

Olive Rennieke, Kindergarten

Prairie du Sac, WI

February 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

You may have seen 'Groundhog Day' with Bill Murray. He plays a weather reporter who is sent to Punxsutawney, PA, to report on Phil, the groundhog. The crew is forced to stay in town due to a snow storm. The following morning, Bill's character realizes he is living the same day over. The movie continues to show day after day, the reoccurring events playing out without end. You are drawn in wondering when this pattern will end and a new day will begin. Sound familiar?

Last month I wrote about change and how much has changed at St. John's in 2021 (worship online, outdoors, indoors; new roof, broken a/c and heating systems, etc.). Today I am reminded of how much things have remained the same. For instance, things break. Last Sunday (Jan 16) our amplifier for our sanctuary sound system started to smoke. It is currently being replaced. Fortunately, a replacement amplifier was in stock. Otherwise, we were looking at three months to get another one. Not unlike the time frame for getting a new a/c-heating unit for our sanctuary.

This past Sunday our Parish Planning Council, staff and Sunday school superintendents were asked to meet and discuss what actions we might take in light of the increasing covid infections locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. After meaningful discussion, we scaled back some of our in-building activities (see the letter that was emailed on Sunday, Jan 16 or mailed on Jan 19th to those without email).

Déjà vu is what you experience when you see something that feels more familiar than it should; like when you have the sense that you have done this already. It seems like we have all done this already and yet, there is something wonderful in the reoccurrence.

Every week I hear of people who have reached out to help a neighbor, a friend or even strangers. Sometimes it is seemingly a small thing; a kind word, a card, a call to just say hi. Yet these small things, when told to me by members of our congregation, are accompanied with tears of thankfulness.

It has been a long time since we first heard of covid. Lots has gone on since those first days and weeks. Yet like those early days when we all knew we needed to look out for each other, these more recent days call for the same continued support and care. These days hold opportunity for us to show the world what it means to be people of God. A caring word, a note in the mail, a gift of food or time; all of these seemingly small actions are greater than you can imagine.

People of St. John's, keep up the good work. These days that are filled with challenge, are still days where we have the opportunity to show the love of God to neighbor, friend, family member, stranger and even enemy. Maybe it feels like every day is the same AND that the repeating day is not so great. But no matter what it feels like, don't waste this time. Don't waste the gift we have at this moment to care for one another.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Kathi'.

THANK YOU

Hello friends of St. John's,

It has been far too long since I have sent a note to update everyone on my seminary journey. I will begin my final semester January 31st! I will attend Pledge Week activities via Zoom rather than joining my classmates at Wartburg. Thankfully I can attend all activities online.

It has been a difficult year for my daughters and I. Losing my husband, Rob, in October was a loss I wasn't prepared for, even though it wasn't unexpected.

I want to thank the Parish Council for the generous financial support you have provided during my time in seminary. Because of your generosity, I will graduate without debt.

Peace be with you!

Kathi Matthews-Risley



Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Janelle Hupp	643-0653
Assistant Exec Director	Nancy Kaufman	963-0151
Secretary	Cathy Yanke	434-4869
Treasurer	Donna Nelson	393-4660
Evangelism Board	Sheila Dittberner	370-1550
Fellowship Board	Linda Michaels	643-8286
Lay Ministry Board	Gina Varley	544-5002
Member-at-Large	Roger Seymour	588-3198
Parish Education Board	James Newman	512-7623
Properties Board	Lon Kaderavek	434-2928
PR and Social Concerns	Patty Barritt	393-5218
Stewardship Board	Anne Klinkner	393-6453
Women of ELCA	Marian DeGiovanni	643-4514
Youth Board	Megan Tarnutzer	963-0396
Youth Member-at-Large	Jonah Richard	347-0488

The Staff:

Pastors: Fred Rilling fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org 963-4706

Sally Williams sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 643-7810

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 588-3198

Custodian: John Hines john@stjohnssaukprairie.org (c)393-2325

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 544-2409

St. John's Lutheran Church: 643-2439 www.stjohnssaukprairie.org

Like us on Facebook at St Johns Lutheran Sauk Prairie

Mission Statement: Christ, our strength and refuge, calling us to serve

St. John's Lutheran Church
100 Oak Street
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ,
our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

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Wisconsin 53578



Food Pantry Sunday is February 6th. Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Cereal	Instant Oatmeal
Applesauce	Tuna
Brownie Mix	Flavored Rice Pouches
Band-Aids	Hair Conditioner

Keep this list handy as you do your grocery shopping during the next few weeks.

