

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending December 2021

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SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Council And Appointed Positions

Name	2021 Position	Term Expires
Terry Dempewolf	President	January 2022 (1st term)
Daniel Braet	Vice President	January 2023 (1st term)
Mary Hinke	Treasurer	January 2022 (1st term)
Jon Thoms	Council Member	January 2022 (2nd term)
JoEllen Poll	Council Member	January 2023 (1st term)
Jo Ernst	Council Member	January 2023 (1st term)

Pastoral Leadership & Staff

The Reverend Paul Gammelin	Pastor
Ann Skoff	Office Administrator
Curt Zeimet	Choir Director
Julie Busch	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 THE PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)



Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic.

Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings. Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

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

OPENING LITANY

Responses

L: Pastor C: All

- L:** Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:
- C: God has called us for such a time as this.**
- L:** We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:
- C: God has called us for such a time as this.**
- L:** We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:
- C: God has called us for such a time as this.**
- L:** We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:
- C: God has called us for such a time as this.**
- L:** And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.
- C: You have called us for such a time as this.**
- 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.**

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING

January 30, 2022

Needed for a Quorum: 16 voting members (10% of eligible Voting Members per the constitution. A voting member is defined as a confirmed member with a record of giving and having communion at least once withing the year.)

Call To Order

Opening Devotion - led by Pastor Paul

Acceptance of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- 1) Annual Meeting - January 31, 2021
- 2) Special Congregational Meeting - June 20, 2021

Acceptance of Financial Reports

Acceptance of Financial Secretary's Report

Acceptance of Reports

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

Old Business

- 1) Church Sign

New Business

- 1) Recommendation 1: Selection of Council Members
- 2) Recommendation 2: Selection of Nominating Committee for 2022
- 3) Recommendation 3: Selection of Synod Assembly Representatives for 2022
- 4) Recommendation 4: Approval for the Replacement of Church Copier & Folding Machine
- 5) Recommendation 5: Approval for the Replacement of the Church Gutters and Downspouts
- 6) Recommendation 6: Approval of Overseeing the Trust
- 7) Recommendation 7: Approval of Mission Support to the Synod for 2022
- 8) Recommendation 8: Approval of 2022 Mission Budget
- 9) Recommendation 9: Approval of Covering Possible Deficit in General Expenses - 2022
- 10) Recommendation 10: Approval of Cemetery Committee Members
- 11) Recommendation 11: Approval of the 2022 Cemetery Budget

Recognitions and Thank You

Adjournment

Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 31, 2021

Meeting called to order at 10:52 am with 23 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 26, 2020.

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 - none

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation One - Congregation Council Election:

MSC to place Jo Ernst, JoEllen Poll, and Daniel Braet on the ballot to serve a 2-year term on the council. No additional names were added to the ballot. MSC to unanimously affirm Jo Ernst, JoEllen Poll, and Daniel Braet to serve on the church council for 2021-2023.

Recommendation Two - Nomination Team:

MSC to approve Deb Giesemann, Linda Nudd, and Sara Guenther to serve on the Nominating Team that will meet in 2021.

Recommendation Three - 2021 Synod Assembly Representatives:

There were volunteers to participate in the 2021 SE Iowa Synod Assembly. MSC to have the church council appoint two delegates.

Recommendation Four - Church Signs:

MSC 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.

Recommendation Five - Mission Support to the Synod

MSC to approve to approve for 2021 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 Six - 2021 Mission Budget

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

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 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.

Recommendation Eight - Cemetery Committee

MSC 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.

Recommendation Nine - Cemetery Budget

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

MSC to adjourn at 11:15 am. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Ann Skoff, Council Secretary

The meeting was attended by the following 22 voting members:

Pastor Paul Gammel
Ann Skoff
Marty Ploessl
Raquel Clausen
Jon Thoms
Mary Hinke
Terry Dempewolf
JoEllen Poll

Kathy Ohlert
Diane Carson
Mark Rogge
Beth Rogge
Todd Giesemann
Deb Giesemann
Peggy Thoms
Mark Guenther

Sara Guenther
Diane Norpel
Mykel Mickelson
Barry Nudd
Linda Nudd
Krisy Dempewolf

**SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JUNE 20, 2021**

Purpose of Meeting – To approve the following recommendation from the Saint John Council:
The church council recommends the voting members to approve the expenditure up to \$6,000 to replace the existing riding mower at the Retreat Center; and the funding of the purchase is to come from the Saint John Trust – Retreat Center Fund. MSC to approve by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Skoff, Council Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORTS

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2021	\$14,504.66
Total Receipts	\$189,286.42
Total Disbursements	- <u>174,516.47</u>
Ending Balance—December 31, 2021	\$29,274.61

Budgeted Receipts

General Offerings.....	\$163,971.52
Eucharisteo Grant	4,000.00
Farmland Rent	12,000.00
Lodge Rentals.....	1,400.00
Gifts Received.....	440.00
Funerals.....	800.00
Weddings.....	0.00
Building Use.....	260.00
Interest Earned & Misc.	94.80
Cemetery Custodial.....	6,000.00
World Hunger/Disaster Relief.....	<u>320.10</u>
Total Receipts	\$189,286.42

Budgeted Disbursements

Building & Property Ministry	\$17,597.72
ELCA Mission Ministry.....	17,117.26
Parish Admin. Ministry.....	49,246.44
Pastoral Ministry.....	82,842.99
Retreat Center Ministry.....	5,126.40
Worship & Music Ministry	<u>2,585.66</u>
Total Disbursements.....	\$174,516.47

(Detailed breakdown of budgeted disbursements can be found within the proposed budget on pgs. 34-35.)

