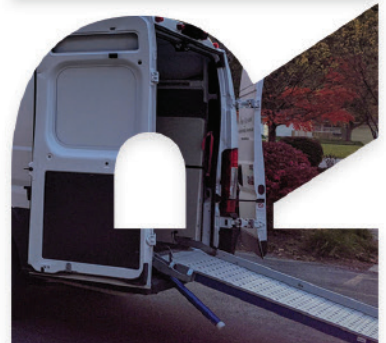
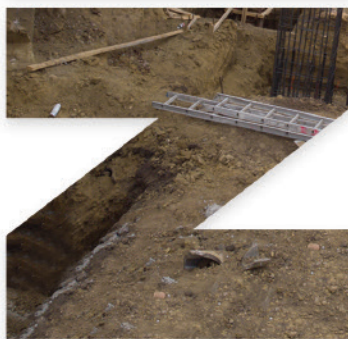
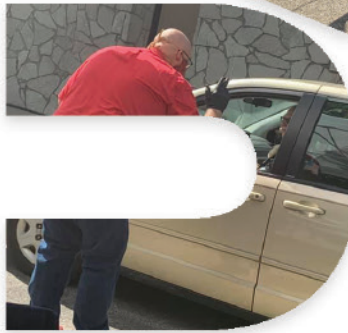


2020

“For I know the plans  
I have for you”  
declares the Lord,  
“plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you,  
plans to give you  
*hope* and a *future.*”

JEREMIAH 29:11

**St. John's**  
Lutheran Church



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## Senior Pastor

DAVID GLESNE

I have started and stopped writing this thing about a dozen times, which is not an exaggeration. Then it dawned on me... (thanks, Holy Spirit) this has been a great year! No, I don't think I have lost my grip on reality... hear me out...

Last January, I made a passing reference in my sermon to a new virus that was causing havoc in China, and I stated that we need not live in fear, for God will see us through. Little did I know that in less than two months it would completely change our lives. Make no mistake, this has been a year of change, and not all of it good. There have been some difficult moments for many of us. From disappointments to life-changing events, 2020 will be a year that we will not soon forget. But the call not to fear but trust in God has not changed.

Long before any pandemic, a pattern of mission and ministry was set in place here at St. John's that has, in many ways, enabled us to continue to minister to the members of St. John's, the community of Bloomington/Normal, and the world. Here is where I get the notion that it has been a great year—in the ministry we have received and provided, God has and remains present.

Things were moving along pretty normally when the stay-at-home order first came down. At the start of Lent, staff shifted gears with great verve and compassion. As members, you brought us your concerns and cares, but even more so, your willingness to help. Soon,

needs began to arise that we could help with. We partnered with organizations like PATH, Midwest Food Bank, and Center for Hope and members grocery shopped for the residents of Luther Oaks. Work Camp for junior and senior high youth was canceled, but from the ashes of those plans, another plan emerged. Once in place, an outpouring of youth and adults performed various tasks around the church and the community! What a blessing.

We had started to stream our worship earlier in the year, so when worship restrictions became the best and safest thing to do, we were in place to make this pivot. Norma, Kevin, Michael, and the pastors worked diligently and creatively to bring well-done and meaningful worship to you online. Thanks to all of you who helped record creative welcome videos from home and read lessons or helped with worship in other ways.

Thanks to Melissa and others, "St. John's Together" on Facebook and Zoom-based Sunday morning Coffee Connections became ways in which we could fellowship distantly! We even held a series of sermon series studies on Zoom!

The initial burst of creative energy was demanding on many of us. Not having in-person worship for Holy Week and Easter was nearly the end of me, personally. Still, God is good, and the message of the resurrection was proclaimed and made concrete in the beauty of spring and in all the works of love I witnessed members of St. John's participate in. From cards and phone calls to errands and help with chores, love was spread, and the church's work continued.

From Drive-thru communion to Saturday Drive-in worship services, we managed to have some fun along the way. Long-standing ministries also continued. Though modified and not quite as festive, the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering was once again a sight to behold!

**Pastor David's nephews having fun with their uncle on a Sunday morning!**

When you  
go through  
deep waters  
*I will be  
with you.*

ISAIAH 43:2



**Above—Pastor David serving communion at Drive-thru Communion in May. At right—Pastor David preaching at a Drive-in worship service in June.**

Boxes and boxes of quilts and other supplies that will go all over the world to those in need.

We were fortunate to restart worship in-person from July through November. I thank each of you who attended. Things were different, even odd at times, but you followed both the spirit and the law of COVID precautions. Returning to virtual worship again in November during an uptick in COVID cases was a struggle. But for as long as I live, I will not forget preaching in 10 degree weather with gentle flurries to a parking lot full of cars ringing bells and honking horns and flashing lights as we celebrated the Hope that is for everyone in the Christ child.

The key to all these efforts was and is the fact that we are connected as the body of Christ to the rest of the world and called to serve Jesus in all we do. Space—and my memory—do not allow me to thank the people who need thanking or list all the beautiful things that we accomplished in Christ's name and for his sake this past year.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing of all was your willingness in the face of COVID and all of its fear, anxiety, and uncertainty to move forward with our Vision 2020 building project. I mentioned that we had voted to move forward with this project to an acquaintance in the community, and he stepped back and proclaimed, "Bold move!"



Well, I guess it is, but it is the boldness born of faith. In many ways, it isn't about the building itself, but what we can do with the building and the resources we have to continue to build up the faithful to go out in

loving service into the world. Thank you to Shari and all those involved, in one way or another, in Vision 2020. Your hard work, passion, and insight have been invaluable.

As this world adapts to the reality of COVID, there is no going back. Scripturally this has always been true. God continues to lean into the future for our benefit. Jesus did not die and rise again to return to the tomb; in him, all things are being made new. We have the blessings of the past that give us an excellent foundation for what is next.

In this time of uncertainty, many are looking for hope. In Christ, we have this hope. May all we say, do, and build be a reflection of this hope as we strive to be a growing Christ-centered, Spirit-led community that engages

and equips people to embrace Jesus Christ and in so doing continues to change the world for the good.

I am about  
to do a  
*new thing;*  
now it springs  
forth, do you  
not see it?

ISAIAH 43:19



## Associate Pastor

ANNE CHRISTIANSEN

This has been a very challenging year for everyone. It has changed the way we go about our daily lives. It has impacted how we go about the ministry of the church. It has tested our adaptability and strength personally, professionally, and spiritually. It has required us to be nimble in an ever-shifting environment and reorder our priorities. It has shown us our interconnectedness and need for unity. For many it has drawn us closer to God. For in the midst of the chaos we found comfort, peace, and hope in Jesus our Savior and the ability to faithfully meet the challenges before us.

Our world may have seemed to become smaller, but I believe it has become larger, as well. This pandemic has accelerated the transition to a more digitally-dependent world. Smart phones, tablets, and computers became necessities, not just conveniences. Many learned to communicate with loved ones through FaceTime and WhatsApp. We met on Zoom and GoogleMeet, shopped through Amazon, and ordered groceries on store apps. Even young children attended school online using SeeSaw, Clever, and Epic. Church communications became more dependent on e-mail and online platforms. We attended church in a variety of ways, both in person over the radio and at home through Facebook and YouTube. With all these ways to connect, learn, work, and worship, we ended up expanding our ability to stay in relationship with each other and care for our neighbors.

