



WORSHIP



GROW



LOVE



GIVE

# annual report

*reconnect and re-engage*

2021



**ST. JOHN'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
-EST. 1872-



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# senior pastor

PASTOR DAVID GLESNE

Wow! What a year! In one moment, it is hard to fathom that another year has passed, and in the next moment, things that happened a few weeks ago seem like ancient history.

This tension of living in two different realities at the same time is nothing new to us. Luther used the Latin phrase “Simul Justus et Peccator” to describe our life as Christians in this world. To break it down in English, “Simul” is where we get the word simultaneously, which means at the same time. “Justus” reflects the English ‘to be justified or righteous.’ “Et” means ‘and,’ which leaves us with “Peccator,” which means ‘sinner.’ In English, we often say that as baptized Christians, we are both saint and sinner at the same time. Many things work that way; almost like two sides to the same coin.

We will celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2022 by looking back to what has been, while moving forward into the future with our new worship center and remodeled and improved gathering space and offices. It is in the middle of what was and what will yet be that we live as the children of God called to give thanks for what has been and to participate in what will be in Jesus’ name.

So what will the future bring? Good question! Let us start by looking at where we have been this past year. In this Annual Report, you will find reports, numbers, and narratives that tell the story of our ministry together. As I have read past years’ annual reports, I was struck again by two things—the seemingly rhythmic pattern of life and ministry and the near-constant change that each year brings.

This year was no different. Weekly in-person worship has been the norm since time immemorial, but we had not met in person for months. Finally, we could

join together once again with the advent of the vaccine, proper safety measures, and thoughtful and caring members. We came back slowly. Some were nervous about attending corporate worship; others came back with great joy and verve! Our numbers in worship are about half of what they were pre-COVID and even less in other ministry areas. We have changed service times and program opportunities.

Two years into COVID, we are still learning to pivot, but it isn’t all about COVID. Our culture and world have changed. Expectations about faith, worship, and community are vastly different from those who moved from Allin and Olive to the corner of Emerson and Towanda in the 1950s. In fact, they are different from when I first arrived at St. John’s in 2018!

So we are “Simul” once again. Daily in faith, we are becoming what we are in baptisms into Christ. As a congregation and people of God, we are leaning on our past as we adapt for the present—to prepare a future in God’s grace.

One thing we did to help pave the way for what is next was simplifying and clarifying our Core Values. A task force was formed, and after much prayer and deliberation, we discerned that our core values were best understood in these four words: Worship, Grow, Give, and Love. There is much more to these values, but these four words make easy-to-remember lenses to focus our ministry.

While weary from all the changes, the leadership of St. John’s concluded that we needed a little “fun in the Son” for all ages! From our rattles to wrinkles, we had something fun for everyone this summer. I enjoyed getting to know many of you better at Keg Grove as we shared stories of life, faith, and sports! I particularly enjoyed our sermon series *The Great*



Above: Members and friends joined Pastor David over the summer at Keg Grove for conversation and laughs as part of Fun in the Son summer activities. Right: Pastor David served Holy Communion to students as part of the Holy Communion stepping stone at the Family Reunion outdoor service in August.

*Adventure* and *Basic Training*. I received meaningful input, and it was great to hear stories of growth, blessing, and understanding that came from them.

Another great joy was preparing so many youth to partake in the Lord’s Supper. It had been a long time coming, and sharing this meal with them and so many of you on a beautiful late summer morning made my year!

There is much more that happened and more is on tap for our 150th year of ministry together! Some things will be different; maybe even be disorienting. The good news is that we are never alone in these challenges. God has already come to us in great love in Christ Jesus. This frees us to live in hope even as things change all around us. I was reminded of this passage from the Isaiah 43 as I pondered what was and what will yet be.

But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and through the rivers,  
they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire,  
you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.



I will close with the last few words of one of my reports to the church council: “This is an excellent time to be the church. We have opportunities that our ancestors in faith never dreamed of and challenges they couldn’t comprehend. But we also have gifts that match and a call to spread the Gospel like never before! Thank you for your partnership in ministry and faith.”

If I were to start getting into the names of all the partners I share this blessed ministry with, this would go on forever, and I am sure I would leave someone out. But I must mention this staff I am blessed to work with—Pastor Anne, the interim work of Deacon Lyn, the rest of the leadership team of Dave Bollmann and Shari Buckellew. How blessed am I to have you on my team! For things that get done, both big and small, the staff of St. John’s is a joy to work with—Myron, Doris, Kerri, Melissa, Gudrun, Ed, Norma, Carolyn, Sherri, Lisa, Amy, Fred, Walter, Steve, and Vern. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Lastly, if you have worshiped, given, grown, or loved in Jesus’ name through the ministries of St. John’s this past year, this thank you is for you. Thank you for a blessed year in ministry and your prayers, participation, and faith. Together as a welcoming Christ-centered and Spirit-led community, may we celebrate both what has been and participate in what God has in store for us next as we join together to worship, grow, give and love in Jesus’ name so that we can engage and equip people to embrace Jesus Christ.



# deacon

DEACON LYN AHEARN

Prayers and well wishes were sent with Pastor Anne Christiansen as she moved into retirement. We are grateful for her pastoral care, particularly during the Pandemic.

There are so many active parts to our Congregational Care ministry. I am grateful for the visits that all of our BeFriends have provided to our members. Not only do they have a gentle and guiding listening ear, but they bring the church and communion to our members who are not able to connect in person.

Other areas of pastoral care are the Caring Connections devotions, home visits, hospital visits and presiding at funerals. Sadly, since I began in June, we have had nine funerals. As a way to care for people in grief, we send out *Journeying Through Grief* booklets which provide grief help.

GriefShare is a new ministry that we began this fall. Members and non-members are invited to attend our bi-monthly meetings. It is a national program of video and small group discussion. Our group has had steady attendance and I believe has been valuable for those attending to have a space to share and learn about the process of grieving.

Prayer Ministry is an integral part of how we care for each other. Prayer chain, Thursday prayer group, and the prayer shawl ministry all focus on communicating our praise and needs to God.

Ministering with the people of St. John's could not be done without all of YOU who dedicate your time in many ways to caring for each other! I especially am personally grateful for Gudrun Dunt, Member Care Coordinator, who keeps me organized, has great ideas and is a HUGE blessing to all of us on staff.



Above: Pastor Anne Christiansen delivered her final sermon as Associate Pastor of St. John's on Pentecost Sunday in May. She retired following this service and has returned to Chicago. Right: members of the Thursday prayer group meeting via Zoom.



# council president

JOEL MURPHY

In his book *Canoeing the Mountains*, Tod Bolsinger writes, "The world in front of you is nothing like the world behind you." How true this has been as we experienced another year of challenges and opportunities! It amazes me how, with the grace of God, we as a people of God accept these challenges and develop these opportunities.

Assisting the Congregation Council to understand some of the challenges ahead of us, we studied Mr. Bolsinger's book. The book provided insight in how to plan for a world that is evolving. How to negotiate "uncharted" regions and transform our congregation to focus on our mission: **engage and equip people to embrace Jesus Christ.**

To help navigate this new territory, a Task Force of 15 individuals was formed from members of the Council, staff, and congregation to discuss the values of St. John's. A new Values Statement was developed through the work. They can be seen at worship every weekend—**Worship, Grow, Love, and Give.** Simple words providing a focus on our journey with Christ.

