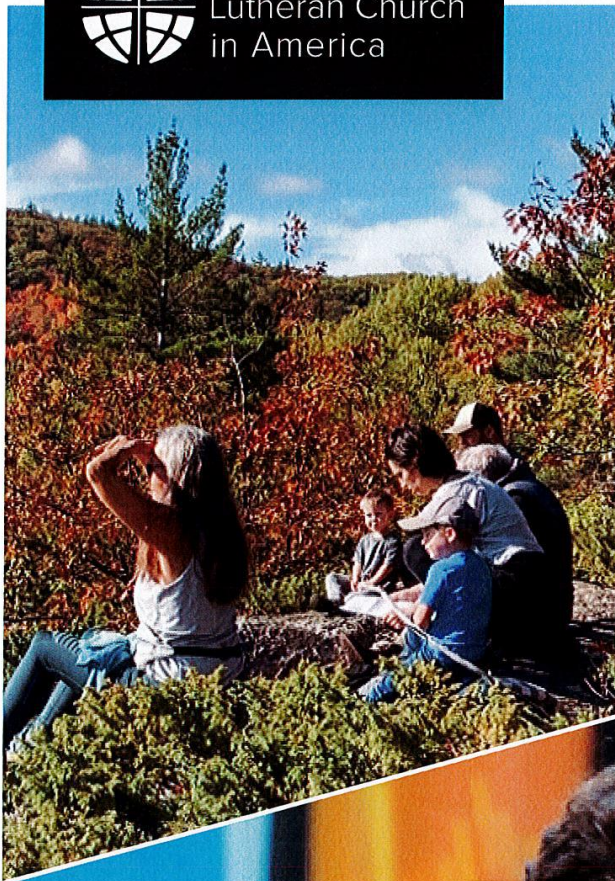




Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

St. John's Lutheran Church  
January 26, 2025

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks ...

God, we praise you and give you thanks.

**You are good, and your mercy endures forever.**

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

**We praise you for food that nourishes us.**

You rescued your people from slavery.

**We praise you for freedom.**

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.

**We bless you for your justice and mercy.**

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.

**We praise you for his death and resurrection.**

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.

**We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.**

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift

**and commission us again to be your servant people.**

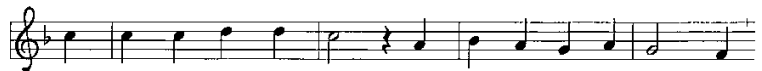
Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:

**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.**

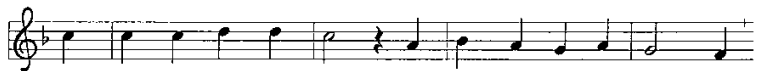
Send us in your love and mercy,

**that the world may know you and praise you.**

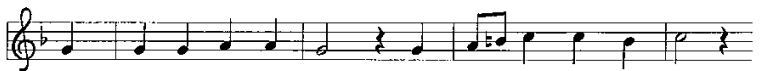
### Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next,  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840*

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**



# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2025 12:00 PM

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Devotions	
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Nominations for Council Members.	
Locking the front door during service.	
New Business	Page 26
Appointment of SJ voting members to 2025 SWPA Synod Assembly. June 12 - 14, 2025 at Laroche University.	
Ecclesiastical 1 <sup>st</sup> ballot for Bishop – May 17, 2025 via Zoom	
Discuss boiler replacement.	
Letter from the Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton	Page 27
Adjournment & Closing Prayer	

### Voting Membership and Quorum

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

*St. John's Constitution C8.02.c*

Confirmed, Communing, & Contributing Membership as of 12/31/24: **90**

Congregational Meeting Quorum of 10% of Voting Members (C10.04) as of 12/31/24: **9**

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
715 Lincoln Highway  
North Versailles, PA

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

David Lundie called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. with the opening liturgy printed on the inside cover of the Bulletin of Reports. Led by Derek, those present sang the hymn that was also printed there. David announced that we had a quorum, and the meeting could proceed.

The minutes of the Congregation meetings held on January 29 and November 19, 2023, were presented for review. Margie Trunzo moved that these minutes be accepted; that motion was seconded by Glenda. The motion was passed unanimously.

The members and officers of Council for 2024 were reviewed. David noted that the terms of the Treasurer and the Financial Treasurer expired in December. Cindy Haag will remain as an Assistant Treasurer, and Madison Lewis will be the Treasurer. As of the meeting, no one has yet agreed to be the Financial Secretary. Sherie Cannin will be the new Organ Fund Treasurer. A motion was made by Cindy Luke, seconded by Julie Sacriponte to accept the officers as listed in the agenda. The motion was passed.

The report of the Financial Secretary was reviewed. There was a motion by Glenda Miller, seconded by Cindy Haag, to approve the report as presented. The motion passed.

Cindy Haag presented the 2023 Treasurer's report. It was moved by Virginia Mols to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Betsy Stevick and was carried.

The Proposed Budget for 2024 was presented by David Lundie. He noted that the Finance Committee and Council adjusted the proposed budget based on expenditures of 2023. Karan Cehlar moved to accept the 2024 Proposed Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Glenda Miller and was carried.

The Organ Fund report was presented by Cindy Haag. Cindy reminded those present to continue to donate to the Organ Fund. There are 22 payments left - \$16,760.88 is the principal balance. Julie Sacriponte moved to accept the Organ Fund report. The motion was seconded by John Cehlar and was carried. The motion passed.

Pastor Kimberly presented her Pastor's report. She also thanked the congregation for their patience and generosity during her long covid recovery and for helping with the boys. A motion by Margie Trunzo to accept the Pastor's report was made and was seconded by Chuck Schaller. The motion was carried.

The Membership and Statistical report was presented by David. He noted that this year Council is hoping to reach out to members who haven't been communing, contributing, or attending for some time. A mistake in the headings of the columns, the year 2022 appeared twice, has been corrected. There was a motion to approve the Membership and Statistical report by Carla Schlegel. The motion was seconded by Sue Ward and was passed unanimously.

The Reports of the Standing Committees were presented. David would like to see more people involved. He would like to see members of the congregation serve as Committee Chairpersons and have members of Council serve as liaisons. In response to a question from the floor, David noted that Council meets in person at least once per quarter, the remaining meetings are held via Zoom. He asked for members of the congregation to consider becoming a member of Council. A motion to accept the Reports of the Standing Committees was made by Betsy Stevick and seconded by Cindy Haag. The motion passed.

As there were no additions, corrections or discussion of the Reports of the Organizations and Auxiliaries, a motion was made by Glenda Miller and seconded by Ed Ward to accept the reports as presented. The motion passed.

