

Annual Meeting Agenda
January 28, 2024

1. Call to order – President Tracey Moore
2. Prayer – Pastor Chris Alexander
3. Quorum and appoint tellers (if needed)
4. Review of minutes from Semi-Annual Meeting held July 23, 2023
5. Financial Reports
 - A. Auditors Report – Brian Bunkers
 - B. Financial Secretary - Doug Hartman
 - C. Treasurer – Pam Goering
6. Old Business
 - A. Call Committee Update
7. New Business
 - A. Approval of 2024 Budget
 - B. Council nominations – Karol Swan and JoAnne Marxen to fill openings left by outgoing council members Bethany Wilke and Tracey Moore
 - C. Volunteers to be voting members for the Synod Assembly in June
Date June 1-2
8. Verbal Committee Reports
 - A. Christian education
 - B. Evangelism - video
 - C. Property
 - D. Finance
 - E. Stewardship
 - F. Worship & music - Denise
 - G. Social Ministry
11. Adjournment
12. Lord's Prayer

St. John's Church-Shell Creek
Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2023

The Semi-annual meeting of St. John's was held following church services on July, 23rd 2023. Vice President Brian Bunkers called the meeting to order, and Pastor Chris Alexander led an opening prayer. A quorum was declared present. Brad Luchsinger and Sam Welch were appointed tellers.

The minutes of the January 2023 minutes were read. Sharon Hartman moved and Susan Klug seconded approval of the minutes. Motion passed. The minutes will be placed on file.

The Financial Secretary's report was reviewed. There were no questions on the report. Chris Luchsinger moved to accept the financial secretary's report and Pat Cuda seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business-

-Rose Runge gave an update from the call committee. Rose expressed how there are several other churches looking right now but not enough candidates at this time to fill the request. Our church profile is still active and a discussion on partnerships is being had. We are going to keep praying.

~Bill Luckey asked what the percentage is right now of churches looking for a Pastor. Pastor Chris addressed how important it is to find creative ways to be with each other and sharing worship with one another. Brian Bunkers discussed how as a council we are very open to ideas to partner with other churches. We have hired Rival Design to help promote our church and we are on Facebook now. Open Communication is a BIG component right now moving forward.

~Merle Mueller moved we leave the ELCA in January of 2024. Elaine Hake seconded this. Pastor Chris said we needed to check the constitution for the rules of the timing on when that motion can be made after the last vote...it might be like two years...it was checked and is acceptable...rules say it can be brought up six months after the last vote. The vote will need a 2/3 majority to pass. Then two votes six months apart...the whole process is 2.5 years.

~Doug Hartman addressed his concerns about already having this conversation discussion when we voted the first time to leave the ELCA.

~Denise Stevenson spoke on leaving the ELCA. The ELCA is very open, and she feels that we have many more options. We must get away from the mindset that people will come to us. We need to go out and be exposed. Her biggest take away was having those hard conversations with each other and being in communication with one another.

~After looking in the constitution it stated that we can vote for a termination again after six months.

~Sharon Hartman stated that philosophically should be the reason we should want to leave the ELCA. The ELCA is so much more welcoming and accepting.

~Bill Lucky stated that he is concerned about the youth. We do not have many opportunities to get our youth involved.

~Rose Runge talked about how she is the one with kids here. It's what your getting out of it. Doing plenty of good things here at St. John's. You make your church be whatever you want it to be. Bill Klug made a motion to end the motion on the floor. 2/3 called for a question to end the discussion. The congregation had a hand vote to end the discussion. All in favor of the congregation to end.

~Merle Mueller's proposal ballot to pursue leaving the ELCA (yes to leave, no to stay) The voting results: 27 no 10 yes-37 votes all together. We will not be pursuing leaving the ELCA at this time. Brian Bunkers stated that we may not always agree but we need to be in full communication with each other. We have stepped up as a congregation. Your giving and all of the behind the scenes things that are done have not gone unnoticed. The council appreciates what you do. Pastor Chris has been so helpful along the way and has done lots of pushing for us.

New Business

-Assembly Report-Denise Stevenson reported to the Congregation about the NE Synod Assembly that she and Pastor Chris attended. Denise spoke on going beyond just the walls of your church to help others and stay in communication with each other.