We journey with Christ: in **Worship**—gathering, praising, praying—as a Church and for all the people; as we **Grow**—learning, discovering, and equipping—to strengthen our faith and expand knowledge of the love of Christ; in **Love**—welcoming, caring, and serving—as we greet, volunteer, and assist in our faith community, local community, and global community; and as we **Give**—our time, treasures, and talents—providing the resources to do God's work.

An October Council Retreat, facilitated by St. John's member John Roberson, helped define our work as a Council and ways to best serve the congregation. Thanks to John for his fine work. The hard part—taking our discussions and putting them into action—

is next. One key takeaway—engagement. How do we as a council engage with the congregation, connect with staff, and provide "focus" in decision making? Another item that emerged was the need to develop areas of focus. We will look at how to get "souls in seats," how to engage/re-engage all levels of our congregation, and how to best serve the church.

The Council oversaw changes in staff—hiring Deacon Lyn Ahearn as Interim Director of Congregational Care and Worship Arts. This has allowed an opportunity to look at the staffing model for the future to best engage and work with the church community and the community at large.

As we enter our 150th year as a congregation, we are wrapping up construction of the new worship center. It will be wonderful to welcome all to worship and share the glory of God in this beautiful space. Celebrations and activities are being planned to commemorate our anniversary.

I would like to thank the members of the Congregation Council who have served this past year. Completing their term are Aaron Ching, Julie Dostal, Elizabeth Haines, Todd Peterson, and Janice Neuleib. Continuing on the Council for next year are Steve BeMiller, Jolie Hoffmann, David Johnson, Dean Brown, Mark Scott, and Kelly Heim.





## worship arts

DEACON LYN AHEARN

Our church has certainly undergone a multitude of changes in this past year. We were saddened by the departure of our former Director of Music, who had provided much leadership for our worship over the years. Beginning on Good Friday, I have had the honor of assisting in music leadership—and in June began as Interim Director of Worship Arts (and Congregational Care). A goal has been to help provide stable worship leadership. I am grateful for all who share their time and talent in order to worship with integrity. From musicians and readers to thespians and tech booth volunteers—all who come together to worship are praising God with joy!

This fall we re-engaged several music ministries. With limited space and masking, the adult, youth, and bell

choirs restarted. They have been providing special music to enhance worship.

We were blessed to have Jacob Tolonen join us for this past few months to give us advice for sound, slides, and streaming for worship services. We look forward to working with Illinois State University Graduate Assistant Evan Thompson this spring.

God has blessed us with an amazing leader in our new organist and worship musician, Walter Stout, who began his ministry in the busy month of December. Welcome, Walter!

Advent Midweek worship was a new effort involving many youth as readers, acolytes, drama actors, and musicians. Four services of Christmas Eve worship were held with different musical styles to worship our Savior's birth.

We look forward to moving into the new worship center and know that there will be surprises and flexibility as we walk into our life together at St. John's.

*Left:* Youth helped with Lent midweek worship, sharing reader's theater-style dramas. *Above:* Deacon Lyn presiding at Christmas Eve worship.



## noah's ark preschool

SHERRI LEWIS

For more than 45 years Noah's Ark teachers and staff have been inspiring learning for children and families. Children learn readiness and social skills needed to prepare them for their school journey. *Creative Curriculum*, a researched play-based curriculum is used to guide teachers' lesson plans, as well as activities that teach children social skills to respect one another's likes and differences. This year our Department of Children and Family Services license was up for renewal. For years the school's official name on our DCFS license was Noah's Ark Nursery. I decided it was time to change our name to represent the work we do and how we serve families in the community. Our name on our DCFS license now reads "Noah's Ark Early Learning Preschool."

This fall we again faced a new preschool year that would bring many changes. Operating a preschool during a pandemic can be challenging. In order to keep safe, we continued to comply with guidelines set by the Department of Children and Family Services, Center for Disease Control, and the McLean County Health Department. Children and staff are required to wear face coverings and be screened before entering the classrooms. This school year, enrollment and staffing for the fall semester increased by 50%, and we currently have 112 students.

Over the summer we received a grant to improve our playground by adding equipment to create an outdoor classroom, with a water trough, mud kitchen, market place, chalkboards, and a log balance beam. In June staff hosted St. John's summer camp program, Fun in the Sun, designed to teach God's word, focusing on the Fruits of the Spirit.

Our staff of dedicated teachers persevered through 2021 thanks to continuous prayer and support from St. John's executive staff, council, Noah's Ark board

of Directors, and the St. John's church family. We have high hopes for 2022. Even within the midst of the pandemic, we hope to be able to return to the more traditional things our program offers, such as monthly Bible stories read by pastors and church staff in order to familiarize children with the Bible and God's Word.

It is a blessing to be located in the St. John's church building and have so many resources available. Noah's Ark continues to be a ministry and early childhood education program for St. John's members and families from the community. Parents are able to learn about church programs and events through fliers and social media updates. Our 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.

### noah's ark financials

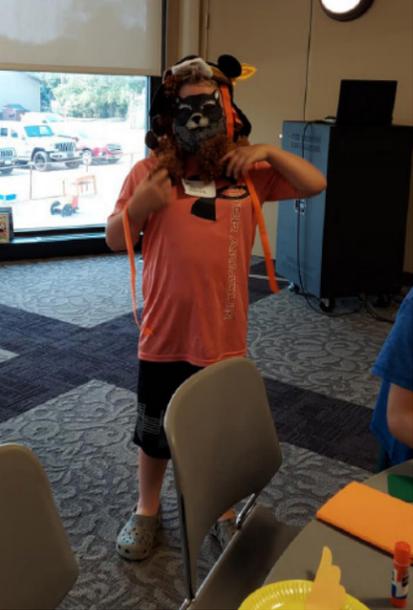
Noah's Ark enrollment and financial situation stabilized with the 2020/2021 school year. We utilized a breakeven analysis to determine what classes should be offered and which would need to be canceled in order to have a balanced budget and begin to rebuild the financial reserves.

#### Year ended June 30, 2021

Total Cash Reserves = \$55,470  
Total Income = \$116,973  
Total Expenses = \$110,789  
Net Surplus = \$6,184

#### 6 months ended December 31, 2021

Total Cash Reserves = \$64,250  
Total Income = \$90,528  
Total Expenses = \$81,378  
Net Surplus = \$9,150



# children's ministries

AMY RADEMACHER

Children's Ministries began the New Year by bringing back in-person Joy Zone Sunday school, a welcome departure from the remote learning from the previous 9 months! In order to minister to those who still felt more comfortable staying home, we offered a hybrid program—children had the option of attending in person or via Zoom during the 10 AM worship service. It was a fun challenge to teach to both groups of children at the same time. Both groups of children enjoyed seeing friends at church and on the big screen through the computer! Some parents at home even joined in! An average of 12-15 kids participated each weekend.

We followed the *Narrative Lectionary* series, using the Spirit and Truth Publishing *Living the Word* curriculum.

Summer brought a Children's Summer Series about the Fruit of the Spirit during the 10 AM worship service. During the adult

sermon, children learned a different fruit of the spirit each week through a curriculum from ABC Spirit which included a book to introduce each fruit of the spirit, two workbooks with lessons and activity pages and a special stuffed fruit for each fruit of the spirit. Attendance was somewhat limited with families being active with travel and sports as well as concern with young children not being vaccinated.

In March during the school districts' Spring Break, we offered Spirit Week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Monday was game night, filled with board games, relay races, scavenger hunts, and more! Wednesday was craft night, and it got messy! Children decorated art projects to share for Palm Sunday and Easter. Friday, was a pajama and movie night. Children came in pajamas and brought pillows and blankets to spread out on the Fellowship Hall floor to watch a favorite, *The Prince of Egypt*. About 25 children attended over the course of the week. This week's events were exciting because, for most of the children who attended, it was the first social activity they participated in since the start of the pandemic. We

*Above Left:* Dressing up in costumes to act out Bible stories is one of the fun activities at Faith45 Kids. *Above Middle:* Children participating in Fun in the Son Summer Olympics. *Above Right:* Children creating artwork at Wednesday night Lift program.

were blessed to be trusted with the health and safety of kids during such unsure times! Each evening closed with a biblical message, devotion, and prayer.

In lieu of VBS, Fun in the Son children's evening events kicked off in June. We hosted outdoor fellowship activities every other Wednesday night through the end of July! Four events were offered—Summer Olympics, Make a Mess Arts and Crafts, Outdoor Explorers, and Wet and Wild Water Play! Each event brought about 20 children and 5-8 volunteers. The kids loved being back at church for activities, being outdoors for the events, and engaging with each other. During each event, the kids had plenty of time to play, chat, and laugh. We closed each evening with a short devotion and prayer.

The Holy Communion Stepping Stone was offered for two groups of children in August—children who would have gone through the program in the spring of 2020 and the spring of 2021. Pastor David led the learning events. Twenty children and their parents participated in the learning events, which consisted of brief history and context of Holy Communion, its connection to Passover, and its significance in their faith journey. Children made clay chalices with the help of congregation member Linda Fisher and also made stoles to wear during the special worship service culminating their Holy Communion program. The Holy Communion worship service was held during the Family Reunion service.

In September we offered the Backpack Blessing and My Bible Stepping Stone. Children and educators heading back to school brought their backpacks to church for a special blessing over the new school year. Children entering Kindergarten and 3rd grade received Bibles. Parents gave them to their children during worship and Pastor David blessed the families and their Bibles. A learning event accompanied the Bible blessing for parents and kids to learn the important features of their Bibles and ways to make Bible study a routine part of home life.

In the fall, Children's Ministries joined junior and senior high and adults with the new Faith45 program. Faith45 Kids, formerly Joy Zone, offered two sessions on Sunday mornings—9:30 AM and during 10:30 AM worship. We followed the *Narrative Lectionary* series, focusing on the key Bible stories. Last year we focused on God's family tree beginning with Adam and Eve

and working all the way through Jesus. With each introduction of a new Bible family member and a new book of the Bible, we also learned about the locations where each person lived out their story, tracking them on a biblical map. This process helped the children understand that the Bible is truly their family history written down, not just stories of strangers that have no connection to them. They see their place in God's family tree and how they contribute to the ongoing story of his family! Activities include video lessons, music, games, imaginative play with toys and costumes, arts and crafts, and Bible storytelling! Average attendance was 12-15 children each Sunday.

Lift—a new Wednesday night program for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade was introduced. Lift kids spent the first half hour enjoying fellowship with other children while learning about the joys of service and giving. The second half hour focused on child-friendly worship arts—music, movement, drama, and prayer. This program was a pilot program to bring more fellowship, service, and worship opportunities to our youngest congregation members. We also wanted to gauge interest in a children's midweek program, similar to those offered for junior and senior high youth. During the fall semester, we averaged eight participants from three different families. As of January 2022, this program has been paused to evaluate the goals for the ministry and evaluate programs we offer or may offer in the future.

ABCs of Christmas—Deacon Lyn and I planned a family worship program for Christmas Eve called the ABCs of Christmas. The worship service took place at 4 PM and was a new way for our young members—and young at heart—to experience our Christmas Eve worship service! As children entered the Parish Life Center, they received a simple headpiece (angel, shepherd, wise man, or stable animal) to wear during worship. Four amazing child volunteers were enlisted to tell the Nativity story through the alphabet, which served as the sermon for this service. The alphabet sermon was dotted with Christmas hymns and closed with all children joining on stage to sing *Away in A Manger*.



Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.

PROVERBS 22:6



# junior high ministries

KERRI CORDRAY

The Junior High Ministries spent the past year listening, learning, and adapting to the ever-changing needs and care of the students, while aligning ministry objectives to effectively engage and equip young disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ. Over the course of the year, an exciting development of core values emerged through the active work and submissive prayer of the leadership of St. John's. These new core values became the building blocks in which Junior High Ministries presented opportunities for spiritual discovery and deeper connections.

## GROW

- The definition of thrive is “to grow or develop well.” Throughout the school year, students meet weekly for Thrive—designed to reach kids through activities of fun and fellowship; learning and development in both large and small group settings; and service, outreach, and missions. The goal of each week’s activities is to give the students opportunities to connect with their peers and Guides (Thrive leaders) through creative, inspirational, and biblical experiences for personal growth. More than 40 students are actively involved in Thrive.
- Summer events, Fun in the Son, provided unique evening activities for biblical learning, fellowship,

and crazy fun! The events included Nerf Wars, Tie Dye, and Water Wars. Many memories were made!

- Several students participated in an exciting faith-growing week at CIY (Christ in Youth) Mix Camp. The camp was held at Indiana Wesleyan University in July. Students grew through powerful biblical teachings, interactive games and activities, small group connections, and time alone with God in His Word.
- In the fall more than 50 students participated in Flannel Fest. The entire month of October was dedicated to wearing flannel with competitions and games in preparation for the big event. Youth enjoyed Flannel Fest activities including a hotdog dinner, glowstick games, and a faith message to wrap up the evening. This was our second year holding this event.
- A new learning opportunity on Sunday mornings, called Faith45, was developed for all ages, beginning in September. The designated 45

Above: Thrive Guides for 2021/22 school year from left: Amanda Fischer, Jodi Albert, Tara Pendleton, Steve Aves, Amy Stork, Amy Rademacher, Crystal Crader. Right: Junior high students and Pr. David in flannel, excited for Flannel Fest. Far Right: 7th Grade girls after a fun night of Thrive.

minutes gives Junior High students time to establish relationships with their peers and go deeper into God’s Word through biblical learning in the Old Testament.

## GIVE

- Jesus is the ultimate example of a humble, servant leader. His teachings model how to be like-minded and reflect the power and love through selfless acts of giving. Throughout the year, Thrive students engaged in various mission projects including packing school and personal kits for Lutheran World Relief, collecting items for Center for Hope, and participating in the packing and distribution work at Midwest Food Bank.

## LOVE

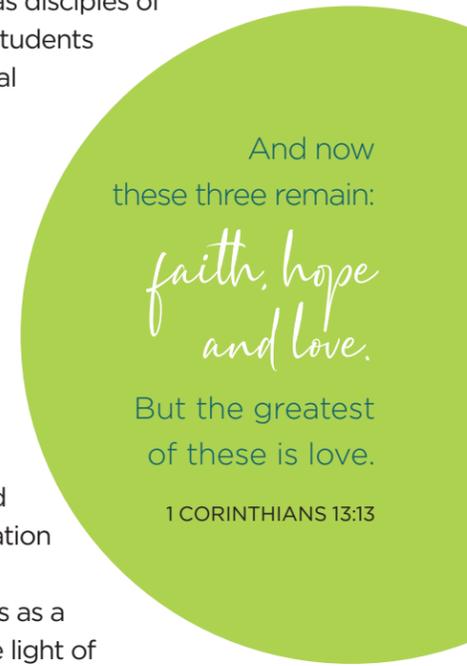
- The love of Jesus was actively seen and felt through the summer Local Work Camp held in June in partnership with Senior High Ministries. More than 30 students and eight adults participated in the caring and loving activities of our neighbors. The theme for the week was Serve in Grace and was formulated through the Bible verse, 1 Peter 4:10, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” Projects included labeling cans, packing boxes, pulling weeds, and other landscaping projects at Midwest Food Bank; sorting clothing and serving food to guests at Center for Hope; landscaping, cleaning projects, and more at St. John’s. Students built relationships, prayed, and shared devotions.
- In celebration of the gift of Christ’s birth, Thrive students donated and wrapped more than 70 pairs of socks for the residents of Luther Oaks. The kids also wrote Christmas messages on cards to encourage and bless the residents.



## WORSHIP

- A special Rite of Confirmation service was held on October 31 with thirteen students collectively declaring their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. These students participated in biblical growth throughout Thrive and shared their personal faith statements on their individual Faith Share Sundays. A few new worship components were added to enhance the experience for everyone—enhanced confirmand participation and the lighting of Confirmation candles as a representation of the light of Christ in their lives and carrying of the Holy Spirit into the world.
- Junior high students engaged in Lenten and Advent worship through drama experiences, led by Dean and Cyndee Brown; shared musical gifts, coordinated by Deacon Lyn; and participated in Scripture reading, greeter, and usher roles. These opportunities allowed the youth to share their gifts in worship and serve the Lord in love.

God’s love binds together the memories of yesterday, the gifts of the today, and the treasures awaiting tomorrow. I am extremely blessed and grateful for the opportunity to serve in ministry here at St. John’s!





# 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 monthly and CHAOS large group meets on Wednesday nights all year. Both ministries are biblically-based study groups which benefit from adult leaders and peers in their walks of faith.

We had five Ignite small groups meet regularly in 2021. These groups have been more fluid than usual with some youth bouncing in and out in attendance. We are using the television series on the life of Jesus, *The Chosen*, and have had excellent feedback about the material and discussions afterwards.

CHAOS became a solid small group onto itself as 15-20 youth attended weekly all year long. CHAOS combines fellowship with devotion and shared prayer and this particular group of youth have truly valued their time together and the bonded relationship formed.

## WORSHIP/PRAYER

Worship and prayer are fundamental to our journey of faith, and youth continue to lead worship

ministries through involvement as ushers, musicians, and singers. The high school youth were also very active in the Advent midweek worship services as readers, musicians, and singers, as well as acting in skits. Our youth are also comfortable praying together as each CHAOS or Ignite group always ends in shared prayer.

## SERVICE

Our annual week-long mission trip was held in July at Lincoln, Illinois. We took a group of 20 youth and adults for Work Camp and had a wonderful, although different, mission week. Safety protocols kept us a little isolated from other groups, so our experience was unique.

Our senior high supported our Church's missions partners working with Center For Hope and raising funds for local shelters in our Homeless Night event. We also made more than 50 blankets for local



homeless. We raked leaves for some of our shut-ins, participated in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympic, and helped with Lutheran World Relief.

## COMMUNITY

We have been meeting in person most of this year and it has been great to be able to be in fellowship together. We have had cookouts and outside CHAOS nights when the weather permitted. This is a smaller youth group but a group that is very close.

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.

Thank you to senior high Ignite leaders: Dean Brown, Cyndee Brown, Kerri Cordray, Denise Garee, Shane Stevens, Jennifer Wills, and Paris Wills.



Left: St. John's Work Campers prepping for a day of hard work in Lincoln. Above: Youth worked on projects at church as part of the summer Local Work Camp.



# adult education

DAVE BOLLMANN

New opportunities for members to grow in faith were developed in the fall as part of Faith45 on Sunday mornings. Two group studies, one focused on expanding the week's *Narrative Lectionary* scripture and another video-based forum, using a series from RightNow Media, were added.

Pastor David and Deacon Lyn offered a pastor-led study on Wednesday mornings, meeting all weeks except the first, when Kaffehuset met.

Small group learning continued through the use of multiple resources, one which was RightNow Media. Several groups continued to meet in person and virtually. The Friday morning men's Bible Study, Monday evening Women's group, and women's circles met as best they could throughout 2021.

The Wednesday evening men's group also met in person and virtually, as well as met for some social functions.

Adult Education is an area of focus with the opening of our new spaces in 2022 as our new facility becomes a reality. This dialogue will involve many staff, the Council, and lay leaders to offer input.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

PSALM 119:105



# parish life

GUDRUN DUNT

## FELLOWSHIP AND MEALS

The COVID pandemic has continued to impact events that involve food and fellowship especially funeral luncheons. We were able to resume Sunday morning coffee fellowship this past September. We currently offer coffee and pre-packaged treats.

Kaffehuset resumed in the Spring of 2021 and now meets the first Wednesday of the month.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Flu Clinic

We had a successful flu clinic in September with 58 individuals immunized against influenza.

We are grateful to Hy-Vee Pharmacy for their partnership in keeping our community healthy.

### PRAYER

The Thursday Prayer Group has continued to meet via Zoom. This group has faithfully prayed for a number of ongoing requests in addition to the weekly prayer needs of the congregation. The Prayer Chain has also continued to have a strong presence.

## CHRISTIAN CARE

### BeFriender Ministry

The many months of COVID have reinforced just how important a listening ministry of care is. The majority of our BeFrienders have resumed visits and we continue to make new assignments. Our July

through December monthly meetings focused on studying and discussing the book *Boundless Compassion* by Joyce Rupp.

Our BeFriender Leadership team continues to be strong with the addition of Josh Peters and Deacon Lyn Ahearn.

**Caring Connections and Daily Blessings**—We continue to send a weekly Caring Connections message to St. John's senior members as well as *Daily Blessings* to the entire congregation. We are blessed with a faithful team of writers willing to share their perspectives on *Narrative Lectionary* readings.

A number of the Caring Connection assignments that were made early in the pandemic continue. This is a wonderful testament to the care and love of this congregation for its members.

### Caregivers Ministry

A small and faithful group of Caregivers continues to send cards to members of the congregation celebrating milestone birthdays, anniversaries, get well wishes and general notes of encouragement.

### SPLASH Cradle Roll

Twenty-five families are receiving SPLASH curriculum each month. 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. Seven families have now completed the three year program.

## GRIEF AND LOSS

### Journeying Through Grief

Journeying Through Grief was sent to 58 individuals in 2021. This Stephen Ministry series is sent at intervals of 3 weeks, 3 months, 6 months and 11 months following the death of a loved one.

## GriefShare

Under the leadership of Deacon Lyn Ahearn, St. John's launched GriefShare in October 2021. GriefShare is a national program that takes place in 13 self-contained sessions to help people know more about the journey of grief. It is open to members of St. John's as well as individuals from the community. We are averaging 13 at our twice a month meetings.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls, prayer squares, and/or chemo caps were given to St. John's members and high school graduates, Carle BroMenn Hospital, Carle Cancer Center, and the Illinois Cancer Center. Carle BroMenn also had a retreat for the nurse leaders and they received prayer shawls from St. John's and a couple of other local churches. Team members made 49 prayer shawls, 386 prayer squares, 89 hats and two baby prayer shawl blankets in 2021.

## Staying Connected in 2021

- Keeping St. John's members connected to their church (and each other) has always been important, but even more so these past couple years. Several options were added to encourage re-engagement and reconnection of members:
- St. John's Together Facebook page—interactive page to encourage and support one another
  - *Daily Blessings*—weekday e-mail devotions, written by staff and members
  - *InTouch* Newsletter—quarterly update on the results of our stewardship
  - Caring Connections—notes of encouragement to members aged 70+
  - Livestreaming all worship services
  - *Weekly News*—the complete *Weekly News* is now e-mailed on Sunday afternoons for those who worship online or can't make it to church
  - Special delivery of goodie bags for parents with young children



# guest experiences/ connections

SHARI BUCKELLEW

The Guest Experiences and Connection ministry had a reconnecting and re-engaging emphasis in 2021. As we returned to in-person worship in just one location, (the Parish Life Center during construction) we needed to rework volunteer teams and develop ways to welcome and connect with guests.

Greeter and welcome center hosts combined for one team and usher teams of four became teams of two. Worship reader teams again participated in worship, and our tech team grew to include streaming and slide and sound operators for all three services. Guests interested in becoming members visited with Pastor Glesne and Melissa Drobnak as they journeyed

through the steps to membership rather than attend St. John's 101, 201, and Next Steps events.

As we move into our new gathering space and worship center in 2022, we will focus on growing and training our volunteer hospitality and worship teams. We look forward to welcoming new members with a process that highlights our values and connections.

After six years of service, Melissa Drobnak, Guest Experiences Coordinator, left at the end of 2021. We thank Melissa for sharing her gift of hospitality and passion for connecting people in ways that help them grow their faith and build lasting relationships.



## mission outreach

STEVE TERRY

The Mission Outreach team is an integral part of our congregational connection to our many partner ministries. St. John's has a large presence throughout the McLean County area, in our country, and even globally. We are a mission-minded, outward-looking congregation, dedicated to serving and reaching out to others in Christ's name.

The projects of the Ministry Team include special events such as the Hopedale Growing Project in the spring, the Zambia Education Mission in the summer, Lutheran World Relief and the Big Give in the fall, the Giving Tree and a new project, Hope For the Holidays, in December.

Other ongoing projects includes monthly volunteer work at Safe Harbor, serving and preparing meals, and Midwest Food Bank, sorting and boxing food items to be sent all over the country. Yearlong projects include Center For Hope's food and clothing pantries, Faith In Action ministry of

transportation and other service projects, and projects and support of Home Sweet Home Mission.

St. John's holds three Red Cross Blood Drives per year. At blood drives held at St. John's in 2021 a total of 155 units of blood were collected. These donations were especially important as blood banks were struggling with shortages.

St. John's Members are wonderfully generous in their participation in service events and their financial



*Top:* St. John's Blood Drives average approximately 50 units of blood. *Above:* St. John's members and friends gathered together in October to help pack boxes into a semi for the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering. *Top Right:* St. John's members prepare and serve meals at Safe Harbor once a month.



support of mission partners. Senior high youth raised more than \$750 through their annual Homeless Night event in November. Fifteen youth constructed cardboard shelters and slept outside to experience just a fraction of what it is like to be homeless. Then they collected donations for local shelters before and after worship services. Money collected was

divided between Home Sweet Home mission and Safe Harbor.

St. John's was asked by the Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services to be a regional hub partner for the Hope for the Holidays project. As regional hub we collected, sorted, screened, and processed thousands of Christmas cards from the Midwest for the many immigrants and refugees in detention centers throughout the United States. St. John's members wrote more than 550 cards in Spanish and English and overall we received and redistributed over 8,000 cards to twenty-five facilities.

It was a pleasure to host the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering again this year. Two semi-trailers were nearly full with quilts and school kits to be sent all over the world. Our parishioners came out in chilly weather to load the trailers and to be in fellowship and service together.

Thank you to Ministry Team members Chris Ayers, Steve BeMiller, Julie Holiday, Gloria Jameson, Connie Moll, Steve Pruett, and Vickie Robertson.



## property

FRED RENDER

The property committee maintains and protects all congregational property and provides a safe environment for our members and guests. Our facility is now completely outfitted with a sprinkler system, a more secure office area, upgraded alarm and fire systems, new worship center, and will soon have security cameras on all exits.

The property team assisted the local Work Campers to improve the Parish Life Center circle drive area—installing a French drain, landscaping with rock and mulch, cleaning, planting new plants and bushes, and laying landscape pavers. We also added a drainage ditch behind the garage to alleviate excess water.

The team prepared rooms for construction and cleaned up after construction. We also painted the white cross on the east end of the new gathering space. A special thanks to Roger Haab for the extra work he has done on the new building project, saving St. John's thousands of dollars. A special thanks to Lynn Spaid, the Tuesday Tee Time group, and our mowing crew.

Thank you to members of the staff, Myron Adams, Ed Embree, and Carolyn Kern; and Property Committee, Jim Click (secretary), Roger Haab, Randy Holthaus (council liaison), Kip Iverson (team leader), Marvin Rasch, Dave Schaffer, and Lynn Spaid.

Serve  
one another  
humbly in love

GALATIANS 5:13



# finance

SHARI BUCKELLEW

The finance committee oversees the financial affairs of the congregation to ensure they are being conducted effectively and in accordance with financial best practices.

In 2021 the Finance Committee focused on financial stability and communication of the Church's financial position and financial activity as it related to both operations and the Vision 2020 Building project. To best communicate and coordinate all financial activities, the stewardship team was merged into the finance committee.

Team members include: Steve BeMiller, Treasurer; Dawn Conway, Tammy Fahling, Pastor Glesne, Elizabeth Haines, Roger Hellman, Tim Kelly, Dale Nunemaker, Sara White, and Shari Buckellew, staff. Long-time member Alex Whitworth retired from the committee during the year.

To improve communication of financial results, the monthly stewardship mailing now offers financial results for operations, building project and pledge activity, and is emailed to everyone and mailed to those utilizing offering envelopes.

In addition, the communication subgroup, made up of Elizabeth, Dawn, Sara, and Roger, author a quarterly newsletter, *inTouch*, which highlights the impact and results of the activities that live out our value to GIVE of our time, talents and treasures.

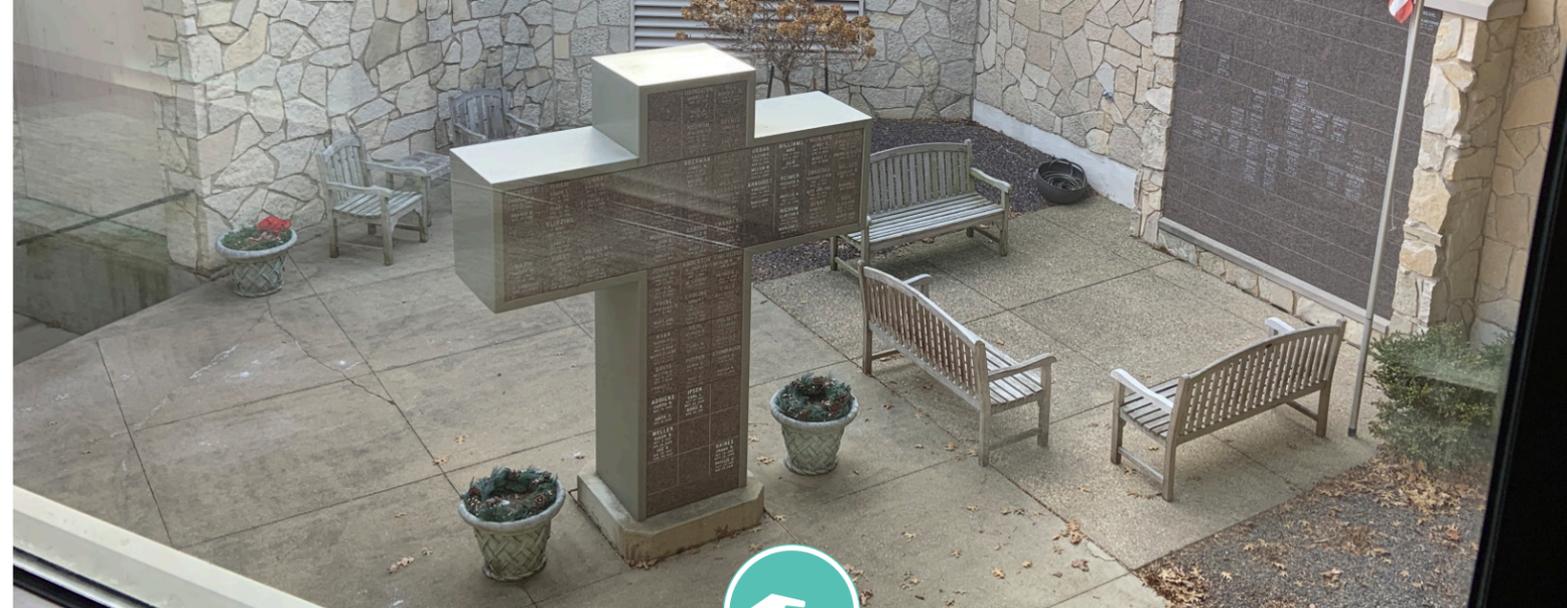
This year's fall stewardship theme was Stewardship 150 in celebration of our 150th anniversary in 2022. We received 217 pledges totaling \$983,458 as of December 31. More than 100 of our families now give through online recurring gifts.

Specific actions of note include:

1. Reviewed and monitored monthly financial statements in light of the ongoing pandemic. As a result of limited in-person worship and programming, as well as staff changes, the actual financial results were below budget for both anticipated revenue (6.35%) and for expenditures (10.45%) resulting in a net surplus of just over \$60,000 for the year.
2. Reviewed and monitored the building project financial activity; including loan receipts and cash disbursements, pledge receipts and endowment fund contributions to the project. The building project continues on or under budget. We have managed cash flow by using donations received and loan distributions. We have approximately \$350,000 remaining to draw from our approved loan balance with the Mission Investment fund; approx. \$350,000 in cash reserves and \$800,000 approved to be used from the endowment fund, if needed, to fund the remaining approximately \$1.4 million of project costs.
3. Reviewed and monitored Noah's Ark financial reports resulting in financial stability and continued effort to rebuild their financial resources.

See pages 22-25 for the 2021 Financial Statements.

Left: The *inTouch* magazine made its debut in August 2021.



# columbarium

VERN VEAL

The St. John's Columbarium Association continues to serve the needs for cremation inurnments. The pandemic has extended columbarium inurnment usage, which allows for flexibility in service planning. According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the percentage of cremations continue to rise, though virus-caused deaths are usually unspecified.

A local headline stated, "Federal Program Covers COVID-19 Funeral Costs." As of December 6, 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has paid \$1.5 billion funeral costs to two hundred and twenty-five thousand people since January 20, 2020. Of the 800,000 virus deaths, many people remain eligible for reimbursement to take advantage of this government funeral benefit. To be eligible for reimbursement, death certificates for those who died after May 16, 2020, must indicate that the death was attributed to COVID-19.

St. John's niche prices remain at \$800 (companion) and \$500 (single) plus engraving costs.

We appreciate and thank everyone who helps maintain the Memorial Garden's beautiful appearance. In addition to the Columbarium

Association Board and support members, we thank Pastor Anne Christiansen, Deacon Lyn Ahearn, Myron Adams, Ed Embree, Laura Veal, Linda Redmon, and Margaret Hollowell. We also appreciate that the construction workers for the building project were careful in their work around the Memorial Garden.

Board Members: Brent Anderson; Gary Brandenburg, vice chair; Pastor David Glesne; Elizabeth Haines, council member; Sharon Hellman, member; Sue Stombaugh, chair; and Vern Veal, secretary/treasurer

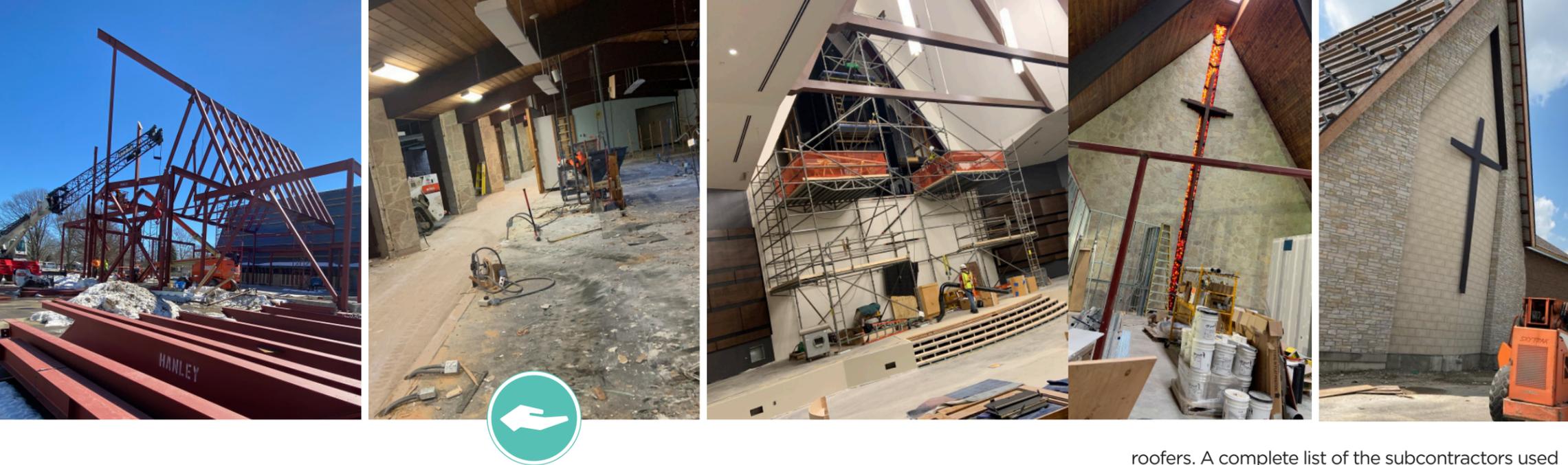
Staff Support: Shari Buckellew, Gudrun Dunt, and Fred Render

Blessed are the  
*pure in heart*  
for they shall  
*see God.*

MATTHEW 5:8

Above: The St. John's Columbarium is now visible from the hallway leading to the new Worship Center and Gathering area.





# vision 2020

SHARI BUCKELLEW

The Vision 2020 building project began in 2020 after many years of planning. The project included three phases: a new addition that will provide a 500-seat worship center with technology to offer multiple styles of worship for in-person and online participation; a complete renovation of the office area to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and security for staff; and a remodel of the Sanctuary into a warm and welcoming gathering space for members, guests, and community to gather. The project also addressed much needed deferred maintenance issues of the 1964 portion of the building.

relocated to the Atrium outside of the Parish Life Center. The pews were removed, and the organ was disassembled, and we began holding all worship services in the Parish Life Center once we returned to in-person worship. New pews are part of the worship center addition, so the existing pews were taken by member families or donated to the local Habitat Restore. The pulpit, altar, cross, baptismal font, communion rail, and candles are being refurbished or re-purposed for the new worship center.

Throughout 2021 construction continued with the following teams:

- General Contractor/Design Builder—P.J. Hoerr with project manager Dave Wilson and superintendent Lindy Jewell
- BLDD Architects—Greg Butler, Carson Durham and Anita Lanning
- Civil Engineer—The Farnsworth Group
- M/E/P Engineers—Klingner and Associates
- Acoustics/AV system consultant—Threshold

In addition to the team of architects, engineers, and consultants, P.J. Hoerr managed a wonderful group of subcontractors including carpenters, plumbers, heating and cooling contractors, steel manufacturers, excavation contractors, electricians, painters, and

roofers. A complete list of the subcontractors used on the project can be found in the project documents.

St. John's contracted directly with:

- Amplio Systems Incorporated to provide audio and visual systems
- Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders to disassemble, reassemble, and re-voice the organ
- Widmer Furniture for office and gathering furniture
- Prairie Woodworks to design, build, and refurbish the altar furniture
- Van Hook Upholstery to reupholster existing furniture
- AveyoTechnologies for information technology

The guaranteed maximum price for the actual building construction was \$6,265,312, which included

a contingency that we were able to manage in order to include some additional necessary work not originally included in the project. We were able to add aluminum cladding of the wood eaves of the gathering area and replace the balcony roof that has leaked for years without going over budget.

Many volunteers assisted throughout this project and it is not possible to list them all without omitting some. A special thank you to Roger Haab who volunteered to install much of the office cabinetry and doors; the Tuesday Tee Time and property committee volunteers who removed pews, cleaned work areas, and moved organ parts; the Vision 2020 committees who reviewed building plans and hosted information sessions; and the large group of volunteers who helped move into the renovated office area. This project would not have been possible without the dedication of the many volunteers, the wonderful staff at St. John's, and the ongoing support of the congregation.

As of the writing of this report, we have moved into the renovated offices and the gathering area is 99% complete. The organ and audio/visual equipment are being installed, the worship center floor is being laid and the pews are on their way. Our first worship service in the new worship center is scheduled for February 27, 2022.

On this  
rock  
I will  
build  
my church.

MATTHEW 16:18

| vision 2020 financials         | Project Updated Budget | Actual through 12/31/2021 | Remaining at 12/31/2021 |  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Account</b>                 |                        |                           |                         |  |
| Cash Reserves                  |                        |                           | \$ 354,087              |  |
| Pledges Received               | \$ 2,477,720           | \$ 1,438,353              | 1,039,367               |  |
| Endowment Funds Approved       | \$1,112,000            | 312,000                   | 800,000                 |  |
| Unpledged Gifts                |                        | 54,067                    | 100,000                 |  |
| Loan Proceeds Available        | 5,500,000              | 5,141,892                 | 358,108                 |  |
| <b>Total Funds Available</b>   | <b>\$9,089,720</b>     | <b>\$6,946,312</b>        | <b>\$2,651,562</b>      |  |
| Survey and Testing             | \$ 6,123               | \$ 6,123                  | \$ —                    |  |
| Architect and Engineering      | 625,000                | 598,645                   | 26,355                  |  |
| Furniture and Equipment        | 150,000                | 59,762                    | 90,238                  |  |
| Organ                          | 400,000                | 380,000                   | 20,000                  |  |
| Audio/Visual                   | 367,960                | 243,550                   | 124,410                 |  |
| Construction Costs             | 6,577,268              | 5,511,852                 | 1,065,416               |  |
| Loan Payoff and Interest       | 402,727                | 336,798                   | 65,929                  |  |
| Mortgage payments (2022-2025)  |                        |                           | 1,272,172               |  |
| <b>Total Costs Anticipated</b> | <b>\$8,529,078</b>     | <b>\$ 7,136,729</b>       | <b>\$2,664,521</b>      |  |

- The Vision 2020 Building Project will be mostly completed by the end of February 2022
- The project is anticipated to be slightly under budget at completion
- Final loan proceeds will be received in February 2022 with final disbursement in the spring of 2022
- Monthly mortgage payments of approximately \$28,000 will begin in May 2022
- Remaining pledges and unpledged gifts should cover mortgage payments for 3-4 years

# statement of activities

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

| Account   | Operating Budget    | Operating Actual    | Building Fund Vision 2020 | Memorial Fund    | Endowment Fund    |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                                     |                     |                     |                           |                  |                   |
| Gifts and Offerings                                 | \$ 1,456,000        | \$ 1,370,419        | \$ 874,096                | \$ 20,715        | \$ —              |
| Mission and Work Camp Appeals and Events            | 44,680              | 60,883              |                           | 215              |                   |
| <b>Total Contributed Income</b>                     | <b>\$ 1,500,680</b> | <b>\$ 1,431,302</b> | <b>\$ 874,096</b>         | <b>\$ 20,930</b> | <b>\$ —</b>       |
| Ministry Fees                                       | \$ 28,450           | \$ 10,293           |                           |                  |                   |
| Miscellaneous Income                                | 1,500               | 159                 |                           |                  |                   |
| Parking Lot and Facility Rentals                    | 15,500              | 13,958              |                           |                  |                   |
| <b>Total Non Contribution Income</b>                | <b>\$ 45,450</b>    | <b>\$ 24,410</b>    |                           |                  | <b>\$ —</b>       |
| Interest and Dividend Income                        | \$ 3,260            | \$ 1,955            | \$ 1,651                  | \$ 289           | \$ 117,589        |
| Investment Value Change                             | 1,200               | (5,158)             |                           | (696)            | 111,230           |
| <b>Total Investment Income</b>                      | <b>\$ 4,460</b>     | <b>\$ (3,203)</b>   | <b>\$ 1,651</b>           | <b>\$ (407)</b>  | <b>\$ 228,819</b> |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                 | <b>\$ 1,550,590</b> | <b>\$ 1,452,509</b> | <b>\$ 875,747</b>         | <b>\$ 20,523</b> | <b>\$ 228,819</b> |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>                                |                     |                     |                           |                  |                   |
| Benevolence   | \$ 120,000          | \$ 120,000          |                           |                  |                   |
| Global and Local Missions                           | 35,400              | 35,063              |                           | \$ 2,412         |                   |
| Mission Trips                                       | 34,950              | 13,633              |                           |                  |                   |
| <b>Total Benevolence and Missions Disbursements</b> | <b>\$ 190,350</b>   | <b>\$ 168,696</b>   |                           | <b>\$ 2,412</b>  | <b>\$ —</b>       |
| Adult Discipleship Ministry                         | \$ 2,000            | \$ 2,237            |                           |                  |                   |
| Children's Ministry                                 | 12,250              | 3,333               |                           |                  |                   |
| Junior High Ministry                                | 11,630              | 8,440               |                           |                  |                   |
| Senior High Ministry                                | 5,100               | 2,493               |                           |                  |                   |
| Parish Life Ministry                                | 8,500               | 4,421               |                           |                  |                   |
| Guest Experience Ministry                           | 1,500               | 382                 |                           | \$ —             |                   |
| Stewardship Ministry                                | 500                 | 142                 |                           |                  |                   |
| Worship Arts Ministry                               | 15,500              | 11,688              |                           |                  |                   |
| <b>Total Direct Ministry Disbursements</b>          | <b>\$ 56,980</b>    | <b>\$ 33,136</b>    |                           | <b>\$ —</b>      | <b>\$ —</b>       |
| Salaries and Benefits                               | \$ 1,060,000        | \$ 937,646          |                           |                  |                   |
| Other personnel expenses                            | 19,500              | 11,150              |                           |                  |                   |
| Office/Administrative Expenses and Technology       | 81,260              | 82,085              | \$ 6,101                  | \$ 150           | \$ 9,275          |
| Facility and Grounds                                | 69,000              | 72,339              |                           | 13,000           |                   |
| Insurance and Life Safety                           | 21,500              | 22,923              |                           |                  |                   |
| Utilities   | 52,000              | 60,580              |                           |                  |                   |
| Mortgage Principle and Interest                     | —                   | —                   | \$ 76,308                 |                  |                   |
| <b>Total General Operating Disbursements</b>        | <b>\$ 1,303,260</b> | <b>\$ 1,186,723</b> | <b>\$ 82,409</b>          | <b>\$ 13,150</b> | <b>\$ 9,275</b>   |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b>                          | <b>\$ 1,550,590</b> | <b>\$ 1,388,555</b> | <b>\$ 82,409</b>          | <b>\$ 15,562</b> | <b>\$ 9,275</b>   |
| <b>NET SURPLUS</b>                                  | <b>\$ —</b>         | <b>\$ 63,954</b>    | <b>\$ 793,338</b>         | <b>\$ 4,961</b>  | <b>\$ 219,544</b> |