New Business:

The information about the new flat roof project was presented by Cindy Haag. She noted that the roof is beyond repair and that leaks have been stopped many times by Likar roofing – many at no charge. Cindy Haag made a motion to accept Likar Roofing and Elk Heating and Cooling to replace the flat roof, as well as obtaining a loan to pay for the roof. The total cost of the roof using Likar Roofing will be \$95,605. The Finance committee will take \$40,000 to \$50,000 from the Rebecca Lynn Crawford fund's principal, and \$10,000 from

the Rebecca Lynn Crawford interest fund. This would leave a balance of approximately \$50,000 that would be borrowed. The payment on a ten-year loan, borrowing \$40,000 to \$50,000, would be about \$650.00 per month. The Finance committee will request money from the congregation as well. The funds received for the roof will be deposited into a separate account. A question from the floor asked about the warranty – it is 20 years.

The motion, to approve the bid from Likar Roofing and Elk Heating and Cooling for \$95,000+, using \$10,000 from the Rebecca Lynn Crawford interest account, funds from the principal of the Rebecca Lynn Crawford trust fund and a loan from a lending institution for the balance was made by Glenda Miller and seconded by Ed Ward. The motion passed. Cindy said that the project will begin soon.

Locking the outside door during worship was discussed. Pastor would like to investigate what other churches in the area do. If the door is locked, it would be necessary for the Head Usher to watch the door, and it may be necessary to silence the doorbell during the service. This will be discussed with the Head Ushers and moved to the Property committee.

David asked for volunteers to serve on Council – there were none.

David Lundie and Chuck Schaller were appointed as St. John's representatives to the Synod Assembly, June 14 and June 15 at PennWest California. A motion to accept the appointees was made by Carla Schlegel and seconded by Karan Cehlar; the motion passed.

The status of the audio equipment in the sanctuary was discussed. The system is very antiquated. Matt Thomas has been working on upgrading our equipment. There is \$,2500 budgeted to improve the sound system.

David noted the letter from presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is on the last page of the Bulletin of Reports for the congregation to read.

Bob Reimer, seconded by Brian Maderas, moved to close the congregation meeting. The motion passed.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by David, and was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debi Maurizi

### CONGREGATION MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

David Lundie called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. at the conclusion of the worship service, and he led us in prayer. David declared a quorum.

The members leaving Council at the end of 2024, Cindy Haag, Brenda Neundorf and Matt Thomas, were thanked for their service and hard work.

Council then nominated Sherie Cannin for a second term. David opened nominations to the floor, and Sarah Lundie nominated Adam Wise for a first term. The motion was seconded by Glenda Miller and the motion carried.

David explained that with only two nominations our Council will only have 7 members. While this is workable, it means that some Council members will need to chair more than one committee. Nominees for Council will be accepted until the January congregational meeting. Anyone interested should contact a member of the Council.

David opened the floor for any new business, and Judi Rogers suggested a round of applause for the members of Council.

As there was no further business, Sherie Cannin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Justin Felt. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debi Maurizi

## **2025 Officers of the Congregation and Council**

The Council Planning Workshop was held on Saturday, January 11, 2025 in Miller Hall, and at that meeting the Congregation Council elected the following officers for 2025:

President, <i>ex-officio</i>	Pastor Kimberly Greway
Vice President	David Lundie
Secretary	Sarah Lundie
Treasurer	Cindy Haag
Financial Secretary	Glenda Miller
Property Fund (Organ/Roof) Treasurer	Sherie Cannin

## **2025 Congregation Council Committee** **Chairs and Liaisons**

Christian Education and Youth - Sarah Lundie; Jenn Huber, Co-chairs  
Evangelism & Communication - David Lundie, Liaison  
Fellowship - Sarah Lundie; Shawn Durkin, Co-chairs  
Finance - Sherie Cannin, Liaison; Cindy Haag, Chair  
Mission and Outreach - Sherie Cannin; Jenn Huber, Co-Chairs  
Mutual Ministry - Brian Maderas, Liaison  
Property - Chuck Schaller; Shawn Durkin, Co-Chairs  
Strategic Planning - Adam Wise; David Lundie, Co-chairs  
St. Afterschool – Cindy Haag, Chair  
Stewardship - Sarah Lundie, Chair  
Worship and Music - Adam Wise, Liaison

## Financial Secretary's Report

The following is a report of the giving patterns of the members of St. John's for 2024. The statistics reflect all church envelope offerings for 2024 **except Organ Fund / Property Improvement Fund Offerings**. Offerings for this fund are counted and deposited separately and are reported by the Organ Fund Treasurer.

Dates: 1/1/24 to 12/31/24

All funds (except Organ Fund / Property Improvement Fund)

Contributors:

<u>Number of Giving Units</u>	<u>Annual Giving Range</u>
1	over \$10,000.00
0	\$9,000.00 - \$9999.00
2	\$8,000.00 – 8, 999.00
1	\$7,000.00 – 7,999.00
4	\$6,000.00 – 6,999.00
1	\$5,000.00 – 5,999.00
2	\$4,000.00 – 4,999.00
4	\$3,000.00 – 3,999.00
6	\$2,000.00 – 2,999.00
21	\$1,000.00 – 1,999.00
11	\$500.00 – 1,000.00
4	\$400.00 – 499.00
2	\$300.00 – 399.00
4	\$200.00 – 299.00
7	\$100.00 – 199.00
4	\$50.00 – 99.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenda Miller, Financial Secretary

# Treasurer's Report

## 2024 ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

### REVIEW OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

#### CITIZEN'S BANK GENERAL ACCOUNT

#### **I. RECEIPTS FROM OFFERINGS**

	<b>2024 YEAR</b>
<b>A. CURRENT FUND</b>	
Initial Envelopes	\$ 159
Loose Offering	\$ 1,299
Memorial Fund Offerings (1)	\$ 710
Ministry Support (Seminary support)	\$ 835
Regular Offerings	\$ 143,632
Special Services (Christmas, Easter, etc)	\$ 1,947
Total	\$ 148,582
<b>B. MISSION SUPPORT</b>	
Regular/Special Benevolence to SWPA Synod	\$ 17,504
<b>C. PROPERTY UPKEEP (2)</b>	\$ 7,238
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM OFFERINGS</b>	<b>\$ 173,324</b>

#### **II. MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS**

	<b>2024 YEAR</b>
Altar/Chancel Flowers	\$ 1,260
Ann Monroe Foundation	\$ 3,000
A/V Equipment	\$ 1,720
Bequest	\$ 2,000
Blanket Appeal	\$ 199
Crafters for a Cause	\$ 1,481
Disaster Relief	\$ 315
Easter Flowers	\$ 200
Father's Day Flowers	\$ 355
Freewill Offering	\$ 1,048
Geraniums	\$ 216
Handbells Donation	\$ 250
L Crawford Trust Interest/Distribution	\$ 3,495
Love Offering	\$ 1,080
MA's Pantry	\$ 205
MA's Pantry Grant	\$ 1,500
Miller Hall Use	\$ 2,060
Mission Outreach (Bake Sale)	\$ 237
Mother's Day Flowers	\$ 235
Noisy Offerings	\$ 1,042
Organ Fund	\$ 1,530
Poinsettias	\$ 312