Committee Reports

- Christian Education-Chris Luchsinger reported that the committee is working on Sunday School/VBS Dates/Christmas Program already. Sunday School will begin on September 10th.
- Evangelism-Working on Columbus Days Booth.
- Property-Thank you to those that have really stepped up!
- Stewardship-We will be having a lunch picnic on November 5th. Gathering/talking and eating about what it means to be good Christians in the world.
- Worship & Music-Sharon Hartman reported that they have a Funeral Service Preparation sheet available now to avoid any stress on the families. There will be paper copies available August 6th on the desk out front. A digital copy will be available as well.
- Social Ministry-God's Work Our Hands is September 10th. We are inviting the whole community to join us in a Spaghetti Feed from 5-7. We will be having nonperishable foods brought for the food pantry. This has been a huge event with the help of social ministry/stewardship and evangelism.

Doug Hartman moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Pat Cuda. Motion carried. The congregation closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Bethany Wilke

St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA
Annual Financial Secretary's Report - January - December, 2023

MONTH	MONTHLY GENERAL INCOME	¹ NON-BUDGET INCOME	² BUDGET INCOME	³ INCOME REQUIRED TO MEET BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE BEHIND BUDGET
JANUARY	\$ 11,571.81		\$ 11,571.81		
FEBRUARY	\$ 18,114.64	\$ 45.49	\$ 18,069.15		
MARCH	\$ 7,671.32	\$ 207.00	\$ 7,464.32		
APRIL	\$ 13,188.23		\$ 13,188.23		
MAY	\$ 10,136.56	\$ 694.00	\$ 9,442.56		
JUNE	\$ 7,207.60	\$ 553.60	\$ 6,654.00		
JULY	\$ 8,333.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 8,233.00		
AUGUST	\$ 8,824.00		\$ 8,824.00		
SEPTEMBER	\$ 9,341.86	\$ 941.00	\$ 8,400.86		
OCTOBER	\$ 9,327.92		\$ 9,327.92		
NOVEMBER	\$ 8,875.65	\$ 572.00	\$ 8,303.65		
DECEMBER	\$ 33,674.80	\$ 1,260.83	\$ 32,413.97		
Total	\$ 146,267.39	\$ 4,373.92	\$ 141,893.47	\$ 157,518.65	\$ (15,625.18)

Notes

1 Non-Budget Income Explained/Detailed (Non-Budget Income is generally income that came into the Church's account and then is almost immediately paid back out, i.e. Easter Lillies.)

\$ 45.49	\$45.49 - Payment For Pastor Vision Insurance
\$ 207.00	Easter Lillies
\$ 694.00	Concert Free Will Offering
\$ 553.60	\$443.60 VBS Offering, \$50 Church Rental, \$60 Funeral Cleanup Charge
\$ 941.00	Food Pantry Offering
\$ 572.00	Backpack Program Offering
\$ 261.50	Pointsettias
\$ 999.33	Sunday School ELCA Good Gifts Program
<u>\$ 4,273.92</u>	

2 Budget Income is General Income minus Non-Budget Income.

3 Income to meet budget is 2023 Congregational Approved Budget minus Mission Share.

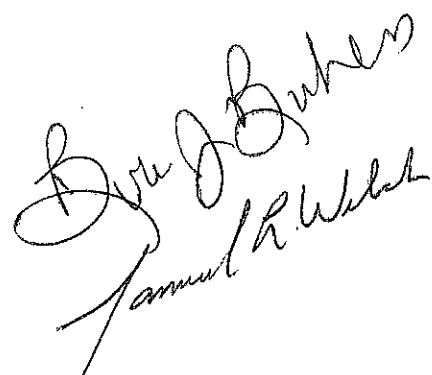
BUDGET INCOME BREAKDOWN

MONTH	UNDESIGNATED	DESIGNATED	TOTAL
JANUARY	\$ 10,966.81	\$ 605.00	\$ 11,571.81
FEBRUARY	\$ 17,065.15	\$ 1,004.00	\$ 18,069.15
MARCH	\$ 6,964.32	\$ 500.00	\$ 7,464.32
APRIL	\$ 12,155.23	\$ 1,033.00	\$ 13,188.23
MAY	\$ 8,682.56	\$ 760.00	\$ 9,442.56
JUNE	\$ 6,174.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 6,654.00
JULY	\$ 7,628.00	\$ 605.00	\$ 8,233.00
AUGUST	\$ 8,194.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 8,824.00
SEPTEMBER	\$ 7,600.86	\$ 800.00	\$ 8,400.86
OCTOBER	\$ 8,527.92	\$ 800.00	\$ 9,327.92
NOVEMBER	\$ 7,388.65	\$ 915.00	\$ 8,303.65
DECEMBER	\$ 31,018.97	\$ 1,395.00	\$ 32,413.97
TOTAL	\$ 132,366.47	\$ 9,527.00	\$ 141,893.47