Many parishioners find it easier to bring the items to the gathering area of the church at other times during the month. We appreciate the donations at any time.



Birthday Greetings

We hope you take a moment to send greetings to the following people who have birthdays in February. The day is in parentheses.

Ginny Nimmow (1)
216 Washington Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dick Dobrzynski (12)
50 Hemlock St., Unit 1
Sauk City, WI 53583

Marilyn Larson (18)
930 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Diane Elsing (19)
2020 Hanksfield Place
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578


Eunice Yanke (24)
S8651 Old Bluff Trail
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Thank you

Thank you for the beautiful cards and messages for my birthday on January 4. I think of all of you often and thank God that He brought me to St. John's Lutheran Church.

We are content in our new home at Maplewood Village where we get the best tender-loving-care.

Love to all, Marge Erlandson

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Hannah Circle</u> Thursday, February 17, in St. John's Library	6:00pm
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, February 10, at Dorothy Halverson's, 9456 County Rd Y, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, February 3, In St. John's Library, Ruth Dresser hostess	9:00am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, February 14, In St. John's Fellowship Hall	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, February 1, in St. John's Fellowship Hall	9:30am

Unfortunately, the Combined Circles Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 13th had to be postponed due to the surge in the covid pandemic. We will resume meeting in our separate Circles again in February, using the precautions for covid.

In February the Bible Studies will be led by Anne Klinkner, Diane Elsing, Barb Salvesson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester.

At <https://www.gathermagazine.org> please find the January and February video sessions for the Gather Bible Studies for winter by author Mark Allan Powell. These are a great supplement to our in-person gatherings or for those unable to attend in person!

Martha Circle has been visiting Special Friends in January. Sarah/Mary Circle will visit them in February and March.

Remember to read a Prayer for Peace in this Visitor on February 20th.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for March will be on Tuesday, February 22nd at 9:00am.



New Member Exploration

Have you been visiting St. John's and are interested in becoming a member? Or perhaps you know of someone looking for a new church home. Please contact Pastor Fred or Pastor Sally with any questions. Call 608-643-2439 or email them at:

fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org or sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Adult Education, Sunday School and Confirmation Education Programming

We are diving into a new routine just as the Visitor articles are due, so please make sure you are keeping your eyes open for email and bulletin announcements about Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Education as we make the shift to a more remote/at-home learning model.

The current plan is to suspend any youth education gatherings in the building through the end of February or until the current covid spike goes back down. By the time you read this there will already be a plan in place! If you haven't received any information about the opportunities for education via email please contact Pastor Sally sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

We look forward to being back together again and will let you know the moment that will happen!



Thank you Volunteers!

We are thankful to the following people who volunteered to deliver Mobile Meals during the weeks of January 17 – 21 and January 24 – January 28.

Rich Frey	Kris Frey
Bob Egan	Dede Egan
John Mast	Ellen Mast
Todd Wyttenbach	Gina Wyttenbach
Roger Howard	Marcia Howard
Kim Langer	

We thank you for your willingness to serve others.



Dear Evangelism Committee,

Thank you so much for the nice care package. I have taken it back to school with me. So many helpful things!

The Lord bless you.

Leah Froehlich

St. John's Evangelism Board sends care packages to all our college freshmen.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with deep gratitude and excitement I announce that our St. John's Parish Planning Council has approved my proposal for a sabbatical this summer. What is a sabbatical for a pastor, you may ask?

"A Sabbatical Leave is a significant time away from congregational responsibilities; a time to receive, to be nurtured, to dig deeper into yourself, your relationship with God, and your own roots and stories, so that you can be renewed, refreshed, and revitalized by the breath of God." 2022 Compensation Guidelines, Appendix D

Now before you start picturing me on a beach somewhere doing nothing for three months (although it's 12 degrees as I'm writing this and a beach sounds good!), let me tell you more about my plan.