Property Investment Fund	\$	1,012
Rebate (utilities)	\$	126
Soup Sale (Mission Outreach)	\$	1,186
Thrivent Choice Deposits	\$	931
Transfer from Money Market Acct: for Deficit	\$	26,500
Transfer from MPA: for expenses	\$	3,993
WELCA - St John's	\$	162
World Hunger	\$	15
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>57,665</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS TO CHECKING</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>230,988</b>

**III. RECORD OF DISBURSEMENTS**

	2024 ACTUAL	BUDGET
<b>MISSION SUPPORT</b>		
Benevolence (SWPA Synod)	\$ 17,539	\$ 16,500
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		
Breeze Software	\$ 864	\$ 900
Equip Repair/Equip Maintenance (copier)	\$ 3,325	\$ 4,600
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 137	\$ 350
License Fees	\$ 212	\$ 370
Offering Envelopes	\$ 325	\$ 350
Office Supplies	\$ 2,282	\$ 2,500
Postage	\$ 1,263	\$ 1,700
Publications	\$ -	\$ 50
Substitute Secretary	\$ -	\$ 250
Synod Assembly Registrations	\$ 125	\$ 200
ZOOM Account	\$ 171	\$ 160
	<b>\$ 8,705</b>	<b>\$ 11,430</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>		
Confirmation Program	\$ -	\$ 100
Faith Formation	\$ 50	\$ 200
General Curriculum	\$ 424	\$ 350
Sunday School Supplies	\$ 15	\$ 100
Vacation Bible School	\$ -	\$ 200
	<b>\$ 489</b>	<b>\$ 950</b>
<b>COMMITTEES</b>		
Christian Education & Youth	\$ 50	\$ 200
Evangelism & Communications	\$ 95	\$ 300
Fellowship	\$ 112	\$ 250

Strategic Planning (Long Range Planning)	\$	-	\$	50
Mutual Ministry	\$	-	\$	50
Mission Outreach (Social Ministry)	\$	-	\$	50
Stewardship	\$	-	\$	250
Worship & Music	\$	18	\$	200
	\$	274	\$	1,350

**PASTORAL EXPENSE**

Pastor's Salary	\$	51,460	\$	51,460
FICA W/H	\$	5,887	\$	5,878
Housing Allowance	\$	19,608	\$	19,608
Auto Mileage Allowance (3)	\$	747	\$	4,000
Cell Phone	\$	696	\$	700
Clergy Expense (3)	\$	1,083	\$	800
Continuing Education (3)	\$	1,347	\$	2,000
Employer Contribution to 403(b)	\$	1,800	\$	1,800
Healthcare	\$	6,772	\$	6,568
Pension / Benefits	\$	10,004	\$	10,928
Publications (3)	\$	375	\$	500
Supply Pastors	\$	1,737	\$	1,000
	\$	101,516	\$	105,242

**PROPERTY EXPENSE**

Custodian Supplies	\$	222	\$	450
Extermination	\$	857	\$	850
Improvements/Repairs/Upkeep	\$	4,185	\$	5,000
Insurance	\$	6,986	\$	6,710
Snow Removal & Lawn Care	\$	2,425	\$	3,000
Substitute Custodian	\$	-	\$	150
Utilities	\$	16,053	\$	20,000
	\$	30,728	\$	36,160

**SOCIAL MINISTRY DONATIONS**

Community & Other Donations	\$	-	\$	200
MA's Pantry	\$	1,500	\$	1,500
EA Meals on Wheels	\$	700	\$	700
Reconciling Works	\$	-	\$	250
	\$	2,200	\$	2,650

**STAFF EXPENSES**

Salaries (includes taxes)	\$	44,228	\$	44,228
FICA & Medicare Matching	\$	3,383	\$	3,383
	\$	47,611	\$	47,611

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Substitute Organist	\$	100	\$	300
	\$	100	\$	300

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Altar Supplies/Wine/Candles	\$	526	\$	175
Sundays & Seasons	\$	511	\$	500
Music and Choir Material	\$	79	\$	125
Nursery Attendant	\$	-	\$	500
	\$	1,116	\$	1,300

**TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES**

\$	210,279	\$	223,493
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**IV. NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES****2024 ACTUAL**

A/V Equipment	\$	2,417
Altar/Chancel Flowers	\$	1,990
Annual Congregation Meeting	\$	93
Blanket Appeal	\$	199
Church Picnic	\$	117
Crafters for a Cause	\$	506
Domestic Disaster Relief	\$	315
Easter Breakfast	\$	55
Easter Flowers	\$	210
Geraniums	\$	216
Grand Piano (moving/tuning)	\$	1,550
Love Offering	\$	1,080
Lunch-n-Learn Meal	\$	96
Lutheran Church Extension Society	\$	50
Luthernlyn	\$	300
MA's Pantry	\$	205
MA's Pantry Grant	\$	1,500
Music Appreciation	\$	40
Noisy Offering	\$	1,042
Organ Fund	\$	1,555
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$	665
Poinsettias	\$	288
Property Improvement Fund	\$	1,032
Rally Day	\$	42
Shrove Tuesday	\$	312
St Afterschool	\$	510
Tithe Gift	\$	200
Transfers to MPA Designated Accounts	\$	6,524
WELCA - St John's	\$	162
World Hunger Appeal	\$	15

**TOTAL NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES**

\$	20,869
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**TOTAL EXPENSES**

\$	231,147
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**V. SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES**

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Beginning Citizen's Bank Account (bank statement) - 1/1/2024		\$	26,762
Ending Citizen's Bank Balance (bank statement) - 12/31/2024		\$	22,306
Actual in Citizen's Bank account - 1/1/2024	\$	8,589	
Actual in Citizen's Bank account - 12/31/2024	\$	8,353	
INCOME (total receipts to checking)	\$	230,988	
DISBURSEMENTS (payments from checking)	\$	231,147	
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	\$	<b>(159)</b>	

(1) Transferred to MPS Designated Accounts - Memorials

(2) Transferred to MPS Designated Accounts - Property

**Treasurer's Report Investments**  
**1/1/2024-12/31/2024**

**I. MISSION PLUS ACCOUNT (ELCA Mission Investment Fund/MIF)**

	2024 Beginning Balance	2024 Ending Balance
R.L. Crawford Trust	\$30,112.47	\$9,702.06
Memorial Fund	\$9,621.60	\$6,331.60
Counseling Center	\$3,838.26	\$3,838.26
Property Upkeep	\$9,468.68	\$2,402.78
Seminarian Support	\$5,618.43	\$5,903.43
Youth Christian Ed Fund	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Labyrinth Fund	\$351.19	\$0.00
Elsie Novak Memorial Fund	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Norma Hutton Memorial Fund	\$20,399.32	\$13,089.88
Hamilton/Pirl Future Needs	\$18,737.00	\$18,337.00
Mission Outreach Escrow	\$578.00	\$626.00
Crafters for a Cause Escrow	\$0.00	\$979.64
A/V Equipment Escrow	\$2,500.00	\$82.29
2022/2023 Deficit	(\$17,975.00)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL MONEY MARKET</b>	<b>\$91,749.95</b>	<b>\$69,792.94</b>