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2021.....	\$102,017.68
Total Receipts.....	237,430.58
Total Disbursements.....	- 19,262.25
Ending Balance—December 31, 2021.....	\$320,186.01

<u>Building Improvement</u>	\$876.74
Receipts	\$50.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$926.74

<u>Christmas Star</u>	\$685.15
Receipts	\$425.00
Disbursements	- \$43.68
Current Balance	\$1,066.47

<u>Donations Beyond Us</u>	\$1,079.09
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	- \$835.00
Current Balance	\$244.09

<u>Education Ministry</u>	\$3,296.29
Receipts	\$235.00
Disbursements	- \$581.37
Current Balance	\$2,949.92

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

<u>Flower Fund</u>	\$737.85
Receipts	\$370.00
Disbursements	- \$451.80
Current Balance	\$656.05

<u>Funeral Lunch Fund</u>	\$666.13
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$666.13

<u>Good Samaritan Fund</u>	\$684.39
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	- \$25.00
Current Balance	\$659.39

<u>Lodge/Retreat Center</u>	\$10,196.38
Receipts	\$5,394.00
Disbursements	- \$5,369.00
Current Balance	\$10,221.38

<u>Memorial Scholarship Fund</u>	\$1,126.51
Receipts	\$25.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$1,151.51

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

<u>Music & Chimes</u>	\$1,328.70
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$1,328.70

<u>Non-Designated Memorials</u>	\$6,549.19
Receipts	\$1,203.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$7,752.19

<u>Office Equipment</u>	\$1,744.87
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	- \$1,023.00
Current Balance	\$721.87

<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	\$1,200.00
Receipts:	\$7,370.00
Disbursements	- \$7,250.36
Current Balance:	\$1,319.64

<u>Prayer Shawl Ministry</u>	\$301.61
Receipts	\$20.00
Disbursements	- \$20.38
Current Balance	\$301.23

Reserve Fund	\$14,832.19
Receipts	\$19,245.18
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$34,077.37

PPP Loan Moved to Reserve Fund

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

Thanksgiving Dinner	\$482.25
Receipts	\$1,175.00
Disbursements	-\$1,157.25
Current Balance	\$500.00

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

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

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

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

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

Senior Quilts	\$300.00
Receipts	\$200.00
Disbursements	-\$26.17
Current Balance	\$473.83

Television/Technology Fund	\$2,616.34
Receipts	\$1,739.00
Disbursements	-\$579.51
Current Balance	\$3,775.83

Thrivent Choice Receipts	\$1,888.07
Receipts	\$591.00
Disbursements	-\$1,050.00
Current Balance	\$1,429.07

Wallace Scholarship	\$72.00
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$72.00

Youth Bible Fund	\$1,547.97
Receipts	\$210.00
Disbursements	-\$509.69
Current Balance	\$1,248.28

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

Estate—Wagner (2021)	\$0.00
Receipts	\$217,928.40
Disbursements	\$0.00
Current Balance	\$217,928.40

BREAKDOWN OF DESIGNATED FUNDS FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS:

Checking Account:

Bellevue State Bank \$ 246,460.51 *(Earns 0.15% interest)*

Certificates of Deposit:

CD - #2682 \$ 20,198.85 *Matures 2/21/22 (1.00%)*

CD - #2372 \$ 33,526.65 *Matures 3/8/22 (0.3%)*

CD - #2778 \$ 20,000.00 *Matures 8/24/22 (0.3%)*

TOTAL: \$ 320,186.01

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Lorrie Both

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2021	\$12,762.57
Total Receipts	\$13,332.90
Total Disbursements	- <u>7,393.59</u>
Ending Balance—December 31, 2021	\$18,701.88

Receipts

General Fund

Lot Sales	\$7,300.00
Registration Fee	400.00
Interest & Dividends	
BSB Checking Account.....	7.90
BSB Stock Dividends	<u>5,625.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$13,332.90

Disbursements

Custodial Care	\$6,459.00
Bank Fees.....	20.00
Repairs & Maintenance	180.00
Supplies	413.60
Equip. Purchased (trimmer).....	<u>320.99</u>
Total Disbursements	\$7,393.59

SUMMARY OF CEMETERY FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Checking Account\$18,701.88

Certificates of Deposit

Bellevue State Bank—#2380	2,609.30
Bellevue State Bank—#1829	14,410.01
Bellevue State Bank—#2588	2,891.26
Bellevue State Bank—#2379	<u>23,106.45</u>
Total Certificates of Deposit	\$43,017.02

Shares of Stock

 15 shares Bellevue State Bank Stock @ \$7,897.00 \$118,455.00

Total Value of Accounts s as of 12/31/21**\$180,173.90**

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

The total gain in Accounts for 2021 was..... \$17,761.58

WELCA

SUBMITTED BY ROSIE WILLIAMS

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2021.....	\$2,183.50
Total Receipts.....	\$1,300.00
Total Disbursements.....	- <u>\$1,503.04</u>
Ending Balance—December 31, 2021.....	\$1,980.46

Receipts

Donation Received.....	\$25.00
Fall Luncheon.....	<u>1,275.00</u>
Total Receipts.....	\$1,300.00

Disbursements

Cluster Meeting Offerings	\$50.00
Gifts:	
EWALU	100.00
Camp Courageous	100.00
Lutheran Services in Iowa.....	100.00
Albrecht Acres.....	100.00
Secretary Week Gift.....	50.00
Memorial	25.00
Christmas Gifts:	
Pastor Christmas Gift.....	100.00
Secretary Christmas Gift.....	80.00
Lutheran World Relief (kit materials, postage).....	50.00
Quilt Material.....	98.04
Special Donations	500.00
Fall Luncheon	<u>150.00</u>
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,503.04

SAINT JOHN YOUTH MINISTRY ACCOUNT

Bellevue State Bank
Submitted by: Pastor Paul

Checking Account

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2021	\$6,835.31
Receipts	\$2,809.00
Less Disbursements	- \$15.93
Ending Balance - December 31, 2021	\$9,628.38

