



**St. John's**

LUTHERAN ELCA | BROOKFIELD, WI

*Following Jesus, Making Disciples, Serving the World*

# ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

JUNE 5, 2022

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# AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Opening Prayer
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from the January 30, 2022 meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Pastor, Staff, and Ministry Reports
6. Old Business
  - a) Call Process Update
  - b) GROTH Design
7. New Business
  - a) Nominating Committee Report / Election of Council Members
  - b) Staff Update
  - c) Ministry Message
8. Closing Prayer / Adjournment

# MINUTES – JANUARY 30, 2022

## Congregational Meeting Minutes - January 30, 2022

This St John's Annual Meeting is being held both in person and via Zoom.

Meeting was called to order at 12:03pm

Meeting Facilitator- Brian Zach

- Opening prayer
- Approval of the agenda
  - Keith Paukner moved approval of the 1/30/21 annual meeting agenda
  - Kathy Davis seconds
  - No further discussion
  - Motion carried
- Approval of the June 6, 2021 meeting notes
  - Mary Tollander moved approval of the 6/7/2021 meeting notes
  - Sandy Paukner seconds
  - No further discussion
  - Motion carried

Pastor's Report- Pastor Brian Halverson

- 2022 Goals
  - Call an Associate Pastor
  - Enhance worship by upgrading the sound and projector system
  - Continue to grow the youth programming

Old Business- Brian Zach

- No questions or follow up

New Business- Brian Zach

- Audit Report
  - Have not yet completed but will update as soon as it is completed
- Committee Financial Report
  - Deb moved approval of the Financial Report
  - Doris seconds
  - No further discussion
  - Motion carried
- Council news
  - Dawn Williams is now stepping down from the St John's Treasurer position

## MINUTES – JANUARY 30, 2022

- Staff News
  - 2 employees will be leaving the St John's staff
    - Dan Thompson- property team
    - Diane- office staff
      - Questions
        - How long will these employees still be employed?
          - Both will be on about a month
- Council
  - A few members of the council will be stepping down
  - Approval of committee to appoint new council members
    - Penny moved approval to appoint new committee
    - Ken seconds
    - No further discussion
    - Motion passed

### Budget Discussion- Dawn Williams

- Thank you for all who attended the listening sessions
  - Questions
    - Maintenance services is the cost to tune the organ
    - Technology upgrades- 2 computers need to be upgraded
    - Utility- 6% has been added due to inflation
    - Are the costs associated with the addition of an associated pastor included in this budget?
      - Yes, the cost is included starting in June which is ½ way through the year.
        - Looking for an associated pastor with 5-7 years' experience
          - The job description is very clear with what the congregation is looking for.
        - All costs associated with an associate pastor are included in the budget.
- A thank you to the finance team and staff was expressed
- Approval of the presented budget
  - Kathy Davis moves approval of the proposed budget
  - Doris seconds
  - No further discussion
  - Motion approved- budget passed

## MINUTES – JANUARY 30, 2022

President Brian Zach

- Call Committee for associate pastor
  - We have 5 confirmed and a 6th in the process of being confirmed
    - Approval of the call committee
      - Deb moves approval of the call committee
      - Phil Lange seconds
      - No further questions
      - Motion approved
- A thank you to all staff, volunteers, council and all involved in keeping our church going was given

Meeting was called to adjourn at 12:34pm

- Kathy Davis moves approval to adjourn
- Penny seconds
- No further discussion
- Motion passed

# PASTOR REPORT

## Senior Pastor Annual Report

*Pastor Brian Halverson*

This has been an exciting and challenging year at St. John's. As you will read in the following ministry reports, St. John's has provided a breadth of activities, programs, and opportunities to serve our communities that help to create and sustain connections and relationships. We have continued to upgrade our technology in our worship space and improve our existing equipment to provide a better digital presence in our streaming services.

We are pleased to have welcomed new staff persons to St. John's. Rebecca Mitchel is our new bookkeeper and is insuring that our accounts are balanced and reconciled. Sue Smith is our new administrative assistant, keeping our office well managed and functioning. We are grateful to have them on our team! Sadly, we have had to say good-bye to others. Our building supervisor, Dan Thompson, who moved to the Chicago area in March. We are currently looking to find his replacement. In our preschool, we are saying goodbye to one of our teachers, Jan Simon, who is moving to Colorado with her family.

As we move forward, we will explore new ways to engage us in the life of the church and to provide opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, service, and small group ministries. The mission of the church remains the same: to carry the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ into the world, relying and depending on the grace of God through the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit to give us the guidance and strength to accomplish what God has in store for us.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". (Romans 15:13)

# ADMINISTRATION

## Membership Report for 2021

submitted by Diane Wilke-Zemanovic, former Office Manager

### Members Received:

Kathy and Dave Sturgill  
Barry and S. Jill Dahlgren  
Dennis And Diane Mueller  
Curtis and Jennifer Templin (children: Cooper and Gwendolynn)  
Marie and Jordan Emmons (child: Timothy)  
Angela and David Sidebottom (children: Joseph and Henry)  
Justin and Anna Douglas (children: Evelyn and David)  
Dennis and Phyllis Whitehead

### Members Removed:

Michael, Janelle, Joshua and Zachary Schnepf

### Baptisms:

Eloise Alice Grissman  
Mallory MacKenzie Adams  
Jackson David Moran  
Grayson James Lipscomb  
Caleb Carlson Erdahl

### Funerals:

Ruth Rehfeld  
Peg Miller  
Gretchen Brueske  
Kathy Wicklund  
Mark Klemm  
Avis (Sue) Miller  
Karen LaHahn  
Virginia Jung  
Ken Biefeld  
Dolores Hartman  
John Wolfmeyer

### Weddings:

None



# ADMINISTRATION

## Human Resources

*submitted by Lisa Belli-Fuchs*

The staff members at St. John's Lutheran Church are vital to our ministry. The Human Resources Committee (the "Committee" or the "HR Committee") is a strategic partner with St. John's Lutheran Church leadership and the Congregation and is committed to assisting in the development of a high performing staff, capable of supporting the mission of the church. The Committee's core responsibilities include maintenance of job descriptions, participation in recruitment and staffing, performance management, employee relations, investigations and disciplinary actions through termination, employee development, compensation and benefits design, budgeting and administration, Human Resource information management, regulatory compliance related to employment, Human Resources policy development and monitoring of compliance with them. During the program year ended May 2022, the HR Committee, in partnership with Council, continued to work on the impacts on Covid 19 as it pertains to staff and Human Resource policies. This work included consultation and proposals for updates to Covid protocols with more in-person activities. Additionally, during the program year, the HR Committee reviewed and updated the Human Resource Policies and Procedures as well as the Annual Performance Appraisal process. Policies were incorporated to comply with new laws including but not limited to, the law pertaining to the exemption status of salaried personnel. Also, during this year, the Committee assisted in job description evaluations and the selection and recruitment process for the following positions: Office Manager, Youth Ministry Coordinator, Financial Administrator, Building Supervisor and Office Administrative Assistant. The HR Committee continued to monitor St. John's performance management process, which enables managers to have more robust discussions with staff about what each is doing well and how that person can be even more effective. The Committee trained interim and new employees on the process and ensured Annual Reviews and new employees' 90-Day Reviews were conducted. The performance management process at St. John's continues to be effective and enables us to serve our strategic priorities. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Council to ensure that St. John's continues to have a high-performing staff, which serves the mission of our church at a high level.