**II. ELCA MISSION INVESTMENT FUND CDs**

	2024 Beginning Balance	2024 Ending Balance
Undesignated #xxxxxxxx2969 (maturation date 5/6/27)	\$17,661.79	\$18,316.59
Memorial Fund #xxxxxxx7841 (maturation date 4/20/26)	\$11,155.58	\$11,631.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,817.37</b>	<b>\$29,947.62</b>

**III. OTHER INVESTMENTS**

	2024 Beginning Balance	2024 Ending Balance
Thrivent Sutter Music Memorial Fund 12/31/24 balance	\$4,598.50	\$3,332.19
Thrivent Mutual Funds (Parsonage) 12/31/24 balance	\$4,892.35	\$5,620.54
Money Market - Citizen's Bank (as of 12/31/24)	\$59,660.58	\$34,192.04
Rebecca Lynn Crawford trust fund principle (as of 6/30/2024)	\$321,138.00	\$238,142.83

## Proposed 2025 Budget

### Proposed 2025 Budget

	2024 Approved	Proposed Budget 2025		2024 Approved	Proposed Budget 2025
<b>MISSION SUPPORT</b>			<b>PASTORAL</b>		
SWPA Synod/ELCA	\$ 16,500	16,500	Pastor Salary	51,460	53,036
Sub-Total	<b>16,500</b>	<b>16,500</b>	Employer 403(b) Contribution	1,800	1,800
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>			Housing Allowance	19,608	20,098
Breeze Accounting Software	900	900	FICA and Medicare Allowance	5,878	6,058
Equipment Lease/Maintenance	4,600	3,500	Auto Mileage Reimbursement	4,000	4,000
Kitchen Supplies	350	350	Clergy Expense Allowance	800	800
License Fees	370	250	Continuing Education	2,000	2,000
Offering Envelopes	350	350	Cell Phone	700	700
Office Supplies	2,500	2,000	Healthcare	6,568	7,178
Postage	1,700	1,500	Pension, Benefits	10,928	10,928
Publications	50	50	Publications	500	500
Substitute Secretary	250	250	Supply Pastor	1,000	1,000
Synod Assembly Registrations	200	250	Sub-Total	<b>105,242</b>	<b>108,099</b>
Word in Season	0	310	<b>PROPERTY</b>		
Zoom Account	160	180	Custodial Supplies	450	300
Sub-Total	<b>11,430</b>	<b>9,890</b>	Extermination	850	1,000
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>			Improvements / Repairs / Upkeep	5,000	7,000
Amplify Media	0	360	Package, Umb., WC & Bus. Ins.	6,710	7,052
Confirmation Program	100	100	Snow Plowing & Lawn Care	3,000	3,000
Faith Formation Events	200	200	Substitute Custodian	150	150
General Curriculum	350	350	Utilities	20,000	15,000
Sunday School Supplies	100	75	Sub-Total	<b>36,160</b>	<b>33,502</b>
Vacation Bible School	200	100	Community & Other	200	200
Sub-Total	<b>950</b>	<b>1,185</b>	EA Meals on Wheels	700	700
<b>COMMITTEES</b>			MA's Pantry	1,500	1,500
Christian Education & Youth	200	100	Reconciling Works	250	150
Evangelism & Communication	300	120	Sub-Total	<b>2,650</b>	<b>2,550</b>
Fellowship	250	250	<b>STAFF</b>		
Strategic Planning	50	50	Salaries (including taxes)	44,228	48,174
Mutual Ministry	50	50	FICA and Medicare Matching	3,383	3,685
Mission Outreach	50	50	Sub-Total	<b>47,611</b>	<b>51,860</b>
Stewardship	250	150	<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>		
Worship & Music	200	200	Substitute Organist/Musician	300	300
Sub-Total	<b>1350</b>	<b>970</b>	Sub-Total	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>
			<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>		
			Altar Supplies	175	200
			Sundays and Seasons	500	150
			Music and Choir Material	125	125
			Nursery Attendant Expenses	500	500
			Sub-Total	<b>1,300</b>	<b>975</b>
			<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$223,493</b>	<b>\$225,830</b>



**Organ Fund / Property Improvement Fund Treasurer's Report**

January 2024 to December 2024

Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2024	\$2,999.03	
Total Contributions	\$17,180.50	
Total Disbursements	-\$16,160.00	
Ending Balance	<b><u>\$4,029.53</u></b>	
Beginning Organ Fund Loan Amount	\$16,760.88	(Principle + Interest)
<b>Remaining Organ Fund Loan Amount Due</b>	<b>\$4,766.18</b>	
Beginning Organ Fund Loan Amount	\$50,000.00	
<b>Remaining Roof Fund Loan Amount Due</b>	<b>\$46,500.00</b>	

## Pastor's Report

Dear Friends,

What an absolute joy it is to be in ministry with you. I am continually delighted to be in this community and impressed with your willingness to welcome all. I was very grateful for your flexibility this year as I struggled with voice issues related to long covid and needed additional assistance in worship services and time off for my voice to recuperate.

This year, I have continued the focus on lay leadership from last year and added a theme of making connections:

- We have connected to our nearest ELCA churches through mutual activities, a common newsletter called *Together in Faith*, and shared worship services.
- St. John's hosted a Dismantling Antisemitism 101 seminar with the nearby ELCA churches that was put on by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.
- We have continued our tradition of holding several worship services in common with Linway Presbyterian during Lent and said goodbye to Pr. Eric Dennis as he retired.
- Updated audio and visual equipment and capabilities allow us to connect more effectively with those who are at home, traveling, or live outside of our area.
- Our partnership with the East Allegheny School District helped our St. Afterschool program to win a grant from the Grable Foundation that will increase its capacity to serve families in our area.
- Our Library is undergoing a transformation from a meeting room to a living room where people can meet and connect comfortably while the Ruth Room is being transformed into a space that will house our historical items as well as serve as our counseling center in connection with Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute.
- We have made connections with new people and received thirteen people as new members.
- We are making better use of technology and rolling out a texting program that helps us to better connect with members.
- The Three Rivers Ringers hand bell choir performed twice at St. John's which led to the donation of a beautiful baby grand piano from Rick and Linda Minnotte.
- Our connection through the Synod enabled us to be a new home for a number of worship appointments that were previously owned by Christ Lutheran in Charleroi which closed.

In addition, to these many connection-building efforts, I have worked with Council and the Committees to document their yearly work and trained the Altar Guild, Worship Assistants, and established a new ministry of Lectors.

Our Lent sermon series focused on Covenant and in Advent we used Bishop Will Willimon's book, *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*.

Looking forward, we will train more folks, establish more ministries, plan strategically, make more connections, and be better disciples.