Respectfully Submitted,



Doug Hartman
Financial Secretary



**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
Treasurer's Report January 2024**

Checking Account

Beginning of the Year 2023 Balance	\$101,070.93
Offering Income 2023	\$141,799.39
Savings to Checking for CDs	\$55,000.00
Closed Estate CD	\$7,602.05
Interest Income 2023	\$493.30
Transfers to Savings (Facilities Maintenance Fund)	\$3,000.00
Transfers to CD's	\$135,000.00
Expenses 2023	\$143,700.00
End of Year 2023 General Balance	\$24,265.67

Other Funds

Facilities Maintenance Fund (Savings)	\$6,923.59
CDs	\$160,000.00
CD interest (As of 12/31/2023)	\$7,371.27
Estate Mutual Fund (As of 12/31/2023)	\$40,006.85
Estate CD (As of 12/31/2023)	\$0.00

Mission Share

Mission Share 2023 Budget	\$7,875.92
Mission Share 2023 Actual	\$6,889.75
Dec Mission share pd in Jan 24	\$978.72
Total attributed to 2023	\$7,868.47

*Respectfully submitted,
Sam Goering*

Samuel H. Weber

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA 2023 Expense Report

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Difference
Clergy Compensation			
Base Salary	\$56,000.00	\$43,200.00	\$12,800.00
Social Security	\$4,284.00	\$2,678.40	\$1,605.60
Mileage Allowance		\$4,300.80	
Sub-Total	\$60,284.00	\$50,179.20	\$10,104.80
Clergy Benefits			
Auto Reimbursement	\$5,000.00	\$572.60	\$4,427.40
Synod Assembly	\$1,000.00	\$225.00	\$775.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Professional Expenses	\$250.00	\$253.17	-\$3.17
Disab., Surv., & Admin	\$1,183.20	\$536.76	\$646.44
Health Insurance	\$15,000.00	\$25,705.32	-\$10,705.32
Survivor/Group	\$552.12	\$477.12	\$75.00
Pension	\$8,677.08	\$6,560.52	\$2,116.56
Sub-Total	\$32,662.40	\$34,330.49	-\$1,668.09
Church Staff			
Organist	\$3,209.18	\$2,966.94	\$242.24
Janitor	\$5,836.64	\$5,893.87	-\$57.23
Secretary	\$6,492.10	\$5,251.50	\$1,240.60
Staff Social Security	\$1,188.65	\$1,079.60	\$109.05
Supply Pastor	\$1,000.00	\$823.92	\$176.08
Sub-Total	\$17,726.57	\$16,015.83	\$1,710.74
Utilities & Insurance			
Electricity	\$8,500.00	\$6,597.00	\$1,903.00
Telephone/Internet	\$2,700.00	\$2,523.71	\$176.29
Garbage	\$700.00	\$672.00	\$28.00
Real Estate Tax		\$266.92	
Property Insurance	\$6,200.00	\$7,583.00	-\$1,383.00
Workman's Comp	\$890.00	\$874.00	\$16.00
Sub-Total	\$18,990.00	\$18,516.63	\$473.37
Standing Committees			
Christian Education	\$2,500.00	\$380.33	\$2,119.67
Evangelism	\$2,000.00	\$1,498.49	\$501.51
Property	\$4,000.00	\$3,494.94	\$505.06
Social Ministry	\$500.00	\$240.94	\$259.06
Stewardship	\$200.00		\$200.00
VBS	\$1,400.00	\$926.24	\$473.76
Worship & Music	\$3,000.00	\$2,478.92	\$521.08
Sub-Total	\$13,600.00	\$9,019.86	\$4,580.14
Other			
Church Supply	\$3,000.00	\$2,462.43	\$537.57
Copier	\$2,500.00	\$2,306.70	\$193.30
Delegates	\$375.00	\$225.00	\$150.00
Facilities Maint. Fund	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Food Pantry	\$840.00	\$840.00	\$0.00
Sub-Total	\$9,715.00	\$8,834.13	\$880.87
Mission Share	\$7,816.50	\$6,321.86	\$1,494.64
TOTAL BUDGET	\$160,794.47	\$143,218.00	\$17,576.47
Parsonage		\$745.00	
Housing Equity		\$180.00	
2023 Facilities Transfers		-\$3,000.00	
Donations not Food Pantry		\$2,557.00	
		\$143,700.00	

