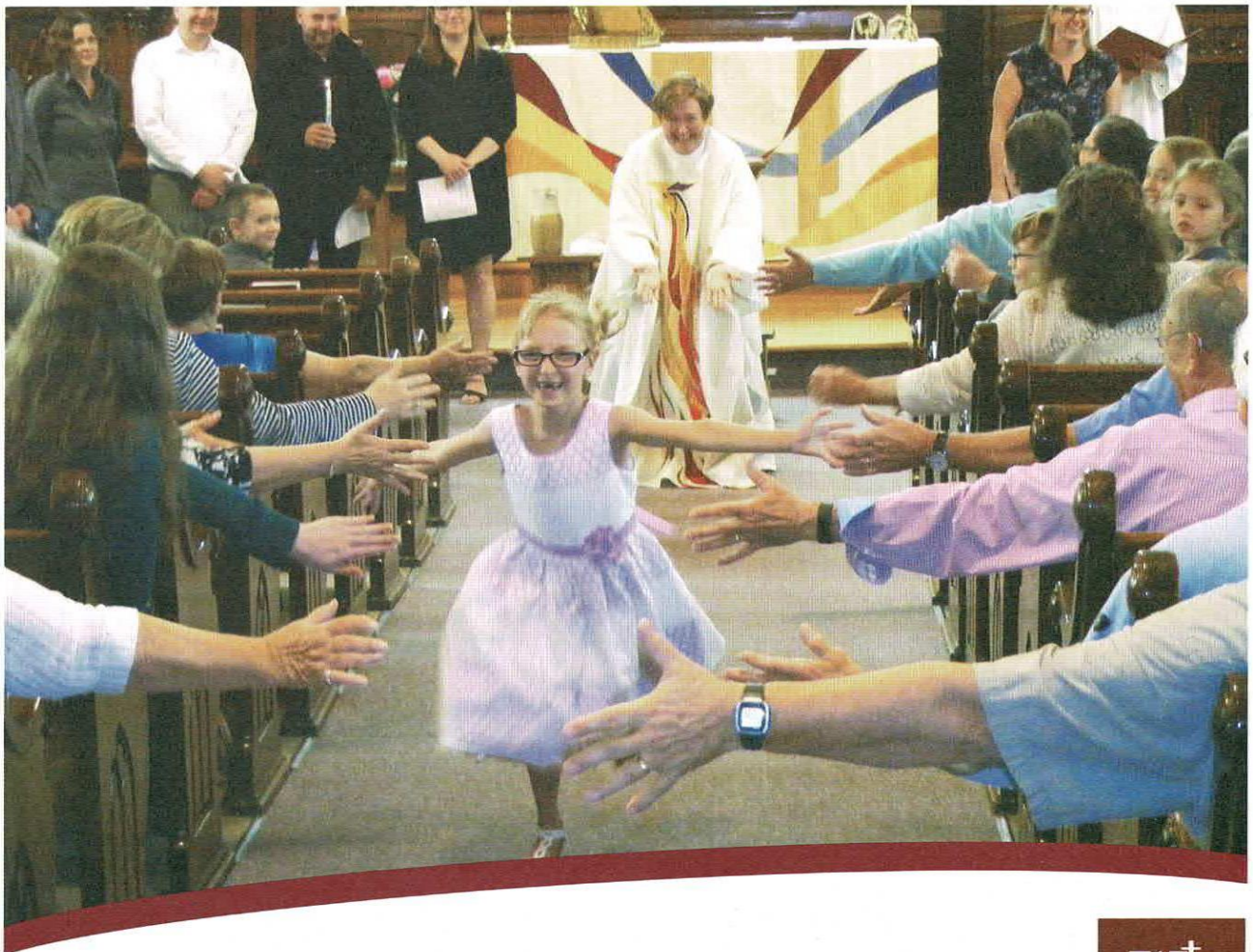




St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Arnprior Ontario



CONGREGATIONAL
Annual Report
February 14, 2021



**St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church Arnprior
Congregational Annual Report & Agenda - Annual Meeting for 2020**

Table of Contents

Agenda	3
Minutes of the 131st Annual General Meeting for the year 2019	4
REPORTS	7
Chairperson’s Report – January-June	7
Chairperson’s Report – July-December	7
Pastoral Report	8
Altar Guild Report	10
Kitchen/Fellowship Report	10
Children and Family Activity Report	10
Outreach Report	11
Re-opening Task Force Committee Report.....	12
Communications Report	13
Technology Report.....	14
Property Report	15
PAR – Pre-Authorized Remittance Report	16
Financial Reports	17
2020 Financial Report	17
2020 Financial Statement	18
2020 Financial Review Letter	19
2021 Budget Overview.....	20
2021 Budget	21
Bios for Candidates for Congregational Council	23
Camp Lutherlyn	24
Message from Synod	26

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 2019**

I move that the minutes of the Annual Meeting for 2019 of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior held on February 16, 2020 be approved as _____.

- 5. Approval of Reviewed Financial Statements 2020**

I move that the Financial Statements for 2020 of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior be approved as presented.

- 6. Appointment of Financial Reviewer(s) for 2021**

Congregational council has no confirmation to date regarding who will review the 2021 financial books. Congregational Council will communicate a recommendation to the congregation when that is known and seek congregational approval.

- 7. Approval of Budget for 2021**

I move that the 2021 budget of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, priorly approved by Congregational Council, be approved as _____.

- 8. Election of New Council Members**

Chair to name standing candidates and ask for any more nominations. (Minimum 6, max 9). And ask for a motion to acclaim.

I move that the following candidates for Congregational Council, R. Andris Kalnins, and Deborah Witt, be acclaimed.

