

# ANNUAL REPORT *2021*



*Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*1000 Helena Avenue*

*Helena, Montana 59601*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

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**Call to Order**

**Establishment of a Quorum**—Secretary

**Devotions** – Pastor Ulgenes

**Approval of Agenda**

**President's Opening Remarks** – President Bing Crosby

**Approval of Prior Minutes:**

**Synod Assembly Delegates Elections:**

**Property Committee Report** – Vern Grimsrud

**Financial Secretary's Report** – Randal Rake

**Benevolence Summary for 2021**– Chad Lee

**Financial Summary for 2021**- Chad Lee

**Proposed Budget for 2022**– Chad Lee

**Blessing and Closing** – Pastor Ulgenes

**Adjournment**

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY



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:

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

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:

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

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:

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

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:

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

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.

**You have called us for such a time as this.**

### God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
 trust from you all that you give; help us in  
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
 love to share, teach us like you to care  
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,  
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.  
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

*All Creation Sings* #1063

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**O God,  
 you have called your servants  
 to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
 by paths as yet untrodden,  
 through perils unknown.  
 Give us faith to go out with good courage,  
 not knowing where we go,  
 but only that your hand is leading us  
 and your love supporting us;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen. (ELW, p. 317)**



## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth  
Eaton*

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.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

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

"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."

**Call to Order**

President Darcie Dunlap called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

**Establishment of a Quorum**

Secretary Chad Lee stated that attendance of 18 members was required for quorum and tallied 47 members attending in person and via Zoom. For approval of motions, a total of 24 votes in favor is the threshold for a majority approval.

**Devotions** – Pastor Ulgenes

**Approval of Agenda**

A Property Committee report was added to the agenda, to occur after Synod Assembly delegate selection.

*Gretchen Munding moved to approve the agenda with the addition; Vern Grimsrud 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion carried. The motion passed. 38 yes, 0 No votes, majority achieved.*

**President's Opening Remarks** – President Darcie Dunlap

President Darcie Dunlap commented on the tumultuous year of 2020 and the resilience of the church's staff and congregation, thanking and commending the congregation for their faithfulness in attendance and support. President Dunlap also thanked the congregation for their incredible generosity in supporting St. John's and our local community both financially and through giving of their time and talents.

**Approval of Prior Minutes:**

May 31, 2020 Congregational Semi-Annual Meeting – Submitted by Samantha Humphrey

*John Munding moved to approve the minutes; Bing Cosby 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion carried. The motion passed. 38 Yes votes, 0 No votes, majority achieved.*

**Synod Assembly Delegates Elections:**

The 2021 Montana Synod convention will be a virtual convention on June 5 & 6, 2021. President Darcie Dunlap called for nominations of members to participate and represent St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church as voting delegates.

The St. John's Lutheran Church council received a nomination for Bing and Mary Crosby. No other nominations were received during the meeting.

*Vote to approve the nomination of Bing and Mary Crosby to serve as voting delegates of St. John's Lutheran Church at the 2021 Montana Synod assembly: 38 Yes votes, 0 No votes, majority achieved.*

**Property Committee Report** – Vern Grimsrud

Vern thanked the Property Committee and discussed projects completed in 2020. Some projects had to be postponed due to COVID-19. The elevator needs repair. The council approved pursuing the option to repair the elevator that the Property Committee identified as the best option, which will cost \$12,000. The range of costs of options was \$4,000 - \$80,000.

**Financial Secretary's Report** – Randal Rake

Financial Secretary Randal Rake summarized 2020 contributions to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and discussed the results of the 2021 pledge drive. For 2021, 50 pledges were received pledging \$124,300. The amount pledged is down from \$143,078 for 2020, \$142,152 for 2019, and \$138,296 from 2018. The number of pledges received are down from 58 for 2020 and 65 for 2019 and 2018. In 2020, General Fund contributions from members who made pledges were \$5,791 less than what was pledged. The last time pledges were not met by pledgees was 2016. Randal Rake encouraged members to utilize the Simply Giving automated giving service and noted growth in its use during 2020, helping to facilitate contributions when services were held remotely.

**Benevolence Summary for 2020** – Chad Lee

Finance Committee Chair Chad Lee discussed the 2020 Comprehensive Giving & Revenue Report, which showed how contributions were or will be used for 2018 – 2020.

The congregation's benevolent giving in 2020 totaled \$80,405, more than double the prior two years. The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benevolence Fund Drive accounts for a large portion of this, with \$10,125 distributed to each of the following organizations: ELCA World Hunger, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp, Helena YWCA, and Helena YMCA. The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benevolence Fund Drive will continue into 2021.

Overall, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church had significant revenue in 2020, including nontypical revenue. This nontypical revenue is shown in the report in separate lines to aid in comparison of years.

- The church received a large gift of \$79,419 from the estate of Don Magnus.
- The church also participated in Small Business Administration COVID-19 relief programs and received \$39,100 of loans for which \$33,100 was forgiven in 2020 and \$6,000 will be forgiven in 2021.
- The church received \$11,933 of grants: \$7,000 from the William and Blanch Hetzel Foundation to fund costs of the Drawn to the Word program that is part of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; a \$4,020 Montana Business Adaptability Grant award from the Montana Department of Commerce for COVID-19 adaptation type costs; \$700 from Montana Synod for remote service technology related costs, and \$213 from Thrivent.

**Proposed Budget for 2021** – Chad Lee

Finance Committee Chair Chad Lee discussed the 2020 general fund financial results; strength of the church's financial position going into 2021; the development of the 2021 general fund budget presented to the congregation; and changes in the budget relative to 2021.

In the big picture, St. John's Lutheran Church was very blessed in 2020. As was discussed in the 2020 Comprehensive Giving & Revenue Report, despite COVID-19 and the necessity to have remote services for a significant amount of the year, the congregation continued to be very generous. The church also benefited from significant nontypical revenue, including the forgiven SBA loans – for which credit is due to Karen Hicks and Randal Rake for doing the hard work and to Greg Fields who was the initial push to pursue the funding opportunity. For most of the year, the general fund had a profit; it was only in the later part of the year that expenses began to exceed contributions. While adapting to COVID-19 created new costs; these were attenuated by other cost savings. Compared to many other churches and nonprofit organizations, St. John's Lutheran Church was extremely fortunate and is in a strong financial position.

Summary of 2020 Revenue and Expenses:

- General fund revenue (excluding nontypical income) was down by about \$10,000 from 2019. General fund revenue was about \$12,000 less than the budgeted revenue.
  - The decrease from 2019 reflects a drop in December giving.
  - Vacation Bible School was not held, which was budgeted to bring in \$3,600 from registrations.
- General fund expenses were up by about \$6,300 from 2019. However, the expenses were about \$12,300 less than the budget.
  - Certain types of expenditures exceeded the budget – almost all relate to COVID-19 - additional payroll costs for a media technician, technology investments, cleaning supplies, mailings.
  - Other costs were less than budgeted
    - snow removal and lawn care (services which were generously donated by Vern Grimsrud)
    - Vacation Bible School, which is funded by registrations but is budgeted
    - Costs that decreased as a result of COVID-19: advertising and special events, various supplies and services, natural gas and electricity, conferences and meetings, and outreach.
- Overall, ignoring nontypical revenue (bequests, grants, and debt forgiveness), the general fund had a loss of \$8,016 compared to a budgeted loss of \$8,266. The 2020 budget anticipated “funding” the loss with 2019 profit. Factoring in the nontypical revenue, the general fund had a profit of about \$104,500.

Looking at the church's balance sheet, St. John's Lutheran Church had a significant cash balance on December 31, 2020, and its general fund working capital was about \$151,900. This represents funds available for future expenses and investments that do not have a donor restriction. There are a number of major expenses on the horizon: a \$12,000 elevator repair that will be paid from the Building Fund and a boiler replacement that require cost significantly more than the \$34,000 currently in the Boiler Fund.

The Finance Committee developed the proposed budget advanced by the council to the congregation with the mindset of having it be conservative in terms of revenue and anticipated expenses. Compared to the 2020 budget, about \$12,500 less revenue is budgeted, and \$14,821 more expenses are budgeted. The revenue estimated for the 2021 budget takes into account 2020 giving and 2021 pledges. Certain costs driven by COVID-19 will persist for at least half of 2021, if not the entire year; the budget assumes the costs will persist the entire year. The budget includes the media support technician position that was not part of the 2020 budget and a three percent raise for staff. Staff did not receive a raise in 2020; their performance shown as they rose to overcome the radical challenges of 2020. The budget includes

costs for snow removal and lawn care. The budget remains lean but realistic for a number of other costs, and in some cases reduced amounts budgeted.

The proposed general fund budget is a deficit budget in which budgeted expenditures exceed anticipated revenues by \$35,602. The Finance Committee and the council advance this budget to the congregation after extensive consideration. To deal with the deficit, the Finance Committee identified six strategies the church and congregation could use to deal with the forecasted budget deficit.

- Increase general fund contributions
- Cover contribution shortfalls with \$39,100 of cash received in 2020 for now-forgiven SBA loans
- Disciplined spending
- Monitoring for and pursuing any applicable COVID-19 relief opportunities
- Mid-year financial analysis and budget revision
- Promotion and outreach when full-scale services resume to fill the pews

Jerry Watne noted the difficulty in developing the budget under the circumstances and recognized the consideration given to it by the council.

*Jerry Watne moved to approve the general fund budget for 2021 as proposed; Vern Grimsrud 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed. 38 Yes votes, 0 No votes, majority achieved.*

**Blessing and Closing** – Pastor Ulgenes

Pastor Ulgenes thanked the council, staff, and the congregation for their leadership, support, and faithfulness during these unprecedented times. Pastor Ulgenes is looking forward to worshipping and having fellowship in-person sometime in 2021. Pastor Ulgenes discussed the exciting things and challenges facing St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 2021. We can all look forward to continuing the 125th Benevolence Fund Drive, celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. John's Lutheran Church, and enjoying the Drawn to the Word worship experience.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**Call to Order**

President Darcie Dunlap called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Establishment of a Quorum**

Secretary Chad Lee stated that attendance of 18 members was required for quorum and tallied 46 members attending in person and via Zoom. For approval of motions, a total of 24 votes in favor is the threshold for a majority approval.

