

**ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

“God’s Love in Action”

2013

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2013**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis Niezwaag
Pastor, Part-time:	The Reverend Jim Carpenter
Youth & Family Coordinator	Melinda King
Director of Communications	Justin DeVore
Director of Music:	Andrea DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Kathy Hoefl
Business Manager:	Andrea DeVore
Custodian:	John Swiggum
Director of Preschool:	Kate Anderson
Assistant Director:	Whittney Nordmeyer
Teachers	Debra Hocking & Carleen Laue

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Scott Hansen
Vice-President:	Laurie Heidebrink
Secretary:	Marilyn Isakson
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

COUNCIL AT LARGE

Mike Laue	*3	Kari George	2	Dale Miller	1
Richard Olesen	*3	Barb Tommingo	2	Craig Begemann	1
Shirley Ripley	*3	Scott Aspholm	2	Doris Thorson	1

BOARD OF FINANCE

Linda Hughes	*3
Dennis Sande	*3
Mike Heiter	2
Jeremy Heyer	2
Steve Colasuonno	1
Tammy Quade	1

BOARD OF DEACONS

Bob Hammer	*3
Kirsten Dietrich	*3
Kathy Crooks	2
Wayne McClintock	2
Shirley Holm	1
LaVonne Reysack	1

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

Kendra Buenger	*3
Lori Gassman	*3
Charlie Edson	2
Marcia DeVore	2
Kailee Janssen	1
Virginia Titus	1

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Tina Marth	*3
Laurie Kristiansen	*3
Justin DeVore	2
Amos Kraus	2
Amy Johnson	1
_____	1

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Jacque Moon	*3
Ann Voelker	*3
Janet Petefish	2
Gina McClintock	2
Ron Hoffman	1
_____	1

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Paul Veen	*3
Paul van Ausdall	*3
Donn Schafer	2
Dennis Petefish	2
Dave Boehmer	1
Dave Ripley	1

YOUTH BOARD

Candi Lumley	*3
Julie Colasuonno	*3
Mike Kreger	2
Carleen Laue	2
Lori Wink	1
Rhonda Schmidtke	1

FAMILY BOARD

Todd Prichard	*3
Jodi Reetz	*3
Brandi Lantz	*2
Josh Dean	*2
Wendy Johnson	*1
Lisa Kreger	*1

ST. JOHN PRESCHOOL BOARD

Marissa Anderson	*3
Dusty Schmitt	*3
Jeanne Hansen	2
Angie Parson	2
Cassandra Michael	1
Laura Walker	1

Officers serve for a one-year term. Board members are elected for a three-year term & may serve only one consecutive term. The number represents the number of years completed for the term of office with all terms expiring in January. The asterisk indicates the term of office that is completed in January.

Annual Meeting Minutes
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Charles City, IA
January 13, 2013

President Scott Hansen called the annual meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Thirty-two voting members were present. Pastor Dennis Niezwaag gave opening devotions.

Bob Baron/Arlene Thomas moved to accept the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Marilyn Isakson read the minutes of the 2012 annual meeting. Peg Poppen/Erik Hoefler moved to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor Niezwaag gave his pastoral report. He had lots of wonderful new ministries that have been happening this past year to talk about. Highlights include the hiring of Melinda King as Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator and Pastor Jim Carpenter as a part-time visitation pastor to call on members of our congregation who are home bound and also to do some preaching. The list of people he calls on has grown during his time here and now what took him a month to complete takes 6 weeks. The new Parish Communications Board has been instrumental in getting St. John activities into the news as evidenced by the recent articles in the Charles City Press about our Mission Trip to Chicago and the Mission Trip to Haiti. Members with computers now receive weekly updates.

When Jason McDonald felt called to take other employment, John Swiggum felt called to become our new custodian. He is incredibly gifted in the areas of cleaning, mechanics, and computers.

There has been some restructuring in our preschool with Kate Low and Whitney Nordmeyer sharing the duties of Director and Associate Director.

We responded to a call from Greg Kreimeyer for help in going to Ecuador on a Mission Trip with a 3-year plan and he is on his way.

These are but a few of the many wonderful ministries happening at St. John.

Old Business:

Board Reports are printed in the annual report. Discussion on the topic of recognizing the elderly was brought up by Sue Baron. Plans are in the works to honor these people of our congregation. Ruth Farmer suggested that more information be included in the newsletter about the things going on among the various boards. Shirley Ripley/Scott Aspholm moved to approve the Board Reports as printed. Motion carried.

New Business:

Jeremy Heyer presented the budget for 2013. He reported that we stayed within our budget for 2012 and explained various line items on the 2013 budget. A motion was made to accept the 2013 budget by Erik Hoefler/Sue Baron. Motion carried.

Election of officers and board members: Laurie Heidebrink/Pastor Niezwaag moved to accept the list of candidates as printed on a ballot on back of the agenda. Motion carried.

Pastor Niezwaag/Melinda King moved to cast a unanimous ballot for these candidates as well as the ones the church council will find yet. Motion carried.

Closing prayer and benediction - Pastor Niezwaag

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Isakson
Secretary of St. John council

Pastoral Report 2013 Annual Report

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”* Lamentations 3:22-24

As always, the ending of one year and the beginning of a new year is an appropriate time to reflect on what has happened, to anticipate what we hope will happen, and to give God the thanks and glory for both.

Last January we were celebrating the faithful staff, wonderful volunteers, and the many continuing ministries here at St. John PLUS the return and success of the Haiti mission trip. Add to that the good news that with our help, Greg Kreimeyer had raised enough financial backing to begin his missionary call to Ecuador.

During the year we added the Digital Bulletin Boards that provide everyone who comes into our building with very up-to-date and visually attractive information.

We lived our way through Epiphany, Lent, and Easter and tried to find ways to deal with an extremely wet spring. This was especially challenging for the many members of our community involved in agribusiness.

My wife Diane had back surgery the first part of June and so our summer was quite different than we had planned but I am happy to say that she has recovered nicely. Thank you all again for the many kind thoughts and prayers.

In June we also added an Automatic External Defibrillator to the safety equipment available in our building. Plus there were a number of members who volunteered to be trained in its use.

In July we celebrated the election of a new Presiding Bishop for the ELCA. Her name is Elizabeth A. Eaton and she is from Pennsylvania.

In September we added a part-time staff member. We were fortunate to be able to hire Justin DeVore as our Director of Communications. Justin had, for years, been helping us with our technology here at St. John and even in the short time he has been serving as a staff member, he has been of TREMENDOUS value in maintaining and upgrading our technological capabilities.

Also in September I began a sermon series on the Five Love Languages which, while not necessarily written directly to Christians, I believe spoke directly to us as Christians.

Some of the most joy-filled moments for me this year occurred as volunteers who had been leading significant ministries here at St. John, such as Coats for Kids and our Card Ministry, were able to pass on those leadership responsibilities to new volunteers who were cheerfully excited to take them on.

And here we are in January again, in a brand new year. Please take the time to read the annual reports and perhaps, like me, you too will be overwhelmed with gratitude and joy because of the good that God is accomplishing through our congregation. Let us continue to be THANKFUL and INVOLVED in ministry.

Ever thankful,

Pastor Dennis Niezwaag

Jeremiah 1:9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth."

After a lifetime growing up and volunteering with St. John I am honored to be working side by side with you to demonstrate God's Love – In Action to this community. The director of communications is a new position, that several larger churches in the Northeast Iowa Synod have seen a need to create as the times change. I'm pleased to see St. John on the fore-front of this vision, and I am excited to continue with this role.

I started as your director of communications in September of this year. One project was emphasized from day one from both the church council and Pastor Niezwaag – investigate enhancing the worship area with the technology to create a 21st century worship space. What does this mean? It means when we want to have screens, praise band, videos, and modern technology used in worship (10:15 AM, special worship services, confirmation, Sunday School Christmas programs) we can easily do it. However this also means preserving the sanctity and reverence of the worship space. So when we want to put away our 21st century tools (8:00 AM worship, weddings, funerals) it can be done without interruption and a plethora of work. Right now the church council has created a task force to work on all of the details on this project. As 2014 progresses, I trust you will hear more about this.

This is a church project – ignited by the church council. The church council will be the ones who approve this project and its details. We have drafted all church boards to be a part of this project, inviting them to a meeting to review the ideas on the table. In 2014 this project will take the work of many boards: finance, deacons, stewardship, buildings and grounds, and it will be utilized by everyone in the congregation.

However, my 15 contracted hours a week goes beyond the worship space enhancement project. Before starting in the fall, I met with the council leadership and every staff person to determine what, in their minds, we as a church needed to work on to excel outside and inside communications. I developed a list of 100 projects that Pastor Niezwaag and I then prioritized. I continue to work on these projects – some of them are small projects, some of them are large. Some need extra help, and when extra help is needed I call on people in the congregation to assist. Thank you to people who've said yes when asked.

Daily and weekly activities I coordinate include the weekly e-mail called the e-skinny, regular posts on Facebook and Twitter, recording the weekly announcements and dial-a-prayer on the St. John phone system, and helping with worship as needed. In September working with Melinda King and many volunteers, St. John hosted the second Homecoming Tailgate for families.

God has given each of us unique abilities, talents, and gifts. Through volunteer work over the last 15 years, and now with this new position I've been able to join with you to improve our efforts to tell people about the work Jesus Christ is doing. You can do the same. As has been mentioned before, things happen at St. John because people have an idea and join with like-minded people to make ideas come to fruition. Join us in 2014 to more effectively communicate the love and grace He has for everyone.

You can find us online at

Website: <http://www.stjohncharlescity.org>

Twitter: @stjohncc

Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohncc](https://www.facebook.com/stjohncc)

In person: 200 S Main Street, Charles City

Dial-A-Prayer: 641-228-2468

Justin M. T. DeVore

Director of Parish Communications

Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator 2013 Annual Report

We started the year with two lock-ins in January. The first was for the middle school to celebrate the beginning of 2013 with the middle school youth. They played games, swam at the middle school, sang karaoke, and also talked about making resolutions that mean something more than the typical New Year's resolution. The second lock-in was for the high school youth. They also played games, went on a scavenger hunt around the town, and then we did a bible scavenger hunt lesson. This was good because some of the friends that were invited to the lock-in didn't necessarily know how to find biblical passages. The youth had a lot of fun at both of these events.

In February we had first communion for the 5th grade students. They had classes on what communion was and how to take it. Then they made communion bread for the service when they were receiving their first communion. Later in the month there was also a game night for all of the youth. This was a great time for fellowship among the youth and any friends that they brought with them.

March was a busy month. It started with a trip to the Wisconsin Dells over Spring break. This was a great time for some of the youth and their friends and some families to get away. They really enjoyed the waterparks and other activities that the hotel offered. There was also a nightly bible study during the trip to give them a chance to slow down and connect with God while we were on the trip. We had 62 people along on this trip. Later in the month we also took a group to a Waterloo Blackhawks game. This was again a chance to enjoy some fellowship with others from St. John. After that St. John hosted an Easter egg hunt for all of the children and families in the community. This was not just an egg hunt though. We also had many Easter crafts and activities that helped to tell the Easter story to those that were present.

In April we started a parent bible study. This was offered to the whole congregation. We had about 7 families participate. The adults followed the video series *Grace Based Parenting* for their bible study. While the parents were meeting for their bible study some of the youth helped watch the children. They played games, watched movies, and did crafts with them. This bible study ran through September. Some of the youth that had gone to Chicago over Christmas started their fundraising in April. They did this by having a penny war between the confirmation classes. They raised \$106. The money that they raised went to the organization that they work with in Chicago during their annual mission trip.

In May the youth continued to work on their fundraising goal. They did this by having a silent auction that was held after church on Sundays in May. They had many nice items donated for their auction. They ended up making over \$800. We also celebrated the class of 2013 graduating in May.

June had a lot more going on. We started with vacation bible school. We had 100 children attending VBS and we also had many middle school and high school youth helping teach lessons and lead groups between stations. There was also a cook out for the high school youth to send off the seniors and welcome in the new freshmen. We had a family fun day where we planned to fly kites and play with bubbles. But it was rainy so instead we had it in the Parish Hall with indoor games and food. We also hosted a group of runners that were raising money to fight Malaria. They stopped in Charles City for the night and gave a presentation at the church about their cause. Finally we had a crazy game night for the middle school youth with lots of messy games. It was a chance to gather during the summer.

In July we had two youth go to WIYLDE a leadership camp at Luther College that is sponsored by all of the Iowa ELCA synods. Once our youth returned they met with me to talk about how they can use their leadership skills here at St. John throughout the year. They have done things like teach Sunday school and be bible study leaders for youth activities.

In August the youth had a food booth at the Encouragement Corp concert. Youth met to make sweet treats to sell at the booth. Many others worked the event and helped to make sure that everything ran smoothly. There was also a middle school “back to school” gathering where we had food and talked about going back to school. The high school youth also gathered to watch movies and talk about how the movies connected to their lives.

September brought the start of another year of Sunday school and confirmation. For Sunday school we had rally day in the park with a meal hosted by the family board. The youth were also invited out to Mr. Hoefler’s house to spend some time fishing. We also began something new for the high school youth with a Sunday night bible study.

In October we hosted our second homecoming tailgate. This year it included a meal, bounce houses, and face painting. There were even more people than last year. We also took a few middle school youth to the Lutheran Student Center UNI lock-in. They were able to stay up most of the night and really enjoyed themselves. We confirmed seven of our 10th grade youth in October. They all had wonderful faith statements.

In November the high school had another lock-in. They spent most of their night playing games and hiding in the church. They also had a scavenger hunt where bible verses led them to different places in the church to their next clue. We also took the middle school youth bowling. They had a great time bowling. Many of us didn’t bowl very well but it didn't matter because we were having fun.

December was a busy month. It started with an advent craft time for families to come and do together. We also had the Christmas program for all of the Sunday school students. It was great for them to tell the story. We also had youth participate in the Charles City lighted parade and baked cookies for the Christmas program. The youth also made a last effort to fundraise for Chicago by wrapping presents for the congregation and community. The last event was the annual Chicago mission trip. Everyone had a great time serving God’s people in Chicago. The youth also decided which organization they will be donating the money that they raised throughout the year. They will be donating it to Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit organization that helps to feed people throughout the world with the meal that their volunteers pack. With the youth’s donation of \$1000 they will be able to feed 4500 meals.

Melinda King
Youth and Family Coordinator



St. John Christian Preschool
2013 Annual Report

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! It is a privilege to be part of the development of not only our little ones' academic and social skills, but also their spiritual growth. It is so exciting to see their eyes light up when they listen to God's word or to see a smile stretch upon their faces when they are singing and dancing to our praise music. We continue to receive blessing upon blessing to enrich and grow our preschool center!

Our 2012-2013 school year ended with an enrollment of 89 friends and we were excited to welcome many friends and families back for our 2013-2014 school year. With the addition of a few new faces we were able to start our school year with an enrollment of 79 friends who were anxious to see what a new year at St. John Christian Preschool would hold for them. Unfortunately, due to some families moving out of the area, we did lose a couple friends during the first semester. As we begin 2014, we continue to see an enrollment of 87 little ones. As always, we know that we will continue to be blessed with many families who are seeking a Christian education for their little ones and we expect to fill any openings quickly. It is a very humbling gift to know that we are being trusted with such an enormous job, but it is rewarding beyond words.

We continued to offer four classes from which our families could choose. Our older friends who turned at least 4 by September 15 could enroll in our three-day, Monday-Wednesday-Friday program. They were offered the choice of a morning class, which met from 8:15-11:15 a.m., or an afternoon class, which met from 12:15-3:15 p.m. Our younger friends who turned at least 3 by September 15 could enroll in our two-day, Tuesday-Thursday program. These friends could choose from a morning class, which met from 8:45-11:15 a.m., or an afternoon class, which met from 12:45-3:15 p.m.

Our registration fee increased to \$25 per semester or a one-time fee of \$40 for the year. Our Tuesday-Thursday tuition was increased to \$75. Our Monday-Wednesday-Friday tuition was increased to \$95. Our preschool board offered a tuition reduction fundraiser each semester, which provided opportunities for families who participated in the fundraiser to earn profits to lower their child's tuition payments. Each semester between 40 and 50 families participated and their tuition accounts were reduced accordingly.

We continued to be blessed with grant money from Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Early Childhood Iowa Empowerment, which is an amazing form of assistance for almost half of our preschool families. ECI scholarships are available for families displaying a financial need for help with tuition.

This year we were able to offer 2 scholarships in Cindy Zirbel's memory. These scholarships were not based on financial need, but rather awarded to families who wrote a short letter explaining why they chose SJCP. Families enrolled in our Monday-Wednesday-Friday program that were not eligible for Empowerment funds were encouraged to apply. The scholarship is in the amount of \$45 a month for each of the eight months in the school year. The 2 families who received these scholarships were very appreciative recipients and we were pleased to be able to offer these scholarships to 2 deserving families.

We awarded the "Friendship Scholarship" to one family in our Tuesday-Thursday program. Families enrolled in our Tuesday-Thursday program that were not eligible for Empowerment funds were encouraged to apply. The scholarship is in the amount of \$25 a month for each of the eight months in the school year.

The Preschool staff and board members would like to remind everyone that Kwik Star gift cards are always available for purchase at the Preschool. Since you need to purchase gas anyway, why not help out our ministry at the same time? Feel free to stop by and purchase at your own convenience. Please stop by or call the preschool at 228-7274 if you are interested in purchasing a gift card. Let us know if you have any questions, and as always, thank you for your support!

We are very blessed with an amazingly awesome staff: Kate Low, Director; Whitney Nordmeyer, Associate Director; Deb Hocking, Assistant Teacher; and Carleen Laue, T-Th afternoon Teacher/Substitute Teacher. We are also supported by an amazing back-up team that includes our Foster Grandma, Evelyn Schmidt; as well as our dedicated Pastor; faithful office secretary, Kathy; highly efficient business manager, Andrea; the technologically savvy, Justin; and a great custodial staff, John and Julie. Without their hard work, we would not be able to accomplish the things that we do.

Our energy is contagious and our hearts are big. The preschool is always a busy place and you can be sure to see smiling faces if you walk past our doors. We know that there are many reasons for the happiness that abounds from our center, but we also know that the biggest reason is that this is a place where our little ones can experience God's love "hands on." Through our praise music, our Bible stories, our interactions with tall and small friends, God's love is growing here and it is one thing that our preschoolers won't be able to outgrow anytime soon.

Whitney Nordmeyer



2013 President's Report

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

It is comforting to know God has a plan for us, specifically a plan with a future and a hope. He does not say that there will not be peaks or valleys, he does not say when this plan will be revealed, but there is a plan with a future and a hope. I always wish I had the red phone line to God where everything comes through loud and clear. I am not the most patient listener in the world when it comes to God's plans and his messages, but I am inspired by how many people at St. John are living, breathing examples of God's love in action.