- 9. Other Comments**

- 10. Closing Devotions**

Minutes of the 131st Annual General Meeting for the year 2019

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior

Feb 16, 2020

Council Attendance:

Ryan Zimmerling
Jeff Kargus

David Burkett
Randy Zimmerling

Pr. Norine
Elmer Leeck

1. Meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm with Pastor opening with devotions and a prayer.
2. The Agenda for the meeting was adopted.
3. Motion for approval of the minutes of the 2018 meeting. Lorne Rueckwald moved, seconded by Lois.
4. Quorum was verified.
5. **Chairperson's Report: Ryan**
 - a. Ryan expressed his gratitude for the generosity of the congregation in support in volunteering, outreach and financial.
6. **Pastor's Report:**
 - a. Pastor indicated no plans to retire at this point.
 - b. Pastoral home care is growing.
7. **Outreach Report:**
 - a) We focus on the food bank, but the community has great need for this support. Jeff thanked the congregation for their generosity. Jeff pointed out that the food bank accepts winter clothing. Again, we received the maximum grant from Synod for the Snack-Pak programme. Specific activities include:
 - Arnprior Food Bank (\$1000 in chickens),
 - Hospice Renfrew – lots of support – the St. James joint supper raised over \$1000,
 - Operation Christmas Child – 15 boxes
 - Big Give – cleanup of Division Street. – this year we're going to do a barbeque.
 - CLWR – not a lot of focus last year due to schedules – considering an event this year. Pastor mentioned a CLWR event in Pembroke at St. Timothy's with speaker Rev. Carla Blakely – March 28th 9:30 – 12:30.
 - Enid spoke about the process for distribution of work among world relief organizations.
 - Maureen thanked Jeff for his work.
 - b) Lois thanked Jeff for all his work on outreach and as well, Dave for newsletter and Randy for all his variety of support for the church.
8. **Financial Report:**

Randy thanked Alison and Cathy for the work in maintaining the congregational finances.

2019 Actuals:

- a) Givings were on budget.
- b) We had significant other income last year, that won't repeat this year.

- c) The expense line was slightly under due to Pastor's LTD and lower costs for replacement Pastors.
- d) Randy thanked Dave for the music.
- e) Worship expenses lower due to lay worship leadership.
- f) Finished with a deficit of \$2,500. Extraordinary income more than offset the increased special expenses (roof).
- g) Randy noted that we are depending on donation of effort on music, accountant and cleaning. Deficit would be substantial if we had to pay for these.
- h) Randy commented on the large impact St. John's has on the community with its financial and volunteer contributions.

Budget 2020:

- a) The Givings budget set the same as last year.
- b) The budget is forecasting a \$6,000 deficit.
- c) Ongoing discussions needed on how to fund the special projects this year.
- d) Lois thanked Pastor Norine for her support and encouragement.
- e) Randy thanked Lorne Rueckwald for his support and efforts with tending to the church and for his pictures.

Randy moved to accept the budget with a deficit, but continuing with efforts to improve, Mel seconded. **CARRIED**

9. Property:

- a. Dave presented the issues with the basement floor and outlined a recommendation for replacement. Randy spoke about the town works project on Alicia Street and the need to co-ordinate with them regarding our connection to the town storm sewers.
- a) Lynn motioned to only do the work outside before doing any inside work. Lorne seconded – **CARRIED**.
- b) Cathy motioned to do the work outside, and remove existing floor then have meeting to make final decision on final floor treatment after we assess the situation. Alison seconded – **CARRIED**.
- c) Rough planning: we will dig outside in May, repair the drainage and install membrane on the exterior basement walls. We plan on starting to remove existing floor in April.
- d) Randy thanked all those that contributed to the property.

10. Altar Guild:

Lone & Joanne, Keith & Beryl, and Barb and Gerald share the work. Pastor commented that everything always looks immaculate.

11. PAR:

Cathy reported that PAR is working out well.

12. Kitchen Report:

Debbie K. thanked the congregation for their generosity in provisioning the kitchen for socials. There are always people to pitch in on special events.

13. Lutherlyn Report:

Alison spoke about new comfort station and the financial position of the Camp (positive).
Pastor spoke about the Picnic Sunday being planned at the camp for an area service/day at the camp on September 13th

14. New Business:

Randy mentioned the co-operation with other churches in the community – we're all trying to co-operate in supporting other events and the coordination of timing.

15. 2020 – 2021 Council Nominations:

- a. Ryan thanked existing council for their efforts and noted Elmer's desire to step down.
- b. Jeff nominated Enid, who agreed to serve, Randy seconded. **CARRIED**

16. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 2:25p.m. by Ryan, seconded by Dave. **CARRIED**

REPORTS

Chairperson's Report – January-June

Unexpected events can set you back or set you up....it's all a matter of perspective.

--Mary Anne Radmacher--

This past year, 2020, started out much like the others with several social events planned to help us get through the long, cold Canadian winter. In January, we had a very well-attended "Thank You Breakfast" for the Congregation. In February, we had our annual Family Fun Day, followed the next day by our Annual General Meeting. Little did we know that these would be the last of large social gatherings for the year, as COVID-19 became a global pandemic. Initially, I think that many of us thought that the COVID situation would improve after a couple of weeks or, at the most, a couple months. Never did we think that the church doors would be closed for so many months or that we would be prevented from visiting our loved ones. And even nine months later, as 2021 starts, the situation is relatively unchanged from those weeks in March with much of the country locked down. As bad as it was, the people of St. John's Lutheran Church did not see the COVID situation as a complete setback; in fact, if one were to look for the silver lining, it was an opportunity for change.

And change we did. It did not take long to realize that pre-recording Sunday Services, posting them on YouTube and sharing on Facebook would reach a large proportion of our congregation, as well as those external to our church. The transition from an in-person Service to an electronic Service was by no means easy, but it was necessary. In addition, our Facebook page has never been more active, with several thought-provoking and inspiring posts each and every week. The leadership and the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church should be commended for embracing such change so early during the pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted by Ryan Zimmerling Chairperson, January-June, 2020

Chairperson's Report – July-December

Following the initial shutdown of in-person worship mandated by the Ontario Government in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we had a huge task in developing a safe approach to resumption of in-person worship. With the support of the synod task force, our area dean - Rev. Bruce Thompson, our local health dept., and the hard work of our own task force, made up of Lorne, Aman, and Andy, we managed to complete all the requirements for safe resumption of in-person worship in October.