**Devotions** – Pastor Ulgenes

**Approval of Agenda**

*Jeannie Kieckbusch moved to approve the agenda; Laura Nachtsheim 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion carried. All present voted in favor.*

**Approval of Prior Minutes:**

January 31, 2021 Congregational Annual Meeting – Submitted by Chad Lee

*Greg Field moved to approve the minutes; Linda Wollitz 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion carried. All present voted in favor.*

Following the approval of the minutes, Ramey Rogness commented that it with regard to the minutes' discussion of church finances, it was inappropriate to use the terms "profit" and "loss" because the church is a nonprofit organization. President Dunlap responded that the Finance Committee would identify the appropriate terminology to use in the future.

**Council Member Elections:**

Three Council positions were open for the June 2021 – May 2024 term.

Three nominees were brought forward by the Council: Pastor Patricia Harant, Lee Rhodes, and Amy Smiedala. Amy Smiedala is a Council member serving a 2018 – 2021 term. President Dunlap called for nominations from the floor; no additional nominations were received.

*John Munding moved to close nominations and cast a single ballot of the nominees; Barb Muir 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion carried. All present voted in favor of the election of the nominees to serve on the Council for the June 2021 – May 2024 term.*

**Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Representatives**

St. John's Lutheran Church needs to have two representatives for the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp business meeting on October 2 – 3, 2021.

*Bing Crosby nominated Mary Crosby and Rebekah French. All present voted in favor of the election of the nominated delegates to serve as voting delegates of St. John's Lutheran Church at the October 2 – 3, 2021 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp business meeting.*

**Updates**

**Budget Report – Chad Lee**

Chad Lee reviewed the year-to-date (through April 30, 2021) summarized statement of activities for the General Fund, which included a comparison with the 2021 Budget and the same period in 2020.

General Fund revenue was \$89,726 for the period in 2021 (compared to \$78,567 in 2020). This is 34.2% of the budgeted expenses for the year with 33% of the year expired. General Fund giving is very close to keeping up the pace needed to fund 2021's expenses without needing use any of the funds realized from the SBA program. The 2021 General Fund revenue in the report does not include \$6,000 of SBA loan forgiveness income and funds given on Thrivent's Flash Fund Drive Event in late April for which \$5,345 was donated by members and for which Thrivent will contribute an additional \$900. Of the total amount, \$2,100 was to the General Fund, \$2,625 was for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benevolence Fund, and the remainder was for other benevolent purposes.

General Fund expenses were \$84,135 for the period in 2021 (compared to \$78,567 in 2020). This is expected and correlates to increases in budgeted payroll costs. The expenses are at 32.1% of the 2021 budget with 33% of the year expired.

The meeting handouts also included a balance sheet for the church as of April 30, 2021. Chad Lee noted that the decrease in the building fund cash balance relates to repairs to the elevator and the increase in the General Fund cash balance relates to the Don Magnus gift (\$79,419). The church continues to be in a strong financial position.

Current year giving to the 125<sup>th</sup> Benevolence Fund Drive is approximately \$5,700 (not including \$2,635 of donations that were part of the Thrivent Flash Fund Drive Event), and the fund's balance is over \$15,000.

In response to a question about the SBA PPP Loan proceeds, Chad Lee explained how St. John's Lutheran Church received approximately \$39,000 as a loan through the SBA PPP Program. After submitting documentation of eligible expenditures to program administrators, the debt was forgiven, with \$33,000 being forgiven in 2020 and \$6,000 forgiven in 2021.

**Drawn to the Word (Oct. 2 – 3) – Pastor Ulgenes**

Pastor Ulgenes described what will be a multi-day artistic ministry with a presentation at Helena Middle School on Friday, Oct. 1; a youth ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church on Saturday Oct. 2; Drawn to the Word church service on Sunday Oct. 3; and a ministry at Touchmark on Monday Oct. 4.

**125th Anniversary Celebration (Nov. 6 – 7) – President Dunlap**

President Dunlap discussed plans for the rescheduled celebration of St. John Lutheran Church's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and called for volunteers to work components of the celebration, including extension of the church's history book (from 100 years to 125 years), a congregational walk from the old church to the current church, a smorgasbord dinner and celebration on Saturday Nov. 6, and a service on Nov. 7 with Bishop Jungling and special music.

**125th Anniversary Benevolence Fund Drive (Ends Nov. 7) – Bing Crosby**

Bing Crosby discussed on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benevolence Fund Drive, recapping that \$10,125 was sent to ELCA World Hunger, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp, Helena YWCA, and Helena YMCA with 2020 fund drive proceeds and that due to the disruption of the

COVID-19 pandemic, the fund drive was extended to 2021. As of April 30, 2021, the 125th Anniversary Benevolence Fund has a balance of \$15,438 (not including the \$2,635 that will be received from the Thrivent Flash Fund Drive). A "Night to Shine" type fundraising event featuring church members and people with connection to the church is being considered and more fundraising ideas are being solicited. Bing Crosby expressed thanks to Mary and Neal Ruedisili for their generous matching contributions. The fund drive will end on Nov. 7, and the fund's balance will be distributed to the five organizations.

**Don Magnus Gift Task Force – Paul Hilchen**

Paul Hilchen expressed appreciation for the generous \$79,000 bequest from Don Magnus last year. Don did not provide any instructions on how the funds should be used. Paul Hilchen called for volunteers, particularly those who knew Don well, to serve with him on a task force to develop ideas of how to use the gift to the church in a meaningful and memorable way. Stories about Don are also being solicited to help the committee in thinking about ways to honor his memory.

**Property Committee – Vern Grimsrud**

Vern Grimsrud thanked the members of the Property Committee and listed their recent accomplishments (sanitizing the sanctuary, elevator repair, new coffee counter, painting the front doors, boiler repair, preparation of the church apartment for Vacation Bible School counselors, and other tasks). Vern Grimsrud also recognized Jens Jensen and Wayne Olson for their enduring faithful care of the church and presented a plaque of recognition for many years of service. Unfortunately, Wayne Olson could not attend the semi-annual meeting. Jens Jensen received a standing ovation. Jennifer Wintersteen recounted how Jens Jensen was to first person to welcome her when she started attending St. John's and promptly recruited her for church committees. Pastor Ulgenes also discussed Jens's many other contributions of time and gifts, including his involvement with Caring Friends.

**Closing Comments – President Dunlap**

President Dunlap thanked the council, staff, and the congregation for their leadership, support, and faithfulness through the last year and expressed excitement the transition to "normalcy".

President Dunlap announced that the Evangelism Committee will start serving coffee after church (initially to be held outside) and requested help in setup and providing cookies.

President Dunlap announced that for the upcoming year (June 2021 – May 2022), the Council officers would be Bing Crosby (President), Chad Lee (Vice President), and Paul Hilchen (Secretary).

**Adjournment**

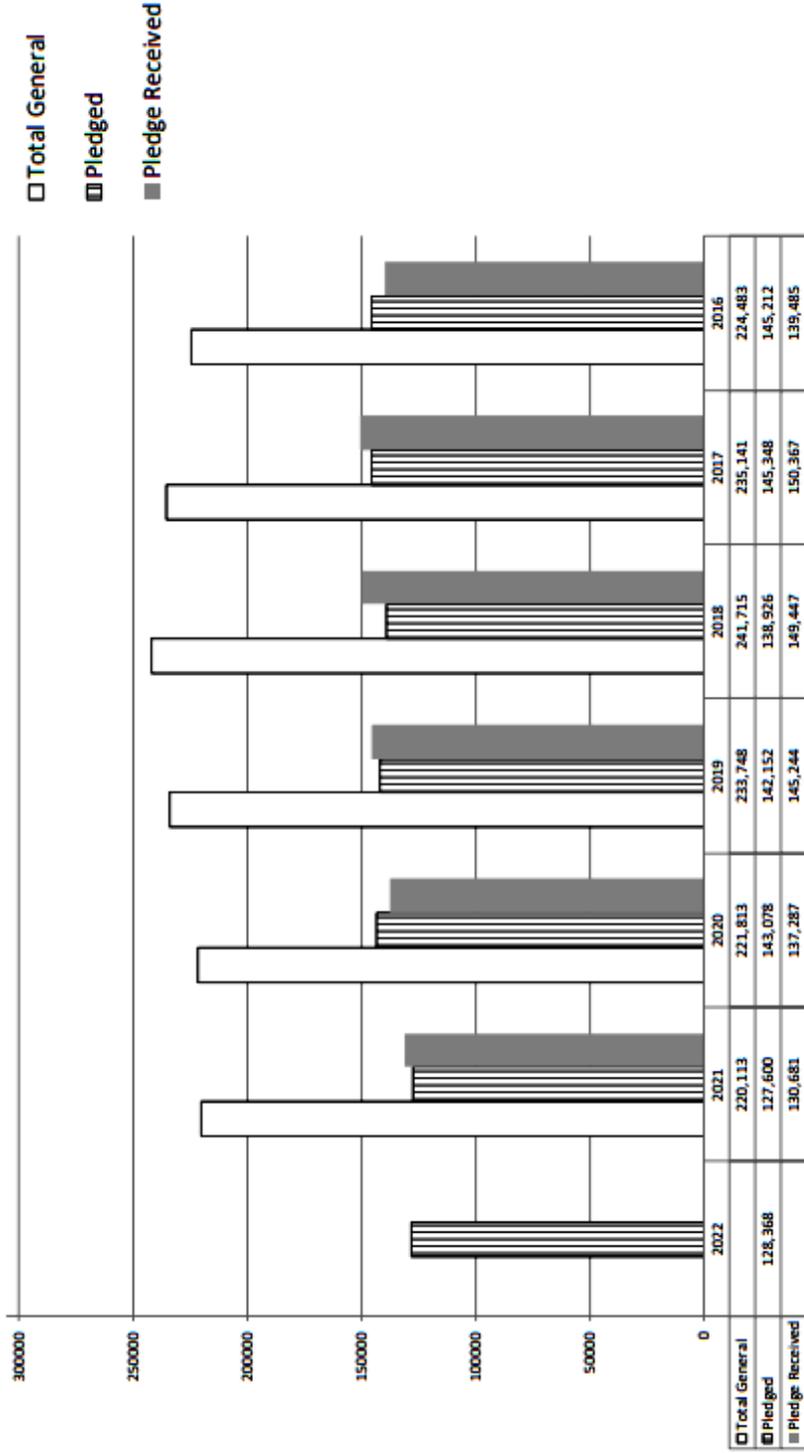
The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

