

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending December 2020

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SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Council And Appointed Positions

Name	2020 Position	Term Expires
Marty Ploessl	President	January 2021 (2nd term)
Raquel Clausen	Vice President	January 2021 (2nd term)
Ryan Humphrey	Treasurer	January 2021 (2nd term)
Jon Thoms	Council Member	January 2022 (2nd term)
Mary Hinke	Council Member	January 2022 (1st term)
Terry Dempewolf	Council Member	January 2022 (1st term)

Pastoral Leadership & Staff

The Reverend Paul Gammelin	Pastor
Ann Skoff	Office Administrator
Curt Zeimet	Choir Director
Joanne Mensinger	Organist/Pianist
Gloria Petesch	Organist/Pianist
Kathy Ohlert	Church Custodian
Mary Hinke	Retreat Center Lodge Custodian

Mission Statement

Growing and Responding Every Day as Disciples of Jesus

A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP THE REVEREND ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

Stepping out in faith can be difficult. Martin Luther did it in 1517. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did it at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This church can be bold and daring because of our scriptural and Lutheran confessional understandings. Is it easy?

No. Do we always get it right? Probably not. Where we are in error, may God correct us.

The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. We are church. We are compelled by the gospel and our understanding that in Christ we have been set free to love and serve the neighbor. This loving and serving of our neighbor alongside courageous and faithful leaders is what offers hope to congregations.

Over the past 18 months we have made significant strides in our work on congregational vitality. This church has multiplied its efforts and leveraged its resources to enhance vitality in congregations. Our vision continues to evolve around strengthening our relationships with God, each other and the neighbors we serve. In this way we are addressing both local and global issues by being present in our own community and proactive with issues in the broader church.

This presence is made possible in significant ways through your giving of time, talents and financial resources to our work together. The success of our recent campaign, Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, reflects the increasing support for existing and new ministries that serve our communities here at home and others around the globe. Through regular, special and legacy gifts, \$250 million was given to support God's work. Through the

spiritual practice of giving, we both acknowledge receiving God's gifts and share in God's generosity by passing on a portion to others. Together we are doing God's work in ways that we could not do otherwise.

As your congregation plans work for the coming year, I hope you will be both bold and daring, remembering God provides and desires abundant life for all. May you continue supporting God's work together with a spirit of solidarity, collaboration and generosity. We are all partners in the gospel, believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

Stepping out in faith together,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" —2 Corinthians 5:17

OPENING LITANY

Responses

L: Pastor C: All

- L: Gathering together as God's people in this place,
- C. Lord, may we always be aware of your presence.**
- L. Knowing that the Word is our light,
- C. Lord, may our minds continue to grow in your word.**
- L. Recognizing that stepping out in faith is not easy,
- C. Lord, give us the patience to listen and the strength to be bold and daring.**
- L. While we strive to know ourselves and your will for us,
- C. Lord, help us to build faith-filled and healthy relationships with others.**
- L. Recognizing that we are often the ones asking, "And who is my neighbor?,"
- C. Lord, may we always be open to those in the community in which we live.**
- L. Recognizing the importance of Moses, the prophets and disciples,
- C. may we work together to accompany and raise up leaders for your church.**
- L. Recognizing the many gifts you have entrusted to us,
- C. Lord, may we use the gifts entrusted to us to do your work of your kingdom.**
- L. Let us pray. As we strive to be your church of the present and the future, may we nurture a spirit of partnership and unity. May we all be partners in sharing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.
- C. Amen.**

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING

January 31, 2021

10% of Voting Members needed for a Quorum = 16

Call To Order

Opening Devotion - led by Pastor Paul

Acceptance of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- 1) Annual Meeting - January 26, 2020

Acceptance of Financial Reports

Acceptance of Financial Secretary's Report

Acceptance of Reports

- 1) Pastor's
- 2) President's
- 3) Ministry Teams'
- 4) Organizations'

Old Business

New Business

- 1) Recommendation 1: Selection of Council Members
- 2) Recommendation 2: Selection of Nominating Committee for 2021
- 3) Recommendation 3: Selection of Synod Assembly Representatives for 2021
- 4) Recommendation 4: Church Signs
- 5) Recommendation 5: Approval of Mission Support to the Synod for 2021
- 6) Recommendation 6: Approval of Mission Budget for 2021
- 7) Recommendation 7: Approval of Covering Possible Deficit in General Expenses - 2021
- 8) Recommendation 8: Approval of Cemetery Committee Members
- 9) Recommendation 9: Approval of the 2021 Cemetery Budget

Recognitions and Thank You

Adjournment

Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2020

Meeting called to order at 11:28 am with 39 voting members present.

Opening Devotion led by Pastor Paul Gammel.

Agenda—MSC to approve.

Approval of Minutes Motion made, Seconded, and Carried (MSC) to approve, as amended, the Annual Congregational Meeting minutes of January 27, 2019. MSC to approve the Special Congregational Meeting minutes of August 18, 2019.

Acceptance of Reports - printed in the Annual Report

MSC to accept the Financial Reports.

MSC to accept the Financial Secretary's Report.

MSC to accept the Pastor's Report and Congregational Profile Report.

MSC to accept the President's Report, Ministry Teams & Organizations Reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Steeple— The project is completed. The total cost of the project was \$9,942.87 less than anticipated.

Congregation Vitality—The SE IA Synod is still working to get the program set up. Saint John will use the information received to restructure church committees, redefine who we are as a congregation, and discuss how to move the church forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation One - Congregation Council Election:

MSC to place Jon Thoms, Mary Hinke, and Terry Dempewolf on the ballot to serve a 2-year term on the council. No additional names were added to the ballot.

MSC to unanimously affirm Jon Thoms, Mary Hinke, and Terry Dempewolf to serve on the church council for 2020-2022.

Recommendation Two - Nomination Team:

MSC to approve Mark Guenther, Mykel Mickelson, and Laural Ploessl to serve on the Nominating Team that will meet in 2020.

Recommendation Three - 2020 Synod Assembly Representatives:

MSC to approve Ryan & Kelley Humphrey to serve as our lay voting delegates for the 2020 Synod Assembly, with the cost of the assembly and lodging to be covered by Saint John.

Recommendation Four—Elevator Maintenance:

MSC to approve the expenditure up to \$5,000 for the purpose of installing state mandated restrictors for the front and rear doors on the elevator. The funding for this expenditure will come from the donations to the Building Improvement Fund, or from the Trust Fund—Non-designated.

Recommendation Five- Mission Support to the Synod

MSC to approve for 2020 our Mission Support to the synod of ten (10%) of our general offerings; and that in the following years we continue to be a tithing congregation.

Recommendation Five— 2020 Mission Budget

MSC to approve the 2020 Proposed Mission Budget as printed in this report for the year beginning January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Recommendation Seven - Covering Possible Deficit in General Expenses

MSC, by unanimous vote, to give the authority to the council to direct the release of funds, as needed, from the Reserve Fund in the Designated Funds Account, and if additional amount is needed, from the Saint John Trust - Un-designated Fund so that the general operating expenses that were approved within the 2020 Mission Budget may be paid in a timely manner; and that the total amount authorized is not to exceed \$6,000 for the year.