Additionally, we have successfully applied for, and received, almost \$5,700 in wage subsidies available under COVID-19 related assistance to employers. Due the generosity of our members and the successful grant submission to Synod, we have implemented a much-needed

technology upgrade led by Dave Burkett. The main features of this upgrade included: live transmission to internet made possible, improved video and audio capability and large screen tv for viewing hymns.

Dave's outstanding leadership and his commitment to excellence in the weekly production of our recorded and live transmission of worship services were well received by both members and friends of St. John's during the shutdown. It is apparent that this vehicle of communicating our weekly service should be on-going.

For those not on internet, we increased our outreach to members by delivering weekly worship scripts and periodic phone contact led by Enid.

Under Alison's leadership, we had another successful bazaar/bake sale this past fall even though we had to revise our processes due to the COVID-19 risk and restrictions.

There are some key annual savings that we have been realizing because of major volunteer efforts such as:

Cleaning (Barb and Gerald)	\$ 1,500
Accounting (Alison)	\$ 2,400
Grass cutting (Rick & Cathy F)	\$ 800
Snow shovelling	\$ 800

The annual savings shown here represents either contractor costs we were paying previously or quoted costs from contractors to do the work.

A special thank you to Jeff and Ryan for their service on council. Even as they both continued with full time management positions in their work lives, they were always there when I, or anyone in the congregation, needed them. Working with both of you has been, and always will be, a pleasure. Your intelligence, commitment, leadership skills and humour helped keep church council meetings grounded.

I would also like to recognize Pastor Norine for her spiritual leadership during difficult times, her pastoral care for members in need and especially her efforts to make our online services successful.

Finally, my personal thanks to you, the dedicated and committed members of St. John's, who continue to amaze me with your generosity in giving of time, talent, and funds to support the ongoing work of the church.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Zimmerling Chairperson July-December 2020

Pastoral Report

The year 2020 has taught us plenty. We have learned that we are not in control of all aspects of our lives and secondly that God is in the details. When our corner of the world went into

lockdown in March, it became immediately apparent that life within our churches would change dramatically.

I was able to attend the annual Bishop's Retreat for Pastors in February in Niagara Falls.

St. John's congregation had worship services including Ash Wednesday, their AGM for 2019, and installed new church council members in February. We worshipped and I was able to visit people until March 15, when the first Public Health Provincial Covid -19 lockdown occurred. At that moment we were placed on a high and fast learning curve to pre-record worship services for YouTube, and to deliver our weekly worship scripts to those who did not have internet. This included Services of Word & Prayer and Holy Communion. As face to face pastoral care was not allowed, many phone calls over this year have been made to those confined to home, our younger families, and to all the congregation's members. Church council members have also taken on this contact ministry.

ZOOM calls (an internet video/chat platform) was implemented for monthly meetings with the Bishop and colleagues. Church Council met over teleconferencing phone calls. Weekly calls were exchanged with our Dean, Rev. Bruce Thompson. All 3 national ELCIC conferences were cancelled for 2020. Pastor had one interview with Metroland newspaper.

July 16, 2020, Pastor Norine signed a new employment agreement with St. John's, Arnprior and a shared services agreement with St. James. Pre-recording services moved us back into the sanctuary in August and in September we had one outdoor service on the side lawn of the church. In person worship resumed in October, with public health protocols, and approximately 20 people worshipped every Sunday. Oct 25 a joint Reformation Service was held at St. John's with Captain, the Rev. Michael Hackbusch preaching. In November we moved again to live-streaming the services until Christmas Eve. Dec. 26, another provincial lockdown occurred which had us returning to YouTube services once again.

I am sincerely grateful for the support from our members for our ministries over this past year. Each of you have contributed time, talents and financial resources. We have been supported by a very dedicated Church Council and I am thankful for their partnership, support and encouragement. Their faith and their resilience has kept us moving forward, during these unprecedented times.

I pray that God graces us, walking into 2021 together, as we maintain hope in our faith, our common life together, and in our ministries.

Sincerely in Christ, Rev. Norine Gullons

New Members received: Chris & Kathy Tonkin

Deaths: Randy Jahn, Leonard Boese, Alison Russell (Obst family) **Funeral** Kathleen Kauffeldt

Home Communion: 34

Altar Guild Report

The Altar Guild would like to thank all who donated flowers this past year. Donations are greatly appreciated at any time.

Thank you.

Barb & Gerald ● JoAnne & Lorne ● Beryl & Keith

Kitchen/Fellowship Report

"Friends are connected heart to heart, distance and time can't break them apart."

Although social-distance rules have kept us apart for some time now, we look forward to when we can all gather again for our Sunday social time! Thank you to everyone that hosted, donated supplies or helped out in any way in 2020. Counting the days, my friends, until we can visit together again over a cup of coffee after service!

Your Kitchen Coordinators, Debbie and Barbara

Children and Family Activity Report

At the start of 2020, we had many aspirations for what we could do for the children and family programming at St. John's. We were contemplating another Vacation Bible School and ordered some excellent teaching resources. Our small, but mighty Sunday School, continued with songs, readings, and crafts. And although February was cold, we had a well-attended Family Fun Day at Zimmerling Free-Run Farms, where snowshoeing, skating, socializing, and holding



newborn pygmy goats warmed our bodies and souls.



Several weeks later, the pandemic was in full swing and in-person children and family activities prohibited. But to the extent that it was possible, children still participated in the worship activities. Zach was a reader for the Service that coincided with Father's Day, and Kalin, Jacob

and Sawyer were an instrumental part of the Camp Sunday Service. For the Christmas Eve Service, Thomas lit the advent candle, while Madeleine and Alistar placed baby Jesus and the shepherds in the creche. Shortly thereafter, a video of the Nativity Scene from the perspective of the animals was shown featuring the voices of Kalin, Zach, Blake, Nate and Clara.

Heading into 2021, we hope and pray for a return to a life prior to the pandemic. As hard as the pandemic has been on adults, we cannot easily imagine how difficult it has been for children; yes, they are adaptable, but they need to be children and that means socializing and playing with each other. For those of kindergarten age, they have spent one-quarter of their young lives experiencing the pandemic restrictions.