Checking: Income

Pizza Suppers	
From Students	512.20
Donations toward Meals	167.00
Pop Can Returns00
Lenten Soup Suppers	
Toward Mission Trips.....	.00
Toward World Hunger.....	.00
Omelet Breakfast.....	.00
Mission Trip	
Student Registration Fees00
Donations	2,030.00
Youth Ministries	
Donations	100.00
Saint John Trust -	
Mission Trip Support.....	.00
CD - Travel Support.....	.00
Other00
Total Receipts	\$2,809.20

Checking: Disbursements

Mission Trip	
Registration Fee00
Omelet Breakfast.....	.00
Lenten Soup Suppers	
milk, & misc. supplies00
ELCA World Hunger00
Rite of Confirmation	
Pictures, Flowers & Gift Card.....	15.93
Pizza Suppers	
(Ingredients needed to make	
the pizzas, and pop)00
Other00
Total Disbursements.....	\$15.93

* Next Step Ministry Credit from 2020 Cancelled Trip \$2,967.50
Will be applied toward 2022 Mission Trip

Saint John Trust

As of: December 31, 2021

FUNDS

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Brinker/McClean Ed. Fund	15,000.00
ELCA Mission Fund.....	33,059.97
Wallace Scholarship Fund.....	30,000.00
Total Restricted Fund	\$78,059.97

RESERVED FUNDS

Parsonage Maintenance.....	7,760.71
Total Reserved Fund	\$7,760.71

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Mission Trip Support Fund	40,000.00
Saint John Retreat Center Fund.....	100,587.24
Television Ministry Fund.....	5,000.00
Total Designated Fund	\$145,587.24

DESIGNATED FUND	\$93,549.58
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TOTAL TRUST FUND	\$324,957.50
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ASSETS

CHECKING/SAVINGS

Fidelity - Checking.....	2,857.33
Fidelity – Money Market	26,728.75
Total Checking/Savings	\$29,586.08

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Fidelity CD – 389.....	153,386.79
Fidelity CD – 325.....	15,000.00
Bellevue State Bank CD – 2230	54,994.26
ELCA Mission Fund CD – 8199.....	33,059.97
Total Certificate of Deposit	\$256,441.02

STOCKS & OTHER

Riverview Development	38,930.40
[30 shares @ \$1,297.68]	
Total Stocks & Other	\$38,930.40

TOTAL TRUST ASSETS.....	\$324,957.50
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Saint John Trust Report

Brief History: In 2004 the member Saint John voted to establish the "Saint John Lutheran Trust with investment monies that came from several estates, including the Shipper estate. The purpose of this Trust was to provide a better vehicle and discipline for managing our investment monies. Any disbursements from the Trust or changes to the Trust directives require a 'super majority'(75%) approval of the voting members present at a congregational meeting

Saint John Trust does allow for additional gifts to be directed to all for "sub funds" These "sub funds" may be established upon the approval of the church council with consideration given to the donor's designation or upon the affirmative vote (super majority) of the congregation to a redistribution on the Trust assets.

At the 2014 annual meeting, the members approved the current designations for our Funds along with sub funds under the Fund.

Saint John Trust – Funds and Sub-Funds

As of: December 31, 2021

Restricted Fund: The principal of the sub-funds with this Restricted fund must remain invested and interest earned is to be distributed for the purpose designated. The principle may be added to by additional gifts.

Restricted Funds **\$78,059.97**

Sub-Funds:

a. **Brinker/McClean Education Fund** \$15,000.00

Principle = \$15,000.00. Interest earned from this sub-fund investment is to support the educational ministries of this church. For the past two years, there has been no interest distributed to the Now Account-Designated Funds/Educational Ministry.

b. **ELCA Mission Fund** \$33,059.97

Principle = \$30,000.00. Interest earned from this sub-fund investment is to support requests from non-profit organizations, benefits for individuals, or special projects that aid others within the Bellevue community or our synod. For the past years the interest earned has been rolled over into the investment which has increased the value from the original principle. For the past two years, there has been no interest distributed to the Now Account-Designated Funds/Donation Beyond Us Fund.

c. **Wallace Scholarship Fund** \$30,000.00

Principle = \$30,000.00. Interest earned from this sub-fund investment is to be awarded as a scholarship to an individual who applies and meets the qualifications. The pastor will recommend, and the council will approve, the recipient. For the past two years, there has been no interest distributed to the Now Account-Designated Funds/Wallace Scholarship Fund.

Reserved Fund: The monies allocated to these sub-funds have been approved for specific projects and available upon completion of the project and the directive of the council to release the approved amount to the General Fund for payment.

Reserved Funds **\$7,760.71**

Sub-Funds:

a. **Parsonage Maintenance** \$7,760.71

This sub-fund was initially approved for \$15,000.00 in 2008. In 2009, \$1,324.00 was expended for electrical upgrading. In 2015, \$5,915.00 was expended for a new air conditioner/heat unit.

Designated Fund: The monies allocated to these sub-funds have been approved for specific projects and available upon completion of the project and the directive of the council to release the approved amount to the General Fund for payment.

Designated Funds\$145,587.24

Sub-Funds:

a. **Mission Trip Support Fund\$40,000.00**

The purpose of this sub-fund is to aid the mission trips taken by the youth. Interest earned from this sub-fund would be paid out to the Saint John Youth checking account. For the past two years, there has been no interest distributed to the Saint John Youth account.

b. **Retreat Center Fund\$100,587.24**

The gifts received were designated by the donor for the sole purpose of the maintenance and improvements needed at Saint John Retreat Center. Distribution of approved monies from this fund cannot exceed \$5,000 in any given year, unless the expenditure was approved by the congregation with a super majority vote.

c. **Television Fund\$5,000.00**

This sub-fund was established when the city was contemplating having us help with upgrading some of the cable equipment. We were never asked to pay for any upgrading.