Recommendation Eight - Cemetery Committee

To approve Todd Giesemann, Roger Schladetzky, Lorrie Both, Karen Osar, Mark Guenther, and Jim Eggers to serve on the Cemetery Committee for 2020.

Recommendation Nine - Cemetery Pricing and Fees

MSC to raise the price for a single lot to \$600 for members and participating partners, and \$900 for non-members. The 'Administrative Fee' for each burial will continue to be \$100.

Recommendation Ten - 2020 Cemetery Budget

MSC To approve the 2020 Cemetery Budget as printed in this report for the year beginning January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

MSC to adjourn at 12:13 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Skoff, Council Secretary

The meeting was attended by the following 39 voting members:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Mykel Mickelson | Kelley Humphrey |
| Laural Ploessl | Ryan Humphrey |
| Marty Ploessl | Raquel Clausen |
| Jon Thoms | Krisy Dempewolf |
| Peggy Thoms | Stephanie Penniston |
| Mary Hinke | Terry Dempewolf |
| John Hinke | Gary Penniston |
| Kathy Ohlert | Deb Giesemann |
| Jacob Ohlert | Todd Giesemann |
| Linda Ries | Mark Rogge |
| Jace Ohlert | Beth Rogge |
| Diane Norpel | Mark Guenther |
| Richard J. Norpel, Jr. | Sue Huehnergath |
| Greta Dagitz | Rosie Williams |
| Dick Dagitz | Jim Williams |
| Sue Bevan | JoEllen Poll |
| Averle Bevan | Judy Graham |
| Linda Nudd | Ann Skoff |
| Barry Nudd | Pastor Paul Gammelin |
| Diane Dempewolf | |

FINANCIAL REPORTS

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2020	\$ 6,783.07
Total Receipts	\$195,626.93
Total Disbursements	- <u>187,905.34</u>
Ending Balance—December 31, 2020	\$14,504.66

Budgeted Receipts

General Offerings	\$154,941.40
Farmland Rent.....	12,000.00
Lodge Rentals	975.00
Gifts Received	700.00
Funerals	1,300.00
Weddings	400.00
Building Use	100.00
Interest Earned & Misc.	123.33
Cemetery Custodial.....	6,000.00
World Hunger/Disaster Relief	387.20
PPP Federal Loan.....	<u>18,700.00</u>
Total Receipts.....	\$195,626.93

Budgeted Disbursements

Building & Property Ministry.....	\$17,723.11
ELCA Mission Ministry.....	15,881.34
Parish Admin. Ministry	45,931.90
Pastoral Ministry	82,881.87
Retreat Center Ministry.....	4,522.81
Worship & Music Ministry	2,264.31
Moved PPP Loan to 'Designated Funds'	<u>18,700.00</u>
Total Disbursements.....	\$187,905.34

(Detailed breakdown of budgeted disbursements can be found within the proposed budget on pgs. 31-32.)

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2020.....	\$80,262.98
Total Receipts.....	63,486.42
Total Disbursements.....	- 41,731.72
Ending Balance—December 31, 2020.....	\$102,017.68

<u>Building Improvement Offer</u>	\$859.74
Receipts	\$7,936.29
Disbursements	<u>-\$7,919.29</u>
Current Balance	\$876.74

<u>Christmas Star</u>	\$1,008.71
Receipts	\$275.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$428.43</u>
Current Balance	\$855.28

<u>Donations Beyond Us</u>	\$679.09
Receipts	\$675.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$275.00</u>
Current Balance	\$1,079.09

<u>Education Ministry</u>	\$3,018.70
Receipts	\$961.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$683.41</u>
Current Balance	\$3,296.29

<u>EWALU Scholarships</u>	\$1,668.39
Receipts	\$5.00
Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Current Balance	\$1,673.39

<u>Flower Fund</u>	\$671.60
Receipts	\$300.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$173.75</u>
Current Balance	\$797.85

<u>Funeral Lunch Fund</u>	\$586.24
Receipts	\$100.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$20.11</u>
Current Balance	\$666.13

<u>Good Samaritan Fund</u>	\$721.22
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$36.83</u>
Current Balance	\$684.39

<u>Lodge/Retreat Center</u>	\$10,203.34
Receipts	\$20.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$26.96</u>
Current Balance	\$10,196.38

<u>Memorial Scholarship Fund</u>	\$1,426.51
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$300.00</u>
Current Balance	\$1,126.51

<u>Men's Group</u>	\$749.05
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Current Balance	\$749.05

<u>Music & Chimes</u>	\$1,393.48
Receipts	\$25.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$89.78</u>
Current Balance	\$1,328.70

<u>Non-Designated Memorials</u>	\$4,414.19
Receipts	\$2,135.00
Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Current Balance	\$6,549.19

<u>Office Equipment</u>	\$1,951.27
Receipts	\$10.00
Disbursements	<u>-\$216.40</u>
Current Balance	\$1,744.87

<u>Prayer Shawl Ministry</u>	\$281.61
Receipts	\$20.00
Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Current Balance	\$301.61

<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	\$1,239.15
Receipts:	\$6,884.78
Disbursements	<u>-\$6,923.93</u>
Current Balance:	\$1,200.00

Senior Quilts	\$0.00
Receipts	\$300.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$300.00

Special Benevolence	\$159.91
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$159.91

Reserve Fund	\$13,871.84
Receipts	\$960.35
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$14,832.19

Television/Technology Fund	\$2,695.13
Receipts	\$250.00
Disbursements	-\$328.79
Current Balance	\$2,616.34

Thanksgiving Dinner	\$925.35
Receipts	\$1,515.00
Disbursements	-\$1,958.10
Current Balance	\$482.25

Thrivent Choice Receipts	\$2,574.07
Receipts	\$814.00
Disbursements	-\$1,500.00
Current Balance	\$1,888.07

Vacation Bible School	\$2,109.29
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$2,109.29

Wallace Scholarship	\$22.00
Receipts	\$450.00
Disbursements	-\$400.00
Current Balance	\$72.00

Worship Enhancement	\$475.76
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$475.76

Youth Bible Fund	\$848.91
Receipts	\$1,150.00
Disbursements	-\$450.94
Current Balance	\$1,547.97

Estate - Blitgen (2019)	\$11,347.05
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$11,347.05

Estate - Brandt (2008)	\$12,000.00
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$12,000.00

Estate - Goetz (2018)	\$2,361.38
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$2,361.38

Fed. PPP Loan Reserve 2020	\$0.00
Receipts	\$18,700.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$18,700.00

BREAKDOWN OF DESIGNATED FUNDS FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS:

Checking Account:

Bellevue State Bank \$ 48,813.34 *(Earns 0.15% interest)*

Certificates of Deposit:

CD - #2372 \$ 33,204.34 *Matures 3/8/21 (1.66%)*

CD - #2682 \$ 20,000.00 *Matures 2/21/22 (1.00%)*

CD - #2063 \$ - *Cashed in April, 2020*

TOTAL: **\$ 102,017.68**

The church applied for a Federal Protection Payroll loan in the May, and received \$18,700.