Thinking of the children, St. John's was awarded a grant for a pilot project called UNPLUG that will give children of different age groups the opportunity to get outdoors and learn about all that nature has to offer us in 2021. A planning team, that includes parents and grandparents has been assembled, so stay tuned for more information about this exciting initiative over the coming months.

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Zimmerling

Outreach Report

Arnprior Food Bank: <https://renfrewcountyconnections.cioc.ca/record/RCC0027>

Christmas grocery packages were assembled "in house" by volunteers and distributed to registered families as they arrived at the Food Bank. I am pleased to say we exceeded all expectations this year by raising \$860.00 for the purchase of 43 organically grown, free range chickens from Ryan and Julie Zimmerling's family farm. One chicken was given to each family as part of the Food Bank Christmas package. Your financial donations in support of financially struggling families in our community is so very appreciated. Your generosity did not end here. Our Congregation also donated a grand total of \$1917.50 to the Arnprior and District Food Bank. These funds are used to purchase every day items such as milk, eggs, bread.

A big THANK YOU to our Synod for their continued support of the "Children's Snack Pack" program. We applied for and received a \$1000.00 grant in 2020. This is the 5th year in a row we have received the maximum grant!!

Canadian Lutheran World Relief: <https://www.clwr.org/>

Donations were similar to last year at \$220.00. Canadian Lutheran World relief continues to be a valued presence globally and relies on the generosity of others to enable them to continue. There will be a "Gifts from the Heart" opportunity coming your way this spring. If you choose to contribute, that would be great! Stay tuned.

Operation Christmas Child: <https://www.samaritanspurse.ca/about-operation-christmas-child>

Christmas Shoes Boxes provide us the opportunity to share God's message and a gift with less fortunate children in the developing world. This year was more challenging than ever. As a result, the number of filled shoe boxes was down significantly across the board.

The BIG Give: <http://www.thebiggive.ca/>

Last summer's BIG Give we chose to do a clean-up of Division Street ditches from MacDonald's to Alicia Street once again. Volunteers from our Congregation filled a trailer with the garbage removed from both ditches. A big thumbs up to all who volunteered their time to help clean up our ditches.

Camp Lutherlyn: <https://www.lutherlyncamp.ca/>

"Camp Lutherlyn is an ideal sanctuary not only for camping but also for rest, renewal, and learning"

Donations totalling \$830.00 were given and greatly appreciated. Your generosity helps to ensure Camp Lutherlyn is well kept and maintained for those wishing to enjoy all it has to offer.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Kargus

Re-opening Task Force Committee Report

Team Members: Lorne Rueckwald, Aman Segu and Andy Kalnins

Our goal was to create a staged approach for the resumption of in-person worship while ensuring the safety of the congregation and community.

The committee worked with Synod, Public Health and other Eastern Synod congregations to brain storm and use lessons learned. The Team reviewed existing documentation and guidelines, (Public Health & Synod), to make specific recommendations to Council on what it would take St. John's to re-open. We constantly monitored the ongoing changes released by the government and new health notices as we all learned more about the Covid-19 virus. The Renfrew County Health Unit provided direction and limitations for us to which we had to adhere.

Information that we gathered was prepared and recommendations then passed to Church Council which we believed would ensure the safety of our membership to enable the Church reopening which commenced on Oct. 18, 2020 and continued until the latest provincial shutdown on Dec. 26, 2020.

Numerous changes that we've now become accustomed to are:

Posted essential signage to meet Covid-19 requirements detailing distancing protocols, hand washing procedures, mental health resources, screening requirements, etc. Physical Distancing Poster

Congregations are required to provide training in the following areas:

- Welcoming roles (screening, attendance record, masks, physical distancing and hand sanitizing).
- Communicate changes to entrances/exits and worship space.
- Facilitating movement throughout the service (eg. entry, Holy Communion, exit).
- Ensure that worship leaders will be able to have appropriate physical distance from each other
- Worshippers were encouraged to bring a minimum of personal belongings into the church and stipulated that all belongings must remain with the person at all times.
- All shared items such as brochures, hymnals, Bibles, other books, pew cards, busy bags, soft toys and pencils were removed from pews.
- Hymnals were assigned to members to bring to worship.

Worship space was arranged to allow for the following:

- 2 metres of distance (360 degrees) between people/family groups.
- Controlled access to facilitate staggered entry and exit.
- Seating restrictions (pews roped off to indicate physical distancing).

Housekeeping is accommodating disinfection of high-touch/shared surfaces before, between and after worship services.

Thank you all for your input and patience as together we safely move forward.

Respectfully submitted by the Re-reopening Task Force Committee

Communications Report

'Sometimes having coffee with a friend is all the therapy you need.' *'May our hopes for the world and our work together be strengthened by the thread that we hold and that holds us.'*

Quotes from: Debbie Kargus & Barbara Formuziewich, Kitchen Report 2019 and the opening prayer led by Cory Weckwerth, St. John's council meeting 18/01/21

When having coffee together is **gone**, our **common thread** may become stronger and go in different directions. In 2020, when worship, social and group meetings and working side by side occurred rarely, our thread of caring communication did weave strongly, though differently, within and beyond our own community. Thanks to members, cars, ovens, phones, photocopiers, a/v equipment, computers and internet, we have held together, e.g.:

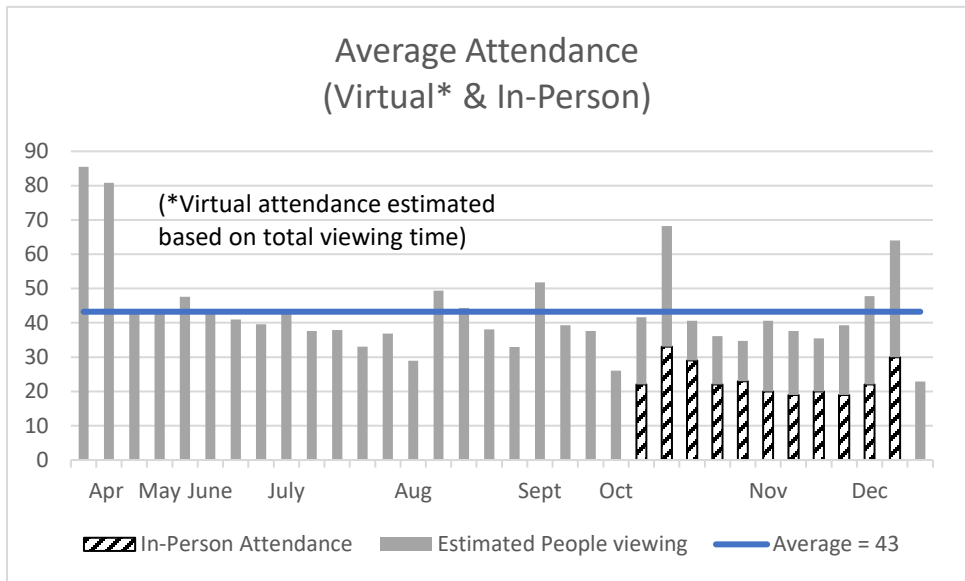
- Since March, **15 + households without internet received weekly service texts** and monthly newsletters thanks to the dedicated hand delivery team of Cathy and Randy Zimmerling. Thank you! **Easter and Christmas baskets** and greetings went to these homes and a few more. Thank you, Maureen Rueckwald, P+Norine and some others.
- **Chats and sharing worship** over the phone took place, as well as great efforts to ensure taped and live services might be shown in communal home settings.
- Dave Burkett and member reporters kept the **Mustard Seed newsletter** going and appreciated by many members (**45 by email, 20 by hand**) and by 'friends of St. John's' (**37 by email**).
- Technology became our friend, at times a frustrating one, but not a fearful one. The production of and resulting **taped and live-streamed services** posted on **YouTube** and with links on our website: **stjohnsarnprior.com**, featured P+Norine, our faithful readers, visiting pastors and Bishops, varied music with great visuals, and our 'free-run' kids on Christmas Eve - all thanks to pivoting and Dave's self-taught production and broadcasting skills. (cf. Dave's Technology Report for more.)
- **Facebook** was a big learning curve for a rare 'personal' poster to this site. Still learning! But, over 9 mo. **St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior** page featured some **460 different posts**, each generally reaching 10-17 faithful members and local and distant viewers. Posted: All our service texts and videos, solidarity/action items, prayers, photos, music, humour, kid-friendly posts, and news from the broader church, Lutheran World Federation, CLWR, and multifaith bodies.
- **Check out** our Facebook posts: Sept. 22: liveable income, Sept.30: Orange Shirt day, Oct. 21: McNab/Braeside Litter Action, Oct. 25: *How Can I Keep*, Nov. 12: E. Synod-Bill C-6 support, Dec. 5: *All God's Creatures*, Dec. 7 photo: **Gerald F./Steph** lighting Advent II candle, Dec. 13: *Jerusalem* - LWF Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem.
- **Your postings:** photos, humour, poetry messages to our Facebook inbox or by email to me at eblackwell.ca@gmail.com are welcomed.

Respectfully submitted by Enid Blackwell

Technology Report

Immediately after the lockdown in the spring, we quickly scrambled to put together a mechanism to pre-record services, initially using a laptop in Pastor's Study, then gradually, we added more sophisticated equipment (2 video cameras, television, enhanced sound system, a new microphone and various software) that lets us produce a quality pre-recorded or live stream of our service. The generosity of the congregation and the successful application for a Synod Technology Grant funded this project. The quality has continually improved over the

year and will continue to do so with the addition of accent lighting. The COVID lockdown for churches began on March 17th, 2020. We began producing pre-recorded services on YouTube on April 5th. Since then, we produced 34 virtual services (combination of pre-recorded, and Live Streamed). On October 18th we resumed in-person worship, which ran for 11 Sundays, ending on Dec 24th. The average attendance (combined in-person and virtual) was 43, the peaks were: Palm Sunday and Easter, each at 80, Reformation Sunday at 68 and Christmas Eve at 64.



We electronically distribute the Newsletter, the link to the Live Stream or Pre-recorded video and the text of the service to 45 households who are members or frequent visitors. We also distribute to 37 households who are deemed friends of the church.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience, advice, and assistance with this important project.

Respectfully submitted by David Burkett

Property Report

Notwithstanding the lockdown from March until- October that impacted all in person worship services in Ontario we still had a number of completed activities for property related items. During the March shutdown, Paul Mainprize successfully debugged some intermittent telephone line issues. Later in the year, toilet repairs were completed by Gerald F. Rex Zimmerling installed new LED lights above the altar in support of online service viewing and rerouted the internet cable through the wall for our online production capability. Our internet was upgraded to Bell Fibre in support of our overall technology upgrade at no additional monthly cost.

Covid signage and distance markers were installed prior to our first in person worship service in October to comply with local Health Unit guidelines for worship. Additionally, as part of our compliance effort we completed a Covid 19 cleaning policy and procedure for our custodial volunteers and purchased all required special cleaning supplies, disposable gowns and gloves. Special thanks to Gerald and Barbara F. for their continued attention to detail in their cleaning effort.

A number of annual and bi-annual regular maintenance inspections were performed along with any required maintenance including:

- organ inspection and tune-up
- chair lift compliance and maintenance inspection.
- furnaces -annual inspection and recommendation to replace at least 1 furnace over the next 2 years.
- fire extinguishers and emergency lights (replacement of 2 additional sets of lights suggested).
- Two other important pieces of documentation have been created that will require further work and enhancement:
 - critical supplier list (internal and external list) with contact information.
 - draft emergency evacuation procedure

We have decided to delay future work on the basement foundation water proofing and any inside basement floor renovations until 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Zimmerling

PAR – Pre-Authorized Remittance Report

St. John's now has nine families/households signed up for pre-authorized remittance. Once a month their offering is automatically withdrawn from their bank account and deposited into the church's account.