Pastor Kimberly

## Membership & Statistical Report

	2022	2023	2024
<b>Baptized Membership, January 1</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>446</b>
Received by Child Baptism	3	6	3
Received by Adult Baptism	1	0	1
Received by Affirmation of Faith	6	3	1
Received by Transfer (Lutheran)	1	0	8
Received Other <i>(and statistical adjustment)</i>	0	0	0
<b>Total Members Received</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>
Removed by Death	6	4	2
Removed by Transfer (Lutheran)	0	5	4
Removed Other <i>(and statistical adjustment)</i>	2	0	0
<b>Total Removed</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Baptized Membership, December 31</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>453</b>
Unconfirmed Baptized Members	131	132	137
Baptized Members Confirmed this year	1	3	0
Confirmed Membership	301	304	309
Confirmed, Contributing	101	92	109
Confirmed, Communing	116	117	115
<b>Confirmed, Communing, &amp; Contributing</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>90</b>
Total Communing Members	130	127	128
Unconfirmed Communing Members	14	10	13
Average Sunday Attendance	60	58	55
<b>Average Weekend Worship Attendance</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55</b>

# REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

## Christian Education and Youth

The Christian Ed/Youth committee was reorganized for 2024 with Sarah Lundie as Chair, and members Pastor Kimberly Greway, Brenda Neundorf, Julie Sacriponte, Jack Sacriponte, Melanie Pfeifer, Sherie Cannin, Josh Cannin, Heather Thomas, Shawn Durkin and Christy Derek.

- With Brenda's input, a "Prayground" was created in the left front corner of the sanctuary. It is a quiet space for children and parents to use for play without leaving the worship service.
- Labyrinth stickers were purchased in partnership with the Women of the ELCA to use for Lenten devotions and to share in the bags for our homebound members the women's group prepares.
- The children collected donations for Souper Bowl Sunday in February.
- On the Saturday before Palm Sunday, we met to split palms. We had an activity that used prayer stations to tell the Holy Week and Easter stories. A pizza, salad and cookie lunch was enjoyed afterwards.
- Easter Sunday activities included nesting eggs and an Easter egg hunt for the children. Thank you to the youth and adults who volunteered to help with the activities, especially our storytellers Margie Trunzo and Gina Trunzo.
- Sherie Cannin and Christy Derek volunteered at Linway Presbyterian Church for their VBS in June. A donation was sent in support of the program.
- The "Annual Agenda of Work" document was initiated.
- The committee helped plan the church picnic in July.
- In September, two confirmands started instruction with Sherie Cannin as their teacher. They meet every other Sunday at 9:30 am.
- Rally Day on September 8 included breakfast, preparation of fleece blankets for homebound members and some creative rock painting.
- Sunday school for the Coffee and Conversation group and the children started on September 15.
- Sunday school lessons focused on Bible stories from the New and Old Testament. The children have also learned about special topics such as the Reformation, The Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments.
- Advent and Christmas lessons coordinated with the series that was used by the adult group and by Pastor Kimberly for sermons.
- Thank you to Debi Maurizi who has helped with copies of material for our class.
- Thank you to Cindy Haag, who has promoted our events and activities in the newsletter.
- There has been an increase in attendance. It is wonderful to see new faces! Thank you to everyone who has helped with our larger class size.

Please continue to let us know how we can keep things fresh and interesting for your faith journeys. Our committee members have many wonderful ideas to share.

We are looking forward to the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Lundie, Chair

## **Evangelism and Communication**

This committee is responsible for the written and electronic communications of St John's, and for spreading the word into the community. This group of people prepares the monthly newsletter, periodically issues emails reminding the congregation of upcoming events, maintains the St John's website, maintains the outside sign, helps other committees with signage and posters for their events, and has an audio/visual (A/V) team who record and transmit the weekly Sunday service.

Carla Schlegel and Sandy Smith took over responsibility for the outdoor signage. Sarah Lundie and Judi Rogers support the church Facebook page, Cindy Haag creates the monthly newsletters, and Pr. Kimberly and Cindy maintain the church website. If you are interested in helping with the Communications & Evangelism team, please inform Cindy Haag at any time throughout the year.

The A/V team consists of David Lundie and Matt Thomas. They, along with Simon Thomas and Owen Thomas in training positions, stream the weekly Sunday service. We also thank Sarah Lundie for filling in when needed. The team upgraded the video equipment system in 2023 and upgraded the audio system in 2024. In late 2024 and into 2025, the team is looking to update the Luke Room A/V equipment. This is the room where the Coffee & Conversation group meets, and where committees and Council can meet while using A/V equipment to allow others to join in via Zoom. They are still in need of additional A/V volunteers to help share the weekly responsibility of streaming the service. No experience is necessary, Matt and David will train you. If interested in helping, please contact one of these gentlemen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Haag, Co-Chair

## **Fellowship Committee**

The primary goal of the Fellowship committee is to bring together the members of our congregation through food, camaraderie and cookies! Multiple events were held throughout the year, both traditional, such as the Mardi Gras dinner, church picnic and congregational luncheon, as well as some new ones like the Holocaust awareness presentation. The committee also organized Coffee Fellowship and celebrations of new members, graduates, and baptisms.

The committee worked to provide time where the members of St. John's could relax, get to know each other, and enjoy time spent together. We also assisted other committees with events whenever possible and we look toward the future and hope to continue adding events, both new and traditional throughout 2025.

We would like to thank all the members of St. John's for their contributions to fellowship events and hope that they would consider joining the Fellowship committee in 2025 to assist with this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Lundie, Chair

## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee at St. John's, which also includes the Treasurer and Financial Secretary, is responsible for the management of the congregation's money, investments, and insurance needs. This Committee is responsible for overseeing an annual year-end audit of the congregation's books and makes recommendations to the Congregation Council for financial investments and yearly budgets. The Finance Committee also helps keep track of the money in special funds and researches the best ways to get the most interest on our accounts. During the annual January 2024 Congregation meeting, the Finance Committee proposed a recommendation on how to finance the new flat roof. The congregation approved the recommendation, and the committee arranged the necessary financing. The Finance committee also recommended that the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) category "2022 & 2023 Deficit" be removed from the MIF categories and paid off from several of the other MIF categories. Through the Financial Secretary, the

committee organizes the weekly offering counters and sends quarterly financial statements to members of the congregation. The Organ Fund/Property Improvement Fund (e.g., new roof) Treasurer is also a member of this committee and issues semi-annual statements to members of the congregation.

The 2024 Finance Committee members include Sherie Cannin, Cindy Haag, Ken Hendrata, Madison Lewis, Joe Lundie, Toni Marconi, Glenda Miller, Bertie Palmieri, and Joyce Tritch.