This money is being held in the Designated Funds Checking Account, to be used if needed.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Lorrie Both

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2020		\$12,382.75
Total Receipts	7,537.44	
Total Disbursements	- <u>7,157.62</u>	
Ending Balance—December 31, 2020		\$12,762.57

Receipts

General Fund

Lot Sales	\$1,150.00
Registration Fee	900.00
Interest & Dividends	
BSB Checking Account	12.44
BSB Stock Dividends	<u>5,475.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$7,537.44

Disbursements

Custodial Care	\$6,459.00
Bank Fees	20.00
Repairs & Maintenance	309.37
Supplies	<u>369.25</u>
Total Disbursements	\$7,157.62

SUMMARY OF CEMETERY ASSETS

Checking Account\$12,762.57

Certificates of Deposit

Bellevue State Bank—#2380	\$ 2,584.22
Bellevue State Bank—#1829	14,299.39
Bellevue State Bank—#2588	2,842.73
Bellevue State Bank—#2379	<u>22,373.41</u>
Total Certificates of Deposit	\$42,099.75

Shares of Stock

 15 shares Bellevue State Bank Stock @ \$7,170.00\$107,550.00

Total Value of Investments as of 12/31/20..... **\$162,412.32**

Total Value of Investments as of 12/31/19\$151,898.80

The total gain in investments for 2020 was.....\$10,513.52

WELCA

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE MENSINGER

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2020.....	\$2,580.43
Total Receipts.....	1,139.00
Total Disbursements.....	- <u>1,585.93</u>
Ending Balance—December 31, 2020.....	\$2,133.50

Receipts

 Fall Luncheon..... \$1,139.00

Disbursements

 Cluster Meeting Offerings \$ 50.00

 Gifts:

 EWALU 100.00

 Camp Courageous 100.00

 Lutheran Social Services 100.00

 Albrecht Acres..... 100.00

 Secretary Week Gift..... 50.00

 Special Projects/Church Ministries 25.00

 Christmas Gifts:

 Pastor Christmas Gift..... 100.00

 Secretary Christmas Gift..... 80.00

 Lutheran World Relief (kit materials, postage)..... 250.00

 Quilt Material..... 370.93

 Special Donations 25.00

 Fall Luncheon 235.00

Total Disbursements \$1,585.93

SAINT JOHN YOUTH MINISTRY ACCOUNT

Bellevue State Bank
Submitted by: Pastor Paul

Checking Account

Balance - January 1, 2020	\$5,502.17
Receipts	\$5,549.15
Less Disbursements	- <u>\$4,216.01</u>
Balance - December 31, 2020	\$6,835.31

Checking: Income

Pizza Suppers	
From Students	286.35
Donations toward Meals	100.00
Pop Can Returns00
Lenten Soup Suppers	
Toward Mission Trips	655.80
Toward World Hunger	73.00
Omelette Breakfast00
2020 Mission Trip	
Student Registration Fees	1,325.00
Donations	1,490.00
2021 Mission Trip	
Student Registration Fees *
Donations	1019.00
Saint John Trust -	
Mission Trip Support	600.00
CD - Travel Support	0.00
Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$5,549.15

Checking: Disbursements

2020 Mission Trip	
Registration Fee	2,567.50
Refund Registration Fee to Students	1,475.00
Omelette Breakfast00
Lenten Soup Suppers	
milk, & misc. supplies00
ELCA World Hunger
Rite of Confirmation	
Pictures, Flowers & Gift Card	173.51
Pizza Suppers	
(Ingredients needed to make the pizzas, and pop)00
2020 Mission Trip	
Registration Fee00
Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$4,216.01

*** Next Step Ministry Credit from 2020 Cancelled Trip** **\$2,967.50**

Will be applied toward 2021 Mission Trip

SAINT JOHN TRUST REPORT

Provided by: Jon Thoms

2020 Activity

During 2020 the trust was not required to provide operating funds to the church general operating account. Income distributions from the Trust of were not paid in 2020:

General Fund	\$0
Mission Fund	\$0
Scholarship	\$0
Mission Trip	\$0
 Total	 \$0

The Trust provided a capital disbursement of the non-designated fund in the amount of \$3,250 for the tuckpointing costs related to the refurbishment of the church steeple. In addition, the trust distributed 4,544.29 for the required elevator repairs. Total capital disbursements of 7,794.29 for the year.

2020

Beginning balance all accounts		\$332,598.56
Income	7,052.76	
Income Distribution	(0.00)	
Non-Designated Fund Distribution	<u>(7,794.29)</u>	
Year-end balance in all accounts		\$331,857.03

Year-end balances in the various fund designations are as follows:

Designated Funds

Mission Trip Fund	\$40,000.00
Retreat Center Fund	100,587.24
Television Ministry	5,000.00
Non-Designated Fund	88,509.08

Reserved

Reserved Fund – Parsonage	7,760.71
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Restricted

Brinker/McLean Fund	15,000.00
ELCA Mission Fund	45,000.00
Wallace Scholarship Fund	<u>30,000.00</u>

Total	331,857.03
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FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Offerings	2020	2019	2018
General Offerings	\$154,941.40	\$149,647.84	\$144,605.13
Improvement Fund	\$142.00	\$3,012.00	\$39.00
World Hunger/Disaster Relief	<u>\$387.20</u>	<u>\$899.96</u>	<u>\$759.20</u>
Total	\$155,470.60	\$153,559.80	\$145,403.33

General Fund Recorded Contributions

Weekly Giving	Yearly Giving	2020 Confirmed Members	2019 Confirmed Members	2018 Confirmed Members
70.01 and above	\$3,641 and above	12	11	9
60.01—70.00	\$3,121 – \$3,640	3	5	5
50.01—60.00	\$2,601—\$3,120	2	2	4
40.01—50.00	\$2,081—\$2,600	12	11	12
35.01—40.00	\$1,821—\$2,080	11	5	6
30.01—35.00	\$1,561—\$1,820	9	17	11
25.01—30.00	\$1,301—\$1,560	9	13	11
20.01—25.00	\$1,041—\$1,300	16	12	13
15.01—20.00	\$781—\$1,040	12	12	16
10.01—15.00	\$521—\$780	18	18	10
5.01—10.01	\$261—\$520	19	26	33
2.01—5.00	\$105—\$260	10	30	31
.01—2.00	\$1—\$104	26	38	40
0.00	0.00	217	176	172
Total Confirmed Members		376	376	373

Of the 217 confirmed members who do not have a record of giving, 60 (28%), are age 25 or younger, 26 (12%) do not live in Bellevue but retain their membership at Saint John; and 11 (5%) are shut-ins.