My focus will be on how we promote mental, emotional, and spiritual healing in the midst of the collective and individual trauma experienced throughout the pandemic. I see the impact of this in our congregation through our daily life together – a decrease in healthy communication, an increase in depression and anxiety, higher divorce rates, intense grief in the midst of constant changes and transitions, a higher difficulty in expression and practice of our Lutheran theology in the face of adversity. And so much more.

I will be researching trauma and healing through book reading, interviews with mental health professionals, online courses through the Trauma Research Foundation, and hopefully a few other things that have yet to be set (everyone is waiting to see what covid does before scheduling events). I will also be diving deep into scripture to become reacquainted with God's healing ways and how we might live more fully into God's healing for us.

Some of my goals in this are:

To gain a better understanding of the needs of individuals and our congregation as we continue through this pandemic. To increase my sensitivity and build on my skills for pastoral counseling and care. To provide more resources to our volunteer teachers as they work with our youth. To create some adult education/forums to better equip our members on their healing journey.

This will also be an opportunity for me to improve my own overall spiritual health and grow personally and professionally in ways I cannot given the demands of daily ministry. While travel or other activities haven't been set in stone yet, the Williams Family is looking forward to being together and reconnecting as a family. There will be a lot of reading, swimming, playing with our dog, and living life through the eyes of our 8 (almost 9) year old!

I will begin sabbatical on Monday, June 6th and will return to the office on Tuesday, September 7th. Pastor Fred, our staff, and board chairs for Youth and Parish Ed are already working with me to make sure things will run smoothly in my absence and so we will be ready to dive into a new academic year upon my return.

I look forward to having more conversations about my sabbatical over the next several months. Please feel free to ask questions.

I am so very grateful for our congregation's constant support for the health and well-being of their leaders, especially in these last two years. Thank you.

Peace,



SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray for peace on the 20th day of each month. On February 20th, please repeat the following prayer:

Lord, when my heart is overwhelmed, overwhelm me with Your
peace.

Lead me to You, my rock.

Guide me to Your word which gives me strength and refuge.

Help me not to run to lesser things.

Draw me to run to You first.

Help me get into the habit of taking my "overwhelmed" and placing
it under your will.

Thank You, Lord.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

— Lysa Terkeurst



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Larry and Cathy McAlexander, Jennifer and Christopher Stephan and their families on the death of father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Ken McAlexander.

Carol Benson and her family on the death of Carol's daughter-in-law, Jan.

Kris and Fred Rilling, Alec, Molly and Ava Rilling and Katlyn Rilling on the death of Kris's mother, Irene Vanags.

Clint and Kim Williams and family on the death of Clint's mother, Julie Williams.

Sandy Osgood and her family on the death of husband, Ken Osgood. Ken was father to Scott (Amy) and Sarah (Dave) and grandfather to Anna, William, Emellia, Sullivan, and Marryn.

Tonya and Aaron Anderson and family on the death of Tonya's father, Dennis Conger.

Jeannine Robertson and family on the death of her son, Doug Robertson.

Dianne Effinger and her family on the death of husband, Jim Effinger.

Ginny Nimmow and family on the death of Ginny's brother-in-law, Gilbert Sugden.



Baby Congratulations

We celebrate with Cydney and Jeremy Kruchten on the birth of their son, Knox Jerald. Knox is welcomed home by brother, Rhett and grandparents, Nancy and Jerry Kaufman.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Lent begins March 2

Ash Wednesday is March 2, 2022. This marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have Worship Services with Ashes at 1:00pm and 6:00pm. Services will be available on ZOOM also.



Global Health Ministries

There is a great need of some **medium-sized (48” or 50” long) bath towels** for the making of Hospice Kits and Newborn Kits to send to Global Health Ministries.

Global Health Ministries help some of the poorest of the poor. They go into areas where there is no medical help available to the people. They work with Lutheran medical teams in areas of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, India, El Salvador and Nicaragua, bringing much needed care to the citizens living there.