- Financial Secretary Report -  
St. Johns Lutheran Church

End of Year  
2021

Stewardship: General Fund & Pledges

	Total General Received	Non-Pledged Received	Pledges Pledged	Pledge Received	Remainder	% Received	# of	Pledge % of General	Non-Pledge % of General
2022		128,368					57		
2021	220,113	89,432	127,600	130,681	-3,081	102%	58	59%	41%
2020	221,813	84,526	143,078	137,287	5,791	96%	58	62%	38%
2019	233,748	88,504	142,152	145,244	-3,092	102%	65	62%	38%
2018	241,715	92,268	138,926	149,447	-10,521	108%	65	62%	38%
2017	235,141	84,774	145,348	150,367	-5,019	103%	64	64%	36%
2016	224,483	84,998	145,212	139,485	5,727	96%	62	62%	38%

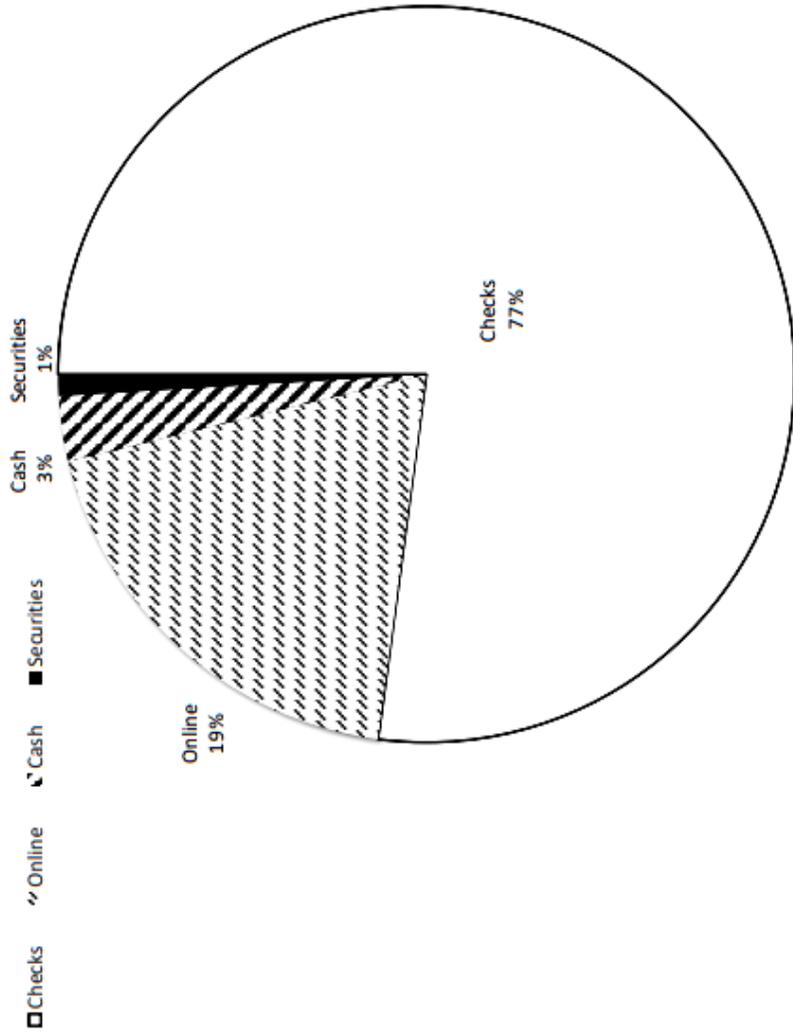


Overview of All Deposits

<u>Donors</u>	<u># of Gifts</u>	<u>Gave</u>	<u>Simply Giving Participants</u>
430	1,997	\$377,246	27

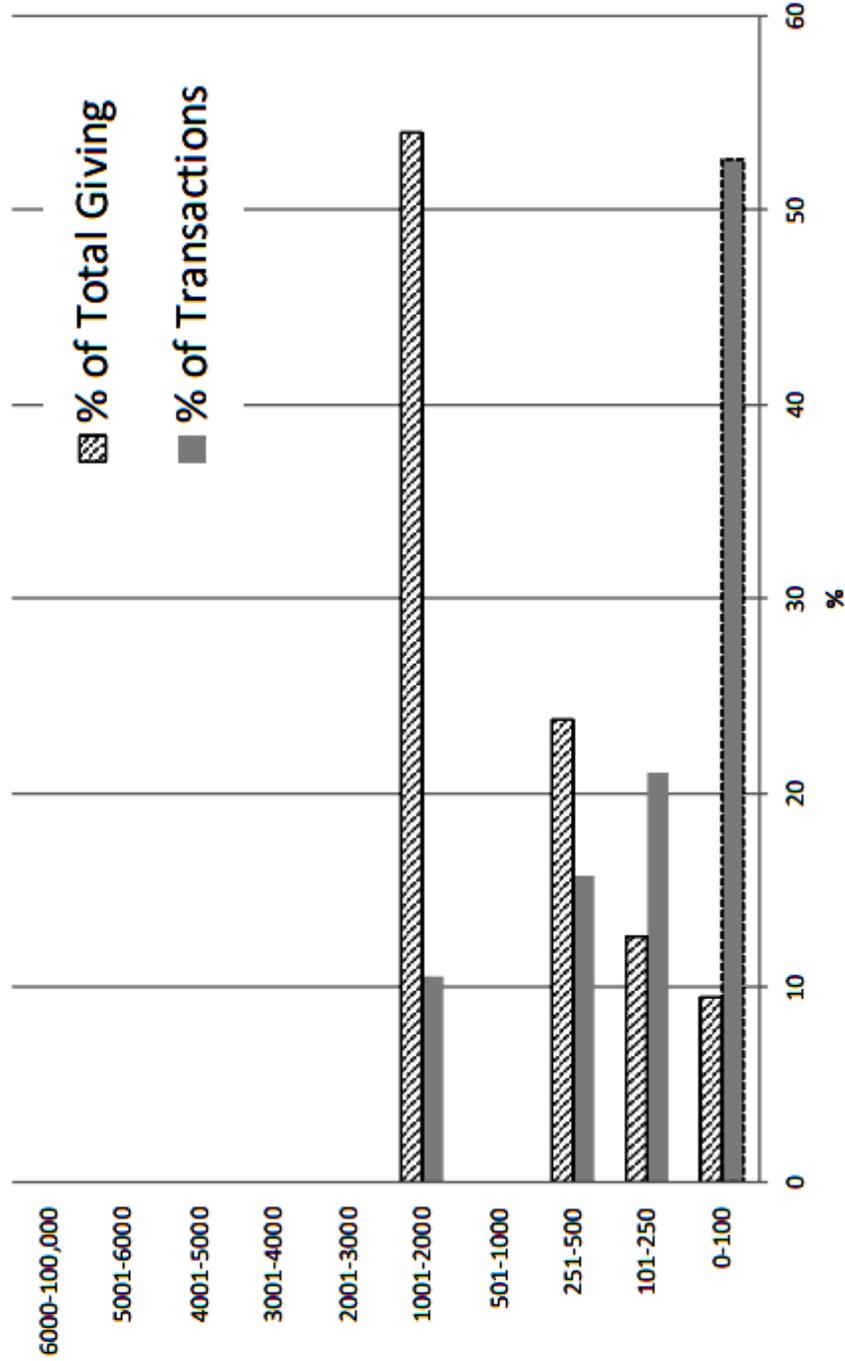
Types of Giving:

Checks	Online	Cash	Securities	Total:
\$290,843	\$72,092	\$10,773	\$3,538	\$377,246



Range Analysis for All Giving of Every Donation

\$ Range	0-100	101-250	251-500	501-1000	1001-2000	2001-3000	3001-4000	4001-5000	5001-6000	6000-100,000
% of Total Giving	9.56	12.61	23.84	0	53.99	0	0	0	0	0
% of Transactions	52.63	21.05	15.79	0	10.53	0	0	0	0	0