David Lumber

Samuel K. Welch

*Respectfully
Submitted
Sam Goering*

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	Difference
Clergy Compensation				
Base Salary	\$56,000.00	\$43,200.00	\$60,000.00	\$4,000.00
Social Security	\$4,284.00	\$2,678.40	\$4,590.00	\$306.00
Mileage Allowance	\$0.00	\$4,300.80		\$0.00
Sub-Total	\$60,284.00	\$50,179.20	\$64,590.00	\$4,306.00
Clergy Benefits				
Auto Reimbursement	\$5,000.00	\$572.60	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Synod Assembly	\$1,000.00	\$225.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Professional Expenses	\$250.00	\$253.17	\$250.00	\$0.00
Disab., Surv., & Admin	\$1,183.20	\$536.76	\$497.04	-\$686.16
Health Insurance	\$15,000.00	\$25,705.32	\$29,916.00	\$14,916.00
Survivor/Group	\$552.12	\$477.12	\$331.32	-\$220.80
Pension	\$8,677.08	\$6,560.52	\$9,111.96	\$434.88
Sub-Total	\$32,662.40	\$34,330.49	\$47,106.32	\$14,443.92
Total Clergy Compensation			\$111,696.32	
Church Staff				
Organist	\$3,209.18	\$2,966.94	\$3,338.07	\$128.89
Janitor	\$5,836.64	\$5,893.87	\$6,070.68	\$234.04
Secretary	\$6,492.10	\$5,251.50	\$6,364.80	-\$127.30
Staff Social Security	\$1,188.65	\$1,079.60	\$1,206.68	\$18.03
Supply Pastor	1000	\$823.92	1000	\$0.00
Sub-Total	\$17,726.57	\$16,015.83	\$17,980.23	\$253.66
Utilities & Insurance				
Electricity	\$8,500.00	\$6,597.00	\$8,000.00	-\$500.00
Telephone/Internet	\$2,700.00	\$2,523.71	\$3,000.00	\$300.00
Garbage	\$700.00	\$672.00	\$800.00	\$100.00
Real Estate Tax		\$266.92	\$300.00	\$300.00
Property Insurance	\$6,200.00	\$7,583.00	\$7,600.00	\$1,400.00
Workman's Comp	\$890.00	\$874.00	\$900.00	\$10.00
Sub-Total	\$18,990.00	\$18,516.63	\$20,600.00	\$1,610.00
Standing Committees				
Christian Education	\$2,500.00	\$380.33	\$1,500.00	-\$1,000.00
Evangelism	\$2,000.00	\$1,498.49	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Property	\$4,000.00	\$3,494.94	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Social Ministry	\$500.00	\$240.94	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Stewardship	\$200.00		\$200.00	\$0.00
VBS	\$1,400.00	\$926.24	\$1,400.00	\$0.00
Worship & Music	\$3,000.00	\$2,478.92	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Sub-Total	\$13,600.00	\$9,019.86	\$13,100.00	-\$500.00
Other				
Church Supply	\$3,000.00	\$2,462.43	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Copier	\$2,500.00	\$2,306.70	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Delegates	\$375.00	\$225.00	\$375.00	\$0.00
Facilities Maint. Fund	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Food Pantry	\$840.00	\$840.00	\$840.00	\$0.00
Sub-Total	\$9,715.00	\$8,834.13	\$9,715.00	\$0.00
Mission Share	\$7,816.50	\$6,321.86	\$8,654.58	\$838.08
TOTAL BUDGET	\$160,794.47	\$143,218.00	\$181,746.13	\$20,951.66

Total Budget Increase/Decrease -1.09.9%

Quinn J. Jenkins

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN MEMORIAL FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 2023 \$26,863.06

Income

Irene Hutchison	\$20.00
Allen Klug	\$150.00
Candy Thornam	\$110.00
Renee Ernesti	\$270.00

\$550.00

Interest

\$73.67

EXPENDITURES

Basement Painting	1250
to CDs	\$25,000.00

\$26,250.00

Balance on hand December 31, 2023 **\$1,236.73**

LUTHER LEAGUE

Balance on hand, January 1, 2023 \$233.24

Income	\$0.00
Expenditures	\$0.00

Balance on hand, December 31, 2023 **\$233.24**

Ben J. Blum
Samuel H. Weber

Respectfully submitted,

Fam Goering

Pastor's Annual Report
St John's Lutheran, Shell Creek, Columbus NE
January 2024

I am so pleased to have spent another year serving with St John's and helping you all do the ministry you do so very well. There is so much joy and life in this congregation, and it shows in every story told, every quilt completed, and every lesson learned in Sunday School.

Ministry is all about sharing our stories together with God's story, and letting God's story lead us into caring for one another on all the paths we find ourselves as we travel through life.