Respectfully submitted,

St. John's Human Resources Committee

Mark Sabin, Chair

Tom Potratz, Secretary

Brian Zach, Ex-Officio

Lisa Belli-Fuchs

Kathy Davis

Lori Schettler

John Seamonson

# ADMINISTRATION

## **Property Team**

*submitted by Brian Zach*

The St. John's Property Team strives to be proactive in keeping God's house well maintained, operationally safe, clean, functional, and well organized, both inside and out. We are blessed to have a dedicated group of men and women on the Property Team who meet every Tuesday morning to carry out the necessary preventative maintenance and needed activities. Additionally, the Property Team meets on other days for special projects which include, spring and fall exterior yard clean up, tree removable, wiring pulling, painting, along with partnering with and supporting other ministry groups. Thank you to all the Property Team members for serving and supporting St. John's. We are so blessed by your wiliness to share your time and expertise which saves St. John's a great deal of expenses.

Furthermore, St. John's is grateful to have a detailed orientated custodial team who help keep St. John's a clean and sanitized environment. Debra and Cindi, thank you for your commitment to St. John's!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Endowment Fund

submitted by Phil Lange, chair

Committee: Jennifer Cranfill (Term Expires May 2025)  
 Carole Lewis (Term Expires May 2024)  
 Angie Rose-Mueller, Recording Secretary (Term Expires May 2025)  
 Mark Sabin, Financial Secretary (Term Expires May 2023)  
 Phil Lange, Chairperson (Term Expires May 2023)

As reported at the previous Congregational meeting held in January 2022, the Endowment Committee was fortunate in being able to offer two "Open-Window" distributions in March and October 2021 which resulted in an outreach distribution totaling \$31,000. The Committee was hopeful that another "Open-Window" session would be available in the first quarter of 2022. However, due to continued volatility within the investment markets and the negative impact on returns and growth, we are having to delay offering another "Open-Window" at this time. We will be continuing to monitor the marketplace while safeguarding the Endowment Fund.

The following summarizes the Endowment Fund's Balance Sheet as of May 7, 2022.

#### St. John's Lutheran Church - Endowment Fund Balance Sheet

	Balances as of May 7, 2022	Balances as of Dec. 31, 2021
ASSETS:		
Vanguard Wellington Fund - Admiral	\$131,419	\$150,928
Receivable from St. John's	0	0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$131,419</b>	<b>\$150,928</b>
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE:		
Grants Payable	\$0	\$0
Fund Balance:		
Funds Available for Distribution	9,326	28,835
Restricted Fund Balance	122,093	122,093
Total Fund Balance	<b>\$131,419</b>	<b>\$150,928</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$131,419</b>	<b>\$150,928</b>

The Committee has provided an updated brochure describing the Endowment Fund and its purpose (available at the Church's information desk), We are also provided periodic updates and information within the "Weekly Happenings" and monthly "Inspire". We are hoping that you will consider ways in which you too can help support the ongoing outreach mission of St. John's Endowment Fund through "The Gift that will Keep On Giving".

If you have any questions concerning the Fund or this report, please contact any one of our Committee members.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance Team/Treasurer Update

*submitted by Carrie Peters*

While St. John's continues to have strong financials, the Finance Team has begun to explore deferring expenses and other contingency planning to align with giving trends.

- The April 30 reconciled financials yielded the following:
  - Giving YTD is 12% lower than last year
  - Total income is 17% below YTD budget
  - Total expenses are 17% below YTD budget
- \$9,790 was transferred into the Capital Improvement Fund per our procedures for excess days cash on hand
  - Sanctuary technology updates will be a capital improvement project this year

### Gifts and Memorials

*submitted by Barb Reed, chair*

The Gifts and Memorials committee consists of four members: Dick Granholm, Barb Reed (chair), and LoRayne Schmidt (who is currently on leave from her commitment to the committee) and Jim Truax. We'd like to thank Jan Gregoire for her time serving on the committee. Committee members can serve two consecutive three-year terms, and two of our members have terms that should be ending.

The committee has not met since Covid began and will be working on updating records with the new administrator. A brochure is available which explains procedures used within the committee and offers information on memorials to families who have lost a loved one. Anyone wishing to leave a gift or memorial in memory or honor of someone can complete the "Designation of Gift" form. Persons or committees requesting to use undesignated memorial funds for an unbudgeted need within the church can complete a "Request for Use of Funds" form. Both forms are available at the Information Desk or from the church office. A memorial book located in the chapel is used to record the names of those who have given memorials in memory of a loved one.

If you'd be interested in serving on the committee, please contact a member of the committee.

### GROTH Planning Committee

*Submitted by Brian Zach*

St. John's has partnered with Milwaukee-based GROTH Design Group to develop a master plan for our building and grounds.

Below is the timeline of what activities have taken place. Please note: this is not a meeting-by-meeting timeline, but a high-level recap of the events.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 2020** Conversations of potential larger interior and exterior projects (i.e., identifying a main entry, Circle Drive repair, etc.) lead to our partnership with GROTH Design
- Summer Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing (MEP) assessment was conducted to determine the individual lifespans of these areas throughout the church. Pinpointing potential concerns and support for any future work/construction which may occur.
- Fall Two congregational Visioning Workshops held by Paul Barribeau of GROTH Design to guide and assistance in creating a master plan. Additional meetings were held with ministry leaders to assess their needs and building usage. These meetings and workshops allowed GROTH to shape the master plan and possible design options to meet our short and long-term needs.
- Winter Initial findings from the Workshops and ministry meetings were presented to the team for review and feedback.
- GROTH share various architectural drawings to the group which created possible solutions to our identified short and long-term needs.
- 

### 2021

- Winter Additional St. John's members were brought on board to assist, as the scope of the project expanded. The project "expanding" was derived from the Workshop sessions, ministry leader meetings, and feedback from the team.
- New team members began looking and prioritizing the original ideas (i.e., identifying a main entry, Circle Drive repair, etc.) compared to the additional short and long needs discovered in the September meetings.
- Spring Meetings were held as a group and with GROTH Design deciphering priorities of the identify short and long-term needs in potential interior and exterior changes.
- GROTH share new architectural conceptual drawings to help visual guide our conversations and discernment.
- Summer Members visited Grace in Grace Lutheran in Grafton, along with two churches in Madison for an in person understanding of construction possibilities and to hear from church leaders about their work with GROTH Design.
- More meetings were held to look over redefined drawings and provide feedback.
- A representative from Mission Investment Fund (a financial ministry of the ELCA) spoke the group about possible funding opportunities and services they provide for churches looking at construction projects.
- VJS Construction Services was brought in by GROTH Design to share construction estimates based on the short and long-term needs we identified.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Fall Meetings with GROTH Design and VJS continue as the team works through drawings and concept changes.
- Winter Meetings continue as the team continues to give feedback and reviews new tweaks and changes from VJS and GROTH Design.
- 

### 2022

- Winter The group inches closer on finalizing potential plans which can be share with the entire congregation.
- Spring On May 22, a congregational meeting was led by Paul Barribueau of GROTH Design to share the potential construction/improvements to better meet our short and long-term goals.
- Summer Congregational dialog will continue by attaining feedback from the potential design proposals that were presented on May 22. Please stay tuned for more details.