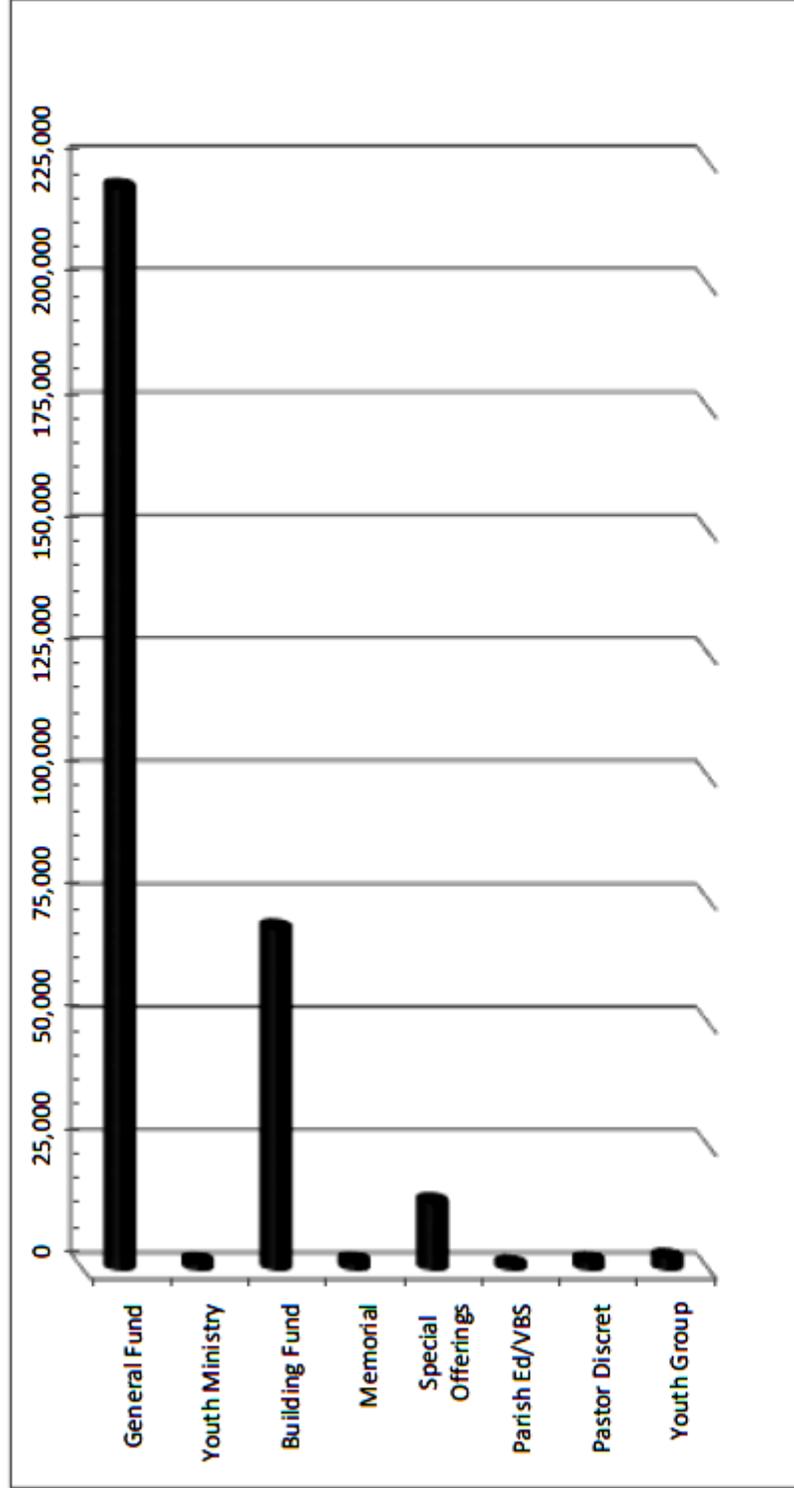


– Financial Secretary Report –  
St. Johns Lutheran Church

End of Year  
2021

Total Amounts to Specific Accounts

<u>Year</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Youth Ministry</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Special Offerings</u>	<u>Parish Ed/VBS</u>	<u>Pastor Discret</u>	<u>Youth Group</u>
<b>2021</b>	<b>220,112.96</b>	<b>1,773.00</b>	<b>69,542.71</b>	<b>1,895.00</b>	<b>13,883.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,944.00</b>	<b>2,585.00</b>
2020	221,814.00	1,533.00	2,030.00	3,105.00	9,226.83	0.00	2,491.00	539.55
2019	231,850.00	2,107.00	6,679.63	1,100.00	16,139.00	3,746.00	2,808.00	1,769.00
2018	241,915.00	1,593.00	6,718.00	2,085.00	10,723.00	2,695.00	4,286.00	5,110.00
2017	235,141.29	2,968.28	10,039.25	1,825.00	3,971.83	3,746.00	3,437.00	6,350.89
2016	236,910.53	20,552.28	18,700.13	7,560.00	4,632.00	3,311.00	1,550.00	855.25



Special Offerings include: Social Ministry Outreach, Bob's Pantry and Other Special Offerings  
All pages of this report are for informational purposes only, finalized amounts are shown in the Treasurer's report

- Financial Secretary Report -  
St. Johns Lutheran Church

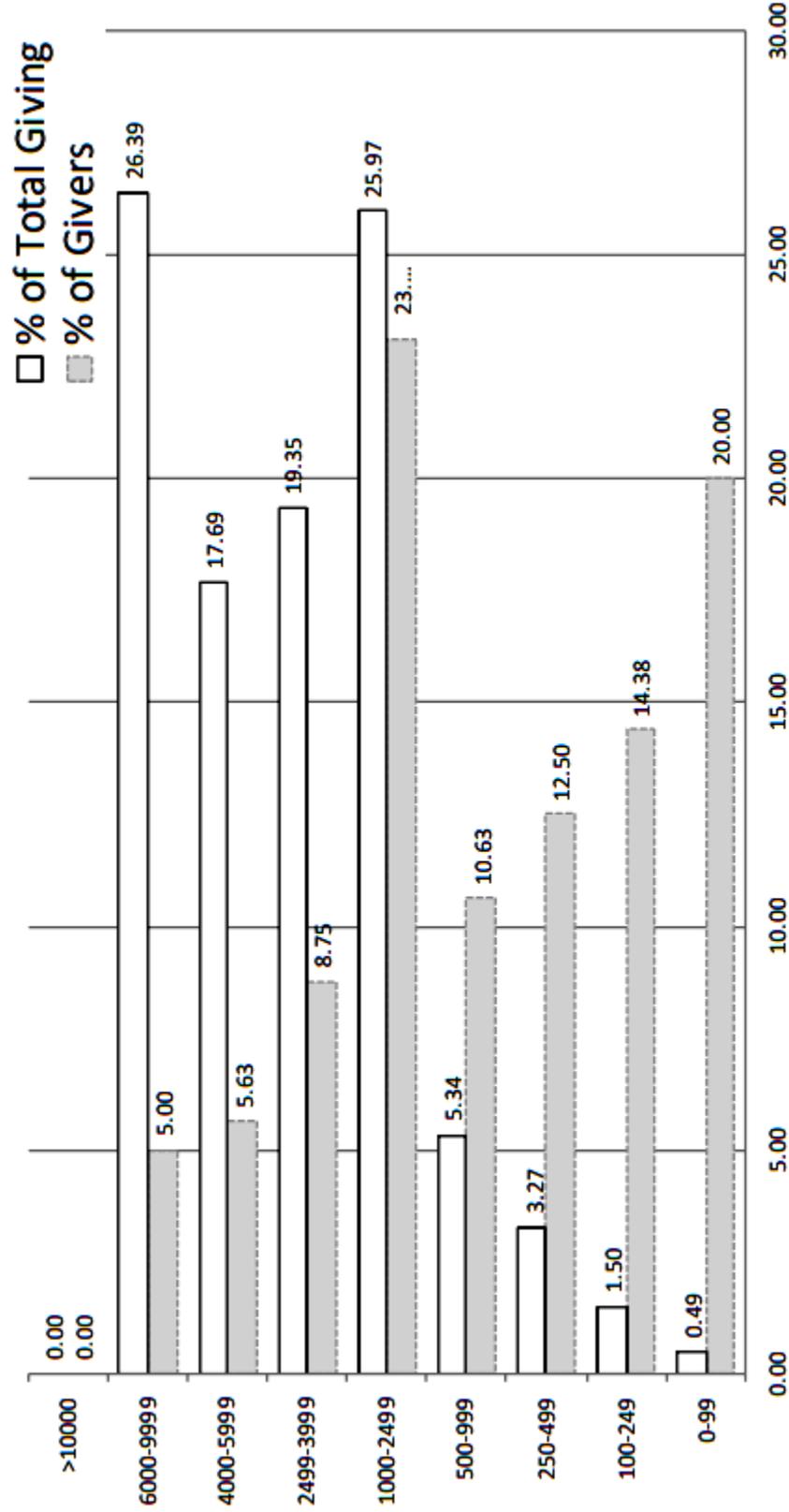
End of Year  
2021

5 - Year End

General Fund Only

Range Analysis: Year End Total Giving per Family

\$ Range	0-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1000-2499	2499-3999	4000-5999	6000-9999	>10000	totals
# of Givers	32	23	20	17	37	14	9	8	0	160
\$ Giving	1,083	3,305	7,199	11,753	57,159	42,589	38,928	58,097	0	220,113
% of Total Giving	0.49	1.50	3.27	5.34	25.97	19.35	17.69	26.39	0.00	100.0
% of Givers	20.00	14.38	12.50	10.63	23.13	8.75	5.63	5.00	0.00	100.0



## St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – 2021 Comprehensive Giving & Revenue Report

The table below summarizes monetary contributions and other revenues received by St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, showing how the contributions were, or will be, used.