What does this mean for the church? How will our church model change? We do not expect in-person

attendance to completely bounce back, for many have found online worship services and zoom meetings more convenient, so we will continue to have an online presence. Families with young children have

been stretched thin between making a living and coordinating their children's education and care. They long for a broader experience for their children but it has to be rewarding and fit with their demanding schedules. Our adult population will surely enjoy greater freedom after receiving a vaccine, but they will continue to be mindful of how they interact.

Yet with all the pressures upon us we have seen an increase in the scope of our ministries. We saw an expansion in our member care activities through BeFriender and Caring Connection programs, our Facebook page, and Coffee Connections. We have expanded our teaching platforms to include Zoom gatherings and video messages. We developed our own *Daily Blessings* devotions, available through e-mail, and supplemented by online videos.

Worship services were attended in limited numbers in person, but were also broadcast by radio to parking lot assemblies and were available online, recorded or streamed. We continued to celebrate the holidays, baptize, confirm, marry, and bury. Our outreach and cooperation with area ministries has been very focused and effective. We stepped out in faith and began building our new worship space, which will be able to accommodate all styles of worship. As a church we have been able to adapt to ever-shifting circumstances so that we could continue to boldly proclaim the good news of Christ.

Let us move into 2021 with confidence that whatever comes our way, no matter how chaotic, we will find comfort, peace, and hope in Jesus our Savior and the ability to faithfully meet the challenges before us.

Come to me, all  
you who are weary  
and burdened,

and I will

*give  
you rest.*

MATTHEW 11:28

Members and friends of St. John's enjoying a beautiful Saturday evening at Drive-in worship.



Above, the rains cleared September 6 just in time for (left to right) Senior Pastor David Glesne, Pastor Emeritus Harold Skillrud, Council President Todd Peterson, and Associate Pastor Anne Christiansen to officially break ground on the Vision 2020 building project. At right, the planned outdoor groundbreaking worship service was moved into the Parish Life Center due to rain.



## Council President

TODD PETERSON

George Orwell wrote; "In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." "Unprecedented" is the word used to describe 2020. This past year I have often sought solace and hope in scripture, as well as the *Book of Concord*. In a section of the Large Catechism, Martin Luther teaches on the Fifth Commandment—"You are not to kill." Luther writes, "Therefore God calls all persons murderers who do not offer counsel or assistance to those in need and peril of body and life. He will pass a most terrible sentence upon them at the Last Day, as Christ himself declares. He will say: 'I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' (Matthew 25:42-43) That is to say, 'You would have permitted me and my family to die of hunger, thirst and cold, to be torn to pieces by

wild beasts, to rot in prison, or perish from want.' What else is this but to call these people murderous and bloodthirsty? For although you have not actually committed all these crimes, as far as you are concerned, you have nevertheless permitted your neighbors to languish and perish in their misfortune. It is just as if I saw someone who was struggling in deep water or someone who had fallen into a fire, and I could stretch out my hand to pull him out and save him, and yet I did not do so. How would I appear before all the world except as a murderer and a scoundrel? Therefore, it is God's real intention that we should allow no one to suffer harm, but to show every kindness and love. And this kindness, as I said, is directed especially toward our enemies. For doing good to our friends is nothing but an ordinary virtue

of pagans, as Christ says in Matthew 5:46-47." *Book of Concord—Large Catechism—412.191-194*

'Unprecedented' also describes the message of the Gospel that Jesus has delivered to the world.

The Church is the living body of Jesus Christ in the world today. We have been given the gift and responsibility to spread the unprecedented Good News of Jesus to the world. This message of love, instead of hate, can bring hostility from those in the world. This year we have seen first-hand the hatred of racism, bigotry and misogyny across the country and throughout the world. We have seen the use of lies and half-truths to deceive large portions of people. As a favorite hymn says; "And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love." As we head into the new year, in spite of difficulties and trials, let us revel in God's love for us. Let us share that love with our neighbors.

Let us tear down racism, bigotry, and misogyny. Let us use the new space in our building to come before God in reverence and awe as we worship, as well as learn, in order to spread the unprecedented Good News of Jesus Christ. As Christians we have been given eyes that see, ears that hear, and a heart prepared and overcome by God.

I am thankful for those who have supported St. John's this past year. We are truly blessed with amazing pastors that have led us through worship and

ministry in very trying circumstances. Our staff has been amazing as they have flexed from working in the office to working from home and still have covered all of the needs of the congregation. Many

have volunteered to step in to help and support our ministry efforts. I am thankful for my brothers and sisters on council for their faithfulness to serving St. John's. I am also thankful for Joel Murphy as he steps in to the role of Council President. His professional experience will especially support our efforts with the building project.

I believe that 2021 and beyond will be a time of "becoming" for the Church. I am excited for how God will continue to guide us in our building process and how we will use it to celebrate, learn about, and proclaim His unprecedented love to the world. In this time of "becoming" let us particularly remember that God is in control as Martin Luther writes in *The Bond-*

*age of the Will*: "But now that God has taken my salvation out of the control of my own will, and put it under the controls of His, and promised to save me, not according to my working or running, but according to His own grace and mercy, I have the comfortable certainty that He is faithful and will not lie to me, and that He is also great and powerful, so that no devils or opposition can break Him or pluck me from Him. Furthermore, I have the comfortable certainty that I please God, not by reason of the merit of my works, but by reason of His merciful favor promised to me; so that, if I work too little, or badly, He does not impute it to me, but with fatherly compassion pardons me and makes me better. This is the glorying of all saints in their God."

Love one another as I have loved you.

JOHN 13:34

Members of Council meeting via Zoom.

## Worship Arts Ministry

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER

This was a year of learning new skills for Worship Arts. In January we premiered our first livestream of a worship service—the first time a service was online. With the help of several congregation members, we were able to use two cameras to create a dynamic livestream of the Community of Joy service. On March 21, the state of Illinois issued a mandatory stay-at-home order due to the COVID-19 outbreak. By Easter, all services were only held online and featured music recorded by musicians of all services, along with liturgy and sermons that were pre-recorded by the pastors. In June, the Saturday evening service went 'on-air' in the form of a drive-in service, with pastors outside and musicians in the Parish Life Center. In the summer, worship featured musical offerings from different musicians while congregation members welcomed all to worship through recorded videos. In September an outdoor groundbreaking service was planned to kick off the Vision 2020 building project; however, due to rain, it was livestreamed from the Parish Life

Center with a radio broadcast. In-person worship was able to resume in the fall, following COVID-19 guidelines. Due to a rising number of COVID cases in McLean County, worship went solely online again

at the end of November and remained through the end of 2020. There were brief services of farewell in the Sanctuary on December 20, but all Christmas Eve services were either online or drive-in.

Music at St. John's was able to thrive in a most unusual year, with members of all ages learning to record from home and share their gifts with online worship. The skills we learned in streaming and recording will help us grow, so that we may fully utilize the new worship space in the end of 2021.

Sing to The Lord all the earth.

PSALM 96:1

**Ministry Team Members:** Pastor David Glesne; Michael Schneider, Director of Worship Arts; Kevin Chunko, Organist and Bell Choir Director; Faye Bartley, Interim Organist; Lyn Ahearn, Children's Choir Director; Joel Murphey, Stream Team; Linda Fisher, Ministry Team Lead; Cyndee Brown; Lois Brucker; Janet Dosen; Ralph Haller; Joelyn Kelly; Clayton Matteson; Debbie Welton

## Parish Life Ministry

**Left, Pastor David recording his sermon for online worship. Below, Pastor Anne blessing communion elements for in-person worship. Lower left, singers and musicians from Community of Joy prerecorded worship.**



You lead us by still waters into mercy



GUDRUN DUNT

**FELLOWSHIP AND MEALS**

Gathering around food and fellowship is precious time for all of us. Unfortunately, COVID-19 had a big impact on Parish Life ministries. Sunday morning coffee fellowship, funeral meals, Easter breakfast, and Swedish Heritage lunch were all canceled. We were able to provide funeral meals for four families early in the year. Kaffehuset and Lunch Bunch were able to meet in January and February. Under the leadership of Melissa Drobnak, we began to offer a virtual Sunday morning gathering called Coffee Connection. Several individuals continue to regularly participate in this fellowship opportunity.



*Kaffehuset guests enjoy good coffee and conversation before the program. Kaffehuset was able to meet for just two months this year.*

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**Health and Wellness Event and Flu Clinic**

A successful flu clinic was held in September with 82 individuals being immunized against influenza. We are grateful to St. John's member Melanie Beedle and Hy-Vee Pharmacy for their partnership in keeping our community healthy.

**Yoga**

Yoga met each Saturday in the early part of 2020. We hope to resume this weekly class once it is safe to do so.

**Prayer**

The prayer ministry has been a highlight in 2020.

- The Thursday Prayer Group made the decision early in the pandemic to move to a virtual format and has been meeting each week via Zoom. The number of participants has grown and group members join us from various locations. We are also receiving more prayer requests from the congregation.
- A Vision 2020 Prayer Team was formed in early 2020. The goal of the team was to provide opportunities for intentional prayer throughout St. John's building campaign. The team provided weekly devotions throughout the capital campaign in October and November.
- The Prayer Chain is going strong and has added several members in the past year.

**CHRISTIAN CARE**

**BeFriender Ministry**

BeFriender Ministry has faced the challenge of how to provide a listening, caring presence while unable to visit. St. John's BeFrienders continue to gather monthly in person, when possible, and via Zoom, as needed, and are providing care through phone calls,

cards, notes, texts, video chats, and more. A training class for new BeFrienders in was held in February through a new format with training offered on two consecutive Saturdays. It seemed to work well and, in hindsight, was a blessing because we were able to complete the training prior to COVID-19. Commissioning of five new BeFrienders was delayed until October. Sharpening BeFriender skills through regular continuing education is always a priority. BeFrienders read and discussed the book *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* by Kenneth Haugk. The author is the founder of Stephen Ministries, so the information aligned well with the training BeFrienders receive.

**Caring Connections**

Under the leadership of Pastor Anne Christiansen, the Caring Connections Ministry was developed early in the pandemic. Keeping members age 70 and older connected continues to be a priority. This age group is particularly vulnerable to feelings of loneliness and isolation. Letters of encouragement have been sent weekly to this demographic since March. Additionally, Caring Connection volunteers accepted assignments to reach out and stay connected with specific individuals. These individuals joined BeFrienders to make up a team of more than 50 individuals who have been providing one-on-one care to St. John's seniors. Caring Connections Ministry has received wonderful feedback reinforcing the importance of staying connected while we are physically distant.

**Daily Blessings**

In the spring St. John's staff members began writing *Daily Blessings* as a way to provide encourage-

ment and connection. The feedback received was positive and encouraging. Sharing stories from our own faith journeys fostered conversation and relationship-building. We continue to provide *Daily Blessings* and are pleased to have several members of the congregation join the writing team. Devotions are now based on the *Narrative Lectionary*.

**Caregivers Ministry**

St. John's Caregivers have served faithfully throughout the pandemic. Members have met in person; shared assignments via e-mail; made phone calls; and assembled cards, stamps and label packets for pick-up. What a blessing to know that individuals in the congregation continue to be blessed by the cards, notes, and prayers this group provides.

**Splash Cradle Roll**

Twenty-seven families received Splash curriculum each month, which is focused on the faith formation of children, birth through age three. Families receive a monthly newsletter, parenting ideas, a bible story, prayer, and worship suggestions.

**99-Plus-One Ministry to Inactive Members**

As worship services moved to online for much of the year, attendance tracking became a challenge. Traditional ways of identifying individuals who may have been absent for a season with the goal of reaching out to them have certainly been tested this year. Like all things in the age of COVID, we will adapt and hopefully find creative new ways in 2021 to continue this important ministry.

**GRIEF AND LOSS**

***Journeying Through Grief***

By far one of the heartbreaking challenges brought about by COVID-19 is the inability for families to grieve in traditional ways. Seventeen St. John's members died in 2020. The majority were not able to gather for a regular funeral service or the traditional funeral luncheon that always provides a rich opportunity for sharing stories, memories, and support for those grieving. We are more grateful than ever for The Stephen Ministry series *Journeying through Grief* which was sent to 40 individuals in 2020. Scheduled to be sent at intervals of three weeks, three months,

six months, and 11 months following the loss, these materials are impactful for the unique experience of grief individuals experience.

*Walk by faith not by sight.*

MATTHEW 11:28

**Blue Christmas Service**

This quiet, reflective service has become an annual worship opportunity for those who find Christmas to be a painful time. Through prayers, scripture, and music which acknowledge God's presence, God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. We were blessed to offer a virtual opportunity to participate in 2020. A written devotional and a video message by Pastor Anne Christiansen provided an opportunity for individuals to acknowledge sadness, grief, and loss that is part of life and has just been heightened in the age of COVID-19.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

**Bible Journaling Workshop**

The Going Deeper Bible Journaling Workshop was definitely a highlight in 2020. Thirty-five people spent a February morning together exploring ways to grow in faith through creative expression. Bible journaling methods such as Lectio Davina, SOAP, and creative journaling were shared. We were blessed with a number of comments from participants of how they were incorporating what they learned into their personal time with God in scripture and prayer.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Like many groups this year, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the bottom line for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Prayer Shawl Ministry members were unable to meet as a group for most of the year; however, the ladies continued to be dedicated and worked from home to create 33 prayer shawls, 198 prayer squares, 86 chemo caps, and one baby blanket. The Prayer Shawl Ministry added baby blankets this year for infants and toddlers who are hospitalized. Despite limitations on hospital and home visits they were able to continue to supply the Normal (now Carle) Cancer Center with shawls, squares, and caps. Chemo caps were also given to the Illinois Cancer Center. St. John's members were also invited to stop by and pick up a prayer shawl for family or friends who might be in need.

# Guest Experiences and Connections

MELISSA DROBNAK

The Guest Experiences and Connections ministry strives to welcome all and help them feel connected as part of our church family. This was challenging during the pandemic as we were unable to worship, welcome, and connect in person. Social media, recording videos on our phones, and Zoom meetings became our main methods to stay connected.

A Facebook group, St. John's Together, was started for members to share ideas, post questions, and offer well wishes throughout the year. We learned about each other's favorite movies, food, memories, and more.

We knew members would miss coffee and donuts on the Balcony, so Coffee Connections was created to provide a time between worship services where people could log into a Zoom meeting and visit with old friends and new. Lisa Nelson shared, "Coffee Connections has been held virtually since late April. Along with Heather Fahsbender, I have been one of the Zoom hosts, which has given me an amazing opportunity to develop deeper personal connections with church friends and meet new people from St. John's. We have a group of regulars who are present almost every week, so it now feels like catching up with family each Sunday morning! Trips, weekly activities, family health, piano performances (by a young musician), and much more is shared at a typical Coffee Connections. During the fall and winter, we stayed in one large group (instead of using breakout



I thank my God  
every time I  
*remember*  
*you.*

PHILIPPIANS 1:3

rooms), unless there were too many people present to have a conversation."

Another ministry that grew out of the pandemic was an opportunity to grocery shop for Luther Oaks residents. Dozens of members met each Friday at HyVee throughout the summer with masks on and lists in hand having fun and helping those who couldn't safely leave their homes.

Our biggest challenge during 2020 was staying connected with those who had been visiting St. John's, and connecting with those who might be searching for a church home during the pandemic. To help guests who had visited before March learn more about the ministries of St. John's, the St. John's 101 and 201 classes and Next Steps event were moved online using Zoom. In October we welcomed new members who had started the new member process prior to the pandemic. We have paused these classes.

Our core value of welcoming all people and connecting intentionally moved online with worship in March. Many greeters became online greeters, welcoming those watching online and relaying important information during the premier of each worship service on Facebook and YouTube. Welcoming worshipers, even when watching online, helped make it feel as if we were worshiping together. Others created welcome videos or recorded scripture reading and prayers to be included in the worship recordings.

**Ministry Team Members:** Melissa Drobna, Staff Coordinator; Sandy Ginther, Diane Murphey, Joel Murphy, Sandy Peterson

Members preparing to shop for Luther Oaks residents at HyVee.



## Noah's Ark Preschool

SHERRI LEWIS

For more than 40 years Noah's Ark teachers and staff have been inspiring learning. While attending Noah's Ark, children learn readiness and social skills to prepare for their school journey. *Creative Curriculum*, a play-based curriculum, is used to guide teachers' lesson plans, as well as activities that teach children social skills to respect one another's like and differences.

On March 13, the preschool shut down due to the pandemic. In early August we returned to the classrooms with the March calendar still hanging and art work from the Pancake Pig Out that was a huge success just a week before the shutdown. We were facing a new preschool year that would bring many challenges and changes.

In order to keep safe during the pandemic, we comply with guidelines put in place by the Department of Children and Family Services, the Center for Disease Control, and the McLean County Health Department. All children and staff are required to wear face coverings and be screened before entering the classrooms and physically distance as much as possible. Enrollment and staffing decreased by 50 percent. As the number of COVID cases in late summer increased, the thought of in-person learning seemed almost impossible. Through continuous prayer and support from St. John's executive staff, church council, Noah's Ark Board of Directors, and the St. John's church family, the teachers were able to persevere through 2020.



Left, children learning keyboarding skills. Above and right, children staying safe with distancing and hand washing.



In 2021, we hope to be able to return to the more traditional things our program offers, such as our monthly bible stories read by pastors and church staff. By listening to these stories, children become familiar with the Bible and God's Word. Noah's Ark enrollment

is a diverse group, attracting families from many different cultures. During their time at Noah's Ark, families build supportive relationships that are kept for years to come.

It is a blessing to be located in the church building and have so many resources available.

### FINANCIAL POSITION

It was no surprise that decreased enrollment impacted the financial resources of the Noah's Ark ministry in 2020. Reserves and funds received through the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP)/Cares Act provided the ability to open and operate with a projected deficit budget of \$30,000 for the 2020/21 school year. St. John's staff, Finance Committee, and Noah's Ark Board are

closely monitoring the situation.

**Year ended June 30, 2020**  
Total Cash Reserves = \$68,000  
Total Income = \$168,927  
Total Expenses = \$202,421

**6 months ended December 31, 2020**  
*50% of the year complete*  
Total Cash Reserves = \$53,184  
Total Income = \$57,873 Includes \$25,000 of PPP funds  
Total Expenses = \$54,016

Plans to  
give you  
*hope*  
and a  
*future.*

JEREMIAH 29:11

## Adult Education Ministry

DAVE BOLLMANN

In the unique year that was 2020, Adult Education has continued in both traditional and non-traditional ways. Regular classes were initially offered as a means for members to grow in their faith. Pastor David and Pastor Anne offered a pastor-led study on Thursday morning. The Thursday class transitioned to meeting virtually in the fall, hoping to resume in person in 2021.

Small group learning at St. John's continues through the use of several resources, including RightNow Media. Several groups continued to meet both in-person and virtually. The Friday morning men's Bible study, Monday evening women's group, and Women's Circles have continued to meet as best they can throughout 2020. The Wednesday evening men's group also transitioned to virtual meetings.

A new financial course titled *Thriving in Love and Money* was piloted. Sponsored by Thrivent, the video/discussion-based class was attended by 10 people and led by Mike and Laura Freyman.

In looking forward, brainstorming has begun around what Adult Education can and should look like in 2021 as transitions to our facility become a reality. This dialogue will involve many staff, the Council, and lay leaders to offer input.



## Children's Ministries

AMY RADEMACHER

This past year has been one filled with challenges and road blocks for Children's Ministries. Yet, those challenges have also been a constant reminder that by leaning on God and into our faith, life's most unexpected trials can bring blessings as well as opportunities to share God's love with others in new and innovative ways!

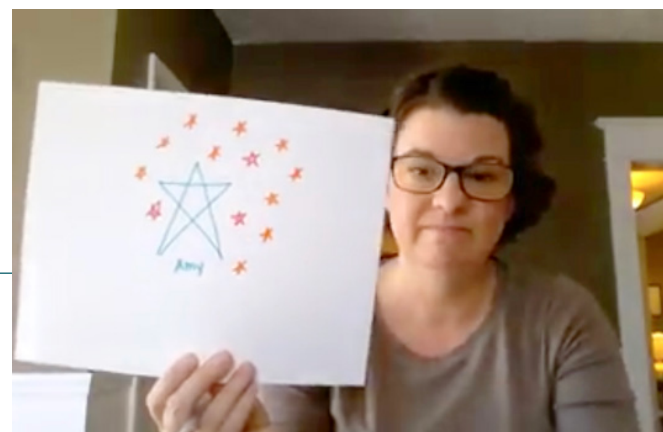
I began my second year as Director of Children's Ministries looking forward to having a year under my belt and feeling much more prepared to tackle my ministry after one full cycle of the church calendar and all of the seasons and events that come with it. Little did I realize that my first year of feeling inexperienced, overwhelmed, and underprepared would pale in comparison to what God had in store for me and the rest of our church for 2020! It put on hold most of the events, milestones, and short-term plans that I had in place for the year. However, with the advice and support of the Family Ministry team, church leadership, and the rest of the church staff, we were able to continue providing weekly faith building opportunities for our youngest congregation members!

**Amy Rademacher, Director of Children's Ministries, sharing a Sunday School lesson online.**

### JOY ZONE

Beginning in March, following the initial lockdown, Joy Zone moved to a remote learning format. During the remainder of the spring semester, still following the *Narrative Lectionary*, I sent a weekly newsletter to families filled with faith-building activities, as well as a link to a weekly Sunday School Bible story and lesson that I pre-recorded to view at their convenience.

During the summer, I introduced a children's book series that was based on the book series the congregation was following. The themes focused on helping our children cope with the changes, frustrations, and fears they might have been feeling due to the pandemic. I recorded a reading of the book and included a Scripture verse that demonstrated how



leaning on Jesus during that time would help them deal with these feelings.

At the beginning of the new school year in keeping with the school districts' plan for remote learning, Joy Zone continued each Sunday in a remote format. Rather than pre-record lessons, I introduced a Zoom format, where children could join the lesson live. Each week, 15-18 children participated in the Zoom Joy Zone program, following the *Narrative Lectionary* series. Lessons included the scripture/Bible story followed by discussion and questions. We also watched a related video, listened to music, and had a craft or game. Children enjoyed seeing familiar faces and engaging face-to-face. I loved being able to share the lessons in real-time and receive feedback from them!

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

#### April

*Holy Communion Milestone*—Typically a two-day program involving children and parents to learn the significance of Passover and the meaning of Holy Communion in the Lutheran church. This event was postponed and will hopefully resume in April 2021 with the usual in-person program.

#### July

*Vacation Bible School*—Usually a week-long program that teaches children about Jesus through hands-on experiences, activities, music, and Bible stories. VBS 2020 was offered remotely. The theme was *Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through*. Volunteers read Bible stories and taught a related lesson over the five days. The pre-recorded lessons, as well as links to VBS music and videos, were also available.



#### August

*Backpack Blessing*—Children and educators heading back to school brought their backpacks to church for a special blessing over the new school year.

#### September

*Bible Stepping Stone*—Children entering Kindergarten and 3rd grade received new Bibles. Parents gave their children the new Bibles during worship and Pastor

David blessed the families and their Bibles. A learning event also accompanied the Bible blessing where parents and children learned about the important features of their new Bibles and ways to make

Bible study a routine part of home life. Families that chose not to participate in the in-person program were sent a PowerPoint presentation to review at home with their child. Bibles were delivered to children at their homes.

*Porch Prayer and Share*—In an effort to offer families additional support and in-person engagement, I introduced a new program that consisted of personal visits to children at their homes. I began reaching out to families in early fall to see if they would be interested in a visit. Parents could also request a visit with me. I met with children on their front porches, with masks and adhering to physical distancing. We shared a quick craft, Bible story, and prayer. Much of the time was spent checking in on the children and their families. They chatted about how things were going with

remote learning and how they were coping generally with the pandemic challenges. This is a program that I plan to continue in the spring and throughout the year as weather permits.

#### December

*Children's Christmas Experience*—Typically a Saturday morning event for toddlers through early elementary-aged children and their families. Activities include crafts, Nativity dress-up, dramatic play, a winter photo booth, and a children's sermon by Pastors David and Anne. In 2020, we had a remote Zoom Joy Zone Christmas Party. I put together activity/treat bags for families to pick up. The bags contained pre-packaged snacks and cocoa, as well as supplies for an ornament craft, Bible bookmarks, and other Christmas activity sheets. During the Zoom party, we enjoyed our treats together, put together our ornament, watched a video of the Nativity story, and read the Christmas story in the Bible. We also played some online Christmas games, read a few Christmas books, and listened to music. It was a fun way to close out the year and allow the children to enjoy the excitement of the Christmas season together!

Consider it  
*pure joy*  
when you face  
trials. Your  
faith produces  
endurance.

JAMES 1:2-3





Junior and senior high students and leaders participated in See You at the Cross on a beautiful September evening. Prayers were lifted up for teachers, classmates, and families. Students opened the evening by writing a prayer for their school year and then had an opportunity to come forward to place it on the cross.



## Junior High Ministries

KERRY CORDAY

As interesting as 2020 has been, God has remained faithful to His promises to be with us and to strengthen us through challenging times. The Junior High Ministries at St. John's have provided unique opportunities for students to worship, connect, learn, serve, and give throughout the year. The endeavor of planning, preparing, and providing for Junior High Ministry experiences took many detours throughout the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, no matter the journey, God's blessings were evident and felt along the way.

### THRIVE WEEKLY MINISTRY

- Youth meet both in large-group and small-group settings to establish and grow as disciples in their relationship with Christ. Thrive small groups connect students with their peers in giving them a safe place to learn, share, listen, laugh, and grow in the context of God's plans for their lives.
- Service remains an important aspect of Thrive, and opportunities are made available for students to engage in meaningful work to help bless and care for others. Some of the mission work the Thrive students were involved in this past year include: packing school and personal care kits with Lutheran World Relief, cleaning out and organizing church

classrooms and closets for construction, writing notes of love and encouragement, and making crafts for the St. John's homebound residents.

- Fellowship and fun are essential in connecting students; therefore, throughout the year special evenings were designated for outings in the community or simply to engage in games/activities at the church.



### STUDENT BELIEVE RETREAT

In the spring of 2020, a group of 16 students and four adult leaders spent two days at the Believe retreat held at Grossinger Motors Arena. The weekend challenged students to go deeper in their prayer time and focus on the importance of aligning our hearts with God. Believe is an annual event through Christ In Youth.

### LOCAL MISSIONS EVENT

The pandemic forced us to postpone plans for a summer missions trip, Week of Hope, but new and exciting plans emerged for a week in July. Partnering with the Senior High Ministry, a total of 33 youth and

12 adult leaders participated in the event. It was an incredible week of accomplishing great work for the Lord!

- The Scripture verse for the week was from Galatians 5:13, "serve one another in love."
- The daily activities included prayer, service, fellowship, Bible devotion, and small groups.
- The local projects were serving at Midwest Food Bank, building an outdoor game area at St. John's with GaGa Ball and nine-square, and cleaning/organizing projects at St. John's.

### FLANNEL FEST

The second year of hosting Flannel Fest took place on October 25 at St. John's outdoor game area and garage. Two bonfires, a hotdog dinner, glow stick games, and a devotion around the bonfire were all part of the awesome evening. A total of 32 students and 8 adult helpers participated in the event.

### SUMMER ALL IN

Given the state of the pandemic, students were eager to connect with their peers and have opportunities to engage in something different and fun.

All In was focused on helping youth align their hearts, souls, minds, and strength with God (Mark 12:30). Four evenings over the summer months allowed students to enjoy water games, snacks, Bible teachings, and discussions with their friends.

### CONFIRMATION

It has been a wonderful experience working with Steve Terry to prepare students for their individual and collective Rite of Confirmation. Plans continue to evolve into enriching the experience for students as they confirm the baptismal promises made on their behalf at baptism. Steve and I met with parents and students to help them prepare for their personal faith shares.

It is such a joy to serve on staff at St. John's and to be a part of the active work our Lord is doing even in the midst of these trying times. I give thanks to Him for blessing the ministries

of St. John's, including the Junior High Ministry. May He continue to fulfill the mission of engaging and equipping people to embrace Jesus Christ throughout 2021! Amen

*Trust in  
The Lord*  
with all  
your heart.

PROVERBS 3:5

## Dinner Time

LISA HEYUNGS

Dinner Time for 2020 started off great with nearly 60 people each week joining together for three straight weeks. We had great conversations with each other, good food, and fellowship. The first two weeks in February brought snowstorms that led us to cancel. Then COVID came and, unfortunately, caused an abrupt stop to any further gatherings in 2020. Wow! What a year! I truly appreciate all of the volunteers that helped make those three weeks a great time. I also miss those of you who joined us for Dinner Time. I look forward to gathering together in person again!



# Senior High Ministries

STEVE TERRY

The Senior High youth continue to be very active in numerous ministry events that live into our Church's mission statement to engage and equip people to embrace Jesus Christ.

## STUDY

Ignite Small Groups meet twice per month and CHAOS large group meets on Wednesday nights all year. Both ministries are biblically-based study groups. During this year of isolation and shut down, we had to become more creative and adaptive. We had twice weekly Zoom meetings and used social media to stay connected with youth and families.

I preached more than 220 five-minute reflections through social media as an outreach and encouragement.

## WORSHIP/PRAYER

Youth helped lead worship ministries early in the year as ushers, musicians, and singers. During the shutdown, they participated online with worship. At Ignite and CHAOS, youth participate in shared prayer. During this difficult time their prayer was sincere and spiritual.

## SERVICE

Our annual week-long Work Camp mission trip was canceled this year. Sixty youth and adults had met all year preparing for the mission trip to Rochester, New York. We then organized a local service work camp

**In July junior and senior high students and leaders participated in a local service week, working in and around the church, as well as at Midwest Food Bank.**



at the church and Midwest Food Bank. Thirty-three youth and twelve adult participated.

We were able to hold the annual Work Camp garage sale, which provides for so many local families and agencies. We made 40 blankets for BroMenn Hospital's COVID tent, and we raised money for Habitat for Humanity at an overnight Homeless Night. Finally, we collected three grocery carts of food and supplies for the Center For Hope.

## COMMUNITY

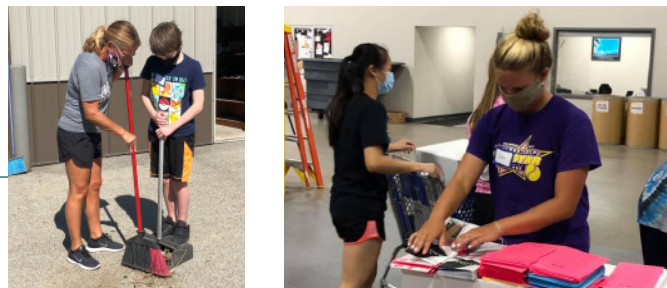
Gathering for fellowship was hampered this year; however, we adapted and met at least twice a week via Zoom. We also communicated through social media.

The Senior High youth gather together to form community on a regular basis for special events, such as lock-ins, camping overnights, bonfires, and parties. They also form small communities through their small groups and their regular attendance to weekly ministries such as CHAOS and Joy Zone.

*Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable— think about these things.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

**Ignite Leaders:** Carole Snyder, Cyndee Brown, Dean Brown, Jennifer Wills, Denise Garee, Kerri Cordray, Mason Cordray, Steve Terry



**Top, the line of cars from area churches waiting to drop off boxes of personal care kits, school kits, quilts, and soap for the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering in October. Bottom left, many St. John's members and friends helped at the Ingathering. Bottom middle, St. John's members and friends packing food at Midwest Food Bank. Bottom right, Pastor David's view from the donation chair at a St. John's blood drive.**

# Mission Outreach

We are proud of the ministry partners we work with locally and globally. They are very good at offering both physical and spiritual care. A large percentage of St. John's members volunteer with these partners, as well as support them financially. We are a mission-minded, outward-looking congregation, dedicated to reaching out to others.

This year has been one that tested us all, but the Mission Outreach Team and its projects didn't stop! Most activities still occurred this year, albeit with some creative changes. We were forced to think differently while we tried to maintain our goals.

Our Red Cross blood drive tallied 154 units in three 2020 events despite the pandemic! We decided to move our Hopedale Growing Hope Globally stewardship collection to the spring to coincide with planting season. We will promote that in 2021. Our check was sent for the lease of the land for 2020.

We had many other successful events and projects this year. Our ongoing work with the Zambia Pastors' Children's Education Fund and Lutheran World Relief continue to draw a lot of participation. St. John's members are incredibly generous with their money and time for these two projects.

We had to pivot a bit on the Giving Tree project this year. All "tags" were available online, and we offered contactless drop-off at the church. It was a blessing to be able to fulfill all of the requests we received for presents. On other fronts, St. John's has 42 regular Faith In Action volunteers, as well as others who help

from time to time. We also hosted their very successful mum sale in October in the parking lot.

We held our second Big Give event where members could drop off fixings for Thanksgiving dinners in conjunction with Home Sweet Home Mission. We collected almost a ton of food for Thanksgiving.

We also continued to serve meals at Safe Harbor Mission and safely worked at Midwest Food Bank. Although in-person volunteering was slightly lower this year, we still were blessed to have the people we needed to complete our work in all of these events—

masked and safely distanced. Mission Outreach and St. John's members achieved another inspiring and productive year.

**Ministry Team Members:** Pastor Anne Christiansen; Vickie Robertson, Steve BeMiller; Lynn Carpenter; Linda Crowley; Julie Holliday; Gloria Jameson; Connie Moll

*Love one another as I have loved you.*

JOHN 13:34

## Stewardship Ministry Team

Stewardship in worship, service, scripture, and our finances were the messages throughout 2020 in the monthly mailings and as part of the Vision 2020 capital campaign.

This year's fall stewardship theme was One Vision with two parts: Ministries 2021—the annual pledge campaign; and Vision 2020—the four-year building project



capital campaign. One Vision highlighted how financial resources support our ability to live out our core values to Worship Faithfully, Connect Intentionally, Learn Together, Serve Sacrificially, and Give Generously.

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee oversees the financial affairs of the congregation to ensure they are being conducted effectively and in accordance with financial best practices. Specifically in 2020 the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the monthly financial statements, monitored the financial situation of the church during the pandemic, and advised and approved financing for the Vision 2020 project.

Specific actions of note include:

- Oversight of the Payroll Protection Plan funds received through the Cares Act in response to the COVID pandemic. The church received \$218,000 used to support payroll for the church and Noah's Ark staff.
- Recommended an additional gift of \$19,000 above our pledge to the Synod and a commitment of \$30,000 to the area housing coalition as a way of paying forward our financial blessings to those in need.
- Reviewed and recommended approval of the initial financing of up to \$2,673,000 for phase one of the Vision 2020 project.

- Recommended to Council, in conjunction with the Endowment Fund committee, a donation of \$312,000 to the Vision 2020 project to underwrite the cost of replacing the sanctuary roof.

*With God*

all things are possible.

MATTHEW 19:26

- Met with our PNC representative and monitored the financial situation throughout the pandemic.
- Reviewed and monitored Noah's Ark financial reports.

There were concerns as to the impact of the pandemic and inability to worship in person on our financial situation and giving. St. John's is blessed and only experienced a 7% decrease in giving compared to 2019. Our costs also decreased as we were not holding programs or meeting in person, and we paid off our mortgage which reduced our debt service payments resulting in a cash surplus of more than \$200,000 for the year.

**Team members:** Shari Buckellew, staff; Tom Shadid, lead; Tim Kelly, Treasurer, Dale Nunemaker; Steve Pruett; Alex Whitworth; Brad Barclay. Tom Shadid, Brad Barclay, and Steve Pruett retired from the committee in December. The team welcomed new members Steve BeMiller, Treasurer; Elizabeth Haines; and Tammy Fahling.



Some of the Tuesday Tee Timers cleaning the church yard on a sunny Tuesday morning in July.

## Property Committee

The Property Committee protects all congregational property, providing a safe environment for guests, and keeps updated Facility use guidelines and recommendations for long-range facility projects. With the onslaught of COVID-19 and the shutdown of our facility, the staff kept busy stripping floors, waxing and buffing floors, shampooing carpet, repairing drywall, deep cleaning, painting, sanitizing, and throwing away old materials. We also have been busy with the construction of the new worship space and preparing for the remodel of the Sanctuary and office area. I appreciate our facilities staff who have worked tirelessly. I also am grateful to the Tuesday Tee Timers

who have continued to keep the grounds beautiful. Finally, special thanks to Lynn Spaid for helping maintain the equipment we use for the property. I pray for a better year in 2021 and thank our congregation for all their support.

**Committee members:** Fred Render, Director of Building and Grounds; Kip Iverson, lead; Roger Haab; Marvin Rasch; Dave Schaffer; and Lynn Spaid. **Facilities Staff:** Myron Adams; Carolyn Kern; Ed Embry. **Tuesday Tee Timers:** Jim Broach; Jim Knutson; Dave Lowe; Dale Nunemaker; Steve Pruett; Randy Rich; Terry Stombaugh; Craig Thiel; R J Whitworth; Lynn Spaid. **Mowers:** Kip Iverson; Dave Schaffer; Chuck Hurliman; Lynn Spaid; Denny Otto

## Columbarium

St. John's began the Columbarium Ministry in 1995. By 2040, National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) predicts cremations will be between 80% and 87%. NFDA 2020 *Cremation and Burial* reports many additional U.S. deaths are occurring due to COVID-19. Many families are considering cremation when planning funerals. Cremation Association of North America reports in some areas that cremations have tripled or quadrupled with unprecedented sales that cannot keep up with the demand. Cremations during the pandemic occur for many reasons, including limitations on gatherings and travel, social distancing, and financial concerns. Additionally, it allows families to keep the cremated remains for delayed services.

Funk's Grove, southwest of Bloomington, a national natural landmark, has had a cemetery in the trees since 1891. In 2015, they added a Columbarium wall with outdoor cremation niches. First Presbyterian

Church in Normal also has a columbarium which was opened last year. St. John's niche prices remain at \$800 (companion with two urns) and \$500 (single with one urn). Engraving costs can be prepaid or reimbursed at then current fees. A total of 124 niche faces have been sold, leaving 140 available for purchase. In 2020, one niche face was sold, and six inurnments took place.

We thank all who help maintain the Memorial Garden's beautiful appearance. In addition to the Columbarium Association Board and support members, we thank Pastor Anne Christiansen, Myron Adams, Laura Veal, Linda Redmon, and Margaret Hollowell.

**Board Members:** Pastor David Glesne; Sue Stombaugh, chair; Gary Brandenburg, vice chair; Vern Veal, secretary/treasurer; Brent Anderson, member; Sharon Hellman, member; Elizabeth Haines, council member; **SUPPORT:** Shari Buckellew; Executive Director of Business Operations; Fred Render, Director of Building and Grounds; Gudrun Dunt, Coordinator of Member Care.



Construction of the new worship space progressed from September through the end of the year.

### Vision 2020

The Vision 2020 building project came into focus during 2020. Finalizing the design, communicating with the congregation, and completing the capital campaign during a pandemic was a challenge. Prayerful discernment was sought and the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt at each decision point as we moved forward boldly for the future of St. John's.

Prior to the stay-at-home order in March, BLDD Architects, our project architect, met regularly with the Building Committee to complete the design phase of the project, including renderings of the design and detailed cost estimates. The final designs were approved by the Council in April and included a new larger worship space with technology to support future growth and worship needs, enlarged entrance and outdoor canopy, remodel of the current Sanctuary into an inviting gathering space, and efficient and secure offices to meet the challenges of today and prepare for generations to come.

The original plan was to hold the capital campaign in the spring, followed by a vote to proceed and begin building in the summer. Due to the pandemic and the difficulty of meeting in large groups, it was decided that the campaign team would host small in-person information sessions and Zoom meetings to unveil the designs and answer questions rather than ask for donations at that time. Nearly 200 members attended one of 20 sessions. In addition to the sessions,

updates were provided in the St. John's Weekly News, frequently asked questions were answered, and videos were provided on the St. John's website for those unable to attend.

“See, I am making all things new.”

REVELATION 21:5

On August 1, the congregation voted 74% in favor to proceed with the project with a maximum building project cost of \$8.2 million. The project was divided into three phases to allow for initial financing and exterior work to begin during the warmer months prior to the capital campaign.

A wet, yet exciting, groundbreaking service was held on September 6. The rain stopped just in time for Pastor David Glesne, Pastor Anne Christianson, Bishop Harold Skillrud, and Council President Todd Peterson to turn dirt for the new worship center. An enthusiastic crowd watched from afar, as well as

from home as we streamed the event. Bubbles, sun glasses, and paper fans with a picture of the groundbreaking from 1962 of the original sanctuary with Bishop Skillrud on one side and the architect rendering of the new worship center on the other were given to those in attendance to celebrate the day.

Construction trailers, fencing, and equipment showed up the next day to begin work on the foundation.

It was decided to combine the capital campaign for the building with the annual stewardship drive in the fall. To help with communication during the pandemic

and limited worship attendance, the committee created videos to be shown during worship, and a brochure about the project and pledge card were mailed to all members. Approximately \$2.4 million was pledged to the project over the next four years. In December, Council approved to proceed with phase two of the project based on the capital campaign results and a commitment of up to \$5.5 million in financing from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Phase two includes the completion of the worship center, gathering space, entry, and canopy. The decision to proceed with the office remodel will be revisited early in 2021.

Final Sanctuary Sending services with limited seating were held on December 20 in the current Sanctuary as we prepared to worship in the Parish Life Center throughout the remainder of the project.

**Building Committee:** Darbe Brinkoetter, Roger Haab, Chuck Hurliman, Kip Iverson, Joel Murphy, Pastor David Glesne, Shari Buckellew, Fred Render, and Michael Schneider

**Campaign Committee:** Steve BeMiller, Dawn Conway, Bob Fisher, Elizabeth Haines, Roger and Sharon Hellman, Traci Monson, Joel and Diane Murphy, Clay and Jamie Schumacher, Marc and Dawna Tucci, Sara White

### Endowment Fund

The St. John's Endowment Fund is used to enhance the ministry and mission of St. John's by encouraging, receiving, and administering existing and future gifts designated to the Fund and undesignated bequests received by the Congregation.

The year-end financial results for the Endowment Fund are included in the financial statements at the end of this report. More than 95% of the total \$1.85 million is invested in a PNC-managed account with the remaining 5% invested with the ELCA Investment Fund A and a beneficiary interest in various member insurance policies. There were no gifts received in 2020. We were informed by three member families that they have included St. John's in their estate plans as part of the Vision 2020 capital campaign.

The Endowment Fund committee approved a gift of \$312,000 to the Vision 2020 campaign, specifically to underwrite the cost to reroof the existing Sanctuary.

Due to the pandemic, no events were hosted by the Endowment Fund Committee in 2020.

**Team members:** Pastor David Glesne; Shari Buckellew; Tom Shadid; Chris Ayers; Steve BeMiller; Jim Click; Dawn Conway; Tim Kelly; Bill Leary; Todd Peterson; John Robertson; Vern Veal

# Statement of Activities

DECEMBER 31, 2020

Account	Operating Budget	Operating Actual	Building Fund Vision 2020	Memorial Fund	Charitable Trust Fund
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Gifts and Offerings	\$1,523,000.00	\$1,451,723.94	\$930,324.68	\$5,240.00	\$—
Mission and Workcamp Appeals and Events	\$52,000.00	\$43,215.37			
<b>Total Contributed Income</b>	<b>\$1,575,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,494,939.31</b>	<b>\$930,324.68</b>	<b>\$5,240.00</b>	<b>\$—</b>
Ministry Fees	\$36,550.00	\$7,514.08			
Miscellaneous Income (PPP grant, Cares Act)	\$1,500.00	\$192,924.67			
Parking Lot and Facility Rentals	\$24,000.00	\$17,627.50			
<b>Total Non Contribution Income</b>	<b>\$62,050.00</b>	<b>\$218,066.25</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>
Interest and Dividend Income	\$3,500.00	\$4,049.91	\$480.09	\$681.70	\$43,089.42
Investment Value Change	\$—	\$3,105.37		\$549.70	\$159,926.70
<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>	<b>\$7,155.28</b>	<b>\$480.09</b>	<b>\$1,231.40</b>	<b>\$203,016.12</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,640,550.00</b>	<b>\$1,720,160.84</b>	<b>\$930,804.77</b>	<b>\$6,471.40</b>	<b>\$203,016.12</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>					
Benevolence	\$116,000.00	\$135,040.04			
Global and Local Missions	\$33,000.00	\$61,246.12		\$1,500.00	
Mission Trips	\$48,800.00	\$3,246.11			
<b>Total Benevolence and Missions Disbursements</b>	<b>\$197,800.00</b>	<b>\$199,532.27</b>		<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$—</b>
Adult Discipleship Ministry	\$5,000.00	\$2,050.93			
Children's Ministry	\$16,950.00	\$2,893.92			
Jr. High Ministry	\$7,000.00	\$4,779.01			
Sr. High Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$3,535.56			
Parish Life Ministry	\$25,700.00	\$7,397.24			
Guest Experience Ministry	\$3,050.00	\$326.57		\$—	
Stewardship Ministry	\$1,200.00	\$1,867.63			
Worship Arts Ministry	\$20,800.00	\$11,467.43		\$—	
<b>Total Direct Ministry Disbursements</b>	<b>\$85,700.00</b>	<b>\$34,318.29</b>		<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,061,000.00	\$1,020,884.26			
Other personnel expenses	\$26,000.00	\$11,379.92			
Office/Administrative Expenses and Technology	\$84,050.00	\$72,782.85	\$11,029.77	\$11,577.36	\$8,880.99
Facility and Grounds	\$69,500.00	\$61,465.13			
Insurance and Life Safety	\$17,500.00	\$16,500.36		\$2,650.00	
Utilities	\$57,000.00	\$48,699.83			
Mortgage Principle and Interest	\$42,000.00	\$29,300.87	\$3,042.14		
Vision 2020	\$—	\$3,690.00			\$312,000.00
<b>Total General Operating Disbursements</b>	<b>\$1,357,050.00</b>	<b>\$1,264,703.22</b>	<b>\$14,071.91</b>	<b>\$14,227.36</b>	<b>\$320,880.99</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$1,640,550.00</b>	<b>\$1,498,553.78</b>	<b>\$14,071.91</b>	<b>\$15,727.36</b>	<b>\$320,880.99</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$221,607.06</b>	<b>\$916,732.86</b>	<b>\$(9,255.96)</b>	<b>\$(117,864.87)</b>

# Statement of Financial Position

DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Operating Fund December 31, 2020	Building Fund December 31, 2020	Memorial Fund December 31, 2020	Endowment Fund December 31, 2020	All Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash and Investments	\$625,067.79	\$532,882.50	\$57,160.59	\$1,853,193.67	\$3,068,304.55
Receivables	\$1,024.18				\$1,024.18
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Construction in Progress		\$1,073,777.48			\$1,073,777.48
Building and Land	\$11,097,279.09				\$11,097,279.09
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$(6,347,485.00)				\$(6,347,485.00)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,375,886.06</b>	<b>\$1,606,659.98</b>	<b>\$57,160.59</b>	<b>\$1,853,193.67</b>	<b>\$8,892,900.30</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Interfund Rec/Pay	\$1,042.00	\$(42.00)	\$—	\$(1,000.00)	\$—
Prepaid pledges	\$43,000.00				\$43,000.00
Temporarily Reserved Funds	\$22,548.85				\$22,548.85
<b>Construction Loan</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$541,960.02</b>			<b>\$541,960.02</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$66,590.85</b>	<b>\$541,918.02</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$(1,000.00)</b>	<b>\$607,508.87</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>					
<b>Total Equity, Beginning Balance.</b>	<b>\$5,503,062.54</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$66,416.55</b>	<b>\$1,972,058.54</b>	<b>\$7,541,537.63</b>
Current surplus (deficit)	\$221,607.06	\$916,732.86	\$(9,255.96)	\$(117,864.87)	\$1,011,219.09
Non income/cash items—Interfund Transfers and Depreciation Expenses	\$(415,374.39)	\$148,009.10	\$—	\$—	\$(267,365.29)
<b>Total Equity, Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$5,309,295.21</b>	<b>\$1,064,741.96</b>	<b>\$57,160.59</b>	<b>\$1,854,193.67</b>	<b>\$8,285,391.43</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$5,375,886.06</b>	<b>\$1,606,659.98</b>	<b>\$57,160.59</b>	<b>\$1,853,193.67</b>	<b>\$8,892,900.30</b>

## Membership Summary

<b>Baptized members at the end of 2019</b> . . . . .	<b>1880</b>	<b>Members removed 2020</b> . . . . .	<b>168</b>
<b>Members received 2020</b> . . . . .	<b>45</b>	Death . . . . .	17
Baptism Children (15 and Under) . . . . .	14	Removed by Action of Council . . . . .	106
Baptism Adult (16 and Up) . . . . .	0	ELCA Transfer . . . . .	8
Affirmation of Faith . . . . .	7	Non-Lutheran Transfer . . . . .	0
ELCA Transfer . . . . .	17	Other Lutheran Transfer . . . . .	2
Non-Lutheran Transfer . . . . .	5	Other (Personal Request, Stat. Adjust.) . . . . .	35
Other Lutheran Transfer . . . . .	2	<b>Net membership loss</b> . . . . .	<b>123</b>
Request for Reinstatement - Adults . . . . .	0	<b>Baptized members at end of 2020</b> . . . . .	<b>1757</b>
Other (Stat. Adjust) . . . . .	0	<b>Confirmed Membership at End of 2020</b> . . . . .	<b>1434</b>
		<b>Baptized Members (Un-confirmed)</b> . . . . .	<b>323</b>
		<b>Children of Baptized/Confirmed members</b>	
		<b>who have not been baptized</b> . . . . .	<b>24</b>
		not counted in total baptized members	

## Average Weekly Attendance

Faith and Life Adult Bible Study . . . . .	45	Senior High (Ignite Small Groups) . . . . .	49
(January-March)		Enrollment—58	
Faith and Life Adult Bible Study . . . . .	16	Junior/Senior High Local Mission	
(September-November)		(33 youth/12 Adults) . . . . .	45
Children's Choirs . . . . .	14	Senior High Work Camp . . . . .	Canceled
Children's Bell Choir . . . . .	4	Senior High Leadership Lab . . . . .	Canceled
Adult Bell Choir . . . . .	10	Worship . . . . .	189
Adult Choir . . . . .	28	January-March (383) / April-December (110)	
Joy Zone Children's Ministry . . . . .	No report	<b>Additional Information</b>	
Junior High (Thrive) . . . . .	48	Adults Participating in New Member Classes . . . . .	31
Enrollment—48 youth/13 adults		Member Funerals . . . . .	12
Kaffehuset . . . . .	24	Non-member Funerals . . . . .	1
Nursery . . . . .	6	Weddings . . . . .	2
Enrollment—2 adults per shift/10 children . . . . .		Confirmation . . . . .	16
Senior High (CHAOS) . . . . .	15	First Communion . . . . .	postponed until 2021

*Thank you*

from the St. John's staff for the encouraging  
notes, comments, thoughts, and prayers this past year!