Non-Designated Fund: The monies within this fund have not been designated for any specific project or ministries of the church. Distribution of this fund cannot exceed \$5,000.00 in any given year to cover the deficit in the approved Mission Budget for the operating expenses of the church

Non-Designated Fund\$93,549.58

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Offerings	2021	2020	2019
General Offerings	\$163,971.52	\$154,941.40	\$149,647.84
Improvement Fund	\$0.00	\$142.00	\$3,012.00
World Hunger/Disaster Relief	<u>\$320.10</u>	<u>\$387.20</u>	<u>\$899.96</u>
Total	\$164,291.62	\$155,470.60	\$153,559.80

General Fund Recorded Contributions

Weekly Giving	Yearly Giving	2021 Confirmed Members	2020 Confirmed Members	2019 Confirmed Members
70.01 and above	\$3,641 and above	10	12	11
60.01—70.00	\$3,121 – \$3,640	6	3	5
50.01—60.00	\$2,601—\$3,120	7	2	2
40.01—50.00	\$2,081—\$2,600	9	12	11
35.01—40.00	\$1,821—\$2,080	8	11	5
30.01—35.00	\$1,561—\$1,820	10	9	17
25.01—30.00	\$1,301—\$1,560	4	9	13
20.01—25.00	\$1,041—\$1,300	23	16	12
15.01—20.00	\$781—\$1,040	5	12	12
10.01—15.00	\$521—\$780	17	18	18
5.01—10.01	\$261—\$520	16	19	26
2.01—5.00	\$105—\$260	19	10	30
.01—2.00	\$1—\$104	26	26	38
0.00	0.00	217	217	176
Total Confirmed Members		377	376	376

Of the 217 confirmed members who do not have a record of giving, 55 (26%), are age 25 or younger, 36 (17%) do not live in Bellevue but retain their membership at Saint John; and 5 (3%) are shut-ins.

PASTOR'S REPORT

THE REVEREND PAUL W. GAMMELIN

"2022 – Pastoral State of the Congregation"

A "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 2022 – *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.

Last year in my "Pastoral State of the Congregation" I asked the question "What will our church be like after the pandemic?" I must believe that many of us were hoping that the Covid-19 pandemic would be coming to an end in 2021 and with its departure, life would return to normal again or at the very least a new normalcy established.

As I mentioned in my 2021 report, many pastors and leaders of congregations were initially concerned about the affect the pandemic would have on the church now and in the future, especially with worship attendance and finances. For us, the return to in-person worship was marked by a slow but steady growth. Our average weekly attendance was 79 individuals which was 35% fewer than in 2019 (pre-pandemic). I believe there are several factors that contribute to the lower numbers. One factor is that there continues to be a fear by some of being exposed to covid-19, especially with the rising number of cases at the end of 2021 and the latest variant (Omicron) which is spreading more quickly than Delta. Another factor, which was the fear of many pastors and church leaders, is that many have fallen away from the discipline of going to church and have not re-established attending worship as a priority in their life. It is my hope that in 2022 we will see an increase in our worship attendance as more individuals will choose to return to worship and be in fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Financially, our congregation did not experience what many church leaders were fearful of – a drop off in giving. As with 2020, our members and partners of Saint John continued to support the church with their generous gifts. In fact, the financial position of Saint John at the end of 2021 is better than any year over the 22 years of my pastoral tenure. For this financial blessing, let us all say, "Thanks be to God."

In 2021, many of us experienced the joys of being able to re-connect with family and friends. In our community, we experienced the joy of celebrating Heritage Days again. At Saint John, we experienced the joy of our elementary youth gathering again for ARK on Friday afterschool. Uncertain how many youths would return; we were pleasantly surprised with our average weekly attendance of 70. The concern I have is that we don't have adequate space and volunteers to staff this ministry. I have often pondered what kind of facility would provide the space/rooms to accommodate this ministry, as well as our confirmation ministry. I know that we have an empty lot across the street and ponder the ideal of having a facility dedicated to these ministries. Along with that pondering, I have asked myself what might happen with ARK if the elementary school was to be relocated. In regard to confirmation, I would love to utilize that facility more for this ministry but transporting the youth to and from presents an issue. A lot to consider but the real joy is that we are blessed to have these exciting ministries.

Another joyful reunion was gathering all three grades (6th-8th) on Wednesdays for confirmation. There is such an energy when they are all together. I guess that is what happens when we connect with one another. What is always amazing is how many youths are participating, both in ARK and Confirmation, that have no connection with Saint John outside these ministries. As I journey about this community, I often hear affirmation by others for our ministry with elementary and middle school youth. And yet, I know that there is still a concern that we don't have a viable ministry for our high school youth. With the

business of high school youth, I wonder if there is a need for a “program ministry” for this age group or do we need to find some means of staying connected with our high school youth after confirmation.

Our congregation continues to reach out to meet the needs of others. I am grateful for the dedication of the few women who meet on Thursday to prepare quilts. Within these quilts the love of God and our neighbors is stitched, and those who receive them are wrapped up in that love. Once again, the Christmas Star and the Community Thanksgiving Dinner demonstrated our concern for our neighbors. The above outreaching ministries is our witness to our community and beyond of our faith in and love for God.

For many churches throughout the nation, the focus of their leadership has been on surviving or simply maintaining status quo. At Saint John, I believe our focus needs to be on how God is calling us to flourish as we remain connected to God and our neighbor. The vitality of this congregation will always depend upon: (1) our openness to allow God’s Spirit to guide and work through us, (2) our willingness to stay connected in worship, fellowship, and service; and (3) our ongoing desire to be an inclusive community of faith that embraces and shares the grace and love of God.

As far as my future as serving you as the pastor of Saint John and within this community, I can only say, “Only God knows my future.” For 22 years I have been blessed to be your pastor and to serve within our community. My morning prayer always includes asking God to help me the best pastor I can be for people you have called me to serve. I also ask that God would continue to bless me so that I may be a blessing to others.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Thank you for your prayers and support, especially in this past year as I experienced the death of my dear friend, Susan. And most of all, thank you for allowing me to be your pastor.