<b>Summary of Monetary Contributions &amp; Other Revenue</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Contributions Toward Church Operations	\$229,169	\$226,102	\$212,137	\$208,905
Contributions for Capital Improvements	\$38,616	\$11,725	\$3,730	\$8,292
Benevolence	\$39,869	\$38,489	\$80,405	\$63,213
Other Designated Giving	\$9,621	\$8,587	\$5,145	\$6,547
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$317,275</b>	<b>\$284,903</b>	<b>\$301,417</b>	<b>\$286,957</b>
Estate Gift Income			\$79,419	\$21,713
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$317,275</b>	<b>\$284,903</b>	<b>\$380,836</b>	<b>\$308,670</b>
Other Revenue:				
Grant Income			\$11,933	\$1,120
Insurance Proceeds				\$65,117
SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness			\$33,100	\$6,000
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$45,033</b>	<b>\$72,237</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$317,275</b>	<b>\$284,903</b>	<b>\$425,869</b>	<b>\$380,907</b>

These amounts do not include thousands of dollars' worth of in-kind contributions or the value of the thousands of hours volunteered by members serving communion and providing witness to members who cannot attend church; quilting; enabling St. John's to share its facilities with Family Promise; serving in the altar guild; assisting with worship; participating in the choir and bell choir and other offerings of special music; labor and ingenuity repairing, improving, and maintaining the facilities; working in the kitchen to prepare and serve food and wash dishes; teaching Sunday School; assisting Vacation Bible School; organizing and leading bible studies; assisting with funerals and receptions; and serving on committees.

### **Contributions Toward Church Operations**

General fund contributions are undesignated by donors and are primarily used to pay for the operations of the church. Note that this total does not include:

- \$9,700 of general fund contributions were used for synod benevolence and other churchwide giving (included in the Benevolence total)
- \$3,783 of unexpended budgets for building and boiler repairs and were transferred at year-end by the Council into the Building Fund and Boiler Fund (included in the Capital Improvements total).
- \$850 transferred from the General Fund to the Music Fund for the Bell Choir Maintenance Reserve
- \$500 transferred from the General Fund to the Other Designated Funds for the Pastor Sabbatical Reserve

## Contributions for Capital Improvements

Designated contributions and transfers for the Building Fund and the Boiler Fund.

## Benevolence

St. John's received a significant amount of contributions designated by donors to benefit denominational organizations and various other purposes that benefit people living in challenging conditions. The following table lists two groupings of benevolence giving and include \$9,700 of general fund contributions used for synod benevolence, other churchwide giving, and causes selected by the Social Ministry Committee.

- The Pastor's Discretionary Fund received \$1,964 in 2021; the table reflects adjustments for the \$1,000 of that amount that Pastor Ulgenes provided to Good Samaritan (\$500) and God's Love (\$500) to aid individuals.
- The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benevolence Fund received \$36,743 in 2021. In January 2022 distributed \$9,350 each to ELCA World Hunger, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp, Helena YWCA, and Helena YMCA.

<b>Denominational Benevolence</b>		<b>Other Benevolence</b>	
ELCA World Hunger +	\$8,048	YWCA +	\$7,399
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp* +	\$7,999	YMCA +	\$7,399
Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp +	\$7,399	God's Love	\$3,212
Montana Synod*	\$6,300	Bob's Pantry (HMS)	\$2,381
Missionary Support*	\$1,305	Family Promise	\$2,226
Lutheran Student Foundation*	\$600	Helena Food Share	\$2,003
Lutheran Immigration	\$591	Florence Crittenton	\$1,172
Lutheran Social Services*	\$400	Pastor Discretionary	\$1,013
Lutheran World Relief	\$100	Friendship Center	\$972
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$32,742</b>	NAMI	\$740
		Habitat for Humanity	\$735
		Intermountain	\$660
		Good Samaritan	\$500
		Freedom in Christ	\$500
<b>2021 Total Benevolence**</b>	<b><u>\$63,213</u></b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$30,471</b>

\* General Fund contributed to these totals  
 \*\* Includes \$1,200 from the General Fund invested by the Social Ministry Committee  
 + 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benevolence Fund recipient, excludes 2020 contributions

## Other Designated Giving

Youth Group	\$2,858
Memorial Funds	\$1,895
Passthrough funds for facility use	\$699
Pastor Sabbatical	\$500
Women of St. Johns	\$499
Music Fund	\$96
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,547</b>

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Condensed General Fund Change in Net Assets - 2021**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 Budget	Budget Variance (Actual - Budget)
<b>General Fund Revenue</b>	<b>\$238,589</b>	<b>\$237,321</b>	<b>\$227,305</b>	<b>\$222,302</b>	<b>\$226,835</b>	<b>(\$4,533)</b>
<b>General Fund Expenses</b>						
60000 Worship	\$3,856	\$2,985	\$2,710	\$3,096	\$3,600	(\$504)
60500 Music	\$2,958	\$4,766	\$3,032	\$5,403	\$3,680	\$1,723
60100 Evangelism	\$1,220	\$1,275	\$477	\$730	\$1,950	(\$1,220)
60125 Special Events	\$0	\$0	\$747	\$1,172	\$1,000	\$172
60150 Outreach	\$370	\$1,035	\$534	\$820	\$900	(\$80)
60200 Administrative Expenses	\$12,222	\$9,911	\$11,776	\$10,754	\$11,245	(\$491)
60205 COVID-19 Related Costs	\$0	\$0	\$3,429	\$1,531	\$3,050	(\$1,519)
60800 Building & Property Security	\$20,969	\$25,267	\$23,616	\$27,138	\$27,578	(\$440)
60900 Utilities	\$12,402	\$11,709	\$11,077	\$12,275	\$12,725	(\$450)
61000 Parish Education	\$2,507	\$4,239	\$877	\$3,403	\$6,050	(\$2,647)
61100 Youth Activities	\$718	\$779	\$600	\$964	\$750	\$214
61800 Conferences & Meetings	\$1,694	\$2,533	\$275	\$30	\$1,000	(\$970)
61900 Professional Development	\$252	\$777	\$440	\$220	\$1,250	(\$1,030)
62500 Dues and Subscriptions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$62	\$0	\$62
63400 Interest Expense	\$0	\$0	\$1,010	(\$40)	\$0	(\$40)
64600 Stewardship	\$154	\$242	\$184	\$50	\$500	(\$450)
66000 Payroll Expenses	\$155,180	\$162,197	\$166,393	\$174,103	\$176,059	(\$1,956)
66600 Workers Compensation Insurance	\$848	\$609	\$520	\$620	\$900	(\$280)
66650 Sabbatical Fund	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
69000 Benevolence	\$13,570	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$0
70000 Fund Transfer	(\$775)	(\$9,536)	(\$2,576)	(\$2,807)	\$0	(\$2,807)
75000 Program Expense	\$0	\$22	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$228,645</b>	<b>\$229,010</b>	<b>\$235,321</b>	<b>\$249,724</b>	<b>\$262,437</b>	<b>(\$12,713)</b>
<b>General Fund Change in Net Assets - Ongoing</b>	<b>\$9,944</b>	<b>\$8,311</b>	<b>(\$8,016)</b>	<b>(\$27,422)</b>	<b>(\$35,602)</b>	<b>\$8,180</b>
49801 Loan Forgiveness Income			\$33,100	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
42201 Estate Gift Income			\$79,419	\$21,713	\$21,713	\$21,713
<b>General Fund Change in Net Assets - Total</b>			<b>\$104,503</b>	<b>\$291</b>	<b>(\$29,602)</b>	<b>\$29,893</b>

**ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH BALANCE SHEET**

	<b>12/31/2018</b>	<b>12/31/2019</b>	<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>12/31/2021</b>
Cash - General Fund (incl PPP forgiven loans, estate gift)	\$51,994	\$50,443	\$162,174	\$161,501
Cash - Building Fund	\$10,937	\$15,788	\$18,513	\$13,130
Cash - Boiler Fund	\$32,017	\$33,052	\$34,056	\$34,869
Cash - Parking Lot Fund	\$20,038	\$5,633	\$5,633	\$5,633
Cash - Other Temporarily Designated Funds	\$44,848	\$44,473	\$45,621	\$84,227
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$159,834</b>	<b>\$149,389</b>	<b>\$265,997</b>	<b>\$299,360</b>
Prepaid Expenses	\$8	\$1,095	\$1,360	\$250
Fixed Assets	\$42,377	\$42,377	\$42,377	\$42,377
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$202,219</b>	<b>\$192,861</b>	<b>\$309,734</b>	<b>\$341,987</b>
<b>Current Liabilities - General Fund: Accounts Payable,</b>				
Accrued Liabilities, Payroll Taxes, PPP Loan (12/31/20)	\$11,547	\$2,698	\$10,304	\$9,550
Current Liabilities - Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$13,682	\$10,423	\$935	\$49,102
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$25,229</b>	<b>\$13,121</b>	<b>\$11,239</b>	<b>\$58,652</b>
Equity	\$176,990	\$179,740	\$298,495	\$283,335
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$202,219</b>	<b>\$192,861</b>	<b>\$309,734</b>	<b>\$341,987</b>
<b>Working Capital - General Fund</b>	<b>\$40,455</b>	<b>\$48,840</b>	<b>\$153,230</b>	<b>\$152,201</b>