One pathway I see so very clearly is the life being celebrated on Sunday mornings in the lower part of the church where 10-15 children gather and rehearse the story of the 10 Commandments, The Lord's prayer, and the Apostle's Creed. They share time celebrating birthdays and baptism anniversaries. They learn new prayer practices that they can take with them to teach their friends or the rest of their family. These are practices that will stay with them for a lifetime and will be the support they will lean on when they are most discouraged and don't know what steps they can take toward healing. Prayer helps in all circumstances and centers us in our understanding of our relationship and our ongoing conversation with our Creator. It is a pleasure to watch Rose Runge, Bethany Wilke, and Chris Luchsinger find new and engaging ways to teach these practices to our youngest generation – not to mention all the hard work and fun that is VBS every year, and the wonderful bulletin boards from Lysay Luchsinger! Thank you all for your care and effort in education.

Then there is the middle school and confirmation aged students who gather to learn through bible stories and song, how faith comes to be a core part of who we are becoming, and we get the chance to practice finding the words to tell our own faith journey. Thanks to Sam Welch, Sharon Hartman, Tracey Moore, and Pam Goring who show up each week and help these students find their own voice.

Another pathway that is so strong at St John's is the Social Ministry committee that takes the talent and resources of the folks in our congregation and connects them to people who are looking for new ways to enrich their lives. We collect and recycle medicine bottles, we purchase extra gifts and plants through our Angel Tree to help people outside of our congregation and those who are unable to be present with us for worship, stay connected and feel the love of God we all experience as a part of our community. Through this group, and other ministry committees like Evangelism and Stewardship, our congregation reaches out to the larger Columbus area to let others know where are present and available to help in times of need as well as providing a safe place to explore who we are as a community and how we might recognize God's activity among us.

These committees sponsored our booth at the Columbus Days celebration; planned, promoted and staffed our service project for "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, and created a video about our ministry that can be shared on our Social Media sites to broaden the reach of our invitation for the larger community of Columbus to join us. I want to express my thanks to Kathy Brunt, Janelle Groteluschen, Jackson Moore, Karol Swan, and all the others who have donated their time and talents to these congregational events.

Our music ministry remains strong and joyful through the activity of the choirs, and our leadership and organization has had a strong year of planning and coordinating everything we do through our Church Council, as well working with our property and finance committees to make sure our bank accounts, our buildings, and our property stays in top shape. Thank you to

our Council Members: Tracey Moore, Brian Bunkers, Bethany Wilke, Denise Stevenson, Dave Groteluschen, and Larry Wennekamp; And thank you to Pam Goring and Doug Hartman, Sam Welch, Brad Luchsinger, Justin Wilke, Roy Reinke, and all the others who work with the Finance and Property committees.

My personal experiences of visiting with our members in their homes and participating in special worship opportunities with our ecumenical partners has been a great joy for me this year as well. We have broadened our conversations and strengthened all our voices by coming together to share God's story through many different traditions and liturgical styles. I enjoy the support and the friendship of these partner clergy and thank them for inviting us to join them in our shared ministry in the Columbus area.

Thanks too, to all those who work so tirelessly behind the scenes to make our up front ministries so much fun. The altar Guild, and our cleaners and custodians, our musicians and our worship committee. Special Thanks to Sonia Schmid, Emma Moore, and Pat Cuda for running our worship media; to the Moore family for filming worship each week to put on our Youtube channel; To Deb Runge and Denise Stevenson who make the place spiffy and clean; for Sharon Hartman and Pam Goring who provide the music for the choirs and worship each week; and a HUGE Thank You to Pat Cuda who is our church secretary and keeps all things running so wonderfully.

It is a joy to work with all of you, blending our stories and sharing God's love with one another and with the community of Columbus! Let us celebrate together the ministry of 2023, and open our hearts and imaginations to plan our next steps into 2024! May God's presence continue to inspire and embrace us all. Amen.

Peace to you –
Pastor Chris Alexander

WELCA TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

Beginning Balance	\$1449.45
Expenses	
Speakers	235.00
Katie's Fund	89.00
Flowers	18.50
Quilt Transportation	137.50
Thankoffering	<u>97.00</u>
	577.00
Income	
Offerings	798.00
Funeral Donations	<u>300.00</u>
	1078.00
Ending Balance	\$1950.45

**Respectfully submitted,
Dona Henderson, Treasurer**

Jamuel A. Welch

Dona Henderson

Women of the ELCA annual report 2023

St. John's WELCA has 21 members with three circles. Eve, Ruth, and Tabitha. Each circle meets monthly. Eve Circle meets the third Thursday at 1:30 pm at the Church. Ruth Circle meets the fourth Monday at 7:00 pm at a member's home. Tabitha meets the third Tuesday at 7:30 in a member's home. General meetings were held in February and November at church. All women of St. John's are invited to attend any of the groups.