I want to thank Ann Skoff for all she does for this church as our Office Administrator, and her partnership in my ministry. This congregation has been blessed by her – more than most people realize. I also want to thank the council for their leadership, and especially Jon Thoms, Mary Hinke, and Terry Dempewolf who have completed their terms.

May God continue to bless Saint John Lutheran of Bellevue, Iowa
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

Maverick Jeffery Martin.....	January 1
Paetyn Rae Scheckel.....	March 20
Townes Aldean McPherson.....	March 27
Isabelle Eve Brenny.....	April 24
Axl Maverick Hutchcroft.....	April 24
Harper Rose Giesemann.....	May 23
Blake Allen Feller.....	June 5
Nellie Joan Ohlert.....	June 5
Walter Lloyd Ohlert.....	June 5
Tia Marylynn Wieseler-Booker.....	June 12
Maxwell Lorin Klein.....	June 26
Savannah Jo Edwards.....	September 18
Kaydin Lee Johnson.....	October 12
Jake Earl Hiland.....	October 23
Evelyn Mae Schlecht.....	November 7

RITE OF CONFIRMATION: OCTOBER 31, 2021

Tate Timothy Giesemann
Jake Earl Hiland
Kaydin Lee Johnson

Rayna Jo Kilburg
Izabella Marie Mootz

MARRIAGES

Trevor Michels & Taylor Triphan.....	September 25
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FUNERALS

Susan Becker (Rys) Huehnergath (<i>died 2/15/21</i>).....	February 27
Faye A. (Lowe) Francis (<i>died 3/28/21</i>).....	April 1
George Henry Hinke (<i>died 2/14/21</i>).....	May 22
Jacqueline (Covert) Dagitz (<i>died 1/17/21</i>).....	May 26
Joyce Ann (Bopp) Welch (<i>died 5/23/21</i>).....	May 26
Wilma Loretta (Keil) Clausen (<i>died 7/6/2021</i>).....	July 12
Averle Elsie (Brown) Bevan (<i>died 12/4/21</i>).....	December 9
Rose Marie (DeGear) Sunleaf (<i>died 12/9/21</i>).....	December 17
Stan D. Matthews (<i>died 12/10/21</i>).....	December 20
William "Billy" James Bowman (<i>died 12/12/21</i>).....	December 21
Dwain Michels (<i>died 12/26/21</i>).....	December 31

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership, January 1, 2021	523	376
Changes to Membership during 2021		
Received By baptism	15	
Received By affirmation of faith or transfer	2	2
Baptized youth confirmed in 2021		5
Removed By death	-6	-6
Removed By transfer		
Placed on "Inactive" List		
Statistical adjustment		
Membership, end of 2021	534	377

Average Worship Attendance not including Easter

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Combined Weekly	77	Before Covid-19 = 109 After Resuming In-Person = 45	119	113	122
Saturday Only	27	Before Covid-19 = 44 After Resuming In-Person = 18	42	41	45
Sunday Only	53	Before Covid-19 = 65 After Resuming In-Person = 20	77	73	76

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.

2021 - Covid-19 was still active and in-person restrictions of mask wearing and physical distancing within the pews continued through May. There were no Midweek Lenten services, but we did have Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thurs. and Good Friday along with the Sunrise Service outside at the Retreat Center and the Festival inside at the church with restrictions. On Christmas Eve we had our normal three services with no restrictions.

Members Received by Affirmation or Transfer

Joslyn Giesemann
Catherine (Kate) Ohlert

Members Removed or Transferred

none

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mark 10:27 *“Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”*

Greetings

During 2021 we've made significant strides in getting back to our pre-Covid routines. We have in-person services without the physical separation between families. The organist is back playing and the congregation is singing. Ark and Confirmation Ministries draw large participation from the youth of the community. Our Choir has performed on Sundays. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Services were held in person. We were able to celebrate the birth of our savior on Christmas Eve with Candle-Light Services. Financially, the church is as strong as it has been since I became a member. In short, lots of good things are happening at St. John and our Congregation and Community are better served because of it.

In 2022 we will welcome in new members of the Church Council. I look forward to what they will bring to the Council and the chance to get to know them personally. I had the honor of getting to work with and to know the two departing Council Members, Marky Hinke and Jon Thoms. Their contributions to the Church were great. I will miss the perspective they brought to each meeting and their desire to serve their fellow man.

I want to thank all who are involved in the ministries that make St. John a “Beacon of Light and Hope.” Those who take time out of their day to shovel the sidewalk, mow the grass, clean the church, cook pizza for the confirmation students, bake the communion bread, Confirmation Students who serve as Acolytes, our leaders for Confirmation & Ark, the others who serve on committees from buildings to cemetery, and all the others I have missed. You all are what makes this church a Beacon of Light and Hope. A special thanks to Pastor Paul for his guidance; and to Ann for nudging me in the direction I need to go to keep the business of the church moving.

I am proud to be a member of St. John and the good work they do for the community. I intend to serve another term as Council Member and possibly Council President. During this second term, I intend to keep working upon what was built and to pass along to the next council a strong direction on how to keep the church vibrant for generations to come.

Terry J Dempewolf
Council President

MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS

BUILDING & PROPERTY

In 2021, our focus was on replacing the outdoor church sign and replacing our gutters and down spouts. It was determined that the stone outdoor sign structure needed to be taken down and was done by Terry and Steve Dempewolf along with Mark Guenther. Due to supply shortages we were not able to get the supports for the new sign, which meant that the new stone base was not able to be completed by Craig Anderson. The supports finally arrived in November, but it was too late to begin any work. We are hoping to see a new sign early in the Spring of 2022.

We did get an estimate for the replacement of the church gutters and down spouts; and hopefully the congregation will approve the expenditure as presented in the recommendations.