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Proposed Budget - 2022**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 Budget	2022 Proposed Budget	Budget Increase (Decrease)
<b>General Fund Revenue</b>	<b>\$238,589</b>	<b>\$237,321</b>	<b>\$227,305</b>	<b>\$222,302</b>	<b>\$226,835</b>	<b>\$225,835</b>	<b>(\$1,000)</b>
<b>General Fund Expenses</b>							
60000 Worship	\$3,856	\$2,985	\$2,710	\$3,096	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$0
60500 Music	\$2,958	\$4,766	\$3,032	\$5,403	\$3,680	\$3,760	\$80
60100 Evangelism	\$1,220	\$1,275	\$477	\$730	\$1,950	\$1,050	(\$900)
60125 Special Events	\$0	\$0	\$747	\$1,172	\$1,000	\$0	(\$1,000)
60150 Outreach	\$370	\$1,035	\$534	\$820	\$900	\$900	\$0
60200 Administrative Expenses	\$12,222	\$9,911	\$11,776	\$10,754	\$11,245	\$11,499	\$254
60205 COVID-19 Related Costs	\$0	\$0	\$3,429	\$1,531	\$3,050	\$0	(\$3,050)
60800 Building & Property Security	\$20,969	\$25,267	\$23,616	\$27,138	\$27,578	\$28,810	\$1,232
60900 Utilities	\$12,402	\$11,709	\$11,077	\$12,275	\$12,725	\$12,640	(\$85)
61000 Parish Education	\$2,507	\$4,239	\$877	\$3,403	\$6,050	\$5,050	(\$1,000)
61100 Youth Activities	\$718	\$779	\$600	\$964	\$750	\$750	\$0
61800 Conferences & Meetings	\$1,694	\$2,533	\$275	\$30	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
61900 Professional Development	\$252	\$777	\$440	\$220	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0
62500 Dues & Subscriptions				\$62	\$0	\$200	\$200
63400 Interest Expense	\$0	\$0	\$1,010	(\$40)	\$0	\$0	\$0
64600 Stewardship	\$154	\$242	\$184	\$50	\$500	\$500	\$0
66000 Payroll Expenses	\$155,180	\$162,197	\$166,393	\$174,103	\$176,059	\$177,289	\$1,230
66600 Workers Compensation Insurance	\$848	\$609	\$520	\$620	\$900	\$1,000	\$100
66650 Sabbatical Fund	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
69000 Benevolence	\$13,570	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$0
70000 Fund Transfer	(\$775)	(\$9,536)	(\$2,576)	(\$2,807)	\$0	\$0	\$0
75000 Program Expense	\$0	\$22	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$228,645</b>	<b>\$229,010</b>	<b>\$235,321</b>	<b>\$249,724</b>	<b>\$262,437</b>	<b>\$259,498</b>	<b>(\$2,939)</b>
<b>Net General Fund Revenue - Ongoing</b>	<b>\$9,944</b>	<b>\$8,311</b>	<b>(\$8,016)</b>	<b>(\$27,422)</b>	<b>(\$35,602)</b>	<b>(\$33,663)</b>	
49801 Loan Forgiveness Income			\$33,100	\$6,000	\$6,000		
42201 Estate Gift Income			\$79,419	\$21,713			
<b>Net General Fund Revenue - Total</b>			<b>\$104,503</b>	<b>\$291</b>	<b>(\$29,602)</b>	<b>(\$33,663)</b>	



January 5, 2022

Dear Followers of Christ in the MT/NWY Synod,

God's blessings of life, love and hope be with you and your ministries as we move into 2022 together.

A few weeks ago, I listened to a psychologist share her insights about the trauma we have been experiencing the past two years due to Covid-19 and other societal stressors. "Whiplash" was the word that stuck with me as she described the continuous effects of responding to the events gripping our lives. As she spoke, I envisioned the past 22 months as riding a never-ending rollercoaster, being whipped back and forth as the journey twisted and turned, went sideways and upside down. Just when we thought things were slowing down and getting better, just when we were starting to catch our breath, then another covid variant showed up or another crisis happened and we were whiplashed back into fear mode, our bodies and brains, emotions and spirits seeking safety from what we perceived as yet another threat. There never seemed to be any opportunity to stop and recover before the next event came along.

The psychologist described how the physical, mental, and emotional effects of this continuous whiplash accumulate in us as individuals and as communities and we start to feel like we're constantly in fight, flight, or freeze mode, always on edge, ready to react, unable to look forward to the future. But at the same time, as our bodies get overloaded, we start to feel sluggish and apathetic, without energy to do anything. And we forget basic things like why we walked into a room or why I almost fed myself my cat's food by mistake. (Yes, that really happened!) Many of us just don't feel like ourselves right now.

I think the most important thing I took away from this presentation was that this reaction to the long-term whiplash trauma so many of us are experiencing is normal. If you've been feeling this way, you are experiencing what most of us are experiencing and it is natural to be experiencing it. It's not good or healthy for us or for our communities as we try to live together, but it is a normal reaction to what our society is going through right now as our brains and bodies try to protect us.

So, knowing that most people are struggling to hang in there, how do we as followers of Christ approach the new year, especially as we are making decisions for the future of our congregations and the wider church? I offer three suggestions:

1. **Space and patience.** We need to give ourselves and others, including our ministry leaders, the space to rest and recover. And we need to be patient with ourselves and one another as we find our ways through this. Expecting an immediate recovery from this prolonged whiplash trauma is not realistic – our bodies and minds just don't heal that fast. So whether alone or in worship, whether in council meetings or bible studies, whether in seeking discernment or holding things together, take the space and time to breathe, pray, lament, rejoice, and be in relationship with and care for one another, being kind to each other in all that you do and say.
2. **Forgiveness.** This prolonged whiplash trauma has put a lot of us on edge, too ready to take out our anxiety or anger on others without realizing it. Managing our emotional

reactions is important during this time. But because people are more on edge, that self-management is harder to do. So let us seek to practice forgiveness, both of ourselves and others, in the way Christ calls us to while at the same time treating one another as we want to be treated. As Jesus responded to Peter's question of how often he should forgive someone who sins against him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy times seven times." (Mt 18:22)

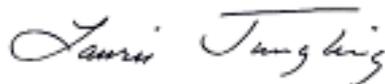
3. **Faith.** Faith is first and foremost trust in the God of Jesus Christ who loves us and not only wants our well-being but is actively seeking to bring that well-being to us in so many ways. Trusting in God does not mean we don't feel fear or anxiety about the uncertainty in our lives. It does not mean denying the real struggles we are going through. We're human; of course, we'll feel these things. Faith is trusting that God is indeed with us on this rollercoaster ride AND is guiding us through the twists and turns toward the new life Jesus promises, not just in the next life but even now. So, as you think about the next year, seek the faith to take a step forward into who God is calling you to be or what God is calling you to do. Maybe it will be a big step, maybe a small step. But I encourage you and your ministry to take a step forward into a new possibility that God may be leading you to explore.

In this spirit of faith and hope for gathering folks together, the synod will be stepping forward into an *in-person* Synod Assembly once again this spring. The theme is "Equipping for the Gospel" and we will be meeting at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center in Billings on June 3 & 4, 2022. We will be experimenting with a slightly different schedule that will allow some of you to return home Saturday evening; but given the size of the synod, some of you will still need to spend an extra night in Billings (at a hotel where there's a waterslide!) or on the road somewhere.

Finally, a note on the financial situation of the synod as we approach the new fiscal year. Like many of your ministries, the synod is hanging in there, finding ways to make it work as some months of mission support are better than others. Thank you for the ongoing generosity many of you have shown in your gifts to support the mission of the MT/NWY Synod as we work together to equip the followers of Christ in the ministry of the gospel! As you are exploring your own financial realities for the coming year, I invite you to consider increasing your support as you are able in the service of the Christ's ministry across the synod.

May God bless you with hope and resilience for 2022!

In Christ's Love,



Rev. Laurie Jungling  
Bishop, Montana/N. Wyoming Synod



# Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

## Annual Report 2021

*"Thank you for all you do for the kids. Our daughter has a great time at camp and as a family we had a terrific time during the family camp weekend." The Esposito family*

### 2021 BY THE NUMBERS:

Sept. 2020 - May 2021 Campers: 815 guests (retreats/events/EE students)  
2021 Summer Campers: 914 (all ages, all programs); 15 Day Camps in congregations;  
52 summer volunteers; 36 incredible summer staff

### YEAR IN REVIEW:

- October 2020:
  - FLBC association voted unanimously to act on a first right of refusal on a piece of land on Hughes Bay next to FLBC's Sailboat docks. The land was purchased for \$287,500; thanks to the generosity of our community and a gift from an anonymous donor, the loan is paid off!
- Spring 2021:
  - FLBC provides program for many wonderful retreats and teaches Environmental Education at camp to 2 local public schools.
- March 2021:
  - M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust chooses FLBC as a recipient of a \$100,000 grant to help move this ministry into the future beyond COVID. \$70,000 was designated for Technology updates, and \$30,000 was made available as a matching grant to inspire new gifts.
- June - August 2021:
  - After careful planning and preparation, FLBC has a summer full of faith-formation and community building with more than 1,000 campers/guests, centered on Micah 6:8 and the theme "From Now On."
- Fall 2021:
  - FLBC's year-round ministry continues with exciting experiences such as the first Backpacking with the Bishop Trip (August) and our first Grief Retreat (September)
  - With praise and thanks to God for wonderful donors and congregations, FLBC will finish the year in the black - allowing us to move forward in faith!
  - Thanks also to amazing generosity, PHASE 1 of the Holy Ground campaign has only \$20,000 to go to meet the \$235,000 goal.



*Thank you for your generosity and care for camp!*

PLEASE help us recruit summer staff ages 18-90! Go to <https://flbc.net/employment/> for applications for staff and volunteers!

## **PASTOR'S REPORT FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

I am so thankful that I have been able to serve St. John's as pastor since 2012. The past ten years have flown by. I am grateful for your support and patience during this unusual COVID year. It has been a challenging year but also a blessing. Your faithful ministry and support have made all the difference. Randy Rake prepared a beautiful presentation on the windows of St. John's in January. There was insurrection of the capital on January 6 and President Biden took office. In February President Trump's 2nd trial of impeachment led to his acquittal. Vaccinations for COVID19 began in January and gave us hope and gave us hope for the year ahead.

Because of COVID19 we did not have in person Sunday worship until March 21st and we asked members to wear masks. A special thank is extended to Dodie, Gretchen, Connie, Teresa and all who assisted and led our streamed services. Under the fine direction of Angel Conley and assistance by K'Lynn Sloan, we were able to stream our services and continue to do so. The church council guided us through the whole year of adjustments caused by COVID and they deserve our deepest thanks as well. We are indebted to The Property Committee led by Vern, Jens, Marv, and others who did special cleaning of the sanctuary each week. To serve our members we provided drive through communion. In person worship began again in March and we celebrated Easter with two services. We were hopeful that things would "go back to normal." We did not have confirmation classes in the Winter and Spring.