At this time St. John's has not committed to any construction or improvements, but as you have read above, a great deal of work has been done to explore the possibilities.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

### Memorial Garden with Columbarium

*submitted by Mark Aamot*

Dedicated in October 2017, the St. John's Memorial Garden and Columbarium continues to serve our congregation in both end-of-life planning and death and burial. There are 72 niches in the Columbarium and approximately half of them are sold. Fifty-six individuals have arranged to be inurned in the Columbarium. The Garden has been debt-free since August 2020. Members of the Committee continue to perform the upkeep of the Garden throughout the seasons of the year. Members of the Committee also share our experience with area congregations when contacted.

During the past year funeral services have been held in the Garden and the Easter Sunrise Service also was celebrated there. The Garden is a beautiful place for meditation and prayer. The following committee members are available to share information about the Garden and the purchase of niches and pavers: Karen and Mark Aamot, John and Mary Almasi, Darlene Bahr, Dick Granholm, Jeff and Kyle Weyer and Marlene and Ralph Zick.

## CARE MINISTRIES

### **Faithful Friends ~ Make a Meal**

*submitted by Carole Lewis and Judy Klawitter*

Faithful Friends- Make a Meal ministry grew out of Women's Ministries at St. John's fourteen years ago. This ministry has coordinated St. John's members who were willing to take a meal to a member who had an illness, surgery, or some other need. Over time, good ministries may come to an end, or develop a new beginning. That became true for Faithful Friends during and after COVID-19 entered our lives.

A NEW BEGINNING for Faithful Friends would have the same purpose but would be done in a different way. Carole Lewis and Judy Klawitter coordinated this ministry since 2008. St. John's is currently looking for new leadership to carry on Faithful Friends-Make a Meal in a simpler way, using Sign-Up Genius. This new approach would require minimal time commitment.

If you would be interested in continuing this caring ministry, Carole and Judy would be happy to answer any questions. Please give this opportunity your prayerful consideration, and feel free to call them with your questions.

Faithful Friends-Make a Meal ministry has brightened the lives of many over the years! We are hopeful that, with this new approach, it will continue to touch the hearts of our St John's family!

### **Jail Ministry**

*submitted by Jane Babcock*

On the evening of April 21, approximately twenty members of the St. Dismas Jail Ministry team gathered at St. Williams Catholic Church in Waukesha for a dinner and an opportunity to reconnect, marking the start-up of a new season of service at the Waukesha County Jail. It was a wonderful evening for renewing friendships, exchanging cherished memories, reviewing jail policies, and making plans for the coming summer and fall. It was also a time of sharing a bit of our stories including what had led each of us to become involved in the ministry and what it is that draws us back and holds us year after year.

Due to Covid restrictions, it had been a year since I had been at the jail itself, and I am grateful to have been blessed in being able to follow several prisoners as they have moved into the state prison system. Two of these inmates have stayed in close touch over the years through visits, letters, and phone calls. For one of them, incarceration will be a lifetime sentence and so having someone to talk with to provide encouragement and feedback is vitally important. Being able to continue our ministry with them has been a very rewarding part of what I do.

There is within the jail ministry a small group of volunteers who operate quietly in the background helping to facilitate vital services for inmates which the jail has approved but needs help in providing. For instance, there is a wonderful ophthalmologist in the community who has made helping the inmates who have vision needs his special project. Once a month he appears at the jail with all his

## CARE MINISTRIES

equipment to see inmates who have requested appointments. He spends the day doing thorough eye exams and prescribing needed glasses so that inmates can function within the jail environment. The glasses are made and delivered to the jail at a cost of \$10.00 each – covered by the jail ministry. Glasses are just one of many needs which are met and greatly appreciated.

The jail ministry also has an office in the St. Vincent de Paul store on Sunset Drive which is staffed to receive requests from inmates who have been released from jail and who need items such as clothing, bus passes, money for rent and/or car repairs, etc. These requests are carefully evaluated and each Thursday morning decisions are made on how to address individual requests and dispense funds. This is an invaluable way of helping people move from incarceration to re-entry into the community

For me, personally, this has been a “good” year - a useful one - and I have felt our work all the more important. In coming weeks as the jail reopens fully, and we resume our Sunday services and other means of supporting and encouraging the inmates we meet, this unique year will stay with me as one where the focus of our work was intensified, and I felt very much needed. It continues to be my privilege to be able to serve as part of the jail ministry.

Jane Babcock, (262) 544-6174

### Visitation Ministry

*submitted by Karen Aamot, Facilitator*

The Visitation Ministry was begun in 2010 to join the pastors in visitation of shut-ins. The mission of the group is to pay monthly visits to shut-ins who are unable to come to worship. Visitors share readings, pray and share communion with the shut-ins. They often bring with them devotional booklets, Inspire copies, church videos, and small gifts. The Youth and other members offer gifts and cards at Christmas.

There are currently approximately 32 visitors and 13 shut-ins. Following each visit, the visitor shares a brief paragraph with the team. The team supports one another and shut-ins with prayer. Visitors have discovered that the visits are a blessing to both the shut-ins and themselves.

“For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve,” Mark 10:45



# PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Akeri/Nguruma Parishes and School, Tanzania

Deborah and Andy Petersen, Ministry Leaders

#### Partnership

The partnership between Akeri/Nguruma parishes and St. John's continues to grow. We continue to have monthly communication with the Senior Pastor, Anaeli Nasari, via WhatsApp. We have shared prayers for each other's countries and communities. The participation of the congregation is in full swing after surviving the pandemic.

#### School

The school now has 259 students, up from 170 students two years ago. The students continue to thrive and be successful in their studies. In fact, 18 graduated last year, up from 8 two years ago, and were able to continue to secondary school. St. John's continues to be a blessing to the Akeri/Nguruma community by providing the final funding towards the school project.

This is a letter received from Pastor Nasari about the school funding being complete.

#### Delegation

We hold hope that a delegation trip will happen in 2023. The goal will be to see the completed school, spend time with teachers and students, get to know our brothers and sisters better, and relax on safari.

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Chairpersons

Partnership Committee

St John's Lutheran Church

USA

Dears,

Andy and Debora Petersen,

It is our sincere hopes that you are all doing well, we are glad to hear that you had great time with your families and friends during year end celebrations particularly Christmas, we thank God we had the same here as it a great time for family's reunion. We hope you had received a new year 2022 in joy and celebrations as well. We wish you all the best for the year. We are very sorry for your suffering in the winter season, our lovely God will handle the situation and you will go through it in Jesus' name (Psalm 23:1-4)

It is my pleasure to convey our appreciation on behalf of the committee and Church in general for your letter dated December 29<sup>th</sup> 2021. In deed we are praising the Lord for your faith and love. We are very happy to receive your commendation on our dining construction report, frankly speaking, all has been possible by your huge support.

I am speechless, with full of joy and great hopes for the great job you have done for us. We understand how difficult it is when it comes to a fund raising, yet you have managed to coverup our budget by 80%. This is awesome, we praise the Lord. We are very thankful for your efforts, hearts, love and trust to us, pupils, teachers and Akeri and Nguruma parishes in general. We pray for God's blessings be upon you, your families and anyone who in any means contributed for our project. As a committee, we have received your support/contribution with joy and celebrations. Yet when we announced this good news to our parishes, the parishioners erupted with joy, endless claps and dancing, in fact, everybody was Excited with the news.

We thank God too as we have very positive response of contribution for the construction from our side, everyone is anxious to see the dining hall and kitchen is functioning immediately for our children. We pledge to use the money in a very budgetary way to make sure we close up with a finished and functioning dining hall and kitchen.

Kindly pass our appreciations, greetings and blessings to all our friends.