After taking a walk-through of the parsonage, the team acknowledges that there are some updating needed. The flooring in the kitchen and bathrooms, along with the carpeting, all need to be replaced. The kitchen cabinets need attention, along with the bathrooms. The ceiling of the parsonage office also needs attention as well as painting and redoing the walls in the eating area and kitchen. We will begin to get some estimates for the various projects. Hopefully we can begin to do some of the work in 2022 and not wait until Pastor Paul retires.

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. Those who are currently serving on this team are 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) that meets after school on Friday.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the decision was made not to gather the youth together for the 2020-21 ARK year. 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 prepared 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 in ARK from September 2020 through May 2021.

In October of 2021, the ARK students joyfully gathered again on Fridays. It was great to be together again. We averaged 70 youth each week, which was a little overwhelming due to the low number of adult volunteers. We had one adult leader for each grade level, which meant that many groups had 15 or more youth. Ideally, the group size should be 6-8 youth to allow for meaningful learning/group discussions.

It was our hope to have an ARK Christmas program on Sunday, December 19. Due to the increasing cases of Covid-19 and flu, we decided not to have a program with parents; but we did record our program and invited people to watch the students on our YouTube channel. The kids did a good job.

As we look to 2022, we know that we need more people to volunteer so that we can have manageable groups. We want to thank all who did volunteer this fall!

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.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we made the decision in the Fall of 2020 not to combine the three grades on Wednesdays as in the past, but to have each grade meet once a month. We had made tentative plans for the 2021 mission trip to go to Pine Ridge, ND in July, but once again we cancelled for the safety for our group.

In September 2021, confirmation resumed its normal weekly gathering with all three grades coming together. We welcomed seven (7) 6th graders along with their group leader, Krisy Dempewolf, The 6th graders came together with the nine (9) 7th graders with their group leader, JoEllen Poll who took over for Mary Hinke, and the fifteen (15) 8th graders who are led by Mike Dempewolf.

On Reformation Sunday, October 31, we celebrated the Rite of Confirmation for five (5) youth. They were Tate Giesemann, Jake Hiland, Kaydin Johnson, Rayna Kilburg, and Izabella Mootz. We want to thank Shelly Kieffer for serving as the class group leader and mentor for the past three years.

In July 2022, we are scheduled to go on our Mission trip to Pine Ridge, ND. This mission trip will be open to all 7th – 10th graders.

We also want to thank Kathy Ohlert who has been faithfully making our pizza for so many years. Many of the youth will say her pizza is the best in Bellevue and some have even commented that they wish they could return to confirmation for her pizza.

Presentation of Bibles

On Sunday, September 19, we gathered outside in the evening to present the “Spark Story Bible” book to twelve (12) 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.

Also, in September, we presented our 6th grade confirmation youth with 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 2021 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 2022

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Memorials & Gifts is a way in which people can designate and support a variety of ministries within the church. All gifts and memorials received are deposited into the 'Designated Funds' checking account; and are never deposited into the 'General Fund', which is used to pay the church's budgeted expenses.

In 2021, we received total donations of \$4,332.00. These donations were allocated to the following funds:

Building Improvement	\$50.00
Christmas Star	\$425.00
Ark	\$185.00
Flower Fund	\$250.00
Lodge—Retreat Center	\$25.00
Memorial Scholarship	\$25.00
Prayer Shawl	\$20.00
Senior Quilts	\$200.00
TV & Technology	\$1,739.00
Youth Bible Fund	\$210.00
Undesignated	\$1,203.00

Expenditures this past year included donations to the Bellevue Fire Department and Camp EWALU. Flowers were ordered for special events, such as Mother's Day and Father's Day. Computers, software, and other equipment was purchased for the office and the 'Lutheran Channel'. Bibles were given to Kindergarten and Confirmation students.

In 2022 we are encouraging people to consider the following funds:

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.

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

The church has several other active funds, which are currently well-funded. Those funds include the Lodge—Retreat Center, 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 2021:

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

As the spring of 2022 arrives, we await the two acres of wildflowers to grow further in 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>2021 Income Received</u>	
Farmland Rental	\$12,000.00
Lodge Rentals	<u>1,400.00</u>
Total Income	\$13,400.00
Less 2021 Expenses	<u>(\$5,126.40)</u>
2021 Support to General Fund	\$8,273.60

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

Christmas Star

The Christmas Star program this year included 14 families, for a total of 30 children. In addition to the gifts of clothing and toys, 6 children received a quilt made by our quilt tyers. These children are in the program for the first time. This year we asked for donations of cash only for the food baskets. Again, the congregation was very generous with their donations.

The committee thanks the church and community members for their generous support of this outreach ministry. Committee members are Gloria Sagers, Eunice Schladetzky, and Jo Ernst.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving 2021 marked our sixteen (16th) year of providing a free Thanksgiving meal for those who were home alone or those who were unable to prepare a meal. This year, we returned to having in-person dining along with deliveries and pick up.

With a record high last year of 163 meals due to the pandemic, we weren't sure what to expect for numbers this year. Through our calling we heard that many would be travelling to family or family was coming home. However, we did end up serving 130 meals which included 52 meals delivered to 26 households, 39 meals that were picked up that represented 20 households, and 39 meals served at the church representing 17 households.

Even though this meal is intended to be free, we have received generous donations from many of those who receive the meals. 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.

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.

Quilt Tying Ministry

The quilt tiers did not meet for three months. Then we returned, wearing masks and continuing the quilts.

This spring we sent 64 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Eight graduates received a quilt in May. These are made with each of the students in mind. In December we donated 5 quilts to the Bread Basket; and 6 quilts to the Christmas Star program.

The church and community have been very generous with donations of material. Thank you.

A special thank you to Deb Hutchcroft, Mary Puls, and Donna Felderman for all the time they put in making the tops.