Our Wednesday night Lenten service theme was "Hope For the Weary: A Grace Filled Wilderness" and was centered on a study of Exodus and the wilderness experience that they went through. Easter Sunday we had the early Service at the church and the regular Festival worship as planned, but no breakfast was served because of COVID.

A 125th Anniversary Benevolence Appeal continued with great success matched by generous donors Pastor Neal and Mary Ruedisili. St. John's raised \$97,375 for the 125th Benevolence Appeal. This is amazing! We especially thank Mary and Pastor Neal Ruedisili for their generous matching contribution. We'll never know the lives that were and are touched due to this incredible generosity. I am so proud of all of you. Thank you St. John's members for your faithful and generous support and your sharing of time and talents.

On November 6 we had a wonderful anniversary banquet and on November 7 Bishop Laurie Jungling preached for our Anniversary Celebration service and we had awesome music for our celebration! We also added a new roof to our church and all but \$1000 was covered by our insurance. Another highlight of the year was Pastor Paul Oman coming to St. John's in October sharing his "Drawn To The Word" ministry, not only at St. John's but at Touchmark and the Helena Middle School as well. A grant from the Hetzel Foundation made this all possible.

What will 2022 bring? Only God knows. The Omicron virus will still impact our church and the world. Though disappointed and a little weary, as the body of Christ we will care for one another and uphold one another in prayer. There will be changes that will come this year that will impact our church but "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:9) We will continue to seek Christ's guidance as we go forward into our future that Christ has prepared for us.

One question we should ask ourselves is as we begin this new year is, "What is the next faithful step that Christ is calling us to take?" As we look to the Lord and seek His wisdom, God promises to lead us and guide us. The request for wisdom is a prayer that God always answers.

Here's one of my favorite prayers that we can continue to pray:

"O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Thankful to be serving with you as disciples and witnesses of Christ here at St. John's,

Pastor Brad Ulgenes

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Evangelism Committee  
Annual Report  
2021**

**Committee Member: Pastor Brad Ulgenes, Debbie Berg, Paula Blessinger, Mait Board, Teresa Kinley, Noma Middlestead, Laura Nachtsheim, Mildred Twingley and Betty Olaf.**

**Statement: Our missions include: advertising, hospitality, and Outreach to the Community and throughout the Church.**

***These are the functions that we did not do in the fateful 2021.***

- 1. No monthly meetings***
- 2. No coffee hour treats after Services, weekly.***
- 3. No planning, setup or serving for soup suppers during Lent.***
- 4. No Sunrise Service for Easter at the Kleffner Ranch***
- 5. No meeting up or having treats at the Band Concert.***

***We did have a Brunch in the Basement as a fundraiser for the Middle School , Bob's Pantry. With Social Ministry and Evangelism we were able to send \$ 2,381.00 to the school.***

***We ordered, purchased and served a special cake for the 125 +1 to honor Bishop Junjling.***

***Respectfully submitted by,***

***Laura Nachtsheim  
Chair***



## **QUILTERS AND SCHOOL KITS ANNUAL REPORT**

The quilters meet every Wednesday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We can always use more volunteers.

We use flat colored or printed sheets, so be on the lookout for them while you are out at garage sales, etc. White sheets are discouraged by the ELCA because of the lack of laundry facilities in most countries.

During the 2020-2021 quilting year the Covid virus reduced the number of hours we were able to quilt. Therefore, on July 7, 2021 we shipped only forty-two quilts to the ELCA. Also, due to Covid, we did not collect school supplies during the fall of 2020. Therefore, no school kits were shipped.

The quilters started quilting again in September, 2021. Through the end of December 2021, 100 quilts had been made. Quilting will continue through April and into May 2022 until the truck comes to pick up the Quilts. We also collected enough school supplies last fall for approximately 100 school kits that will be shipped with the quilts.

We began the quilting year in September, 2021 with three rolls of batting and will order four more rolls in January 2022 at a cost of \$424.00.

We greatly appreciate the Congregations support  
God's Work, Our Hands  
Linda Roessner & Mildred Twingley

## ST JOHN'S SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE SUMMARY 2021

Thank you to the 2021 Committee Members: Paula Blessinger, Mary and Bing Crosby, Rebekah French, Bill and Patricia Harant, Mary and Neal Ruedisili, Amy Smiedala, and Jennifer Wintersteen.

**Special Offerings:** The Social Ministry Committee selects special causes for each month and promotes them in the newsletter and bulletins. Each month the selected group receives \$100 from the Church budget in addition to special collections for the cause. A brief summary is below but see the attached Financial report for the Total Benevolence Distributed.

JAN: Family Promise \$1,050

FEB: Helena Food Share \$1,478.50

MAR: GOD's Love (also includes any Wednesday Lent offerings) \$2,730

APR: Intermountain \$660

MAY: Florence Crittenton \$852

JUN: The Friendship Center \$652

JUL: Helena Habitat for Humanity \$785

AUG: Bob's Pantry \$2,381

SEPT: NAMI: \$740

OCT: Family Promise Comfort Food Challenge \$1276

NOV: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service \$581; World Hunger \$300

DEC: Helena Food Share – \$482.50, God's Love \$482.50 (Thanksgiving Service)

Florence Crittenton giving tree: 12 gifts;

ELCA Good Gifts; 8 gift cards to Friendship Center

**Family Promise:** This continues to be a major project for the committee. The pandemic continued to interfere with St. John's ability to host Family Promise in the traditional sense, thanks to the amazing people at First Christian Church, St. John's and its partner church provided overnight hosts for our host weeks. St. John's volunteers also shopped for and delivered food and prepared dinners for host weeks. We will again be hosting in 2022, beginning the week of January 23rd back at St Johns. Pastor Neal and Rebekah have stepped down as organizers and Kari Ceaicovschi has stepped up. She is hoping that we will have more volunteers who can do overnight hosting and meal prep in the coming year. Please contact Kari ([aceaicovschi@hotmail.com](mailto:aceaicovschi@hotmail.com) or (206) 778-9647) if you have questions or are able to help out. Thank you to all who have supported this ministry in 2021.

**Bob's Pantry- Helena Middle School:** St. John's continues to offer support to our neighbors at Helena Middle School by collecting food, clothing and hygiene items to help students and families in need. In addition to our summer brunch on the lawn fundraiser, this is an ongoing project throughout the year. Items may be left in the box in the Narthex Name Tag Room.

### 125th Anniversary Benevolence Gift Challenge in 2021

St John's received an amazing gift matching opportunity from Pastor Neal and Mary Ruedisili to celebrate its 125th Anniversary. We extended our celebration and challenge and St John's raised over \$96,000. This amazing total has been split between five organizations: Helena Family YMCA, YWCA of Helena, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Christikon Bible Camp, and ELCA World Hunger.

**Please join us! Social Ministry Meetings generally take place the third Sunday of the month at 10:45 a.m. in the Guild room or Fair Chapel. While St Johns has gone "COVID remote" we communicate via email. Please contact Amy at [ahsmiedala@gmail.com](mailto:ahsmiedala@gmail.com) to be included in the committee emails and meeting times.**

*Submitted by Amy Smiedala, chair, January 2, 2022*

## 2021 SOCIAL MINISTRY BENEVOLENCE

	<b>Total Benevolence Distributed</b>	
Lutheran World Relief	100.00	
Family Promise	2,226.00	
World Hunger	10,000.34	Includes 125th allocation of \$9,350
Intermountain	660.00	
Food Share	2,003.00	
Montana Synod	6,300.00	
Good Samaritan	500.00	
Energy Share of Montana	-	
God's Love	3,212.50	
Pastor Discretionary Other	2,012.75	
Pastor Discretionary - Designated Benevolence	(1,000.00)	
Lutheran Social Services	399.96	
Lutheran Student Foundation	600.00	
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp	9,950.00	Includes 125th allocation of \$9,350
Mission Support	1,305.00	
Freedom in Christ	59.00	
125th Anniversry	-	
YWCA	9,350.00	Includes 125th allocation of \$9,350
Bob's Pantry (Helena Middle School)	2,381.00	
School Supplies	-	
Florence Crittenton	1,172.33	
Friendship Center	972.33	
NAMI	740.00	
St Johns United	-	
Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp	9,350.00	Includes 125th allocation of \$9,350
ELCA Leaders	-	
YMCA	9,350.00	Includes 125th allocation of \$9,350
Lutheran Immigration	591.00	
Habitat for Humanity	735.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,970.21</b>	
	72,970.21	