God bless you abundantly,

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Anaeli Nasari.

Victor A. Kaaya – chairperson Partnership Committee.

For Akeri and Nguruma parishes.

ELCT, DIOCESE OF MERU.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

### **All Peoples Lutheran Church, Milwaukee**

*Submitted by Mary Mueller and Teri Quam, Liaisons*

We are blessed by relationships, with brothers and sisters Christ, who have various experiences. We envision a partnership where members of St. John's Lutheran Church of Brookfield and members of All Peoples Church in Milwaukee share worship, share stories, pray together, pray for one another, and do God's work collaboratively and reciprocally.

Intentions:

1. St. John's will provide financial support for the APC ministry.
2. St. John's will provide necessary materials (coats, hats, mittens, school supplies, health supplies) that support APC ministries.
3. St. John's members will develop relationships with members of APC (through prayer, working side by side, sharing in each other's gifts, respectful consideration of each other's ministries and to crack the code of race relations and develop authentic cross-racial relationships).
4. St. John's members will support the food justice ministry of APC with connections from their garden, our garden, and the communities we grow food to nourish.

During this past year, 2021, we witnessed All Peoples Church continue its active ministry with providing food to the community via the food pantry, the APC Garden, the Gathering Table fresh food cooperative and St. Vincent DePaul's hot meals initiative. They continued to have worship via Facebook Live and slowly transitioned to outside worship and then inside worship, zoom Bible studies continued and many take home activities continued.

St. John's continued its financial support for the APC ministry. We continued to collect and delivery coats, hats, mittens, school supplies and health supplies as they were available.

Since the food pantry need had increase from about 20 families to about 50 families, during the six weeks of Lent in 2021, the St. John's community baked cookies to be given from the food pantry and eventually were shared with the Gathering Table food cooperative. 38 St. John's households participated in baking cookies. This brought many smiles to faces.

In summer of 2021, St. John's volunteered to make bag lunches for the KWTS garden work program. We made 35 lunches every Wednesday for eight weeks and ten lunches for two extra Wednesdays for a total of ten weeks. We had 40 participants making sandwiches, cookies, providing fruit, vegetables, and drinks. It was a great success!

On three occasions, St. John's members accompanied Teri on delivery of the KWTS lunches and then stayed to help do some needed sorting of coats, hats, mittens, blankets, and books.

Throughout the year, St. John's men, who typically delivery food to the Waukesha Food Pantry, continued to make deliveries to All Peoples Food Pantry as long as the Waukesha Food Pantry was not in need.

I am happy to report that at least one person continues to send encouraging letters to her APC

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

Beloved sister from our 2020 initiative. We will encourage others to continue writing.

All Peoples Beloved Sisters hosted the Beloved Sister's retreat this past Fall 2021 at Lutherdale's new convention center. It is a lovely facility, and the program was wonderful. Participation this year by St. John's women was minimal (only 2 people). We need to do better advertising for next Fall.

In conclusion, St. John's does well with initiatives 1 & 2, but we need more intentional thought and actions for initiatives 3 & 4.

### **Héroes of the Faith, El Salvador**

Mary Beth Gubbins – Ministry Leader

Pastor Santiago continues to lead our sister church, Los Héroes de la Fe in Los Héroes, El Salvador. Our partnership has been going strong since 1998. We continue to support one another anyway we can, fulfilling our moto "We are Better Together."

The Education for Life Scholarship program currently serves 61 students, from kindergarten to the university level. Pastor Francisco is the scholarship administrator and handles the finances. He also watches over the students in the program. Covid continues to impact our students and as a result many students study a few days at home online and a few days in person. Additional funds were given to our scholarship students this year to meet the needs of copying school materials for home use.

This year we celebrated the graduation of Paula Lorena who received her nursing degree. Paula Lorena was part of a youth delegation that was able to visit St. John's and she has been in the program since she was in the 6th grade. Paula Lorena is the first member of her family to receive a college degree and to find employment in her field. She is also setting up a small clinic in the church to meet the needs of those who cannot afford wellness care and to show her appreciation to the church for all of their support. Such an amazing example of the impact that this program has had on students like Paula Lorena. This would not have been possible with the support from the Education for Life program!

St John's continues not only to provide scholarships but also needed school supplies. These supplies are distributed in January which is the start of their school year.

Due to the continued Covid issues and the unstable environment, there are no mission trips planned for 2022.

In addition to the scholarship program, St John's also provides support for The Mission of Healing and Days for Girl Kits. The mission of healing has taken on a new format that is centered around teaching local leaders about health-related issues so they can then share the information with their communities.

The Days for Girls kits continue to be a sewing project in Los heroes which produces washable menstruation kits for girls and young women. This is an important way to empower girls and women to stay in school and complete their studies each month. The cost to produce each kit is \$7.50. The project relies on donations to cover the cost of production so that the kits may be given to women for free.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

Great updates and information about this special partnership can be found on our Facebook page-Los Heroes and St John's Sister Churches.

Thank you, St John's, for blessing our brothers and sisters in El Salvador. Your support, prayers and love really make a difference.

### SERVICE/OUTREACH

Our ministries at St. John's provide us many opportunities to "outreach" in the name of Jesus Christ to those less fortunate. Folks of all ages help out in numerous ways, through the many ministries for which we advocate.

#### **Bread for the World**

*submitted by Brian Cranfill, Outreach Chair*

In June we will hold our offering of letters to congress, asking for personal letters to request our elected officials support polices that will benefit the hungry locally and globally. Specifics in this year's offering of letters asked for folks to write with regard to nutrition support, and to request making the Child Tax Credit permanent.

#### **Christmas Food Drive**

*submitted by Brian Cranfill, Outreach Chair*

This was our 37th year for the Christmas Food drive. We delivered 125 bags of groceries, plus 30 hams, 10 turkeys, 40 bags of apples, 40 bags of oranges. Our delivery teams transported the donated food items to All Peoples and the Waukesha Food Pantry. We continue to enjoy assistance from our high school youth group with shopping duties for apples, oranges, and some hams and turkeys. Thanks also to our loaders and delivery drivers.

#### **ELCA Hunger Appeal**

*submitted by Brian Cranfill, Outreach Chair*

Scheduled for September 25, 2022. Watch for more information.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

### **Food Pantry Surplus to All Peoples**

*submitted by Brian Cranfill, Outreach Chair*

Our food transport ministry continued with transporting of excess food from Waukesha Food Pantry to All People's food pantry to help their St. Vincent DePaul meal program. The Food pantry often receives excess bulk items, which cannot be readily used by their clients, but are greatly appreciated by the All Peoples team. Thanks to a St. Johns volunteer team of drivers willing to lend their hands and vehicles, this ministry is serving a great need.

### **Garden Team**

*submitted by Jerry Hanson, chair*

Garden Reboot 2.0: we tried to simplify and reduce the amount of work by the team, yet still produce a decent crop and we prevailed! We already have an irrigation system, so watering is automatic. Thanks to the folks who prepped our space so that we could plant. We decided to try potatoes as they wouldn't need any attention, other than some minor weeding, until harvest. The squash seemed to proliferate without much encouragement, and again are mostly left alone until harvest. Ditto for the onions. The remainder of the garden was various types of tomatoes. Last year we setup a Harvest table outside of the main entrance and each week, our congregation was greeted by that week's harvest and encouraged to take some home and/ or share at church excess produce they may have had from their gardens. The following Monday each week the remaining produce was taken to the Hope Center or the Waukesha Food Pantry.