Officers for 2023:

President Chris Luchsinger, **Vice President** Marlene Engel, **Secretary** Cindy Groteluschen, **Treasurer** Dona Hendersen

Committee Chairs:

Action; Brenda Dicke and Barb Welch

Community; Pat Muhle and Tracey Moore

Growth; Karol Swan and Sue Klug

Circle coordinators: Eve Circle, Ann Engel; Ruth Circle, Tracey Moore; Tabitha Circle, Chris Luchsinger

Two funeral dinners were served this year.

We offered scholarship support for congregation youth to attend a church camp.

Encouragement and inspirational books were given to the 2-graduating seniors this last spring.

Bible School was supported with the Grab bag activity for the children.

100 quilts were completed and distributed among Lutheran World Relief, Center for Survivors and Youth and Families for Christ.

An Easter Lily and a Christmas Poinsettia were donated to the church.

Members donated cookies in December to the Columbus Red Cross Blood Drive.

A Card support program was organized for shut-in members of our congregation.

Members attended various events and gatherings around the state including a Winter retreat at St. Paul's Lutheran in Grand Island.

The highlight of our year was hosting the Central Conference Spring Gathering here at St. John's on March 11th. The theme "Let Your Light Shine" was well represented by our group in action and spirit.

43 ladies from across the area enjoyed the worship and fellowship. Ladies were encouraged to support the mission of Operation Education Nairobi, represented by speakers Katie Claus and Julie Graham.

Tangible offerings donations were sent with the afternoon speaker Katie Loseke from Columbus Youth and Families for Christ. It was a full and uplifting day.

Cindy Groteluschen, Secretary

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2023 REPORT

St. John's hosted bible school May 30-June 2 with 40+ children attending and performed Camp Kilimanjaro VBS program on Children's Day June 4 during 10 am church service. Christian Ed sponsored face painting for all the kiddos attending on Sept. 10 at our God's Work Our Hands Spaghetti Feed. On December 17 our St. John's children performed Prepare for Christmas from Head to Toe during 10 am worship. Christmas cookies were enjoyed after the program.

ST. JOHN'S SHELL CREEK - SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS GOALS

PRESCHOOL: Learn to pray

KINDERGARTEN: Memorize simple Bible verses

FIRST GRADE: Memorize simple Bible verses and the Lord's Prayer

SECOND GRADE: Memorize the Ten Commandments

THIRD GRADE: Memorize the Apostle's Creed

FOURTH GRADE: Memorize the books of the Bible

FIFTH GRADE: Memorize the meaning of the Ten Commandments

SIXTH GRADE: Review the books of the Bible and memorize the petitions to the Lord's Prayer

SEVENTH GRADE: Memorize the catechism pertaining to the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion

EIGHTH GRADE: Memorize the catechism pertaining to the Apostle's Creed and Confession, review in general

ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL-2nd GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2023

SPECIAL EVENT & NEW THIS YEAR... The 1st Sunday back to Sunday School was celebrated in church with THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, all the kiddos received a tag to clip to their bookbag this school year to remember they are LOVED by their church family & and that they are MORE THAN ENOUGH! After church, lemonade and donut holes were enjoyed as we celebrated and shared our support for our St. John's children and their faith. **LEARNING TO PRAY:** Is one of our SUNDAY SCHOOL goals and we will be focusing on PRAYER a lot this year with different meaningful activities each month. **NEW PAINT IN THE BASEMENT:** In August the church basement was painted with a fresh coat of light gray paint for a fresh new SS year. Come on down and sneak a peek. **THIS YEAR...** We continue to enjoy your child as we watch them grow in their FAITH each Sunday from 8:50 A.M.-9:50 A.M. **TEACHERS:** Rose and Izzy Runge are the teachers for this Sunday School year. **MATERIALS:** Focusing on the Church seasons, students learned about the church season Lent to Easter and the season Advent by using a hands on Godly Play format. Also Holy Moly is the company being used to provide Sunday School lessons and a scope and sequence for the teachers also. **AWARDS:** Students are recognized during church service for every 10 Sundays they attend. **WEE SINGERS:** Chris Luchsinger helps with WEE SINGERS and Sunday School songs. **VISITS:** Pastor Chris visits class each Sunday to get to know the children and answer their questions and guide their curiosity about their FAITH, and support the teachers. **BIRTHDAY CAKE:** The Sunday before or after you're the children's birthday they are welcome to bring a coin for each year they are old. They put them in a

plastic birthday cake as we count their age for each coin and then the children & teachers sing to them. It's a pretty BIG deal ☺ OFFERING: Children are welcome to bring offering each Sunday, as we have a cool offering plate for them to give to their church during beginning devotions, and take turns collecting the offering. BAPTISM: We are recognizing the children during Sunday School-the month they were BAPTIZED and talk about the meaning of BAPTISM. Pat Cuda our church Secretary had the kiddos BAPTISM dates on record. BULLETIN BOARDS: Lynsay Luchsinger kindly & creatively decorates the bulletin boards in all the Sunday School areas.