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Total	Per GL							
1 Other Benevolence																					
2																					
3																					
4																					
5 Lutheran World Relief				100.00											100.00						
6 Family Promise	1,030.00			20.00					411.00	765.00					2,226.00						
7 World Hunger		10.00				10.00									10,000.34						
8 Intermountain				660.00											660.00						
9 Food Share	1,180.00		48.50	250.00		42.00					482.50				2,003.00						
10 Montana Synod	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00		6,300.00						
11 Good Samaritan				500.00											500.00						
12 Energy Share of Montana																					
13 God's Love		915.00	1,575.00	240.00							482.50				3,212.50						
14 Pastor Discretionary Other		500.00	100.00	700.00	128.20			300.00	172.55			112.00			2,012.75						
15 *Pastor Discretionary - Transfer to Designated Category		(500.00)		(500.00)											(1,000.00)						
16 Lutheran Social Services	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33		399.96						
17 Lutheran Student Foundation	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00		600.00						
18 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00		9,950.00						
19 Mission Support	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	755.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00		1,305.00						
20 Freedom in Christ				50.00			9.00								59.00						
21 125th Anniversary																					
22 YMCA								2,381.00							9,350.00						
23 Bob's Parity (Helena Middle School)															2,381.00						
24 School Supplies																					
25 Florence Crittenton					840.00		12.00								1,172.33						
26 Friendship Center							652.00								972.33						
27 NAMI									740.00						740.00						
28 St Johns United																					
29 Christian Lutheran Bible Camp															9,350.00						
30 ELCA Leaders																					
31 YMCA															9,350.00						
32 Lutheran Immigration Refuge					10.00						581.00				591.00						
33 Habitat for Humanity								785.00	(50.00)						735.00						
34																					
35	1,738.33	2,813.33	2,431.83	2,728.33	1,686.53	1,433.33	1,433.33	2,198.33	3,339.33	2,031.88	1,473.33	2,554.33	48,541.33		72,970.21						
36 Per PL - Benevolence Expense	1,738.33	2,813.33	2,431.83	2,728.33	1,686.53	1,433.33	1,433.33	2,198.33	3,339.33	2,031.88	1,473.33	2,554.33	48,541.33		72,970.21						
37																					
38 Income received and not designated for distribution																					
39 125th Anniversary	85.00	390.00	590.00	4,616.00	145.00	687.00	495.00	245.00	449.00	2,590.00	20,975.00	(41,274.49)			(10,007.49)						
40																					
41																					
42 Total Benevolence	1,823.33	3,203.33	3,021.83	7,344.33	1,831.53	2,120.33	2,693.33	3,584.33	2,480.88	4,063.33	23,529.33	7,266.84			62,962.72						
43																					
44 Reconciliation to Income:																					
45 Benevolence Income	1,015.00	1,895.00	2,113.50	5,836.00	895.00	1,312.00	1,885.00	2,476.00	1,500.00	3,255.00	22,721.00	6,346.51			51,250.01						
46 Benevolence paid from General Fund Income	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33	808.33		9,699.96						
47 Benevolence paid from Pastor Discretionary		500.00	100.00	700.00	128.20			300.00	172.55						2,012.75						
48 Difference																					
49																					
50 *Transfer from Pastor Discretionary to God's Love		500.00																			
51 *Transfer from Pastor Discretionary to Good Sam				500.00																	

## **ST. JOHN'S WELCA UNIT SUMMARY 2021**

The St. John's WELCA Unit is the women's ministry organization of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Although we use St. John's tax id number, the WELCA Unit has a separate account and does not rely on funds provided as part of St. John's annual budget. Our income comes from coffee sales, coffee hour donations, and donations made by our members. Funds collected by the St. John's WELCA unit are shared with the Synodical Woman's Organization of the Montana Synod and with the church-wide WELCA organization.

The women of the St. John's WELCA Unit traditionally provide hospitality following funerals. In 2021, we served refreshments following five funerals.

Many members of the St. John's WELCA Unit serve on Alter Guild, a responsibility that has become more complicated during the pandemic. We could use additional volunteers for this vital service.

In February, we presented out "Bold Woman" awards for 2021 to Shirley Hautzinger and Laura Nachtsheim

Although our activities in 2021 were adversely impacted by the pandemic, we were able to conduct business meetings on a semi-regular basis. Although the Nominating Committee actively sought candidates to replace the 2021 officers, they were not successful. The following officers agreed to serve another term.

President: Rebekah French

Vice-President: Danyel Bauer

Secretary: Jennifer Wintersteen

Treasurer: Gayle Grimsrud

We will continue to hold business meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:15 in the Guild Room or the Fair Chapel.

At some point during the year, we discovered a cache of cash and checks totaling \$406.06 collected in 2020 as part of Thank Offering Sunday. That amount was added to the \$742.02 collected in 2021 and sent to WELCA Church-wide to support its programs.

We were able to hold Festival of Angels in 2021, choosing to shorten the hours and not serve lunch. Many of our members had been creating hand-crafted items during the pandemic and offered those items for sale, along with the traditional baked good. We collected a total of \$5225, all of which was donated to the 125<sup>th</sup> Benevolence Fund.

Evening Circle met as often as possible during 2021 and will continue to meet at St. John's at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month during the winter and spring of 2022.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT 2021

The year 2021 started much as 2020 ended with worship being streamed online only. We first had in person worship on Wednesday, March 17th when we held a Lenten evening service using Holden evening prayer liturgy. We then began regular in person Sunday worship on March 21st and have continued to have worship both at Church and online since then. We had both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship as well as two services on Easter Sunday. The 8:00 service featured a more casual “camp” style service, and the 10:00 service featured bells, brass and choir. It was indeed a celebration as it had been two years since we had celebrated Easter together in the sanctuary.

Our Sanctuary and Bell Choirs have both been sharing music on a regular basis. To sing and play together safely we have managed to use masks, especially for the singers, and have kept up with our vaccinations. We are down a bit in numbers, but have still managed to participate in worship much as we did before covid. The choir generally sings every Sunday and the Bells play once a month. We appreciate the hard work of our directors Connie Conley, Christina Tielking, and Renee Slocum. Both choirs welcome new members so please consider participating if you are interested.

We are fortunate to again have the South Hills Brass participate in festival worship services. They practice in our sanctuary and in return provide music for us several times a year. We are also grateful for Peter Landeen who teaches cello at St. John’s and plays for us from time to time. A relative new addition to our community is Dr. Frederick Frey who shares his beautiful baritone voice with us regularly. We also have had some musical friends from the community, notably flautist Elizabeth Burke, who shared her talents with us. Music remains a priority for St. John’s and we are pleased we have been able to continue that tradition in difficult times.

We celebrated two special events this past fall. In October, artist Paul Oman led worship for us as he created special paintings during two separate worship services. We were able to intertwine special music with readings as he worked. He also held a workshop on Saturday with kids of all ages, and helped with the art classes at Helena Middle School. We were finally able to celebrate our 125th +1 anniversary on All Saints’ Sunday. We also held a banquet at the church on Saturday evening. Our festival worship service included brass, choir, and bells. Bishop Laurie Jungling was the speaker and former intern Trish Underberg returned from Iowa to celebrate with us and participate in worship. It was a joyful time of remembering our past and looking ahead to the future.

We had 5:30 PM and 8:00 PM worship services on Christmas Eve. As has been the trend, the earlier service had the most attendance. We had both choirs as well as a trumpet at that service. The later service was a quieter, more contemplative service featuring Frederick Frey, and also Alyson Rake on viola.

We were finally able to have one of the organ's air chests replaced this last year. There are more issues that we need to deal with in the coming year, such as electrical issues with the electronic combination action, a possible leak in another air chest, and our recurring issue of maintaining the swell and great pipes at the same temperature to keep the organ in tune. It has been very difficult to get technicians to come to Montana to work on the organ during the past two years. We are exploring options to get an evaluation of the work that needs to be done and cost estimates. We will also be working with the task force that is looking at options to improve the heating system.

Our committee has not been meeting on a regular basis during covid, but we have been dealing with issues as they occur. Participation and input from the congregation is always welcome. Please feel free to speak with any of our staff if you have questions or ideas on improving our worship. We try to use a variety of liturgy and musical settings to speak to all of the congregation. We are very thankful for all the support you give us.

## **YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT 2021**

### **JANUARY**

- Mailed 20 packets of 4 weeks of Family Sunday School to 28 kids in total. The kids ages are through 6<sup>th</sup> grade the packets include a devotion on the lectionary, crafts, and games. Resumed live, weekly devotions on Facebook on Wednesday's at Noon.
- Phone meeting with FLBC to plan for VBS 2021

### **FEBRUARY**

- Mailed individual, homemade valentines to 40 kids/youth
- Mailed 30 devotional booklets out to our youth. Thrivent generously provided the Action Grant to pay for the devotions, mailing supplies, and postage.

### **APRIL**

- Betty Olaf put together jellybean butterflies for all of our youth for Easter Sunday

### **MAY**

- Met with John Munding and Pr. Peggy Leuzinger to plan and submit a grant to church wide to support a new project-Youth In Local Mission-we are planning for the fall school year
- Celebrated the graduation of 5 high school seniors on 5/23

### **JUNE**

- VBS/Day Camp in person with FLBC! Hosted 4 counselors at the church, 34 kids attended, partnered with New Life Lutheran Church

### **AUGUST**

- 8 kids from St. John's attended FLBC this summer
- Evan Ceacovschi was awarded the \$500 St. John's College Scholarship

### **SEPTEMBER**

- Hosted a brainstorming session with families to assess needs for the year
- Mailed out cards with leather key fobs with the verse Philippians 4:13 as a blessing of the backpacks for all students elementary through college and military
- 9/10-11 youth held Grandma's Attic in our church parking lot. Raised \$1285
- 9/12 Softball game with the 3 churches in town
- Midweek Connection begins! 9/15 Worship at 6:30 PM and then classes at 7:00 PM, including Confirmation with 12 registered students

### **OCTOBER**

- Hosted a youth paint along with Pr. Paul Oman on Saturday 10/2 from 9:30 AM-Noon
- 10/10 resumed Sunday School on Sundays during the service
- 10/21 Mini-Mission #1: 12 students plus 2 adults met to make Christmas Cards for Festival of Angels and to put together homemade cookie packets for God's Love
- 10/24- First Communion Class-3 participants
- 10/31 First Communion Sunday: Norah Eckdahl, Ben Munding-Adsay, Allie Tetrault

### **NOVEMBER**

- Thrivent contacted us about the possibility of using a community grant of \$2000 and we used it to purchase "Baskets of Blessings" — a full Thanksgiving dinner and family game — for 20 families at HMS. A group of families and members from St. John's met on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> to assemble the baskets and they were delivered on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## DECEMBER

- 80 cards were made and sold at The Festival of Angels with 100% of the proceeds going towards their fundraiser.
- The Sunday School kids spend Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> rehearsing for their Christmas pageant and spend the rest of the afternoon celebrating with a cocoa party and minute-to-win it games.
- The Sunday School pageant-Los Posadas-was presented on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The youth led the service by greeting, reading, serving communion, and providing special music. 5 youth played their instruments!
- On Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, our youth group put up the Christmas tree.
- Gerald Watne generously donated goody bags to hand out to all kids in attendance at the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve service