	2,815.45	1,621.03
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	2,815.45	1,621.03
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	52,525.71	118,518.09
Equity Held in Fixed Assets	352,000.00	285,598.44
Memorium Fund	1,000.00	0.00
Designated Funds-UNPLUG Grant	482.13	2,892.30
Designated Fund - Youth	995.00	0.00
Other Designated Funds	0.00	50.00
Net Income	-1,239.07	409.18
<b>Total Equity</b>	405,763.77	407,468.01
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u>408,579.22</u>	<u>409,089.04</u>

## **2023 BUDGET COMMENTARY**

### **Income**

Commitment Income in 2022 is not directly comparable to the 2023 budget as a result of a 1 time donation in 2022 and no specific Outreach Budget in 2023.

The shift in approach for Outreach is driven by 2 factors this year:

- 1) A recognition that due to COVID funding and generous donations by our congregation and our community, several organizations that we supported financially last year are not in critical need of cash (although volunteers and non- cash donations (food for foodbank, household items and clothing for NL Fountain, workdays at Camp Lutherlyn) are always welcomed.
- 2) Feedback that the absence of fund-raising activities and team building for Outreach was missed by members in 2022.

In 2023 Outreach plans to do fund raising on a case-by-case basis. Members can still designate their donations to Outreach specific projects on their envelopes if they choose.

It is anticipated that Investment Income will return to normalized levels of interest.

Total income - Due to the changes in 2023 budgeted incomes cited previously, % and total value comparison to actuals 2022 have not been shown.

### **Expenses**

Pastoral ministry costs have risen by \$2,346 vs. 2022. This is driven by salary and benefits increases per Synod guidelines and an increase in rental and utilities costs.

Worship and Communications has increased by \$638 vs. 2022 and is comprised of increases for pastoral supply and a provision for more live music in 2023.

Youth Ministry budget has increased by \$372 and includes the planned purchase of another Vacation Bible School package as well as continued activities for the Unplugged program. Further details are available in a separate document.

Total property expenses in 2023 are planned to increase by \$5,309. The details on the repairs and maintenance projects are provided in a separate document. As well, the budget reflects a provision for gas and hydro increases and insurance.

Benevolence Expenses – Our budget for benevolence reflects a 4% increase (\$175).

Total Expenses – For direct comparative basis our budgeted expenses are planning a growth of \$8,482 with the 2 biggest contributors being Pastoral Ministry costs and Property Expenses.

Our proposal for funding this growth in spending is:

- 1) \$1970 increase in planned interest income and rentals.
- 2) \$1,875 that members donated last year to Outreach. This year we are increasing commitments spending for operations.
- 3) \$4637 in increased giving over last year.

Our ask of our members is that they take last year's total commitments donations for the year and increase it by 5%. If you need help on this, please contact our financial secretary – Cathy Zimmerling. For comparative purposes, in 2022 we asked members for a 4.5% increase (which we exceeded).

Respectfully submitted by Randy Zimmerling, Interim Treasurer

	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>COMMITMENTS</b>	91,307	78,713	86,726	Ask is 5% increase from members
IN-Fun(d) Raisers for Current	2,547	3,800	2,500	
Investment Income	(1,482)	2,500	1,970	
IN-Rental Net	120	1,000	210	
IN-Grants & Other NR	-	-		
<b>Total Income</b>	92,492	86,013	91,406	
<b>Expense</b>				
Pastoral Ministry net of St. James	60,882	61,523	63,228	
Worship & Communications	1,991	2,780	2,629	
Youth Ministry	698	1,050	1,070	
<b>Property</b>				
Repairs & Maintenance	2,297	2,450	5,542	includes planned repairs + organ tuning
Discretionary Property	-	300	250	
Caretaker	1,360	1,430	1,500	
Utilities	6,290	5,850	7,569	35% increase in gas; 6% in hydro
Insurance	3,204	2,980	3,839	
<b>Total Property</b>	13,391	13,010	18,700	
Administration	1,582	1,395	1,224	
Benevolence	4,380	4,380	4,555	4% increase
Outreach	1,875	1,875	-	no budget designated in 2023.
<b>Total Expense</b>	84,799	86,013	91,406	
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>7,693</b>	-	-	

## **BIOS FOR CANDIDATES FOR CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

### **R. Andris Kalnins**

I have been on this Congregational Council as the Vice Chair for two years now, and looking back, it indeed has been a learning curve. But I have learned more about the structure and the fellowship of the church and that has made this a worthwhile endeavour. I have enjoyed contributing to the church by occasionally reading and more occasionally assisting in a lay service. I had the pleasure of serving on both the Outreach and Health and Safety Committees.