GHM Newborn Kits are gifts that help a new mom celebrate her baby, and clothe and care for her child. Importantly, they are also used by overseas partners to encourage young women to seek prenatal care during pregnancy, greatly improving their chances for a healthy, happy outcome. Once that connection is made, they can also encourage postnatal care, including vaccinations and well-baby checks that can help a newborn thrive.

Too many people, especially those on the margins, don't have access to the antiretroviral drugs that have made it possible to live with HIV. Since 1987 Global Health Ministries (GHM) has sent almost 80,000 Hospice Kits to help the hands that heal around the world. Palliative care and hospice programs continue to be an important ministry of the church overseas in countries where thousands of people benefit every year from their special care for people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other devastating illness. The need has not diminished, and your gift of these Kits is a blessing to those who receive them.

The kits we send to GHM are Hospice Kits and Newborn Kits. We usually pack these kits in the spring as they are often collected at the Synod meeting in early May.

Hospice Kits include:

- One bath towel (48” or 50”)
- One wash cloth
- One bath-size bar Ivory soap
- One adult toothbrush
- One “pick” style comb
- One nail clipper
- Six Band-Aids
- One 4-oz petroleum jelly
- One pair kitchen-type gloves

Newborn Kits:

- One bath towel (48” or 50”)
- One wash cloth
- One bath-size bar Ivory soap
- One newborn T-shirt
- One newborn stocking cap
- One receiving blanket (30”x30”)
- Two cloth diapers
- Two diaper pins

Serving in February

<u>Readers:</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>
February 6	Nancy Kaufman
February 13	Judy Hanna
February 20	Jama Graves
February 27	Kathy Lovell

<u>Cantors:</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>
February 6	Lisa Davis
February 13	Melani Wheeler
February 20	Bill Burton
February 27	Connie Burton

<u>Sunday Stewards</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>
February 6	Roger Seymour
February 13	Marian DeGiovanni
February 20	Janelle Hupp
February 27	Gina Varley

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>
Feb. 6 (Sanctuary)	Sheila Peak-Dittberner
(Front doors)	John and Linda Hines
Feb. 13 (Sanctuary)	Charlie and Jessica Kruchten family
(Front doors)	Craig and Penny Johnson family
Feb. 20 (Sanctuary)	Youth
(Front doors)	Youth
Feb. 27 (Sanctuary)	Ginny Nimmow
(Front doors)	Don and Vi Bohler

Congregational totals

	Attendance	Offering
December 24	685	\$10,033
December 25	33	\$ 677
December 26	98	\$29,375
January 2	121	\$29,639
January 9	156	\$ 4,706
January 16	126	\$15,292
January 23	91	\$ 8,111

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for your contributions of time, talent and treasure in 2021. The gifts you shared helped many people, both locally and beyond the Sauk Prairie area. Your gifts are truly a blessing to the ministry of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. You are such a blessing to us always, and especially in these past pandemic years. May God bless and keep you in 2022.

The Stewardship Board

Thank You!

We thank the following people for handling the 2021 Audit of St. John's Financial Records:

Crystal Lautenbach, Kari Apel, Jon Caflich, Gina Wytttenbach and Anne Klinkner.

MANY THANKS

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Just a note to let you know that Bruce is gradually recovering from his accident.

Thank you for all your prayers, get-well cards, words of encouragement and support.

We are so fortunate to belong to a parish that is so very caring.

Bruce and Pam Pickens



Beloved of Christ at St. John's,

Stephen and I were so floored and so thankful for your generous gift to us in this last year of seminary. It is and will truly make a significant difference for us as we wrap up our final year. Thank you so very much!

We are grateful to have spent our internship year with you all, we give thanks to God for all the ministry you do in Jesus' name.

We will start our last semester the first week of February and will learn what synod we are called to serve in mid-February.

Know that we hold all of you in prayer!

In Christ's Peace, Leah and Stephen



Stock the Schools

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's will be collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. Some of these items can be used in school and some at home. February's items are: Ramen noodles, individual mac 'n cheese cups, toothpaste, toothbrushes and lip balm. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office door to drop off your donations.