After searching for several months in 2023 for a new Treasurer and Financial Secretary, it was decided to try to identify a Treasurer whose primary duty would be to pay the online bills, and have Cindy Haag be an Assistant Treasurer who will do all the “back office” treasurer activities. Madison Lewis graciously stepped into the Treasurer roll. Madison is unable to continue as Treasurer for 2025, and we thank her for her time as Treasurer in 2024. Additionally, after searching for several months in 2024, Joyce Tristch turned over the Financial Secretary position to Glenda Miller. We appreciate the past years of service by Joyce and for mentoring Glenda. Glenda will continue as Financial Secretary in 2025.

The Finance Committee met in March 2024 to discuss final steps involved to finance the new flat roof. Financing came from funds within the MIF account, a \$50,000 disbursement from the principal in the Rebecca Lynn Crawford Trust account, and from an interest-free \$30,000 loan from the Synod-sponsored “Lutheran Church Extension Society”. The committee also reviewed current spending, discussed the deficit, and reviewed investments (CDs, mutual funds) that were coming due in 2024. A CD was renewed with MIF. The money to support the deficit continues to be supplied by the Citizen’s Bank money market account. The Committee also met twice in the fall to review insurance proposals, review current spending rates, review the Mutual Ministry salary proposed for the staff, provided Council with a recommendation of staff salaries, developed the 2025 draft budget, and reviewed the year-to-date finances for 2024.

The Finance Committee is very grateful to you for your generosity and asks for your continuing prayers and financial support as we seek to serve God in our ministries. Blessings in faith and finance to you always.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Haag, Assistant Treasurer and Chair

## **Mission and Outreach**

The Mission and Outreach committee met three times in 2024 and had a very successful year of raising funds for outreach. We were also busy generating ideas and planning future events. We held two soup sales in 2024 (April and Sept), and one bake sale (November). We are also the committee responsible for collecting the donations of food and HBA items and delivering these donations directly to MA’s Pantry.

Through our fundraising efforts, we have been able to provide funding for the needs of others in our community, our Synod, along with national and international agencies including Church World Blanket Appeal, Women of the ELCA-St. John’s Chapter, ELCA Disaster Response, St. John’s Crafters for a Cause, and MA’s Pantry. None of this would have been possible without the work of the Mission and Outreach Committee - Judi Rogers, Judy Jamison, Joan Berresford, and Pastor Kimberly – in collaboration with our wonderfully talented soup makers and bakers from St. John’s. We extend our special thanks and appreciation to those that donated their delicious soups and/or baked goods: Joan Berresford, Karan Cehlar, Mary Clark, Christie Derek, Shawn Durkin, Jenn Huber, Barb Greway, Cindy Haag, Judy Jamison, Margie Kreiser, Cindy Luke, Sarah Lundie, Debi Maurizi, Bertie Palmieri, Judi Rogers, Judy Sabolic, Julie Sacriponte, Vickie Schaller, Carla Schlegel, Betsy Stevic, Heather Thomas, and Sue Ward.

Our sincere and heartfelt “Thank you!” is extended to everyone who donated their time and talents to these various projects, and to all those who supported the projects through your generous donations.

We look forward to coordinating future projects which include the development of a Soup Ministry, supporting a Heifer Project, or engaging in a World Wildlife project.

Many hands make light the work. If you would like to join forces with us, we’d love to hear your ideas! Please look for information about our meetings or upcoming projects in the weekly bulletins and in the monthly newsletters, and feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherie Cannin, Chair



## Mutual Ministry

Members: Brian Maderas (Chair), Debbie Sharp, Sue Ward, Sherie Cannin, Carla Schlegel, Julie Sacriponte

The committee had three meetings in 2024. The highlights of each meeting are below.

February 12th Meeting:

Suggestion Box & Role of Committee

- Talked about the role of this committee and then moved on to some of the comments from the box.
- Brian checks the suggestion box and then sends an email out to the group.
- Focus of the committee: The focus of this committee has changed regarding how the committee has functioned and scope of responsibilities. Review to make sure the committee is doing things properly.
- This committee is an advisory committee to Pastor, to act as a sounding board, potential programs, difficulties, conflicts to discuss within this committee and then to advise on the actions that Pastor should take.
  - i. We are not to exclude the Pastor or anyone from the committee.
  - ii. This was an oversight by Brian, but we need to understand the role of this committee.

This committee cannot quash the goal of another committee.

- i. We can advise pastor of these goals.
- ii. This committee has no actionable role.

At each meeting, review the suggestions in the suggestion box and then decide on a course of action based on what we discuss in the meeting. If the suggestion has included a name, and if appropriate, Pastor will follow up with that person. If something is better handled by another committee, we simply pass it along to another committee. If there is no name, the suggestion can be considered, but no discussion with the person involved can happen.

September 16th Meeting:

Handbell Director Compensation

Finance Committee met in July. Derek is now the Handbell director. It's always been a volunteer role in the past, but due to his expertise, and more time involved, the committee discussed increasing his salary. We are entering into a conversation for raises for 2025 in November. Handbell Director can be incorporated into his current job description. Brian will talk with Derek and see how much extra time he spends preparing for the Handbell Choir.

Staff Evaluations

Brian shared the evaluation form that was used last year. Pastor thinks it's important to have in-person Staff evaluations, perhaps Pastor and one other person, or Pastor on her own. A committee panel is not necessary because it's intimidating. Staff meetings were held with Debi and Derek.

Congregation Survey 2024

Sherie distributed the six survey questions from last year. Brian suggested having a bulletin insert that folks can complete and put in the offering plate, as well as having a digital survey. Some of the things mentioned did come to fruition from last year's survey. Have the survey ready for distribution on September 29. Last item, in our bulletins, there will be inserts from the local ELCA churches – highlighting one thing each time.

Cross-promotion of events for the churches.

October 22nd Meeting:

Staff Salary Increases

- Cindy H provided Synod COLA staff increase recommendations.
- Committee met to review increases for Pastor, Debi, Derek and Ryan. Recommendations were made to the Finance Committee.
- A Recommendation for a "Love Offering" for staff – would be collected in a separate box set out in Narthex.
  - Note to be placed in the bulletin.
- Discussed offering Derek additional increase for being the Handbell Director.

Additional Notes:

- We have received several requests/suggestions in the suggestion box.
- All notes are reviewed by Mutual Ministry Committee and with Council.

Respectfully submitted

Brian Maderas, Chair

## Property

I want to extend a deep word of thanks and recognition to Brian Maderas, Dave Lundie, Shawn Durkin, Ed Ward, and Bill Miller for stepping up with their time and talents as needed for accomplishing the following tasks that have been completed this year:

- The church's flat roof has been replaced, including arranging for the removal and reinstallation of the air conditioning compressors for the installation of a new rubber roof.
- The cleanup/removal of the overgrowth of weeds, tree saplings, under-brush, and other extemporaneous materials from around the building.
- The repair of the sign in front of the church.
- The upgrading of the two rest rooms, which included replacing 5 toilets, and 2 urinals including all new lines, controls, and shutoff valves, and a badly needed sewer line cleanout.

I also want to thank Shawn for stepping forward and volunteering to serve as co-chair of this committee. On numerous occasions, she and Ed approached me offering to help me in any way.