Please consider this ministry this year! We are changing the layout from raised beds to one large plot thanks to Ryan Logan's Eagle Scout project! The fence will be replaced as well as a storage bench inside the garden. A schedule will be setup for weeks to plant, pull weeds and harvest. Typically, this takes about an hour or so. Please contact Jerry Hanson at ([jerryhansonrhp@gmail.com](mailto:jerryhansonrhp@gmail.com)) or Jennifer Cranfill ([jennifer1961@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifer1961@yahoo.com)) if interested.

### **Hope Center**

*submitted by Brian Cranfill, Outreach Chair*

Every Monday since the COVID-19 lockdown, one of our dedicated volunteers makes bag lunches in their home and delivers them to Hope Center of Waukesha. The lunch count was as high as 50 during several winter months. St. John's general budget pays for the food served each week.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

### Luther Manor

*submitted by Mary Tollander*

Luther Manor is a senior community serving older adults across a continuum of care from independent living to assisted living, skilled nursing, and hospice care. Beyond caring for residents' physical needs, Luther Manor tends to their faith through weekly worship, bible studies and special enrichment programming designed to ensure their continued growth as Christians.

This year we supported Luther Manor by donating cookies that will be distributed by volunteers as part of their "cookies and conversation" program. Many also became "Friends" of Luther Manor by donating to the Luther Manor Foundation that helps to support their in-house and community outreach activities.

### Monthly Outreach Focus

*submitted by Brian Cranfill, Outreach Chair*

Each month we focus our in-kind giving to one of our local or global partners. Many of these efforts have a long history of support at St. Johns. Our collections include:

- Backpacks and school supplies for All Peoples
- Mission of healing for Heroes of Faith in El Salvador (bandages, face masks and funds for teaching aids)
- Coats/gloves/scarves for All Peoples
- Socks & undies for Hope Center
- Women's Center donations
- Luther Manor – Cookie ministry and annual support donations.
- Newborn Kits
- Hope Center personal care items

Thank you to all our leaders and contributors who help make a difference in the lives of many each month.

### Outreach Support

*submitted by Brian Cranfill, Outreach Chair*

St. Johns continues to dedicate a percentage of budget to several ministries outside the church, including LSS (Lutheran Social Services), Hope Center, Women's Center, Oaks Indian Center, and Lutherdale.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

### Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

*submitted by Linda Nelson*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. John's has continued through the pandemic. When we were not able to meet as a group, we continued to work at home.

When the Waukesha parade tragedy happened, we were able to comfort the families and friends of those affected. Our supply was depleted, but we feel confident we can replenish our "stash."

We are a group of seven and are always looking for people to join us, or work at home.

We also continue to offer a baptism blanket to anyone baptized at St. John's.

### Quilting Group

*submitted by Klaudia Hollander*

After an extended break due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the St. John's Quilting group has resumed its monthly gathering to assemble and sew quilts together for Lutheran World Relief. We gather monthly to work on tops that have been sewn by a mostly anonymous group of home sewers using the "Quilt To Go" kits that are available on the rack in the concourse. These efforts are very much appreciated. We always collect cotton fabric as well as sheets which can be used as fillers in our quilts. Labeled donations can be placed on the cart in the fellowship hall. Nearly 100 quilts were sent to LWR during the drive last fall. The Quilting group meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Ruth-Naomi room from 6-8 p.m. New members are always welcome, sewing skills not necessary as there is always measuring, cutting, pinning, and ironing to do. We'd love to have you join us!

### Refugee Resettlement

*submitted by Cindy Halverson*

Late in 2021, St. John's decided to co-sponsor refugees arriving in the US because of the August evacuation of people from Afghanistan. The Church Council designated \$2,500 for the early expenses. In addition, gifts were received from members and the Endowment Fund. Additionally, the Outreach and Partnership Committee identified and budget funds for this purpose in the 2022 budget.

While the congregation responded with the donation of furniture and other household items, our early efforts to secure housing made it difficult to get matched with either individuals or a family.

In April, we were matched with an Afghan family of eight. They were already settled in an apartment in Milwaukee and furnishings were provided through LSS before we were matched with them.

A team of six is providing ESL training on a weekly basis. We will also be working on budgeting, navigating the health care system and other acculturation activities. The first outing to Kohls and Target was May 9 and we look forward to additional outings and opportunities to get to know Milwaukee as they settle into life in America. The family includes the parents; five children ages 20, 18,

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

17, 12, and 1. A 21-year-old male cousin also came over with the family. The children are in school, and the two oldest males have already found jobs. They are a delightful family, grateful to be here, and eager to learn! As this family had an apartment and most of their services in place, the Resettlement Team continues to look for an apartment to hopefully co-sponsor another refugee family. Please reach out if you have any leads on housing!

Resettlement Team Leaders: Cindy Halverson, Jim Holmberg, Sonja Beyerlein

### **Winter Farmers' Market**

*submitted by Joanna Salinas*

St. John's was excited to re-open our doors on February 6, 2022 to the greater Waukesha community and host the 4th Annual Winter Farmer's Market and Meal. This event is a project of the Food, Faith and Farming Network and consists of a Farmer's Market with 10-15 local farmers and a meal made entirely of locally grown produce. The market is a great opportunity for outreach to our local community and draws many non-members into St. John's.

We are looking eagerly forward to hosting the market again on February 19, 2023.

If you are interested in working on this team, please contact Joanna Salinas, Carrie Peters, or Sonja Beyerlein.

### **Women's Center**

*submitted by Doris*

A big thank you for the generous paper products, masks, and wipes for the Women's Center during our usual February collection. TWC greatly appreciates the St. Johns donations every year.

Thank you to Mark Aamot who willing takes the items to the Women's Center.

Liaison committee: Peg Schellin, Mary Almasi, Doris Klitzke



# CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

## High School and Young Adult

submitted by Stephanie Broussard, Youth Ministry Coordinator

### Summer Trip 2021:

At home mission trip with Youthworks in Milwaukee.

We had 3 students attend the at home mission trip in Milwaukee. It was for 1 week at the end of June/beginning of July. These students were not only able to serve the Milwaukee community at various locations including food and day programs, but they were also immersed in the different worship styles that Milwaukee has to offer.

### Sunday Evening Youth Group:

This year we changed the way that the youth group has ran in the past from Sunday mornings to Sunday evenings. We began each group with the opportunity to have dinner here at church before the group time began. Our focus was to reconnect the youth with the church again as we were finally able to be open again for all to come and gather. We also participated in the church wide book study in October. The number of students greatly varied throughout the year.

### Other Highlights of the Year:

October:

- Four 9th graders and their mentors attended a weekend retreat at Lutherdale to begin building a spiritual bond with one another and strengthen their personal relationships with God.
- High school students dressed up and handed out candy while talking about our park systems in Wisconsin at the annual Trek' N Treat event in Grant Park.

November:

- We had five high school students participate in an escape room where they had to work together and figure out how to “escape” before time ran out, they were successful with plenty of time to spare!

December:

- Rented out a movie theater at the Marcus to see the new West Side Story. The invitation for the movie was to all high school and college aged students as well as their families.
- We had a group of high school students help the Sunday School students create Christmas cards for the shut-ins and college students.
- We had a group of four high school students who went grocery shopping for the perishable food items for the Christmas food drive.
- Six of our 9th graders and their mentors participated in a gingerbread house competition that was a part of the Preschool Christmas Program.