We continue to meet every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to offer in-person 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.

In June, wearing masks during worship became optional, and in September the physical distancing between pews was removed.

During the summer, we gathered twice a month (once on Saturday and once on Sunday) for worship at our Retreat Center. The weather and bugs cooperated with us and we able to enjoy the beauty and peaceful setting outside for all services.

For Christmas, we resumed our three services with attendance being lower than in 2019 at all services, especially the 4:00 which was about 100 people fewer.

Throughout the year our weekly worship attendance continued to grow but remained about 25% less than in 2019.

We continue to utilize our cable channel and our YouTube channel to bring the worship service to those who choose not to be present in-person.

We are grateful to Julie Busch who has offered to be our church pianist for at least two services a month. We are grateful for the efforts of Curt Zeimet in trying to resurrect a choir for those special services.

2022 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Council Members

To affirm the calling Shannon Abbott, Terry Dempewolf, and Joannie Kilburg to serve on the church council for a two-year term beginning February 2022 through the end of the annual meeting in January 2024.

[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 Deb Giesemann, Sara Guenther, and Linda Nudd at the 2021 Annual Meeting to serve on the 2022 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: Shannon Abbott, Terry Dempewolf, and Joannie Kilburg were identified and have indicated their willingness to serve on the council beginning February 2022 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 2022 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 2022 Synod Assembly held on Friday, May 20 through Saturday, May 21. The cost of the assembly and lodging will be covered by Saint John. If we are unable to identify two volunteers at the annual meeting, the council is given the authority to appoint our voting delegates for 2022.

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 the synod assembly to be held on Friday, May, 20 through Saturday, May 21 in Coralville, IA and

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

Recommendation 4: Replacement of the Church Copier & Folding Machine

To approve the expenditure up to \$8,000 for the replacement of the church copier and folding machine. The funding for this expenditure will come from the George Wagner Estate.

Whereas: The current copier was purchased in 2016 and has been experiencing frequent repairs; and that the repair person has indicated that this copier is coming to the end of its life,

Whereas: The folding machine has been presenting continuous problems, causing Ann to re-fold a lot of the weekly bulletins and the newsletter,

Whereas: We have asked two companies for quotes with Gordon Flesch Company submitting a quote for a Canon copier before Christmas for \$5,735.00, and with the cost of a folder to be under \$1,000.

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

Recommendation 5: Replacement of the Church Gutters and Down Spouts

To approve the expenditure up to \$7,500 for the replacement of the church gutters and down spouts. The funding for this expenditure will come from the George Wagner Estate.

Whereas: The church gutters are rusting through in many places and in need of replacement, and there is a need to redirect the flow of the water to prevent the overflowing problems,

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

Recommendation 6: Overseeing the Trust

To approve that the church council will replace the financial team of the Trust and will have the responsibly of overseeing/managing the Saint John Trust in accordance with the current rules/guidelines that have governed the Trust over the past years. The Treasurer will be the primary signature with a council member being a secondary signature, and the pastor be an emergency signature.

Whereas: The management of Saint John Trust was initially the responsibility of Fidelity Bank, and then moved in house with a financial team of Jon Thoms, Mike Dempewolf, and Willie Felderman taking over the responsibility of managing the Trust fund.

Whereas: In the past years, the management of the Trust was the sole responsibility of Jon Thoms,

Whereas: As of the end of October 2021, Jon Thoms resigned from being responsible for the Trust,

Whereas: The oversight and management of the Trust can be accomplished by council abiding by the current the rules that have governed the Trust from its inception. The Treasurer will be the primary signature with a council member being a secondary signature, and the pastor be an emergency signature.

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

Recommendation 7: Mission Support to the Synod

To approve that we continue to be a tithing congregation that gives 10% of its general offerings to the Southeastern Iowa Synod as our 2022 Mission Support offering.

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 strive to give a tithe of our general offering since 2004 even in times when the economic conditions resulted in cutting back our Mission support and freezing the compensation of our staff; and

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

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

Recommendation 8: 2022 Mission Budget

To approve the 2022 Proposed Mission Budget as printed in this report for the year beginning January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

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 the proposed expenditures for 2022

the projected giving based on the 2022 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 2022 and

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 9: 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 2022 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 expect any deficit, but wants to be prepared in case the projected income does not flow in as anticipated, and

Whereas: The council does not want the congregation to 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 10: Cemetery Committee

To approve Todd Giesemann, Lorrie Both, Karen Osar, Mark Guenther, and Jim Eggers to serve on the Cemetery Committee for 2022, 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 11: 2022 Cemetery Budget

To approve the 2022 Cemetery Budget as printed in this report for the year beginning January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

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	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Actual Expenses	2022 Proposed Budget
Custodial	\$6,459.00	\$6,459.00	\$6,459.00
Administrative (Bank Fees)	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$312.00	\$180.00	\$300.00
Supplies	\$373.00	\$413.60	\$425.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$320.99	\$100.00
Total Expenditures	\$7,164.00	\$7,393.59	\$7,304.00

PROPOSED MISSION BUDGET FOR 2022

	2021 <u>Approved</u>	2021 <u>Actual</u>	2022 <u>Proposed</u>	Difference
Ministry				
Building & Property	\$19,884.00	\$17,597.72	\$22,900.00	\$3,016.00
ELCA Mission Support	\$15,574.00	\$17,117.26	\$14,800.00	-\$774.00
Parish Administration	\$49,809.00	\$49,246.44	\$52,443.00	\$2,634.00
Pastoral	\$86,357.00	\$82,842.99	\$85,731.00	-\$626.00
Retreat Center	\$5,450.00	\$5,126.40	\$6,200.00	\$750.00
Worship & Music	<u>\$5,225.00</u>	<u>\$2,585.66</u>	<u>\$4,800.00</u>	-\$425.00
Total General Expenses	\$182,299.00	\$174,516.47	\$186,874.00	\$4,575.00
 Projected General Income				
Offerings	\$149,738.00	\$163,971.52	\$140,000.00	-\$9,738.00
Retreat Center	\$13,500.00	\$13,400.00	\$13,500.00	\$0.00
Other	\$8,275.00	\$7,914.90	\$8,000.00	-\$275.00
Eucharisteo Fund	<u>\$3,500.00</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>	\$500.00
Total Projected Income	\$175,013.00	\$189,286.42	\$165,500.00	-\$9,513.00
 Difference: Income - Expenses	(\$7,286.00)	\$14,769.95	(\$21,374.00)	
 Beginning Balance - General Fund As of January 1	 \$14,500.00		 \$29,274.61	
 Projected Surplus/Deficit	 \$7,214.00		 \$7,900.61	