We are looking forward to having a more active and visible Property committee in 2025. I've reached out to several people to serve on the committee and am planning on having our first official meeting. I'd like to thank Adam Wise for sticking around after the recent Council Planning meeting to help me with the lighting issue in the counting room, and Ian Derek for his willingness to serve on the Property committee. This is **your** church; **your** committee, and nothing gets done without your input and support. There is much to be discussed including painting, lighting, updating an aging boiler, and other things I've either failed to include at this writing, or am not yet aware of.

Let me close by thanking you all for the opportunity and the honor of serving on this council and committee. May this coming year be one of continued growth and pride in what heights we reach together.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Schaller

## Stewardship Report

St John's Lutheran Church adopted "An Attitude of Gratitude" as our stewardship campaign for 2024.

\*We welcomed new members through Affirmation of Faith, Lutheran Transfer and Baptism.

\*We supported MA's Pantry with participation in the Pittsburgh Day of Giving with a donation from 35 members of \$8,473.58, or 34.89%, of the \$24,282.83 contributed on that day to the campaign. St John's members also volunteer time, food and funds throughout the year.

\*A new flat roof was installed on the building with input from the Property and Finance committees and pledges from the congregation.

\*We reached out to the community by hosting support groups and an afterschool program as well as serving as an Election site and Red Cross emergency location.

\*We are grateful to have the opportunity for growth in faith as individuals during worship services.

\*We are grateful for our Christian Education programs, the wonderful people who come to worship, and those who are active in the life of the congregation as staff and volunteers.

\*We are grateful for your generous gifts of financial support and service to others.

In 2023, we had responses to the Time and Abilities surveys from 31 members. In 2024, we received 33 Time and Abilities survey responses from Youth and Adult members. We met our goal of an increase in the number of surveys completed!

In 2024, we received 29 Pledge cards that will cover 39.6% of our 2025 proposed budget.

The theme for our 2025 Stewardship campaign will be:

P.- Pray

I.- Invite

G.- Give

S.- Study

S.- Serve  
E.- Encourage  
W.- Worship

We have pencils with the theme available in the narthex. We will be talking more about the topics in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Lundie, Chair

## **Strategic Planning**

The Strategic Planning Committee was dormant throughout 2024. As the church continues to expand, this committee will be an integral part of its operation in the future. If you are interested in leading or becoming a part of St. John's strategic plan, please contact any member of the church council for more information.

## **Worship and Music Committee**

We ended 2023 with a Watch night service since New Year's Eve was on Sunday.

We began 2024 ready for what the future would bring. This year has brought some opportunities to clear out physical space and adjust some worship practices.

- The committee developed an "Agenda of Work" as requested by Pastor Kimberly. The list includes details of what needs to happen when, and who is responsible.
  - o One of the reasons for this is, if there is a sudden change in leadership, someone else will be able to step in and know what needs to be done instead of floundering.
- The committee members spent several Saturday mornings cleaning out and reorganizing the sacristy.
  - o All the linens are now in stored in drawers on a cart which is more efficient than on top of the box where paraments are kept.
- The organ side of the transept has been cleaned out and reorganized. Pastor Kimberly hopes to create a chapel area where small intimate services can be held.
  - o Our one big hold up is moving the organ. How and when that will be accomplished is still to be determined.
- Derek assumed responsibility for directing the bell choir.

Worship practices that have changed:

- The acolyte and Worship Assistant now sit on the same side as Pastor Kimberly. This makes communication much easier.
  - o The Worship Assistant is taking a more active role in setting the table for communion.
  - o Pastor Kimberly and the Worship Assistant have been communing first before serving the congregation.
- The Altar Guild has become more intentional about making sure there is grape juice available for communion.
- Training was held for Worship Assistants, Lectors and the Altar Guild.
  - o The Altar guild is working on a procedure book to help new members learn our practices.
- Pastor Kimberly was offered an opportunity to get some items from a congregation in Charleroi that was ending its ministry.
  - o We now have altar candles, holders for acolyte lighters and a few other items.
- We have heard some new voices leading the Young Disciples message.

Some things have stayed basically the same:

- We alternate Ash Wednesday and Good Friday service locations with Linway Presbyterian Church.
  - o In 2024 Linway hosted the Good Friday service.

- Pastor Kimberly provided “Ash and Dash” in St John’s parking lot with members of the community stopping by, as well as members of the congregation.
- Christian Education assisted with splitting the palms for Palm Sunday. The kids then handed out the palms during worship.
- Holy week services happened with St John’s hosting Maundy Thursday service and a Tenebrae service held at Linway.
- The Celebration of Easter with choir and handbells.
- Multiple celebrations were held in one service, which was a little overwhelming, Pentecost,
- Celebration of Music and Celebration of Education.
- Children handed out flowers for Mother’s Day and tape measures for Father’s Day with “Loved beyond measure” printed on the top.
- Outdoor worship at White Oak Park.
  - o Music provided by Joe Lundie, Doug Cannin, Adam Wise.
- Blessing of the back packs.
- We also had the opportunity to bless pillowcases made by our crafting group and blankets to be given to our shut-ins for Christmas.
- Reformation was celebrated with a Hymn Sing.
- All Saints was celebrated with the lighting of the candles; there was only a minor fire emergency when some of the candles fell over.
- Lighting of the Advent wreath.
- Hanging of the Greens.
- Christmas Eve worship.
  - o 5:00 p.m. Family Service. We had better attendance than in 2023, with an attendance of 34 as we uncovered a manger scene while telling the Nativity Story.
  - o 8:30 p.m. Harp music, hand bells, voices, organ and piano.
  - o 9:00 p.m. Festival Service.

Something totally new:

St John’s hosted The Three Rivers Ringers twice with a concert in the Spring and a second concert during Advent.

St John’s welcomed a “new to us” baby grand piano to the sanctuary when it was donated by a friend of the congregation.

The Prayground continues to be used regularly, allowing parents to remain in the sanctuary with young children.

- It gets a little loud sometimes, but voices of the young are a blessing. It says St John’s is a welcoming place and has a bright future.

Thank you to the Committee members: Cindy Luke, Carla Schlegel, David Lundie, Derek Schofield and Pastor Kimberly Greway. We are open to welcoming new members and new ideas to the Worship and Music Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Neundorf, Chair

## **REPORTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS & AUXILIARIES**

### **Altar Guild**

Our members serve faithfully to prepare the altar for worship and special services. Current members include Brenda Neundorf, Cindy Luke, Carla Schlegel, Sandy Smith and Betsy Stevick. Your dedication and willingness to serve is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carla Schlegel

### **St. Afterschool**

St. Afterschool is an after-school program that meets once a week with children from East Allegheny School District who are in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. The program was held in Spring 2024 with 11 children and in Fall 2024 with 10 children. The children are provided with a snack and a family-style dinner, receive help with their homework, make crafts, play games together, and more. There were special themed events including Superhero Day, Mario day, Halloween and Thanksgiving crafts, a Christmas party, an "Unbirthday" Party, and even a visit from a "Mad Scientist"! None of this would be possible without the participation of many volunteers from St John's including: Barbara and Tom Greway, Cindy Haag, Sarah Haag, Judy Jamison, Debi Maurizi, Glenda Miller, Derek Schofield, Debbie Sharp, and Margie Trunzo.