February:

- Our high schoolers helped to put on a silent auction with proceeds dedicated to our Mission

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Trip this summer. We had 35 baskets and were able to raise \$2500.

- Went tubing at The Rock Snowpark with the middle and high schoolers.

March:

- Each week for Lent, the high schoolers took time to create a healing prayer pouch for the members of the congregation to take home and help lead them in a different style of prayer.
- We had four high school students go to The G arcade and enjoy time bonding over old school arcade games.

April:

- Ten care packages that were created by the high schoolers were sent out to the college kids as they were getting ready for finals.
- Seven of the eight high schoolers who are signed up for the summer mission trip got together to begin bonding for our trip to Georgia.
- Our six confirmation students got together with their families to present their service projects that they had been working on all year long.

May:

- Six 9th graders were confirmed on three separate dates. The first confirmation date of May 1 also had a pancake breakfast in honor of our confirmands that was hosted by our current 8th graders.
- We had seven high school students come for a last hoorah of the year of a pizza party and game night.

### Middle School Ministry, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade

*Joanna Salinas, Middle School Ministry Coordinator*

Our Middle School Ministries consist of approximately 38 students in 5th-8th grade. Our 5th & 6th grade students participate in a two-year Bible Overview Class and our 7th & 8th grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation program. This is an age group that thrives with in person programming. We were excited to partner with our High School Youth this year to offer weekly Sunday evening programming and meals for all our students. We welcomed new families and saw students reconnect and strengthen relationships with each other and St. John's.

**5th & 6th grade Pre-Confirmation** students participated in a twice monthly Bible Overview class on Sunday evenings taught by Karie Zach and Joanna Salinas using the Sparkhouse Connect Curriculum. This is a two year program and this year we studied the Old Testament. We were excited to teach in person this year. Students also went tubing at the Rock, went to the G arcade, and are looking forward to an upcoming Lock In at St. John's.

**Our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Students** participated in twice monthly instruction on Sunday evenings taught by Pastor Brian and Joanna Salinas using the Confirm, Not Conform curriculum. This year we dug into church history, creeds, different forms of prayer and big faith questions.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Fellowship is also a critical component to our Middle School Ministry. In addition to our Sunday evening meals, we hosted monthly Fellowship events including Game Nights, serving at the Hope Center, the Great Food Race service event, outings to area venues, and service opportunities at St. Johns. In December several of our students participated in the Virtual Christmas Pageant and we have students helping on a weekly basis during Sunday School.

This summer, we will continue to connect with students during our Family Fun Nights, service opportunities, and an upcoming Lock In. We are eagerly looking forward to fall and re-launching our Middle School Leadership Team on Sunday mornings and once again attending retreats.

### Children's Ministries

*Joanna Salinas, Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Flexibility was the key word for Sunday School this year! With Covid being an unknown variable, and families experiencing a wide range of comfort levels, we strove to offer programming that was as flexible and as safe as possible while still meeting the needs of families. We were excited to start the year in person with outdoor Sunday School, transitioning inside as the weather got colder. Despite having to move to virtual Sunday School for a few weeks after the New Year, we finished the year strong and saw the return of the majority of our families and welcomed new ones!

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR INCLUDE:

**Sunday School Pajama Party Zooms** -- we met for 30 minutes on Sunday evenings over Zoom for music, stewardship, the story and lesson, and to pray and bless each other. We had an average of 10 students participate each week.

**In Person Sunday School** – we met in person throughout the year on Sunday mornings using our Large Group/Small Group format. This format still continues to serve us well, allowing for families to participate together and volunteers to step up with minimal prep. Units (4-6 weeks long) included:

- MOVE! When God calls, we MOVE!
- Baking with Scrooge, a Christmas Carol inspired Advent including a virtual Christmas Pageant.
- Tree of Healing, an ELCA World Hunger Lenten study
- Spark Bible Stories, we revisited our favorite stories.

**Stewardship** – Sunday School families raised over \$1300 for Stewardship Projects throughout the year. This included raising \$600 for ELCA Good Gifts, sponsoring a high school student in El Salvador, hats and mittens for All Peoples, \$200 for the Waukesha Food Pantry, and more!

#### Milestones

- Scouting Award - We once again offered Scouting Awards through the P.R.A.Y. curriculum. Sophia Ayers received her God and Life Award.
- First Communion - Nine children received their First Communion this program year.
- Bible Distribution to our 4K and 3rd grade students.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

### Family worship

Building upon the successful pilot of an Interactive Family Worship in the spring of 2021, we continue to offer Family Worship at our 10:30 service. This worship incorporates components of our traditional Large Group Sunday School time within the Contemporary Worship framework. We added in song movements, an interactive Family Lesson, coloring and crafts, a Family Blessing, and we encouraged children and families to read the lessons and prayers.

### Summer Programming

#### Summer of 2021

Last summer we were not able to offer VBS due to Covid, however, this gave us the opportunity to try something new and offer monthly Friday Family Fun Nights. From dunk tanks and inflatables to rocket launching and smores, these nights provided a much-appreciated social gathering space for our St. John's community.

#### Summer of 2022

In addition to our monthly Family Fun nights, we are excited for the return of Music Camp in June and Vacation Bible School in July. We are excited to partner with Lutherdale Bible Camp for VBS this summer and welcome 4 Lutherdale counselors to run day long programming for our families.

### Children, Youth, and Family Board

In Fall, 2020 the Children, Youth and Family Board (CYF) was formed to help guide our educational programming. We would like to thank the members of the CYF Board for their dedication and vision for the future of St. John's CYF programs.

Sonja Beyerlein  
Nicci Gillette  
Linnea Logan  
Karie Zach

If you have interest in serving on the Board, please reach out to Linnea Logan.

### Preschool

*submitted by Laura Rickinger, St. John's Lutheran Church Preschool Director*

St. John's Preschool has successfully navigated Year 2 of the Covid pandemic. We continued our well-researched processes and procedures to manage the risk of transmitting Covid-19. We are grateful to our preschool families who worked in partnership with us to keep everyone healthy and in Preschool.

We successfully provided a second uninterrupted school year.

St. John's Preschool is proudly a diverse community both culturally and with the skills, gifts, and challenges of our children. We continue to welcome children with special needs and challenges and

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

where they can learn and grow receiving the attention they may need and cannot receive in other preschools.

### 2021-2022 Preschool Year Highlights:

Our Two-Year-Old class of twelve children was a joy. And the first time we had a full class. Our team teachers enjoyed their eagerness to participate in playing and learning with their friends and their unabashed enthusiasm to be in Preschool. We continue to be successful enrolling children throughout the school year after their second birthday.

Our Three-Year-Old class closed with fifteen children who each grew so much in their own way. Our Three-Year-Old class shows us how children their age make friends and create those special friendships. How fun to see them burst into the classroom looking for their friends to play.

Our Four-Year-Old class ended our school year with eight eager learners. Our families appreciate the opportunity to use our class as either their child's Four-Year-Old experience and then move on to public school 5K, or to attend our Preschool and then enter their school's 4K class. We are confident that each child is well-prepared for their next step after this year of our Playing to Learn curriculum.

### Preschool Looking Ahead to 2022-2023:

We are busy with enrollment for the upcoming school year. Our Three-Year-Old class of twenty is FULL before this school year is done! We are proud of our reputation within the community and how our families refer others to us.

We are actively looking to hire a Four-Year-Old teacher for September. Jan Simon, our teacher for eight years, is moving with her family to Colorado this summer. We are sad to see her go and excited for all her new adventures.

Mary Wagner and Lana DeCoto team-teach our Two- and Three-Year-Old classes. This summer they will be redesigning their classrooms to create the smaller of the two classrooms as the Block Building Room. And by doing this, the other classroom will be used differently, too. Add twenty Three-Year-Olds and next school year is going to be a fun learning experience for our learners and very busy for these teachers.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

### **Boy Scout Troop 16**

submitted by Terry Hoepfner, Scoutmaster

- Boy Scout Troop 16 is sponsored by St. John's and meets in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings.
- Jim Mathes is the Institutional Representative and Acting Troop Chairperson
- Terry Hoepfner is the Scoutmaster and has six assistants
- The troop presently has 11 active scouts
- The troop is back having meetings at the church after the COVID challenge this past year
- Swimming, archery, bowling, and tours are some of the off-sight activities we enjoy
- We enjoyed Winter Cabin Camping again this year as well as back to Fall and Spring camping
- We had two Eagle Ceremonies after waiting for over a year
- Some of the troop's service projects were the set up and tear down of tables and chairs at the Waukesha Elks Lodge, Spring and Fall church property cleanup, Food Pantry Food Collection and a Blood Drive

# ADULT MINISTRIES

## Adult Education

Submitted by Kathy Davis

The Adult Ed Planning Team organized book studies, topical discussions, and lectures during the period of October 2020 through April 2021.

October through December 2020

- The initial book study, America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America by Jim Wallis, was facilitated by Pr. Brian Halverson via Zoom on Saturday mornings.
- Pr. Karen Natterstad facilitated a lecture/discussion series titled "Bible Basics". The sessions were held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom.

September 2020

- A book study, We Make the Road by Walking by Brian D. McLaren, facilitated by Pr. Brian Halverson.

January 2020

- Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers by Martin Marty, a six-session book study was facilitated by Pr. Brian Halverson and Adult Ed team members. The sessions were held via Zoom on Saturday mornings.

Lent 2020

- Holy Expectations study and sermon series facilitated by Pr. Brian on Saturdays and by Pr. Karen on Tuesdays. Pastors Brian, Karen, and Frank each preached two Sundays on the topic of Expectations during Lent.

Easter season 2020

- A 6-session series titled "Gift, Gratitude and Joy: Finding Our Sacred Roots in God's Creation" was facilitated by Joanna Salinas and Pr. Karen. The sessions were held on Saturdays via Zoom.

The Adult Ed Planning team conducted a survey in spring 2021 to determine St. John's members' interest in adult ed and suggestions for topics and the best times to schedule sessions. There were 64 responses with most respondents being married, empty nesters or retired. The key take-aways from the survey were: the largest number of respondents were interested in fellowship. The second largest number of respondents were interested in adult ed with the following parameters:

- Sunday is the best day, held at church, morning or evening but not as much between services
- Bible focus, with a mix of members wanting in-depth, expert-led studies with others wanting easy/approachable shorter series
- Length of sessions should be at least 60 minutes with larger groups that can be divided for small group discussion

## ADULT MINISTRIES

### Fall 2021

- A book study, The Walk by Adam Hamilton, was coordinated by a team led by Pr. Frank Janzow.

### December 2021 – January 2022

- St. John's Academy – Pr. Kris Ruffatto gave three lectures:
- The Psalms as a Guide to the Spiritual Life
- Prophecy and the Future
- The Biblical Witness for Changing Laws for Changing Times

### February 2022

- Bruce Campbell gave a reading from his book, A Fullness of Uncertain Significance

### March-April 2022

- Rev. Carol Wasemiller facilitated a study of the book by Bishop Curry, Love is the Way. The sessions were held on Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evenings via Zoom.

The Adult Ed Planning team members are currently Kathy Davis, Pr. Brian Halverson, Chris Klink, Patrice Krimpelbein, Teri Quam, Mark & Mary Sabin. Initially, the team also included Stephanie Broussard and Carolyn Krause. I want to thank them all for their commitment and efforts to promote adult education at St. John's.

## Small Groups

Small Groups continue to be a vital part of the ministry at St. John's. There are study groups, service groups, music groups, and social groups.

In the Fall of 2022, we had a congregation-wide book study of The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life, by Adam Hamilton. Several groups discussed the book, some current groups and some new groups that met just for this study. One of the new groups continues to meet.

Following are reports from a few of the current groups. If you wish to know more about any of the groups at St. John's, please contact the office.

## Retired Men's Meal Ministry

*submitted by Jerry Hanson and Roy Osmon*

As the name indicates, this ministry is dedicated to providing retired men in the St. John's family the opportunity to share fellowship, a devotion and a prayer together twice each month. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at Mimosa Restaurant in Brookfield, and on the third Wednesday at noon, currently at Good Eats Café in Pewaukee.



## ADULT MINISTRIES

This is now our eighth year and going strong. Typically, 15-20 guys gather at the breakfasts and 8-12 attend the lunches. We encourage attendees to bring a friend or two along to join in the conversation and sharing of experiences and stories. We email reminders to everyone on our mailing list and always welcome additions. For questions or more information, contact either of the following who share group's leadership:

Roy Osman

Email: [rosmon@wi.rr.com](mailto:rosmon@wi.rr.com)

Phone: 414-405-5799

Jerry Hanson

[jerryhansonrhp@gmail.com](mailto:jerryhansonrhp@gmail.com)

262-785-8098

### Saturday Mornings Men's Group

*Submitted by Ralph Berglund*

This group meets every Saturday morning during the school year. Our purpose is to provide an opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and other Christian men through book discussion and Bible study. The group normally alternates from discussing a book of interest and discussing a book of the Bible. While in the 2020/2021 school year we met via Zoom because of Covid, this past fall we started meeting in person again at church and participated in the churchwide study of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk". We followed that with a four-week session on 1st Corinthians. After the holidays we went back to Zoom because of the Covid spike and spent several weeks in a very fun discussion of "The Servant" by James Hunter. In mid-March this year we went back to in person at church and covered 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians over several weeks.

We look forward to starting up again in the fall, continuing with in-person meetings at church. We will be kicking off in early October participating in the 2022 churchwide book study. Bring a mug of coffee and join us for some fellowship and meaningful discussion with other Christian men. Contact Ralph Berglund (email [ralph.berglund@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.berglund@gmail.com) or phone 262-547-8231) if you would like more information.

### Women's Monday Afternoon Study Group

*submitted by Jan Gregoire*

We meet at 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall on the third Monday of the month September through May. We select material from various sources that we feel will lead to meaningful discussion. We are presently studying *40 Verses to Ignite Your Faith (Surprising Insights From Unexpected Passages)* by Laurie Polich Short. Anyone is welcome to join us.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### Music Coordinator/Organist

*submitted by Becky Whelpley, Music Director*

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been a joy and honor to serve St. John's! I am thankful that we were able to navigate this past year together with precautions and safety measures. I would like to thank the people of St. John's, the church staff, the choir members, instrumentalists, and pastors for all the support and collaboration. Many thanks to Kenn Anderson, Heidi Bischmann and Lisa Weiss-Cornelius for their wonderful musical leadership at St. John's.

Last August we began each 8:30 am service with a hymn sing; what a wonderful way to gather! We are certainly blessed with the generous donations received to purchase the All Creation Sings ELW supplement that we have been using this past year. The new texts and melodies are striking and very relevant to our time. This past fall the choir was able to safely meet in person and collaborated with KOTK, Handbells and brass at different times throughout the year.