PASTOR'S REPORT

THE REVEREND PAUL W. GAMMELIN

"2021 – Pastoral State of the Congregation"

As I have stated in past reports, the "Pastor's Report" could be received by the members as the *Pastoral State of the Congregation* address in which the pastor shares his/her assessment of the congregation and presents a vision or agenda for the congregation. So, I offer this my 2021– *Pastoral State of the Congregation*.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

These words of apostle Paul written in the Letter to the Ephesians reminds me that no matter what the circumstances in life might be, we can accomplish more than we could ever imagine by the power of the Holy Spirit working with us.

When considering the *State of our Congregation*, one needs to look at the world in which we live and the affect it has had on our church. I believe that the year 2020 will be remembered and talked about for years and decades to come.

There was no way that I would have ever imagined a worldwide pandemic (Covid-19) and the affect it would have on our personal lives and the life of our church. The initial fear of the unknown that gripped our nation and led to grocery shelves being depleted of food, disinfectant products, and who would have thought – toilet paper.

There was no way that I could have ever imagined the vast number of people in the U.S. dying (over 375,000) in less than a year from the Covid-19 virus. Nor would I have imagined the day when families could not have a visitation and were limited in the number of people who could attend the funeral of a loved one.

There was no way that I could have ever imagined presiding over worship and preaching to an empty church. Nor would I have imagined baptizing children apart from worship.

Yes, the pandemic of 2020 raised several questions for many churches. **What does it mean to be the church?** I believe that the core of being a church is **gathering for worship** to hear the word of God proclaimed and to share in the sacraments. Even though there was a period in which in-person was suspended and then later resumed with lower-than-normal attendance, we were able to worship if not in-person, then by viewing the services on the local cable or on YouTube. I was grateful that we had the technology to do so and did not have to panic to come up with something.

Being and staying connected is another important aspect of what it means to be the church. During this past year, I have lamented over not being able to connect with our elderly who isolated themselves at home to remain safe, those who were hospitalized, and those who resided in care facilities. I believe that many of us have a greater appreciation of staying connected with family and friends.

Proclaiming the unconditional love of God in word and deed is the calling of the church in this world. Although many of the normal activities of our church were suspended, we continued to reach out to our neighbors in need through Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Star ministries.

Faith formation (education) is an essential component of being the church. Placing safety of our children and the community first, it was disheartening to make the decision to suspend ARK and VBS. I knew that we could not go a whole year without providing the youth the means to grow in their faith in God. I prepared a monthly family resource booklet that provide a weekly bible story with discussion questions. It was my hope that this might become a family activity of growing in faith together.

Certainly, the initial question of our churches experiencing the pandemic was: **Will our church survive?** Trusting in God, we know the answer. **Yes, the church will survive.** The bible provides us with many stories of how the people have survived when faced with adversities.

Of course, the fear of many church leaders is financial. Despite the decline in worship attendance by approximately 65%, the members and partners of Saint John continued to support their church with generous gifts. Financially we are in a good place to go forward. Thanks be to God.

Another concern by many pastors is will the people come back for worship or will they stay home. I am confident that the members and partners of Saint John will return because they value community and being connected to God and to one another. I look forward to the days when the pews will be full, and the joy of worship is felt by all.

What will our church be like after the pandemic? Again, Paul's words speak the truth for us and the future of the church. With the power of God at work with us we were able to accomplish far more than we could have asked or imagined. Faith is being opened to letting God work with and through us to accomplish what God desires for the good of all.

Thank You. I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your pastor and to be a partner with you. I also want to thank the council for their leadership, and especially thanks to Marty Ploessl, Raquel Clausen, and Ryan Humphrey for their four years of service. A big thank you goes to Ann Skoff for all she does for this church as our Office Administrator, and her partnership in my ministry.

May God continue to bless Saint John Lutheran
and all its members and participating partners!
May God bless the Church on earth and unite us as one in Christ!

Pastor Paul

PASTORAL ACTS & RITES

BAPTISMS

Jhett Steven Johnson	February 1
Anistyn Grace Rausch	March 7
Lucy Kathleen Sieverding	March 14
Jennifer Irene Weis	June 6
Milo Richard Baker	June 26
Knox Mathew Schlecht	July 3
Jaelynn Ann Gilmore	July 8
Henry William Crist	July 18
Greyson Max Masnica	September 5

CONFIRMED ON OCTOBER 25

Hannah Marie Braet
Kaden Mark Guenther
Teagan Marie Humphrey
Hunter Joseph Merrick

Paige Kaye Mohr
Hunter Steven Putman
Olivia Marie Ruggeberg

MARRIAGES

Joslyn Zimmerman & Benjamin Gieseemann	July 31
Brena Smithson & Dustin Smith	November 21

FUNERALS

Judith Ethel (Roe) Yeager (<i>died 1/17/20</i>)	January 21
Carol C. (Bierman) Michels (<i>died 2/1/20</i>)	February 7
Vera A. (Petersen) Hammerand (<i>died 2/6/20</i>)	February 13
Mary Ann (Yeager) Clasen (<i>died 5/12/20</i>)	May 30
Jean Ellen (Eggers) Rockwell (<i>died 6/23/20</i>)	June 26
George Louis Wagner (<i>died 7/31/20</i>)	August 14
Ivan "Ike" Rex Keil (<i>died 8/12/20</i>)	August 18
Willard "Bill" Max Meyer (<i>died 9/3/20</i>)	September 7
Dorothy Ann (Henneger) Felderman (<i>died 9/11/20</i>)	September 13
Elizabeth 'Liz' (Roling) Roth (<i>died 11/9/20</i>)	November 16
Linda M. (Hebdon) Roling (<i>died 11/22/20</i>)	November 28

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership, January 1, 2020	515	375
Changes to Membership during 2019		
Received by baptism	9	
Received by affirmation of faith or transfer	7	4
Baptized youth confirmed in 2019		7
Removed by death	-8	-8
Removed by transfer		-2
Placed on "Inactive" List		
Statistical adjustment		
Membership, end of 2019	523	376

Average Worship Attendance not including Easter

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Weekly		119	113	122	130
Before Covid-19	109				
After Resuming	45				
Saturday Only		42	41	45	47
Before Covid-19	44				
After Resuming	18				
Sunday Only		77	73	76	84
Before Covid-19	65				
After Resuming	20				

2020 - In-person worship was suspended due to Covid-19 on March 22. In-person worship resumed on May 30 with Covid-19 restriction of mask wearing and physical distancing and continued through end of year. There were 10 weeks without in-person worship which included Easter Sunday.

Members Received by Affirmation or Transfer

Jason, Amber & Braxton* Gilmore
Shannon, Heidi, Spencer* & Charlie* Abbott

Members Removed or Transferred

Bob & Jackie Brown

* Baptized Member

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39)

Without a doubt, 2020 was a year that will not be forgotten. For most, the memory will be related to the negative impacts of COVID-19 as churches, schools, and businesses all faced temporary shut-downs as a result of the pandemic. Nearly everyone now knows someone who lost their life to COVID-19.

Looking back, it would be very easy to make a list of negative things about the past year, but we also need to look at all the good that occurred as we navigated our way through the ongoing pandemic. Neighbors helping neighbors, families spending more time together, people stepping up and pitching in to make things as normal as possible. We saw this first hand as we adapted our Sunday service to allow for in-person worship for those who choose to attend. We saw our schools adapt to social distancing requirements to get students back in classrooms. We see local residents supporting our local businesses now more than ever. Individuals who donated their time and talents to decorate the river bank for the holiday season, and Pastor Paul may have started a new annual tradition with the outdoor Christmas Eve service!

My role as Council President was certainly impacted as well. Unfortunately, with limited gatherings throughout the year, there was little time for interaction with members of congregation. While many of our monthly council meetings this year were spent talking about COVID, the good news is we did not spend a lot of time talking about budget concerns. Due to the generosity of the St. John's congregation, we are in a healthy financial position heading into the new year, however, we all need to continue to support the church and one another and give thanks for the many gifts God has given us.

As I wrap up my fourth year on the council, I want to thank all of the other council members I have had the opportunity to work with, as well as Pastor Paul, Ann and Kathy for all of their efforts over the past 4 years.

Thank You and God Bless,

Marty Ploessl

MINISTRY TEAMS & ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

BUILDING & PROPERTY

The Building and Property team oversees the maintenance and improvements of the church building and property, excluding the Saint John Retreat Center and the cemetery.

With the steeple project behind us, our focus turned to complying with the state mandate for installing restrictors to prevent the elevator doors from opening between levels. This project was completed by Kone Co.

Another project under consideration was our outdoor church sign. We had Jackson Tuckpointing look at the structure and they said that it was beyond repair. Craig Anderson agreed and provided an estimate for replacing it. The committee believes that we need a sign that identifies our church along with one that would provide flexibility in announcing worship times and special events.

In 2021 we will be getting estimates for replacing our gutters and downspouts on the church.

The 2020 team members consisted of Mark Guenther, Terry Dempewolf and Pastor Paul. If anyone is interested in working with us to keep our facility in good working order, please let a member of the team know.

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

ARK Ministry is our Christian education for elementary youth (Kindergarten through 5th grade). We began our 10th year in September of 2019 and in March of 2020 we suspended ARK due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our decision to suspend was based on the public school suspending in school attendance for the balance of the school year and our concern for providing a safe and healthy environment.

During the 2019-20 ARK year, we had 91 youth participating in ARK at one time or another. Our weekly average attendance was 73 youth. Of the youth participating, approximately 50% of youth would be identified as members or participating partners of Saint John.

In September of 2019, we made a change in ARK. Over the past nine years, we had invited preschoolers (4 year old) to participate. Another change we made for the 2019-20 year, was to have a longer break than the two weeks at Christmas. Our winter break was for the entire month of January.

Even though the youth returned to school in August 2020, the decision was made not to have ARK resume. We just could not see how to provide a safe environment for the youth and adult leaders. Pastor Paul did not want the youth to go a whole year without learning the stories that would have been presented in ARK. Hence, he has produced a monthly Family resource booklet with a guided study of the weekly bible stories. This booklet was mailed to all the families who had youth participating at ARK.

It is our hope that ARK will be gathering in September of 2021.

Confirmation Ministry - Our confirmation ministry is the next level of our youth education ministry for middle school youth (6th - 8th grade). As with ARK, we welcome all youth to participate with us on Wednesday evening.

Our 2019-20 year of confirmation weekly average was 25 youth participating. Our recent experience is that a growing number of youths who have participated in ARK are choosing to continue to join their friends for "confirmation." Many of these youth participate for the three years, but some of them have chosen not to be confirmed at Saint John. Although it would be great to have 100% of them par-

ticipating in the Rite of Confirmation, we are grateful for their willingness to participate in this ministry and we pray that their time with us will help them in their future years.

As with ARK, our Wednesday confirmation gathering was cut short in March. The COVID-19 also brought a cancelation of our 2020 mission trip to Milwaukee, WI.

In September, our Wednesday gathering resumed with having the 6th grade class meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, 7th grade met on the second Wednesday, and 8th grade on the third Wednesday. We felt it would be safer if we had less students who could physically distance.

On Reformation Sunday, October 25, we celebrated the Rite of Confirmation for seven (7) youth. They were: Hannah Braet, Kaden Guenther, Teagan Humphrey, Hunter Merrick, Paige Mohr, Hunter Putman, and Olivia Rugeberg. The Confirmation service was only for family members. We want to thank JoEllen Poll for serving as the class group leader and mentor for the past three years.

The tentative plan for the 2021 mission trip is to go to Pine Ridge, ND in July. This trip is contingent upon the condition of COVID-19 and the safety for our group.

The success of our confirmation ministry rests heavily on having dedicated adult leaders who make a three-year commitment to be a group leader (mentor) for a class. The group leaders include Mary Hinke (6th), Mike Dempewolf (7th), and Shelly Kieffer (8th). We want to thank them for their service.

We also want to thank Kathy Ohlert who has been faithfully making our pizza for so many years. Many will say her pizza is the best in Bellevue.

Presentation of Bibles

For years, Saint John has presented a Bible to those youth entering 3rd Grade. In 2016, the decision was made to change from presenting a Bible in 3rd grade to presenting the “Spark Story Bible to those youth entering kindergarten and a youth study Bible to those entering 6th grade confirmation.

On Sunday, August 30, we gathered outside in the evening because of the Covid-19 to present the “Spark Story Bible” book to our sixteen (16) kindergartners. This story Bible book contains 150 of the most popular Bible stories. It is our hope that this gift will help our young children to learn the stories of God’s love for all people.

In September, seven 6th grade confirmation youth received the Lutheran Student Bible – “Collaborate.” This Bible also includes Luther’s Small Catechism.

The gift of these Bibles is made possible by the generous donations that have been designated to the “Youth Bible Fund.” If you would like to give a gift to this fund, place your gift in an envelope and mark it “Youth Bible Fund.”

Vacation Bible School (VBS) – A joint decision to cancel the 2020 VBS was made by Saint John Lutheran and the First Presbyterian church due to COVID-19 pandemic. We are hoping to once again offer VBS in July of 2021

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Memorials & Gifts is another way in which an individual can designate and support the variety of ministries that are not supported by our general offerings. Memorials are typically given by the family in memory of a loved one who died. Some individuals choose to give a 'gift' to one of the approved ministries in honor of a special event happening in their life (i.e. wedding anniversary, job promotion).

In 2020, we received a total of \$4,057.00 in Memorials and Gifts. These donations were designate and allocated to following funds:

Building Improvement	\$142.00
Christmas Star	\$275.00
Ark	\$230.00
Flower Fund	\$300.00
Lodge	\$20.00
Music	\$25.00
Prayer Shawl	\$20.00
Television	\$250.00
Youth Bible Fund	\$650.00
Undesignated	\$2,145.00

In 2021, we are encouraging people to consider the following funds:

Youth Bible Fund - The Youth Bible Fund is used to purchase bibles for both Kindergarten and 6th grade confirmation youth.

Building Improvement – This fund is used to support improvements to our church. It doesn't support the general maintenance.

Good Samaritan - This fund provides financial help for those who contact the church with an immediate need. This assistance often comes in the form of fuel for their vehicle, a hot meal, or a few groceries.

Office Equipment Fund – This fund is used to upgrade software and purchase new computer equipment, as needed.

Television & Technology Fund – This fund supports the upgrades in equipment for broadcasting our worship service, maintaining our sound system, and projectors for education.

Senior Quilt Fund—This newly established fund will be used to pay for the materials needed to make quilts for our graduates each spring.

The church has several other active funds, which are well-funded currently. Those funds include the Lodge Wish List, the Education (ARK) Fund, and the Music Fund.

RETREAT CENTER MINISTRY

Brief History: January 2000, the ownership of the Rickert farm was officially deeded over to Saint John Lutheran Church by Isabelle Rickert and Mary (Rickert) Wiegert. In 2001, a plan for a lodge was submitted to the congregation and the approval given to build when 50% of the total estimated cost was raised through gifts and pledges. Within 4 months, the goal of \$85,000 was exceeded and in late October of 2001, the construction of the Rickert Lodge began. The community gathered on June 9, 2002 for the dedication service.

Prior to Saint John receiving the property, Isabelle and Mary placed the land into a Conservation Easement with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). The INHF is a statewide nonprofit conservation organization that works to protect and restore Iowa's land, water, and wildlife. Once the land was placed in an easement, this easement remains enforced regardless of ownership.

Over the years, Saint John Retreat Center and Rickert Lodge has been a place where we have gathered to worship for our Easter Sunrise services and for services throughout the summer. Many families have enjoyed using the lodge for family gatherings and graduation parties. Yearly, the Christian Women's Fellowship meet for their retreat; and the 5th and 6th graders travel out to the lodge for the week-long Vacation Bible School. Those who gather at our Retreat Center/Lodge are very impressed with this wonderful gift entrusted to us. Even though it is used by many, the Retreat Center team believes that it could be utilized more, especially by our church.

Review of 2020:

Virgil Kilburg continued to rent and farm the 50 tillable acres. The planting of these acres follow the rotation plan that was approved by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation who oversees the conservation easement.

With one year 'under our belt', we await the two acres of wildflowers to come to their maturity (approx. 3 years from planting). These two acres that are the south of labyrinth and along the lane leading to the lodge will be a beautiful field that will attract butterflies. We want to thank Jason Gilmore and Daryl Parker for the maintenance work.

Our lodge rentals and usage were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. We are hoping to resume a 'normal' schedule beginning late spring.

Our income from the farmland rental and from the lodge rentals continued to cover the expenses of operating the Retreat Center/Lodge, as well as providing financial support to the church's general operating expenses. A breakdown of income and expenses are listed below.

<u>2020 Income Received</u>	
Farmland Rental	12,000.00
Lodge Rentals	<u>975.00</u>
Total Income	12,975.00
Less 2020 Expenses	<u>4,522.81</u>

**2020 Support to
General Fund \$8,452.19**

In 2021 we would like to pursue the following: improve our hiking trails, construct a team building site, renew the orchard, construct a barbeque place, along with the normal maintenance of mowing and staining the lodge.

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

Christmas Star - The Christmas Star program this year included 15 families and a total of 33 children. In addition to the gifts of clothing and toys, 10 children received a quilt tied by our quilt tiers. These are children that are in the program for the first time.

Along with the gifts of toys and clothes, each family received a basket of food that would make a holiday meal.

We are so blessed to have been able to continue this program this year, considering the Covid-19 restrictions.

The committee wants to thank church members and community members for their generous support of this outreach ministry. The Christmas Star program would not be able to be such a success without your help.

Committee members are Gloria Sagers, Eunice Schladetzky, and Jo Ernst.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - In 2007, the Prayer Shawl Ministry was introduced to our church. Since then, members and other partners have been knitting and crocheting comfort shawls and white baptismal blankets. Since its inception, there have been 382 shawls or blankets presented to people within our community and beyond. Each shawl or baptismal blanket is handcrafted with prayerful love and then personally blessed by Pastor Paul prior to the person receiving it. This past year a total of 13 shawls/blankets were presented (9 baptismal and 4 comfort).

Prayer shawls are available for anyone who has not yet received one and needs prayer and comfort. To get a shawl, contact the church office or a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry team.

We love to have more people become involved in the outreaching ministry of love and compassion. The yarn is provided.

Thanksgiving Dinner – Thanksgiving 2020 marked our fifteen (15th) of providing a free Thanksgiving meal for those who were home alone or those who were unable to prepare a meal. Because of Covid-19, we only provided meals by delivery or pick up. There was no dining in. Because of the pandemic we had our highest number of meals served - 163. This was nearly 50 more meals than 2019. There was a total of 76 households who received the delicious meal. We had 84 meals delivered to 49 households and 69 meals picked up by 23 households.

Even though this meal is intended to be free, we have received generous donations from many of those who received the meals. This year, we received over \$1,500. It has been our policy to use the donations to cover the costs and the balance is given to ELCA World Hunger. Those who were fed are feeding those who are hungry. Over the past twelve (12) years, the Thanksgiving Ministry has given a total of \$4,953.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

There have been many people involved in providing this meal over the years. One person we especially want to acknowledge and thank is Kathy Ohlert, who has been responsible for cooking the turkeys. She has spent many hours in the kitchen making sure this dinner is a success.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Due to the pandemic, the three women's circle (Elizabeth, Rachel, and Rebecca) had a very quiet year. Many of the monthly meetings were cancelled, or held remotely by Zoom.

In early March, the women gathered to have a Remembrance Service & Salad Luncheon. We honored the following women that passed away in 2019: Christina Rogge, Doris Michaelson, Marge Blitgen, Hannah Ruggeberg, and Nancy Medinger,

Since we could not safely have our annual Country Store and Luncheon, we decided to have a "Take-Out" luncheon. Almost 100 hot meals were sold, and more than \$900 was raised. The money raised was sent to Camp EWALU, Albrecht Acres, Camp Courageous, and Lutheran Social Services of Iowa.

Throughout the year, the circle members sent "Thinking of You" cards to our church members who are past the age of 80. We also sent gift cards to the church's high school graduates.

All women of Saint John are encouraged to join a circle. Watch the monthly Beacon for more information on meeting places and times, or contact the church office for more information.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to suspend all in-person services beginning March 22. Unlike many churches who scrambled to figure out how to offer their members and participating partners the opportunity to worship weekly, we continued to do what we have done for years – broadcast our service over the Lutheran Channel on the Bellevue Cable system and uploaded the entire service on our YouTube channel. Previously, we only uploaded the weekly sermon.