Building Fund surplus was used for construction costs reflected in the Construction in Progress account on the Balance Sheet.

# statement of financial position

DECEMBER 31, 2021

|  | Operating Fund<br>December 31, 2021 | Building Fund<br>December 31, 2021 | Memorial Fund<br>December 31, 2021 | Endowment Fund<br>December 31, 2021 | All Funds            |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                          |                                     |                                    |                                    |                                     |                      |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                  |                                     |                                    |                                    |                                     |                      |
| Cash and Investments                   | \$ 595,709                          | \$ 354,087                         | \$ 62,122                          | \$ 2,071,742                        | \$ 3,083,660         |
| Receivables                            | 375                                 |                                    |                                    |                                     | 375                  |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                    |                                     |                                    |                                    |                                     |                      |
| Construction in Progress               | \$ 106,637                          | \$ 6,630,685                       |                                    |                                     | 6,737,322            |
| Building and Land                      | 11,097,279                          |                                    |                                    |                                     | 11,097,279           |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation         | (6,635,950)                         |                                    |                                    |                                     | (6,635,950)          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                    | <b>\$ 5,164,050</b>                 | <b>\$ 6,984,772</b>                | <b>\$ 62,122</b>                   | <b>\$ 2,071,742</b>                 | <b>\$ 14,282,686</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                     |                                     |                                    |                                    |                                     |                      |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>             |                                     |                                    |                                    |                                     |                      |
| Interfund Payables (Receivables)       | \$ 17,196                           | \$ (15,200)                        | \$ —                               | \$ (1,996)                          | \$ —                 |
| Prepaid Pledges                        | 33,970                              |                                    |                                    |                                     | 33,970               |
| Temporarily Reserved Funds             | 28,100                              |                                    |                                    |                                     | 28,100               |
| <b>Construction Loan</b>               | <b>—</b>                            | <b>5,141,892</b>                   | <b>—</b>                           | <b>—</b>                            | <b>5,141,892</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>               | <b>\$ 79,266</b>                    | <b>\$ 5,126,692</b>                | <b>\$ —</b>                        | <b>\$ (1,996)</b>                   | <b>\$ 5,203,962</b>  |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                          |                                     |                                    |                                    |                                     |                      |
| <b>Total Equity, Beginning Balance</b> | <b>\$ 5,309,295</b>                 | <b>\$ 1,064,742</b>                | <b>\$ 57,161</b>                   | <b>\$ 1,854,194</b>                 | <b>\$ 8,285,392</b>  |
| Current Surplus (Deficit)              | 63,954                              | 793,338                            | 4,961                              | 219,544                             | 1,081,797            |
| Non-Cash Items—Depreciation Expenses   | (288,465)                           | —                                  | —                                  | —                                   | (288,465)            |
| <b>Total Equity, Ending Balance</b>    | <b>\$ 5,084,784</b>                 | <b>\$1,858,080</b>                 | <b>\$ 62,122</b>                   | <b>\$ 2,073,738</b>                 | <b>\$ 9,078,724</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>    | <b>\$ 5,164,050</b>                 | <b>\$ 6,984,772</b>                | <b>\$ 62,122</b>                   | <b>\$ 2,071,742</b>                 | <b>\$ 14,282,686</b> |

## membership summary

|  |              |  |              |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Baptized members at the end of 2020</b> . . . . . | <b>1,757</b> | <b>Members removed 2021.</b> . . . . .               | <b>30</b>    |
| <b>Members received 2021.</b> . . . . .              | <b>56</b>    | Death. . . . .                                       | 19           |
| Baptism Children (15 and Under) . . . . .            | 8            | Removed by Action of Council . . . . .               | 0            |
| Baptism Adult (16 and Up) . . . . .                  | 1            | ELCA Transfer . . . . .                              | 0            |
| Affirmation of Faith . . . . .                       | 7            | Non-Lutheran Transfer . . . . .                      | 0            |
| ELCA Transfer . . . . .                              | 5            | Other Lutheran Transfer . . . . .                    | 4            |
| Non-Lutheran Transfer . . . . .                      | 1            | Other (Personal Request, Stat. Adjust.) . . . . .    | 7            |
| Other Lutheran Transfer . . . . .                    | 3            | <b>Net membership gain</b> . . . . .                 | <b>26</b>    |
| Request for Reinstatement—Adults. . . . .            | 0            | <b>Baptized members at end of 2021</b> . . . . .     | <b>1,783</b> |
| Other (Stat. Adjust) . . . . .                       | 31           | <b>Confirmed Membership at End of 2021</b> . . . . . | <b>1,437</b> |
|  |              | <b>Baptized Members (Un-confirmed).</b> . . . . .    | <b>346</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 . . . . .    | 16  | <b>Additional Information</b>                       |    |
| Children's Choirs . . . . .                   | 4   | Adults Participating in New Member Classes. . . . . | 14 |
| Adult Bell Choir . . . . .                    | 6   | Member Funerals . . . . .                           | 14 |
| Adult Choir . . . . .                         | 14  | Non-member Funerals . . . . .                       | 1  |
| Children's Ministry . . . . .                 | 15  | Weddings. . . . .                                   | 3  |
| Junior High (Thrive) . . . . .                | 53  | Confirmation . . . . .                              | 13 |
| Faith45 Adults . . . . .                      | 23  | First Communion . . . . .                           | 20 |
| Kaffehuset . . . . .                          | 30  |   |    |
| Senior High (CHAOS) . . . . .                 | 18  |   |    |
| Senior High (Ignite Small Groups) . . . . .   | 40  |   |    |
| Senior High Work Camp . . . . .               | 16  |   |    |
| Senior High Leadership Lab (online) . . . . . | 6   |   |    |
| Junior/Senior High Local Mission. . . . .     | 38  |   |    |
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“Do not fear, for

*I am with you,*

do not be afraid, for

*I am your God;*

I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my  
victorious right hand.

ISAIAH 41:10



**ST. JOHN'S**

LUTHERAN CHURCH

—EST. 1872—