In the Fall we kicked off "The Walk" bible study with a Healing Service and Prayer Labyrinth.

A highlight was changing the Christmas Music weekend to a different approach this year. We presented special collaborations all through Advent. In addition to our inside ministry, various choir members caroled at the homes of some of our homebound members leading up to Christmas and we again offered the outdoor Journey to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

I am so thankful to these dedicated volunteers that rehearse weekly to enhance our worship. Thank you!

During the Lenten mid-week services, we used Marty Haugen's "Holden Evening Prayer". Holy Week and Easter were especially emotional as we were able to gather together inside to worship.

Looking forward to serving with you in the coming year!

### Handbell Choir

*submitted by Heidi Bischmann, Handbell Choir Director*

Highlights of the 2021/2022 Handbell season include:

- Regular musicians, guests and substitute ringers – Chris Anderson, Darlene Bahr, Sonja Beyerlein, Mickey Fank, Penny Holt, Sue Keith, Pam Klink, Linnea Logan, Joanna Salinas, Pauline Shoemaker, Bonnie Suhaysik, Mary Wagner and Rebecca Whelpley.
- The choir met to rehearse regularly throughout the year – September through May – and contributed one or two songs per month to the 8:30 am worship service.
- Devotions and prayer time at each rehearsal and worship service lift us up and give us strength as we experience love and loss in our daily lives.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

- This special group of talented musicians and dedicated servants have formed deep friendships and continuously nurture one another as we share rehearsal time, worship together and serve within our St. John's community and beyond.
- A highlight for the St. John's Handbell Choir came in February as we hosted Chicago's premier handbell ensemble, The Agape Ringers, for an afternoon concert. This was a wonderful way to experience handbells at a whole new level and to meet many other musicians. A generous free-will offering with over \$1,500 was collected to offset the group's expenses. Excess monies will support future equipment purchases and maintenance of St. John's handbells.

New musicians are always invited and encouraged to join the Joyful Bells for laughter, prayer, fellowship, fun and beautiful music!

### **Kids of the Kingdom (KOTK)**

*submitted by Lisa Weiss-Cornelius*

2021-2022 was a great year. In October of 2021, KOTK started to meet weekly in person in the sanctuary. After rehearsal, we added our evening meal which was prepared by each of the families involved. A "Sign Up Genius" was used to give families a list of weeks that needed dinners. There was no cost for families to be part of KOTK, there was just a dinner contribution. The families did a wonderful job of covering meals. A few of the meals were covered by Choir members to give the parents a break.

KOTK sang about two to three times a month from October to May. They did a fabulous job of learning music and sang a number of songs with the adult choir. This intergenerational approach to adding music to the service was enjoyed by so many. We added drums to a few songs and hope to add more instruments to the next year of KOTK. This summer the Church Music Camp is a chance to get more children aware of KOTK and will encourage more enrollment for the next church year.

One of our families had been part of the Waukesha Christmas Parade. When they were injured, the KOTK kept them in our prayers and rejoiced as they were able to return to rehearsals and singing in church. Some of the special songs that we sang were the "Child's Prayer" with family members, and "My Life Is In His Hands" with the adult choir. We experienced the miracles of our members moving from wheelchairs to walkers to braces to running through church. This was an amazing year for this musical "family" to support each other and to grow together.

### **Praise Band**

*submitted by Kenn Anderson, Contemporary Music Director*

- Continue to incorporate new music with familiar songs to ensure participation and interest
- Integrated new in-ear monitor system to enhance overall volume and quality
- Enlisted fill-in musicians to maintain "full" sound for worship
- Removed all amplifiers from stage to lessen overall noise from stage area

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

- Led bluegrass service that was very well received
- Learned new music as requested
- Support sermons with appropriate music to enhance message
- Encourage congregation participation
- Held outdoor services (weather permitting)
- Cooperate with "single service" days

### Worship Report

This past year saw several changes in worship. We began gathering for worship in the sanctuary again this past year. We sat spaced apart and wearing masks, but we were together. Currently, masks are not required for worship.

During the summer, we worshipped at 8:30 in the sanctuary and at 10:00 outside. We gathered for one combined worship on the holiday weekends of Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day, in addition to June 4, 2021 for the annual meeting. In August, we began live streaming the 8:30 worship. In September, the later service moved to 10:30 but stayed outside until the weather became too cold.

#### Special Services:

9/11 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	September 11, 2021	
Healing Service	September 19, 2021	
Thanksgiving Eve	November 24, 2021	6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve	December 24, 2021	10:00 Journey to Bethlehem outside, 2:00, 4:00 and 7:00 in the sanctuary
Christmas Day	December 25, 2021	9:00 a.m.
Ash Wednesday	March 2, 2022	Noon and 6:30 p.m.
Lenten Worship	March 2-April 6, 2022	Noon
Meditations on the Cross	April 11, 2022	6:30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday	April 14, 2022	Noon and 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday	April 15, 2022	Noon and 6:30 p.m.
Easter	April 17, 2022	6:00 a.m. in columbarium, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary

#### Worship Assistants:

We are blessed with people that serve during worship. Sandy Paukner is organizing communion set up and communion assistants for the 8:30 worship. Mark Aamot is scheduling ushers for the 8:30 worship. We use Sign Up Genius for lectors and communion assistants to volunteer. Thank you to both of them and for all of the volunteers who serve as ushers, communion assistants, and lectors.

#### Live Streaming:

We have an AV Team: Phil Peters, Dayne Peters, Penny Holt, Stephanie Broussard, Luke Wagner,

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Hannah Wagner, and Dave Sturgill. Thank you, Team! Worship slides and streaming would not happen without you. NOTE: We are looking to add one or two more to the team. Contact Pam Klink if you would like to be trained.

Our online presence grew when we began to live-stream in August. Initially, we streamed live to YouTube and Facebook. However, we experienced issues with our streaming bandwidth. Now we live stream to YouTube and then share the worship video on Facebook.

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## Nominating Committee Report

submitted by Brian Zach

The 2022 Nominating Team included: Linnea Logan, Maddie Beug-Hoffman, Phil Lange, John Roth, Christine Hintz, Brian Cranfill, and Pastor Brian Halverson.

Last June, the Treasurer position remained open. Carrie Peters was appointed by the Council to fill the position. She will continue on Council for the second year of her first term.

The Nominating Team presents these individuals to the congregation for election to Council.

President	Brian Zach
Secretary	Josh Werner
At Large Member #2	Mark Latus
At Large Member #3	Charlotte Yourell
At Large Member #4	Brittany Larson

### 2021-22 Council Members

Brian Zach – President  
 Keith Paukner – Vice-President  
 Carrie Peters – Treasurer  
 Christine Hintze – Secretary  
 Jim Morgan – At Large #1  
 Tim Tollander – At Large #2  
 Madelyn Beug-Hoffman – At Large #3  
 Linnea Logan – At Large #4  
 Kris Wasserman – At Large #5

### 2022-23 Proposed Council Members

Brian Zach – President (2<sup>nd</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)  
 Keith Paukner – Vice-President (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year)  
 Carrie Peters – Treasurer (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year)  
 Josh Werner – Secretary (1<sup>st</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)  
 Jim Morgan – At Large #1 (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year)  
 Mark Latus – At Large #2 (1<sup>st</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)  
 Charlotte Yourell – At Large #3 (1<sup>st</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)  
 Brittany Larson – At Large #4 (1<sup>st</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)  
 Kris Wasserman – At Large #5 (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year)