This means:

- Especially now, during this time of COVID-19, it reduces unnecessary travel for all members and minimizes risk for volunteers associated with counting activity.
- They no longer need to prepare and bring a completed offering envelope to church each Sunday.
- They do not need to be concerned if they are away on vacation – offerings will continue to be received by the church.
- Special offerings, such as Lent or Christmas chickens, can still be given either by e-transferring money directly from your bank account to sjltreasurer@outlook.com or using a regular envelope and writing your PAR number on it.

- Offerings can be designated to Current, Benevolence or Other (Food Bank, CLWR, etc.) – you decide what is best for you.
- There is less cash and cheques for the counters to handle each week.
- Helps council budget and forecast revenues.

If this is something you are interested in, please speak to Randy or me. There is a form to fill out and we require a copy of a voided blank cheque.

Other paperless ways to donate are by e-transferring money to siltreasurer@outlook.com or registering and donating through canadahelps.org. We have accepted money this way for chickens, technology upgrade, current, etc. You can designate where the money is to be spent.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Zimmerling

Financial Reports

2020 Financial Report

We have much to be thankful for in our financial results of 2020. Despite the pandemic, where we could not have services in person for a large part of the year, we ended with a surplus of \$3,027 in a year where we had expected a deficit.

That surplus is due to:

- The wonderful generosity of our members and friends in their givings.
- Government grants - wage subsidies – of about \$5,000. These more than offset the lost fund raising income of \$2,500 compared to 2019.
- Interest of over \$2,000 on investments of our operating reserve with the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada.
- Expenses were ~\$4,200 below budget with a reduction in church music, church property and savings in conference fees and other expenses for the Pastor.

St. John's was able to exceed our 2020 commitment to Benevolence by \$201.

Lastly, the item of TR Designated speaks to tax-receipted designated givings for special purposes. The \$2,930 includes special donations for Technology of \$1,810, \$860 for chickens for the Food Bank (see the Outreach report) and \$200 for a new snow blower.

Alison Burkett, 2020 Bookkeeper
Randy Zimmerling, 2020 Treasurer

2020 Financial Statement

	<u>Jan - Dec 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 19</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Offerings	65,150	63,500	1,650	63,202
IN-St. James	25,290	25,290	-1	25,290
IN-Fun(d) Raisers for Current	1,016	4,000	-2,984	3,685
IN-External Revenue Net	60	300	-240	360
Other Income	7,423	300	7,123	3,829
Total Income	<u>98,938</u>	<u>93,390</u>	<u>5,548</u>	<u>96,366</u>
Expense				
Pastoral Ministry	83,359	84,280	-921	81,945
Church Music	382	1,700	-1,318	1,770
Worship Expense	444	1,350	-906	851
Ministries - Other	1,069	1,010	59	835
Advertising & Promotion	0	530	-530	338
Church Property	9,387	10,455	-1,068	12,424
Office & Shipping	736	528	208	328
Administration	534	325	209	364
Total Expense	<u>95,912</u>	<u>100,178</u>	<u>-4,266</u>	<u>98,856</u>
Net Ordinary Income	3,027	-6,788	9,815	-2,490
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Eastern Synod Offerings #4730	4,181	3,980	201	3,914
IN-CLWR Undesignated	220			120
IN-Non-Church Charitable	2,748			763
IN-TR Designated	2,930			2,319
In-NR Designated	2,435			626
IN-Memorium	0			25
Total Other Income	<u>12,513</u>	<u>3,980</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>7,741</u>
Other Expense				
Synod Remittances	4,181	3,980	201	3,914
CLWR - Undesignated Remitted	220			120
OUT-Non-Church Charitable	3,748			2,171
Other Designated Expense	4,365			1,537
Transfer to/from Balance Sheet	0			25
Total Other Expense	<u>12,513</u>	<u>3,980</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>7,741</u>
Net Other Income	0	0	0	0
Net Income	<u>3,027</u>	<u>-6,788</u>	<u>9,815</u>	<u>-2,490</u>

2020 Financial Review Letter

Jan. 25, 2021

To whom it may concern:

The financial review of the income statement and balance sheet for the fiscal year 2020 for St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior was completed on Jan. 25th. Our review this year included auditing 100% of the income from all sources and 92.5% of the value of the total expenditures. In addition, we reconciled and verified the major donation categories to the donation (Donarius) reports. The review included auditing the bookkeeping transactions, and verifying cheques, direct expenses, and deposits to the actual bank statements for the month for which they were incurred. Based on this extensive review and verification, we believe the financial statements to be a fair reflection of the activities related to St. John's Lutheran Church for the year 2020.

Observations and Recommendations:

During 2020, the COVID impact changed the business practices and approach to internal controls in several areas. In addition to regular donations via envelopes, members were provided with opportunities to donate by:

- Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)
- Bank e-transfer
- Canada Helps

Government COVID subsidies were also applied for and received.

No errors were noted in either the donations recorded or the accounting with respect to the existing methods (envelopes) or new donation vehicles. Both the accountant and the financial secretary are to be congratulated for their attention to detail and accuracy during a difficult period.

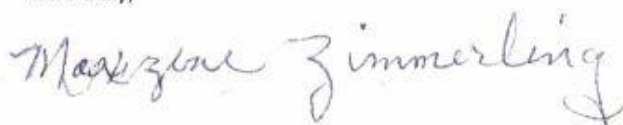
While there was not a specific emphasis placed on reviewing internal controls as part of this financial review, there are two observations to be noted:

1. During the period from March 15th – Oct.8th, there was only one person (the treasurer) who counted and recorded all the donations received at the church and did the bank deposits. Normally this function should be performed by two individuals independent to the financial activity. 100 percent of these transactions were reviewed and verified as deposits to the bank, accounting records, and donation summaries.
2. No physical inventory in support of the furniture and equipment value listed on the balance sheet could be found at the time of this review.