We continued for ten weeks with having no in-person worship which included not having in-person services on Easter. That was certainly a disappointment for many not to gather for Easter worship.

On the weekend of May 31, we resumed in-person services with wearing of masks and practicing recommended physical distancing. There was no singing in our services. Holy communion was available at the end of the service as the people left the church. Our average weekly worship attendance for both services was 41 for the months June through December. This was a decline of 68% of what we worshiped in 2019. Our median worship attendance for Saturday was 17 participants and for Sunday 20.

With the virus still spreading in December, the decision was made to not have any in-person worship within the church on Christmas Eve. We did have a service outdoors – "Gathering at the Nativity." We had 83 people who braved the 14-degree temp with -5 wind chill. Together we sang the Christmas songs and heard the gospel proclaimed. We also recorded a Christmas Eve service of Carols sung by the choir and a Christmas message from Pastor Paul. This was available on our cable and YouTube channels.

With the beginning of a new year, we live with the hope and anticipation of the day when we will once again gather for worship without fear and with joy. Until we can all be together, we will continue to worship God at church and in our homes.

2021 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Council Members

To affirm the calling of Daniel Braet, Jo Ernst, and JoEllen Poll to serve on the church council for a two year term beginning February 2021 through the end of the annual meeting in January 2023.

[The council recognizes that the voting members have the option to lift up additional names of voting members who are presented and who have consented to have their name included on a ballot. Should there be additional names, a ballot will be cast. If there are no additional names offered, the above recommendation will be voted on.]

Whereas: The members of the congregation affirmed Richard Dagitz, Krisy Dempewolf, and Deb Giesemann at the 2019 Annual Meeting to serve on the 2019 Nominating Committee for the Council, and

Whereas: The constitution of Saint John directs the nominating committee to be “responsible for identifying and securing the approval of one faithful and participating voting member for each vacancy to serve on the Congregation Council. This team shall submit their recommendation to the Congregation Council by the December council meeting.” (C13.02), and

Whereas: The nominating committee prayerfully reviewed and considered all confirmed members of Saint John for the three vacancies on the congregation council, and

Whereas: **Daniel Braet, Jo Ernst, JoEllen Poll** were identified and have indicated their willingness to serve on the council beginning February 2021 for two years and have received the approval of the council;

Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation

Recommendation 2: Selection of Nomination Committee

To identify and approve three members from those attending the annual meeting to serve on the 2021 Nominating Team. If we are unable to identify all three members at the annual meeting, the council is given the authority to appoint as many individuals as needed.

Whereas: Our constitution (c13.02) calls for three voting members to serve on the Nominating Committee who have not served on the past year’s nominating team,

Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation

Recommendation 3: Selection of Synod Assembly Representatives

To identify two members who will serve as our voting delegates for the 2020 Synod Assembly on Saturday, May 22. If we are unable to identify two volunteers at the annual meeting, the council is given the authority to appoint our voting delegates for 2021.

Whereas: Our congregation is accorded two lay voting delegates (one male and one female) at the annual synod assembly, and

Whereas: The Synod is currently planning for a one-day assembly on Saturday, May 22 that will either be fully digital, or digital with small gathering hubs that meet at locations across the synod, and

Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation

Recommendation 4: Church Signs

To approve the expenditure up to \$8,000 for the replacement of the main outdoor church sign and adding other signs where needed. The funding for this expenditure will come from 1) balance of the Marvin Goetz gift (\$2,350), 2) a portion of the Bernice Brandt Estate (up to \$4,000), 3) a portion of the Blitgen Estate (up to \$2,000), and 4) donations to Building Improvement Fund - Sign.

Whereas: The stone monument holding the outdoor church sign has been there for nearly 75 years and is beyond repair according to the experts,

Whereas: Our outdoor sign needs to identify our church and the worship times for visitors to our community,

Whereas: The Building and Property team has approached Craig Anderson to rebuild the base for the sign on the existing foundation with stone that will match the church, and a sign will be placed on the base that states only the name and provides flexibility to change with the possibility of being lit;

Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation.

Recommendation 5: Mission Support to the Synod

To approve for 2021 our Mission Support to the synod of ten percent (10%) of our general offerings; and that in the following years we continue to be a tithing congregation of our offerings.

Whereas: The congregation in 2004 approved being a tithing congregation that gives 10% of its general offerings to the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA; and

Whereas: The congregation has continued to faithfully give a tithe of our general offering since 2004 even in times when the economic conditions resulted in cutting back and freezing the compensation of our staff; and

Whereas: Our congregation approved an increase to 10% our giving to the synod for 2019 and agreed that we should strive to remain at 10% - a tithe for the following years,

Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation.

Recommendation 6: 2021 Mission Budget

To approve the 2021 Proposed Mission Budget as printed in this report for the year beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Whereas: The council has followed the directive of the members to present a Mission Budget for the general expenses of the church, and has reviewed

1. The proposed expenditures for 2021,
2. the projected giving based on the 2021 Estimate of Giving cards returned by the members along with the past history of recorded giving by those who did not return a commitment card for 2021, and
3. the projected income from other sources beyond the general giving.

Whereas: the council is not presenting a deficit budget.

Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation.

Recommendation 7: Covering the Possible Deficit in General Expenses

To give the authority to the council to direct the release of funds, as needed, from the Reserve Fund in the Designated Fund Account, and if additional amount is needed from the Saint John Trust - Un-designated Fund so that the general operating expenses that were approved within the 2021 Mission Budget may be paid in a timely manner; and that the total amount authorized is not to exceed \$5,000 for the year.

Whereas: The council does not recommend that the congregation assume any future debt by taking out a loan to pay the approved general expenses for the coming year;
Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation..

Recommendation 8: Cemetery Committee

To approve Todd Giesemann, Lorrie Both, Karen Osar, Mark Guenther, and Jim Eggers to serve on the Cemetery Committee for 2021, along with any other person who has expressed a desire to serve on this committee and appointed by the council.

Whereas: The constitution states that the members of the cemetery committee is to be approved by the voting members at the annual meeting, and
Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation

Recommendation 9: 2021 Cemetery Budget

To approve the 2021 Cemetery Budget as printed in this report for the year beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Whereas: The Saint John Lutheran Cemetery is owned by this congregation, and
Whereas: The members of the Cemetery Committee are approved by the voting members at the annual meeting;
Whereas: By-law 13.06.01 states:

“This committee shall maintain a budget and financial accounts that are separate from those of this congregation. A full financial report shall be made to the congregation at the congregation’s annual meeting.

a. A proposed yearly cemetery budget shall be presented in the Annual Report for the approval at the annual meeting by the voting members.”

Therefore, the council moves to approve the adoption of this recommendation.