Also in 2024, Pastor Kimberly and Cindy Haag set out in search of grant money to help sustain and grow the St. Afterschool program. An intent to apply form was submitted to The Grable Foundation, a walkthrough and interview was performed, and a detailed application was submitted. In November, we learned that The Grable Foundation approved a \$5,000 grant to St. Afterschool for 2025! The money will be used for a variety of expenses including training of volunteers, searching for additional volunteers within the community, linking even further with the East Allegheny School District, investigating feeding programs, supporting the addition of more children into the program, and providing a laptop for both administrative efforts and for the children to use for educational STEAM programs. We look forward to the Spring 2025 semester which starts in late January and to grow the St. Afterschool program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Haag, Chair

### **Women of the ELCA**

In 2024, the St. John's Unit of Women of the ELCA met monthly during the year at 7:00 p.m. using a combination of zoom and in person meetings. We met for dinner at Luciano's restaurant for our annual meal together in June.

During our time together we shared Bible devotions, enjoyed dessert and fellowship, and coordinated support of the activities we sponsor.

Our projects included:

\*maintaining and distributing the various items in "Mission Central" that are collected throughout the year. Aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House and empty prescription bottles are being taken for recycling by a member of the AARP group that meets at St John's. Thank you to Bertie Palmieri for coordinating the recycling of the pill bottles and tabs.

\*sponsoring a Thankoffering service and Coffee Fellowship on November 17. A generous contribution to the church-wide Women of the ELCA organization was made by members of the congregation.

\*creating fleece lap blankets in the fall for homebound members with help from the Crafter's With a

Cause group and from Sunday School participants on Rally Sunday. The blankets were blessed during worship in December and delivered with the Christmas bags provided by the group.

\*delivering our homebound members greeting cards and small gifts at Easter and Christmas. Thank you to Sarah Haag and the staff and children of St Afterschool who decorated Christmas cards. Thank you to the volunteers who visited before Easter and Christmas to deliver the goodies - Bertie Palmieri, Cindy Luke, Pastor Kimberly, Karan Cehlar, Carla Schlegel, Glenda Miller, Ed Sites, Chuck Schaller and Judi Rogers.

\*mailing our homebound members birthday cards. Thank you to Carla Schlegel for her work on this project.

\*supporting the St. John's Funeral Committee. One funeral meal was held in Miller Hall this past year.

\*replenishing the envelopes, tablets and pencils in the pews of the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Lundie, President, St. John's Unit  
Women of the ELCA

## **Women of the ELCA Financial Report 2024**

### Women of the ELCA General Fund Financial Report 2024

Beginning Balance	01/01/2024	\$ <u>1,002.88</u>
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#### **Receipts**

Meeting Offerings	\$ 118.00
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Thankoffering 2024	\$ 412.00
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Mission Outreach Soup Sale (11/23)	\$ 350.00
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Mission Outreach Soup Sale (09/24)	\$ 175.00
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ <u>1,055.00</u>
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#### **Disbursements**

St. John's – Craft Club for Blankets	\$ 79.00
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Cindy Haag – Craft Club items for shut-ins	\$ 65.00
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Reimbursement to Sarah Lunde for gift bags for shut-ins	\$ 42.36
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Reimbursement to Sarah Lundie for gift bag supplies	\$ 46.10
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ <u>232.46</u>
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Ending Balance	01/01/25	\$ <u>1,825.42</u>
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Respectfully submitted,  
Karan Cehlar, Treasurer



## Women of the ELCA Financial Report 2024

### Women of the ELCA Funeral Fund Financial Report 2024

Beginning Balance	01/01/2024	<u>\$1,898.67</u>
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#### **Receipts**

Funeral Luncheon donations		\$ 40.00
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TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ <u>40.00</u>
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#### **Disbursements**

Funeral Luncheon supplies		\$ 264.55
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$ <u>264.55</u>
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Ending Balance	01/01/2025	<u>\$1,674.12</u>
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Respectfully submitted,  
Karan Cehlar, Treasurer

## **MA's Pantry Report for 2024**

The year 2024 saw some significant changes at MA's Pantry, most noticeably in the expansion of clientele. Due to efforts to publicize the Pantry, there has been a 30-50% increase in the number of clients/families being served in the latter part of 2024. This results from a mailing to over 5000 residences in North Versailles and East McKeesport.

MA's Pantry has become a member of the East Allegheny Business Association (EABA), and the President attends its monthly meetings to establish relationships with local businesses to advertise MA's services, and to find volunteers and financial support. In addition, Dr. Ed Sites and the President made another appearance on the local radio station WKHB to talk about the Pantry.

All the work is done by volunteers; no one is paid, which can make finding staff difficult, but there have been 5-10 new faces coming to help this past year, some of them MA's Pantry's own recipients.

Items other than food and toiletries are available for the people in our area: clothes, kitchen equipment, books (including Bibles and devotionals), greeting cards, bicycles, and toys; and shopping carts are being dispersed to clients to help in transporting their goods.

Some improvements were made by MA's Pantry to the facility that it rents (the basement of a church building of a defunct congregation), such as a much needed repaving of the driveway, new economical LED lighting, and some shelving, and the Pantry continues to donate snacks and drinks to the Community Collective, a local youth ministry and after-school program that operates out of the same building.

St. John's continues to be the flagship church in the Ministerium Association that oversees MA's Pantry, and the Pantry continues to benefit from the generosity and service of many St. John's members. Dr. Ed Sites, former president, writes the donation acknowledgements and has successfully applied for several grants in 2024. David Lundie serves as Vice President and Volunteer Coordinator, as well as being one of the home delivery drivers. The Secretary is Sherie Cannin.

Thanks to the Jim Peterson family for yearly donations of children's toys and to Robert and Marti Gastel for blessing the Pantry with the wonderful candies and confections of Dorothy's Candy's. Also worthy of mention is Debi Maurizi, Office Secretary, who fields emergency and other calls for the Pantry and walk-ins who are in need. There are a number of parishioners who have given clothes and food, as well as purchasing gift cards for special holidays. In fact, St John's folks gave 35% of the almost \$25,000 donated to MA's Pantry during the Pittsburgh Foundation Day of Giving, the main fund raiser.

MA'S Pantry looks forward to another year of expanding our client base, connecting with local businesses and organizations and being a blessing to the community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Eichler, President

## **Old Business**

Nominations for Council members.

Discussion about locking the front door after service begins.

## **New Business**

Appoint SJ voting members to 2025 SWPA Synod Assembly.

Property upgrades - boiler replacement discussion.

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church's ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your

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—Psalm 93:4-5

financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.



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