Thanks

On behalf of the Help Excite Little People (H.E.L.P.) Project, I send heartfelt thanks for your involvement. We greatly appreciate the generous donations that you shared. On the day of our distribution, the toys and items for teens were made available to 42 adults in need in our Sauk Prairie area.

Many thanks for making the holidays happier for Sauk Prairie families. Wishing you the best in 2022!

With thanks and respect,
Margaret McFarlane
H.E.L.P. Coordinator

Young Adult Updates

New job? Accepted into a new program? Won an award? Need prayers for something specific? Please email Pastor Sally at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org or message her on Facebook with any updates, so that we may continue to celebrate and pray for you in your life in Christ.

Parish Planning Council Minutes
Jan 4, 2022, 6:30 PM

Present: Janelle Hupp, Donna Nelson, Cathy Yanke, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, James Newman, Roger Seymour, Marian DeGiovanni, Jonah Richard, Gina Varley, Patty Barritt, Megan Tarnutzer, Anne Klinkner, Linda Michaels. (Zoom for Anne and Roger).

Absent: Lon Kaderavek, Nancy Kaufman, Sheila Dittberner.

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Janelle Hupp. Janelle asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Linda and seconded by Marian. Motion carried. A heartfelt prayer was shared by Janelle.

Secretary Minutes:

The December minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by Gina and seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

The committee reviewed and discussed the December 2021 Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson.

- December income of approx. \$121K includes a stock donation. Of this income, \$16K has been designated for the furnace fund.
- \$16K+ was added to the furnace fund in December.
- \$92K was paid for furnaces in December and will require an additional \$40K in 2022 for installation.
- \$90K was transferred from savings to checking to pay for the furnace units.
- 2021 budget for expenses was \$516K and we spent \$478K in budgeted expenses. Properties board was way over budget because of the roof and furnace costs. Office costs were also higher than expected because of postage and zoom-related costs. Other boards were close to their budgeted expenditures.
- In comparing 2020 and 2021 December income, 2021 was 20% higher.
- Current giving is almost the same in 2021 as it was in 2020.
- Our assets on hand for year-end 2021 is \$340K compared to \$252K in 2020.
- With our \$17K on hand for the furnace/roof plus the \$20K donation, installation is almost funded.

- Total income for the purpose of the roof and furnace costs in 2021 were \$265,914 plus \$2500 from 2020.
- Total expenses in 2021 for the roof/furnace was \$251K.
- Procedure change for pink slip (requests for expense reimbursements) that are paid directly to the board chair will require a second signature by the executive director. This will apply to business expenses as well.

A motion to approve the December financial report was made by Patty and seconded by Marian. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Evangelism: Sheila Peak-Dittberner

- No report.

Fellowship: Linda Michaels

- No December meeting or update.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley

- Met on Dec 14, to tour sanctuary set up with new (now previous) temporary heating unit. Discussed possibility of moving worship back to sanctuary for Christmas services.
- Decided to forego Christmas tree this year due to changing location circumstances.
- Set up for Christmas Eve candle service will be following late service December 19th, location TBD.
- Readers and acolytes are set for Christmas services.
- We will not be meeting on January 11, 2022.

Parish Education: James Newman

- Email meeting was held to discuss Sunday school curriculum, Sunday school teacher check in, and plans for January discussions.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek

- Nothing to report.

PR and Social Concerns: Patty Barritt

- No December meeting or update.

Stewardship: Anne Klinkner

- No December meeting or update.

Women of the ELCA: Marian DeGiovanni

- Combined Circles General Meeting with Bible Study by Pastor Sally and Candlelighting Memorial Service on Thursday, Jan. 13 at 10 am, Fellowship Hall.

- Martha Circle contacting Special Friends during Dec/January.
- "The Kingdom of God" is our Gather Bible study theme the next four months written by Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell How will the parables and popular Bible passages call us to pay attention and put our faith into action?
- * REMINDER! Introductory offer for NEW subscribers to the Gather magazine (6 issues) is just \$9.95 for one year (regularly \$19.95) and includes digital access. Call 1-844-409-0576 to subscribe.

Youth: Megan Tarnutzer

- No December meeting or update.