It is recommended that:

1. Wherever possible, two persons not associated with the financial authorizations, accounting, or donation recording, count the offering, prepare the offering summary and do the bank deposits.
2. A current inventory be performed, and values be reassessed during 2021.

Yours truly,



2021 Budget Overview

Expenses

- Pastoral Ministry costs increase by 4.4%. That includes:
 - Compensation with a 2.25% cost of living plus an increase of 1% for now serving 15 years of ministry per Synod guidelines.
 - The church Extended Health Plan was re-done, due to significant claims in prior years; they set 3 tiers of possible benefit for congregations to offer, with corresponding deductibles and maximums. We elected to provide Pastor with the middle level (Green); cost for that plan is 5% higher than we paid in 2020.
 - A modest increase in Shared Mileage and other pastoral costs to include paying for the cost of Pastor using a data plan on her phone; that's become a necessary part of the role especially with COVID.
- There are 3 proposed new initiatives in 2021
 - Technology for Worship: This budget includes licence fees for playing the recorded music and 40 weeks for an AV Director @ \$40/ week; these costs are split 85% St. Johns and 15% St. James. Technology brought value in 2020 to the worship experience, not only during while we were closed, but also for in-person services after re-opening. It's become apparent that the workload and stress of running the communications equipment for live streaming is too onerous for church volunteers; an AV Director, hopefully a young, local person, will be a valuable assistant.
 - Youth Ministry: St. John's was very fortunate to receive the full grant requested to run a 6-month pilot back-to-nature worship program (Unplugged) for youth in the greater Arnprior area. Over and above the grant, our 2021 budget includes a continuation of the program with 1 paid part-time staff member for October to December (\$1,045).
 - A program to promote our church to families in the new housing developments in Arnprior (\$500).
- Property expenses (utilities) are expected to revert to more normal levels in 2021.

Income

- Income from fund raising is expected to be modest with the continuing pandemic with a budget of \$2,750 – the Christmas Bazaar, a fall Spaghetti supper, and another event.
- The budget includes a possible 1 month emergency wage subsidy.
- Member givings – the “ask” is for a 3% increase in givings to Current and 2.4% to Benevolence for 2021.

Net Income

With the above assumptions, we anticipate a deficit budget of just under \$2,500, but are hopeful that we may find ways to improve that as the year goes along. At some appropriate point in the year, a nicely worded message will be put on our worship service, with information on how donations can be made by those worshipping “from afar”.

Alison Burkett, Treasurer

2021 Budget

	2019 Actuals	2020 Actuals	2021 Budget	21B/ '20A	Notes for 2021 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Total Offerings	63,202	65,150	67,105		
IN-St. James	25,290	25,290	26,400		30% of Pastoral Costs & 15% of Tech for Worship
IN-Fun(d) Raisers for Current	3,685	1,016	2,750		\$750 spaghetti supper; \$1,000 Xmas Bazaar; \$1,000 other
Total IN-External Revenue Net	360	60	1,000		Aim for some Rental Income
Other Income	3,828	7,423	4,500		Interest on investments + estimated 1 month CEWS
Total Income	96,365	98,939	101,755	3%	
Expense					
Total Pastoral Ministry	81,945	83,360	87,017	4%	COLA 2.25%, 15th year of ministry; Green Level Health Ins; cell phone data. Sundays and Seasons included
Church Music					
Organist	1,200	150	250		5 times x \$50
Organ Maintenance	570	232	300		assume only in once
Total Church Music	1,770	382	550	44%	
Worship Expense					
Supply Pastor	137	25	250		1 Supply Sunday (\$200) plus travel
Pastor Materials - St. Johns	0	239	50		Advent Calendars
Wine	275	0	140		12 bottles = \$135 plus HST
Flowers	117	34	120		
Technology for Worship	0	41	1,615		AV Dir (NEW), CCLI, lighting - split 85/15 St. John & St. James
All Other Worship Expenses	322	104	100		Hosts, candles etc
Total Worship Expense	851	443	2,275	414%	
Ministries - Other					
Sunday School Supplies	113	10	150		
Dues and Subscriptions	99	99	100		Eternity for Today subscription
Fellowship	0	110	125		
Church Outreach	190	194	200		Newsletter/ scripts
Parish Mileage & Other Pastoral	103	210	200		
Youth Ministry	0	0	1,045		3 mos of Unplugged continuation (NEW)
HST non-recoverable	330	447	470		
Total Ministries - Other	835	1,070	2,290	114%	

Advertising & Promotion	338	0	500		Brochures for new homes (NEW); ad - Xmas Eve
Church Property					
Gas-heat	2,270	2,130	2,450		
Hydro Expense	1,140	957	1,250		
Water Expense	800	902	980		
Telephone & Internet Expense	1,126	1,764	1,600		
Caretaker	427	0	250		Additional cleaning support only if required.
Chairlift	700	405	700		Semi-annual check-up plus annual TSSA
Repairs & Maintenance	3,584	1,038	800		
Taxes (Garbage)	145	170	175		
Church Insurance	2,232	2,341	2,390		3% increase
Total Church Property	12,424	9,707	10,595	9%	Return to more normal levels
Office & Shipping					
Postage	78	124	150		
Office Supplies	250	190	230		\$100 for paper and print cartridges;
Computer Expenses	0	372	210		Zoom Licence (rethink at renewal)
Total Office & Shipping	328	686	590	-14%	
Administration					
Bank Service Charges	273	285	290		
Banking Supplies (chqs dep bks)	91	249	100		manual cheques are needed
Total Administration	364	534	390	-27%	
Total Expense	98,855	96,182	104,207	8%	
Net Ordinary Income	-2,490	2,757	-2,452		
Eastern Synod Offerings (Benevolence)	3,914	4,181	4,280	2.4%	

Bios for Candidates for Congregational Council

Andy and Debbie were asked to write briefly about background and interest. We thank them for their willingness to serve with diligence and good faith in our caring community.

R. Andris Kalnins

I have always viewed the church as a highly imperfect bridge between what, in classical terms, would be between the Divine and the Profane, or in religious terms between God and Humanity, or in modern terms between the Ideal and the Flawed. Ideal conduct can be following moral guides like the Ten Commandments, picking up your litter, or working to avoid a war. To quote Dudley the Angel in *The Bishop's Wife*: 'Nothing's unimportant. We are interested even in the lowliest sparrow.'