Sunday School Grades 3-6 – 2022 Annual Report

Teachers for grades 3-6 are Sharon Hartman and Sam Welch. They use a 3-year cycle: Old Testament stories, New Testament stories, and the life of Jesus. Lessons in January-May 2023 finished the first year of the cycle; in September, they began lessons on the life of Jesus.

Memory work for grade four is to learn the books of the Bible. Grades 5 and 6 prepare for confirmation by using the Small Catechism to learn the meanings of the Ten Commandments (grade 5) and the petitions of the Lord's Prayer (grade 6).

Confirmation Annual Report 2023

Our Confirmation Students have been studying the Theology of Martin Luther and the texts of the New Testament. We have read through the Gospels and discussing the different kinds of ministry Jesus led with his disciples. We worked through the teachings, the healings and miracles, the parables, the interactions with government and religious leaders, and the accounts of The Last Supper, his arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. We are currently reviewing the theology of St Paul and all of the letters he wrote to the communities of faith that were being developed in first century churches.

We will continue classes throughout the winter discussing theological concepts like grace, salvation and forgiveness, as well as reviewing the means of grace through Baptism and Holy Communion, to prepare for the ceremony on March 24, Affirming their Baptisms on Palm Sunday.

St. Johns 2023 Annual Report
Evangelism Committee

Chair: Jackson Moore

Members:

Dona Henderson

Colleen Lutjelsche

This year we started out in May working with a band called Disciple. St. Johns helped with set up, food and lodging. We had 114 people attend and the band said it was a success.

We operated a booth during Columbus Days again. We offered free pens, travel bags and lots of water. JoAnne Marxsen even brought some cookies shaped like a heart to help promote St. Johns. We had plenty of volunteers come and help with conversation and help with the handing out of water.

Later in the year we offered T-shirts that congregational members could order. They were all red and had the church's name on them. Many shirts were bought, and we sold a couple sweatshirts too.

The committee also helped with the video of the church.

We want to say thanks to everyone who helped us in any way shape or form.

Jackson Moore
Evangelism Chair.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ITEMS ADDRESSED: Repair of St. John's /Christ Lutheran's sign and installation will happen weather permitting. Researched church insurance. Painting of the basement and repair of the wall at bottom of stairway complete. Easter crosses were put up. Working with Lakefront Sprinklers. A new fan was installed in the parsonage kitchen. Fletcher and Ethan Schmid will continue to mow St. John's. Electrical work completed. Culvert repair. Completed a parsonage walk-through. Set up and tear down of Christmas decor inside and outside. Snow removal. Looking at options for fertilizer, herbicide, insecticide treatments applied to lawn in early spring.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES UPDATED (NOVEMBER 2023)

On Wednesday, November 15, 2023 the Property Committee met to assign committee members to the following duties of the church. Assignments are also posted on the bulletin board, feel free to contact any of these individuals with needs, cares or concerns.

SIGN - Mike Loseke
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & NATIVITY - Larry W., Brad L., Bill L.
SNOW REMOVAL - Fletcher S., Jeremy K., Roy R., Justin W.
FURNACE FILTERS & LIGHT BULBS - Jack L.
PARSONAGE INSPECTION - Brian B., Larry W.
SPRING CLEANUP - Sam W.
FUNERALS - Brad L.
MOWING - Fletcher S.
WEED & FEED - Neil Barels
BASEMENT PAINTING - Brian B., Larry W.
DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - Brian B., Larry W.
EASTER CROSSES - Fletcher S., Gary S.

Thank you to all these dedicated property committee members.

Report Submitted by Brad Luchsinger

Stewardship Annual Report

2023

Chair: Dewayne Groteluschen

Member: Karol Swan

Council Rep: Tracey Moore

This year, the Stewardship Committee helped along with the Social Ministry and Evangelism Committee to put on the Spaghetti Dinner for "God's Work. Out Hands" Sunday.

On November 5th, we hosted a sloppy joe dinner for Stewardship Sunday.

Worship and Music Committee Report - 2023

Members of the Worship and Music Committee are Pam Goering, Sharon Hartman, Greg Schneekloth, Denise Stevenson, and Sam Welch; council representative was Pat Cuda.