	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Actual Expenses	2022 Proposed Budget	Difference
Building & Property Ministry				
Church Custodial	\$4,784.00	\$4,775.37	\$5,200.00	\$416.00 [a]
Church Maint/Supplies	\$1,100.00	\$1,137.91	\$1,200.00	\$100.00
Elevator Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1,293.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Lawn Care	\$200.00	\$147.65	\$200.00	\$0.00
Sanitation Supplies	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$1,800.00	\$104.81	\$1,800.00	\$0.00
Utilities - Church	\$10,000.00	\$10,138.98	\$12,500.00	\$2,500.00
Total Building & Property	\$19,884.00	\$17,597.72	\$22,900.00	\$3,016.00

[a] based on a increase: to \$12.50/hour @ 8 hours per week (was \$11.50/hr)

	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Actual Expenses	2022 Proposed Budget	Difference
ELCA Mission Support				
Southeast IA Synod / Offerings	\$14,974.00	\$16,397.16	\$14,000.00	-\$974.00 [b]
Southeast IA Synod / Eucharisteo	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Re- sponse	\$600.00	\$320.10	\$400.00	-\$200.00 [c]
Total ELCA Mission	\$15,574.00	\$17,117.26	\$14,800.00	-\$774.00

[b]10% of projected general offerings (projection: \$140,000)

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

	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Actual Expenses	2022 Proposed Budget	Difference
Parish Administration Ministry				
Cemetery Custodial	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00 [d]
Copier Maintenance	\$1,200.00	\$1,210.35	\$1,400.00	\$200.00
Insurance	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$1,300.00	\$1,332.50	\$1,400.00	\$100.00
Office Administrator				
Wages	\$23,790.00	\$23,790.00	\$25,376.00	\$1,586.00 [e]
IRA Contribution	\$2,544.00	\$2,544.00	\$2,742.00	\$198.00 [f]
Vacation/Sick Days 18				
Payroll Consultant Fee	\$1,000.00	\$955.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$2,000.00	\$2,122.03	\$2,200.00	\$200.00
Postage	\$600.00	\$602.36	\$600.00	\$0.00
Stewardship - Fall Appeal	\$250.00	\$271.27	\$275.00	\$25.00
Stewardship - Offering Envelopes	\$175.00	\$192.37	\$200.00	\$25.00
Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$997.42	\$1,100.00	\$100.00
Synod Assembly	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$0.00
Telephone/Internet	\$1,900.00	\$2,029.14	\$2,100.00	\$200.00
Total Parish Administration	\$49,809.00	\$49,246.44	\$52,443.00	\$2,634.00

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

[e] based on equivalent of \$16.00/hr (which is in line with the other churches)

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

[f] based on 1.5 % for 22 years of service

	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Actual Expenses	2022 Proposed Budget	Difference
Pastoral Ministry				
Auto Allowance	\$3,400.00	\$1,727.95	\$3,400.00	\$0.00
Education Allowance	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Equity Allow.	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00
Fall Conference	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00
Pastoral Salary	\$54,831.00	\$54,831.00	\$54,831.00	\$0.00 [g]
Vacation Days 4 weeks & 4 Sun-days				\$0.00 [h]
Pastor's Social Security Allowance	\$5,150.00	\$5,150.00	\$5,150.00	\$0.00
Pension & Insurance	\$17,126.00	\$15,834.04	\$16,500.00	-\$626.00
Utilities Allowance	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	\$0.00
Total Pastoral	\$86,357.00	\$82,842.99	\$85,731.00	-\$626.00

[g] salary remains the same per pastor's request; should be \$60,101 based on synod minimum guidelines

[h] based on letter of call

	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Actual Expenses	2022 Proposed Budget	Difference
Retreat Center Ministry				
Farm Maintenance	\$400.00	\$210.94	\$400.00	\$0.00
Farmland Rental Tithe to World Hunger	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00 [i]
Lodge Maintenance	\$800.00	\$962.10	\$950.00	\$150.00
Property Taxes	\$450.00	\$447.00	\$450.00	\$0.00
Rickert Lodge Custodial	\$600.00	\$354.00	\$600.00	\$0.00 [j]
Snow Removal	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Utilities - Farm	\$1,800.00	\$1,952.36	\$2,400.00	\$600.00
Total Retreat Center	\$5,450.00	\$5,126.40	\$6,200.00	\$750.00

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

[j] based on \$13.00 per hour for approx. 2 hrs. per cleaning

	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Actual Expenses	2022 Proposed Budget	Difference
Worship & Music Ministry				
Choir Director - Wages	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$375.00	\$0.00 [k]
Organ/ Piano Maint.	\$350.00	\$300.00	\$325.00	-\$25.00
Organist Wages	\$2,200.00	\$440.00	\$1,800.00	-\$400.00 [l]
Worship Supplies	\$2,300.00	\$1,845.66	\$2,300.00	\$0.00
Total Worship & Music	\$5,225.00	\$2,585.66	\$4,800.00	-\$425.00

[k] based on 6 months

[l] based on 2 services per month plus 8 additional @ \$55.00 per service