I am recently retired and made an unsuccessful foray into municipal politics, but am keeping an oar in the waters by serving on two committees of the Township of McNab/Braeside. I am also on the executive of the Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance. I am married and live with one wife, one dog, and three cats.

### **Deborah Witt**

I was employed at CHEO for 30 years in the Department of Surgery (orthopaedics, plastic surgery, ophthalmology). I had to be a multitasker to do the various jobs in this position. I worked, (as part of my tasks), with the University of Ottawa orthopaedic training program as well as the medical students' placements on our surgical service. I was also on several committees for support staff during my years at CHEO.

I am also a fitness instructor and have been doing this part time for 26 years starting out for the Board of Education (night classes in Carp). I then started teaching free Senior Fitness classes for Family Physio (a government funded program) at the Kinburn Community Centre, which was on hold during COVID. It then no longer became a government funded program. I am now hired under contract with the Kinburn Community Centre and Galetta Community Centre. teaching, once again, Senior 55+ Active Senior fitness classes.

I have served on Council for 2 years as well as being Secretary since mid-2022 and would be pleased to serve another term if members wish.

I am hoping that in some way my experiences and recent work on Council can help with further service to St. John's community.

*We note that Debbie has served doing different tasks in her former church community. Also, she sang in the choir there, and continues her love of music through membership in the Arnprior Community Choir.*



## MESSAGE FROM SYNOD

Dear Friends,

**“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?”** *Feeding of the 5000 – John 6:9, NRSV*

The story of the Feeding of the 5000 is a reminder of how good and gracious and generous our God is. God takes the small offering of a child and does something great and miraculous with it. We are so blessed to be the recipients of God’s graciousness and abundant generosity throughout our lives. God is good.

We have just closed the books on the fiscal year of 2022, and we wanted to write to you to thank you for your continued financial support and generosity. Thank you for your loving and faithful expression of stewardship and generous giving which continues to shine through this ongoing, challenging time. We feel your partnership and we are so very grateful for your financial support, and indeed, for all the ways you support our ministry together.

At the close of the financial books for this past year, benevolence receipts were 5.3% (approximately \$69,000) lower in 2022, compared to 2021. The Synod had budgeted for a 2% decrease, so this represents a steeper decline in benevolence offerings than what was anticipated. This is difficult news and a trend we will watch carefully, but at the same time, we do not lose hope. Generosity is a spiritual discipline and we continue to live-out a grateful response to our generous and loving God no matter the circumstance. If the offerings of five loaves and two fish can be turned into a feast to feed thousands, then we remain steadfast in our faith that God will continue to act abundantly with our offerings too. For your ongoing faithfulness, generosity, and partnership in ministry, we remain so, so grateful.

We would also like to remind you that you can revisit the different ministry areas that your benevolence offerings help to support by viewing again ***Our Ministry Together*** – a series of short videos intended to highlight and celebrate areas of our common mission across the Eastern Synod. These highlights can be found [here](#). More video stories exploring ministry and mission from around the Eastern Synod will be made available to view soon. In the meantime, please also refer to the Stewardship and Generous Giving hub on the Synod [website](#) where you will find articles and blog postings to support the stewardship and generous giving ministry in your context.

We would ask that you share this letter with your congregation(s) and supporters, and convey to them our deep gratitude for the ministry and the partnership we share. In a year that presented many challenges, we remain thankful for your faithfulness and generosity.

Faithfully yours,

Bishop Michael J. Pryse

Keith Myra, Treasurer