We use three basic worship services. On the first Sunday of the month, we use the Bread of Life service from *With One Voice*. The third Sunday of the month is the Celebration Service using music from *Dakota Road*. The remaining services are from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Pam Goering and Sharon Hartman serve as organists. Pam also directs the Rejoice Choir, Sharon directs the Youth Choir / bell choir, and Chris Luchsinger and Cindy Groteluschen lead the Wee Singers. All provide special music, generally once a month each.

Hymns We set up a schedule for committee members to select hymns for the rest of the year. Our main resource for selecting hymns to complement the lessons each Sunday is the ELCA's *Sundays and Seasons*. We reinstated "Stump the Organist" for the fifth Sunday of a month.

Lent/Easter Our Ash Wednesday service was at church. St. John's participated in the ecumenical gathering each Wednesday at noon. Participating churches took turns providing soup and sandwiches. Our Wednesday evening gathering was a Bible study and discussion with the book *Witness the Cross*. Holy week services included Maundy Thursday service with communion and an ecumenical Good Friday service in town. Easter service was at 7:00 followed by a breakfast; congregation members signed up to bring food. There were no confirmands this year.

Funeral planning We prepared an Obituary Information and Funeral Service Preparation Sheet. People are encouraged to share this with their families and may give a copy to Pat Cuda for the church files. Paper copies were placed on the information table, and an electronic copy was included with the emailed *Chatterbox*.

Theme Sundays were discussed. Hymns for the service for Sunday school promotion were replaced by common Sunday school songs.

Thanksgiving – St. John's hosted the ecumenical service at 4:00 p.m. on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving.

Advent – Each Sunday sermon focused on a different Christmas carol. The children's program replaced the morning service on December 17.

Altar Guild is a subset of this committee. Members of the Altar Guild this year were Kendra Bunkers, Sharon Hartman, Joyce Lindstrom, Emma Moore, Tracey Moore, Sonia Schmid, Dianne Skiles, Barb Welch, and Sam Welch. They keep our worship space prepared throughout the church year, set up for baptisms and communion, fill the candles, change the paraments and banners, set up Easter lilies, and set up Christmas trees in the basement Sunday school area and in the sanctuary, along with wreaths and poinsettias. Tracey Moore is the coordinator, ordering supplies and making the schedule. We welcome anyone who wishes volunteer for one month a year.

--submitted by Sharon Hartman

Worship and Music Communion Survey Report for January 2024

The results of the Worship and Music committee's survey showed a super majority of members who were in favor of having two communions per month starting in February.

The committee also had an extended conversation with the altar guild regarding two communions per month. Altar Guild was in agreement to the two communions per month.

Starting in February, we will be having two communions per month. They will be on the first and third Sundays. The second Sunday will be Celebration Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who gave their input regarding this change. "The Christian is to partake of the Eucharist because Christ Himself instituted it and he told Christians to celebrate it often." Martin Luther on Communion

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Stevenson Council Member for Worship and Music

Social Ministry 2023 Report

Co Chairs: Kathy Brunt/Janelle Groteluschen Council Rep: Dave Groteluschen
Pat Muhle, Sonia Schmid, Cody Luchsinger, Trevor Luchsinger

Service Projects:

- Assisted at Evangelism Committee's Christian concert (May 3) & Columbus Day's booth (Aug.)
- Pill Bottles
- God's Work our Hands - 1st Annual Spaghetti Feed
- Military Cards/Veteran's Day
- Angel Tree/Shut In Gifts
- Christmas Treat Sacks

Events:

-On-going - the empty pill bottles were collected and shipped to Matthew 25 Ministries in Ohio. Thank you Pat Muhle.

May: - several helped at the Christian concert.

August/September:

- Several helped at **Columbus Days** booth.
 - God's Work our Hands** - 9-10-23 Spaghetti Feed where we served 145 people.
- THANK YOU TO EVERYONE ON SEVERAL COMMITTEES WHO HELPED.**

October/November:

-Six prayer cards were sent to church family military personnel for Veteran's Day (Nov. 11).

November/December:

- Angel Tree and Shut in gifts. Thanks to all who helped support this project. 12 children and 7 shut-ins were treated. Thanks to Pastor for delivering the flowers, Janelle Groteluschen for tracking down the families and Tracey Moore for headquartering the gift pick ups at St. Lukes.
- 100 Christmas Treat Sacks were handed out after the Children's Program - thank you to **EVERYONE** who helped purchase, coordinate and/or assemble the sacks.

Thanks to ALL committee members and other volunteers who helped us reach out in 2023. A special thanks to Pat Cuda for her assistance in keeping things going.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Brunt and Janelle Groteluschen
Co-Chairs - Social Ministry