Member-at-Large: Roger Seymour

- Disposed of Carillon controls.
- Managed transition of AV back to Sanctuary.

Youth Member-at-Large: Jonah Richard

- No December meeting or update.
- 6:8 Souper bowl fundraiser is going on now. Visit 6:8 website for more info and to order.

Executive Director Report

- Recruitment for the Youth Director position continues. The job description has been posted on the Synod website and can also be found on our St. John's website. Interested persons should contact Pastor Fred.
- Congregational meeting will take place Sunday, February 6, 2022, following the 8 am service. The purpose of the meeting is to:
 - Vote to approve the volunteers for the Nominating Committee. John Hines was approved at the last congregational meeting, but since that meeting, Eunice Yanke and Dale Haroldson have agreed to serve.
 - Vote to approve the changes to our constitution. The updated document is available for review in the church office and will be available electronically (as an attachment to the "Friday Notes") for the month leading up to the 2/6/22 Congregational Meeting.
 - Vote to elect congregational members to attend the Synod Assembly which will be held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells on either May 6-7 or May 7-8. We can elect 3 adults (must be either 2 males and 1 female or 2 females and 1 male), 1 young adult (under 30 years old) and 1 high school youth. Pastor Fred and Pastor Sally are also voting members.

- Vote to approve the expenditures for replacing and installing 2 heating/cooling units that serve the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We will also repair the roof area around those units and replace the remaining 2 of the 3-ceiling heating/cooling units. One serves the library and the other one serves the two pastor's offices and the intern office. These units were installed during the 1997 addition. The cost for this project is \$140,000.

Pastor's reports

Fred's report

- Minneapolis Gathering youth will meet next on Sunday, Jan 16, between services. Kim Larson has agreed to serve as our other adult volunteer for the trip.
- Thanks to Lon for his work at getting temporary heat for our sanctuary. You may have been aware that the initial heating unit was producing some smell. Alliant Energy came and verified that it was not gas or CO2. The issue was rectified by having the original unit/system replaced. We began using the sanctuary for worship on Jan 2 and hope to continue using it into the future.
- Our congregational meeting is set for Feb 6 between services. See Janelle's report for what business we will be conducting at that meeting.
- Christmas services took place in the fellowship hall at 1 pm, 3, 4, 5 and 7:30 pm and were well received. A big thanks to Sally and Linda for overseeing the sign-up process. Some last-minute cancellations took place due to the surge in Coronavirus numbers. Overall, the services were well attended.
- Our Internship Site Application has been reviewed by the chair of the Internship Committee, as well as by Sally. The application was submitted. We typically hear in March about the process for applying for an intern for 2022-23.
- I am very grateful for the generosity of our congregational members. Between normal operations, the roof/parking lot project, and the upcoming AC/heating repairs, we have seen a continuation of support to make sure these expenses are covered. I am humbled by the response of our congregation.

Sally's report:

- A HUGE thank you to our staff and volunteers for their hard work and preparations for Christmas. Despite the heating saga, we had candles, communion, singing, and celebrating of Christ's birth!
- Thank you to Linda Hines for coordinating the Christmas Eve Sign Up efforts with me. Several people cancelled the days before

leading up to Christmas Eve due to covid exposure or illness, feeling uncomfortable with the rise in cases, and the fog. The 1pm and 3pm were full.

- I co-led a community discussion group on the book Stamped. It was a very good conversation. The group was mostly made up of St. John's members. Their passion for social justice is inspiring and gives me great hope.

- Education: Sunday School and Adult Ed were off Dec 26 and Jan 2. Classes resume Sunday, January 9. A couple of students joined Sunday School in the building in classes that were below the 10-student max. I am leading Zoom Sunday School lessons once a month through March.

- Special events in January: Baptism Anniversary celebration (Jan 9), Confirmation Mentor Night (Jan 12 - they meet on their own), and WELCA Bible Study (Jan 13).

Old Business

- Updates related to heating/AC replacements (Lon)

- Updates regarding recruitment for Youth Director position (Pastor Fred). Have received no applications yet.