Expenditures	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Actual Expensed	2021 Proposed Budget
Custodial	\$6,459.00	\$6,459.00	\$6,459.00
Bank Fees	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$400.00	\$309.37	\$312.00
Supplies	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$369.25</u>	<u>\$373.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$7,379.00	\$7,157.62	\$7,164.00

PROPOSED MISSION BUDGET FOR 2021

	2020	2121	Difference
Ministry	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	
Building & Property	\$19,180.00	\$19,884.00	\$704.00
ELCA Mission Support	\$15,080.00	\$15,574.00	\$494.00
Parish Administration	\$47,094.00	\$50,268.00	\$3,174.00
Pastoral	\$86,357.00	\$86,357.00	\$0.00
Retreat Center	\$5,815.00	\$5,450.00	-\$365.00
Worship & Music	<u>\$6,480.00</u>	<u>\$5,225.00</u>	-\$1,255.00
Total General Expenses	\$180,006.00	\$182,758.00	\$2,752.00
Projected General Income/Offerings			
Projected Offerings	\$144,816.00	\$149,738.00	\$4,922.00
Projected Income - Retreat Center	\$14,150.00	\$13,500.00	-\$650.00
Projected Income - Other	\$8,754.00	\$8,275.00	-\$479.00
Eucharisteo Fund - Projected	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Total Projected Income	\$167,720.00	\$175,013.00	\$7,293.00
Difference: Income - Expenses	(\$12,286.00)	(\$7,745.00)	
Beginning Balance - General Fund As of January 1	\$6,700.00	\$14,500.00	\$7,800.00
Projected Surplus/Deficit	(\$5,586.00)	\$6,755.00	

	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Actual Expenses	2021 Proposed Budget	Difference
BUILDING & PROPERTY MINISTRY				
Church Custodial	\$4,680.00	\$4,676.54	\$4,784.00	\$104.00 [a]
Church Maint/Supplies	\$1,100.00	\$912.79	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
Sanitation Supplies	\$0.00	\$487.77	\$500.00	\$500.00
Elevator Maintenance	\$1,400.00	\$1,382.19	\$1,500.00	\$100.00
Lawn Care	\$200.00	\$152.03	\$200.00	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$1,800.00	\$1,210.89	\$1,800.00	\$0.00
Utilities - Church	\$10,000.00	\$8,900.90	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Total Building & Property	\$19,180.00	\$17,723.11	\$19,884.00	\$704.00

[a] based on a increase: to \$11.50/hour @ 8 hours per week (was \$11.25/hr)

	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Actual Expenses	2021 Proposed Budget	Difference
ELCA MISSION SUPPORT				
Southeastern IA Synod	\$14,480.00	\$15,494.14	\$14,974.00	\$494.00 [b]
ELCA World Hunger/	\$600.00	\$387.20	\$600.00	\$0.00 [c]
Total ELCA Mission	\$15,080.00	\$15,881.34	\$15,574.00	\$494.00

[b]10% of projected general offerings (est \$149,738)

[c] budgeted amount is an estimate of donations to be received

	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Actual Expenses	2021 Proposed Budget	Difference
PARISH ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY				
Cemetery Custodial	\$6,459.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,459.00	\$0.00 [d]
Copier Maintenance	\$1,200.00	\$1,108.80	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$1,300.00	\$1,266.89	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
Office Administrator				\$0.00
Wages	\$20,830.00	\$20,811.10	\$23,790.00	\$2,960.00 [e]
IRA Contribution	\$2,355.00	\$2,355.00	\$2,544.00	\$189.00 [e2]
Vacation/Sick Days 18				\$0.00
Payroll Consultant Fee	\$1,000.00	\$935.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$2,000.00	\$2,107.78	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$600.00	\$599.92	\$600.00	\$0.00
Stewardship - Fall Appeal	\$225.00	\$287.25	\$250.00	\$25.00
Stewardship - Offering Envelopes	\$225.00	\$141.35	\$175.00	-\$50.00
Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$973.94	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Synod Assembly	\$850.00	\$40.00	\$850.00	\$0.00
Telephone/Internet	\$1,850.00	\$1,911.87	\$1,900.00	\$50.00
Total Parish Administration	\$47,094.00	\$45,738.90	\$50,268.00	\$3,174.00

[d] Cemetery Committee reimburses the General Fund for custodial pay plus Payroll Tax

[e] based on equivalent of \$15.00/hr (which is in line with the other churches)

for 30 hours /week in office; 2 hrs per month council meeting

[e2] based on 1.5 % for 21 years of service

PASTORAL MINISTRY	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Actual Expenses	2021 Proposed Budget	Difference
Auto Allowance	\$3,400.00	\$1,487.43	\$3,400.00	\$0.00
Education Allowance	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Equity Allow.	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.04	\$1,400.00	\$0.00
Fall Conference	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00
Pastoral Salary	\$54,831.00	\$54,830.88	\$54,831.00	\$0.00 [f]
Vacation Days 4 weeks & 4 Sun-				\$0.00 [g]
Pastor's Social Security Allowance	\$5,150.00	\$5,150.16	\$5,150.00	\$0.00
Pension & Insurance	\$17,126.00	\$16,113.36	\$17,126.00	\$0.00
Utilities Allowance	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	\$0.00
Total Pastoral	\$86,357.00	\$82,881.87	\$86,357.00	\$0.00

[f] salary remains the same per pastor's request; should be \$58,752 based on synod minimum guidelines

[g] based on letter of call

RETREAT CENTER MINISTRY	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Actual Expenses	2021 Proposed Budget	Difference
Farm Maintenance	\$400.00	\$127.10	\$400.00	\$0.00
Farmland Rental Tithe to World	\$1,215.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	-\$15.00 [h]
Lodge Maintenance	\$800.00	\$863.98	\$800.00	\$0.00
Property Taxes	\$450.00	\$439.00	\$450.00	\$0.00
Rickert Lodge Custodial	\$750.00	\$218.09	\$600.00	-\$150.00 [i]
Snow Removal	\$200.00	\$15.48	\$200.00	\$0.00
Utilities - Farm	\$2,000.00	\$1,659.16	\$1,800.00	-\$200.00
Total Retreat Center	\$5,815.00	\$4,522.81	\$5,450.00	-\$365.00

Projected Lodge Income of \$1500 for 2021

[h] 10% of Farm Rental Given to ELCA World Hunger

[i] based on \$12.00 per hour for approx 2 hrs per cleaning

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Actual Expenses	2021 Proposed Budget	Difference
Choir Director - Wages	\$750.00	\$187.50	\$375.00	-\$375.00 [j]
Organ/ Piano Maint.	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00
Organist Wages	\$3,080.00	\$605.00	\$2,200.00	-\$880.00 [k]
Worship Supplies	\$2,300.00	\$1,471.81	\$2,300.00	\$0.00
Total Worship & Music	\$6,480.00	\$2,264.31	\$5,225.00	-\$1,255.00

[j] based on 6 months

[k] 2021 - 40 services @ \$55.00 per service