I have been in the exciting world of PPE for over four decades. (A year ago, I would have had to define PPE, but not in 2021). I am interested in Active Transportation and Astronomy: Cycling, Paddling and Planets. I am hoping that I can play a small role in having our church meet its ideals. I ask for forgiveness in my shortcomings and for encouragement in my efforts.

Also, we note that Andy has been a faithful reader at services for some years, a member of our Re-opening Task Force, and writer of the Astronomy Corner in the Mustard Seed newsletter.

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 is on hold for now.

I am hoping that in some way my experiences can help with service on Council.

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.



CAMP LUTHERLYN BOARD

- At the AGM June 2020 the following officers were elected to the Executive Committee:
 - Chairperson: Janice Verch
 - Vice-Chairperson: Sue Neville
 - Treasurer: Alison Burkett
 - Secretary: Rob Tremblay

The new Board includes Janice Verch, Alison Burkett, Sue Neville, Bonnie Weppler, Diane Hammel, Erica Deloughery, Rob Tremblay, Mollie Kuchma, Gayle Seegmiller, Candace Rose-Smith and Debbie Wegner

OPERATIONS THAT WERE AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC

As we all know, 2020 was an extraordinary year and, of course, there were some things that could not happen at Camp:

- There were no overnight camps in summer 2020
- Two exchange students from Germany could not travel to Canada and hiring of other summer staff was cancelled
- Retreats and Rentals were required to follow public health guidelines for number of people permitted to gather
- There were a number of cancellations/postponements of rentals
- The May work date was cancelled

BUT WE DID GET A FEW THINGS DONE!

Despite the craziness of COVID and the ever-changing restrictions, a lot got done at Camp:

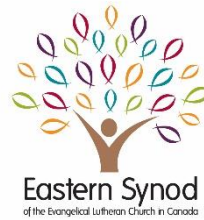
- Family Week
 - We ran our first successful Family Week in August as rentals under COVID protocols, staffed by Heidi Beck and Sue Neville, and with the support of Daryl Schroeder and his kitchen staff.
- Property work
 - New decks and steps for some cabins
 - A 12 by 4 ft building was constructed at Bancroft Cabin to hold new compostable toilets and a wash station
 - A compostable toilet was installed at Shepherds Staff cabin
 - All of the cabins have been painted except one
 - New mattresses were bought for some Four Seasons rooms
 - Schmeider Hall got a new kitchen style stove that can be used by renters
 - The Comfort Station started construction in September 2020; it will be completed this winter.
 - Carpentry work and changing locks was undertaken
 - The annual inspections were completed

- Half of Hoffman's Beach was cleaned up and readied for use by our guests
- Other Camp Improvements
 - A request was made to Bonnechere Valley Township for a property tax reduction under the Assessment Act; this request was approved
 - Blue North Studios was contracted to update and maintain the Camp's website
 - Fundraising included the Ladies' Campership Weekend; a raffle; Giving Tuesday appeal for Bancroft Beach improvements
 - Camp Lutherlyn has begun the process of obtaining Ontario Camps Association Accreditation
 - A bookkeeper was hired
 - A candlelight cross was donated from Camp Edgewood
 - A pet policy was created
- Thank You!
 - Thank you to all our congregations for your support: donations of over \$16,000 (wow!) to Operations, Campership and Legacy; support for painting cabins and on our fall work day.
 - Thanks to Synod for the operating grant of \$14,840.
 - And a thanks for the government programs:
 - COVID assistance: we participated in the Canada Emergency Business Account loan program of which \$10,000 is forgivable, and received the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy of just over \$4,000 and a Canada Summer Jobs grant for just over \$3,000.

Find us on our social media:

- Website: <https://www.lutherlyncamp.ca/>
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LutherlynCamp/?ref=page_internal
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/camp.lutherlyn/>

Stay well. Take care of others. Find the silver linings in this time together.



Message from Synod

Dear Friends,

The Webster's dictionary defines "unprecedented" as ***"that which has not been done or experienced before."*** 2020 was a year that embodied just that. Few of us have ever lived through a global pandemic and the uncertainty it causes in just about every aspect of life. And yet, in so many ways across our Synod, congregations and individuals continue to act with amazing resilience, courage and faithfulness. It seems like the more uncertain things become, the greater the faith that arises out of that uncertainty. Our God is amazing and gracious like this. Your response has also been amazing and gracious.

We have just closed the books on the fiscal year of 2020, and we wanted to write to you to thank you for your continued financial support and amazing generosity. We have been touched and humbled over the last number of weeks by the congregations who have reached out to the Synod and have communicated their intent to increase their benevolence contributions. Thank you for your loving and faithful expression of stewardship and generous giving which continues to shine through this unprecedented 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.

Thanks to your regular and consistent benevolence contributions over the past year, the Synod is sitting at around 6% behind where benevolence offerings were at year end last year. While this still represents a decrease in benevolence givings, it is not nearly as catastrophic as it could have been. For your faithfulness and generosity, we remain so, so grateful.

We would also like to remind you that you can revisit the 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. New videos are released each month, highlighting synodical ministries, many of which are funded through congregational benevolence. Please share these widely! The link to these videos is found here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChRSfc-pjBkdT9IMfqYpWFA/videos>

Late last fall, congregations were also mailed a print copy of ***Our Ministry Story***. This is another resource which highlights how Eastern Synod benevolence dollars are distributed proportionately. A link to the digital copy can be found here: <https://easternsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/Our-Ministry-Story-2021-1.pdf>

We would ask that you share this letter with your congregation and supporters, and convey to them our deep gratitude for the ministry and the partnership we share. In a year that continues to be unprecedented in so many ways, we remain thankful for your faithfulness and generosity.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. (2 Corinthians 9:11-13)

Faithfully yours, Bishop Michael J. Pryse

Keith Myra, Treasurer