New Business

- Sabbatical request for Pastor Sally. (Requires approval). Her request for June 6 – Sept 6, 2022, was approved. Her focus will be on how we promote mental, emotional, and spiritual healing in the midst of the collective and individual trauma experienced throughout the pandemic. This will include her own spiritual renewal through this professional growth, personal rest, and renewal. Approved.

- Discussion related to creation of an emergency fund with a focus on building projects. Does our current savings account serve this purpose or do we want a more focused long term savings growth plan because we cannot write a budget that relies on receiving large donations to fund all projects. A joint meeting of properties and stewardship boards was proposed to continue discussion.

- Reminder that each board should provide an annual report by the end of January.

Next meeting is Tuesday, Feb 1, 2022, at 6:30 pm. Devotion will be given by James Newman

Adjourn at 7:37 pm with Lord's Prayer. Motion to adjourn by Patty and seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke

2021 Financial Report

Checking Account Beginning Balance - 01/01/2021 \$ 32,368.95

Receipts for 2021

Donations Current, Loose, Sponsored, Misc	\$ 524,557.85
Benevolence, Special Benevolence	\$ 25,910.50
Building Fund, Roof, Furnace, Columbarium	\$ 272,574.90
WELCA	\$ 1,415.52
Memorials	\$ 2,855.00
Youth	\$ 1,260.00
Interest	\$ 50.49
Parish Education	\$ 104.00
PR & Social Concerns	\$ 1,287.00
Facility Use	\$ 1,465.94

Total Receipts

\$ 831,481.20

Disbursements

	Budgeted	Actual
Lay Ministry	\$ 9,370.00	\$ 5,243.28
Evangelism	\$ 880.00	\$ 399.24
Stewardship	\$ 900.00	\$ 950.72
PR and Social Concerns	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 2,373.14
Parish Education	\$ 12,793.00	\$ 6,100.26
Youth	\$ 4,840.00	\$ 2,998.27
Fellowship	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 645.21
Properties	\$ 50,100.00	\$ 293,501.74
Administrative Expenses	\$ 368,321.00	\$ 356,297.03
WELCA	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 3,409.82
Memorials	0	\$ 11,169.58
Benevolence	\$ 58,950.00	\$ 57,950.00
Special Benevolence	0	\$ 17,435.35
Total Expenses	\$ 516,079.00	\$ 758,473.64

Transfer to/from Other Accounts \$ (53,627.97)

Checking Account Ending Balance 12/31/2021 \$ 51,748.54

Summary of 2021 Financial Report						
	1/1/21 Beginning Balance	Change in Value of Invest.	Receipts Dividends Interest	Disburse- ments	Transfers	12/31/2021 Ending Balance
Checking Account	32,368.95		831,481.20	758,473.64	(53,627.97)	51,748.54
Savings Account	88,814.97		246.13		64,672.95	153,734.05
Memorial Savings Account	14,863.95		19.08		315.07	15,198.10
Mission Investment-3 Year CD	35,322.28		850.67		(36,172.95)	-
Commonwealth Stocks Acct.	80,583.00	12,528.95	1,889.38		24,812.90	119,814.23
Totals	251,953.15	12,528.95	834,486.46	758,473.64	-	340,494.92



Happy February Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Annabelle Sweeney (23) Gavin Johnson (25)

Our Sunday School Students:

Mabel Johnson (5)	Gage Fournier (6)
Avery Brunner (8)	Lincoln Ott (8)
Tenley Sorg (8)	Addison Schulenburg (11)
Otis Johnson (13)	Evelyn Hegge (14)
Landon Pape (16)	Elston Kelter (19)
Molly Williams (19)	Lucy Pickett (21)
Hannah Bischoff (22)	Cashton Lane (22)
Evelynn Brennan (26)	Kiptyn Suchla (26)
Mason Williams (27)	

Our Youth:

Jonah Richard (6)	Courtney Lautenbach (7)
Kylie Hutchins (15)	BrookLynn Baier (16)
Colin Wernsing (18)	Kate Himebauch (19)
Haylee Goetsch (21)	Will LaCour (21)
Ezra Bauer (22)	Audrie Nurkala (28)
Kate Wernsing (28)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Michael Endres (3) Molly Ballweg (26)