As I look back at 2013 it started with an amazing trip to Haiti for a number of our members where they used their time and talents to serve others. So many wonderful people make Wednesday evenings at St. John the place to feed your stomachs and your soul. A time of fellowship was enjoyed by many of us at the stewardship committee's golf tournament. The whole community enjoyed the 2nd annual homecoming tailgate. The year ended like it started with service to others as the youth took their annual mission trip to Chicago, and so many other acts of god's love in between those two points.

We welcomed Justin DeVore to the church staff this year as the Director of Communications. He has hit the ground running. His first days on the job consisted of conversations with the entire church staff, council members, and Pastor Niezwaag to determine what projects should be at the top of his to do list. At the end of those discussions he had a project list with approximately 100 to-dos, and since then he has diligently been working through the list. Maybe most notably getting the church set up with a new phone system that will be saving the church quite a bit of money on our monthly phone bills. Also, at the direction of the council he has been researching how to bring our church services up to date with new speaker and video systems made specifically for churches to provide services with the latest technology that will also blend into the natural beauty of our church building.

In closing, I hope the plan and future for St John has us opening our hearts and horizons so we can grow closer in our relationship with God, but more importantly so we can bring God's message to those who have not heard or accepted the story of God's love through the gift of his son, Jesus Christ.

Scott Hansen, President of the Congregation



Finance Board 2013 Annual Report



The responsibilities of the finance Board of St. John Lutheran Church are:

- Develop an overall budget for the church
- Review and approve all the expenditures of the church
- Monitor the budget expenditures of the church and make changes as justified
- Decide on investment strategies for the church funds

Finance board members who assisted with the responsibilities and duties in 2013 were Dennis Sande, Mike Heiter, Jeremy Heyer, Tammy Quade, Steve Colasuonno and Linda Hughes, Chairman. Also assisting the board were business manager Andrea DeVore and Church Council representative Richard Olesen.

Your financial gifts allowed the Finance Board to support most of the funding requests of the other boards to assist in their work. In addition we were able to fund many updates and repairs to the church. We worked very hard to be fiscally responsible to the members of the congregation and still fulfill our obligations. A report of the Income and Expenses for 2013 is located in the back part of this Annual Report to the Congregation. I encourage you to view this report. A few items of special interest are:

- Church improvements and repairs- accepted the bid from Mick Gage Plumbing and Heating for a new kitchen stove hood, approved funding for the church tuck pointing project, approved bill from Schroeder Concrete for replacement and repair of cement in parking lot, approved repair of an AC unit for the sanctuary.
- Technology updates- Approved dropping the land line to 2nd St. parsonage, looked into new internet provider, approved purchasing a new phone system from Marco Business Systems, changed phone service to the church to Century Link (We now get a residential rate instead of a business rate. This will save us \$1500 per year.)
- Invested money for scholarship fund to the Income Fund of America, a hybrid mutual fund.
- Approved half of the Gertrude Kroneman Estate to fund Buildings and Grounds projects and half to support church programming.
- Adjusted money provided to St. John Christian Preschool for health insurance costs.
- 8% quarterly benevolence gifts were made to the Needy Fund, St. John Christian Preschool, the Food Box, Do Day Quilters and the Parent Support Group for the development of their park.

A special thank you to everyone who made financial gifts during 2013. Without your support St. John could not continue to do God's work.

In Christ,
Linda Hughes

<i>Parking Lot Lighting:</i>	\$11,275.43
<i>Kitchen Hood:</i>	\$14,677.00
<i>Concrete Repair:</i>	\$16,170.70
<i>Karr Tuck-pointing:</i>	\$27,553.00
<i>Phone System:</i>	\$ 7,293.00

Board of Stewardship 2013

February – had a special collection for the Ministerial Fuel fund. \$157.00 was collected.

May 5 & 12 – the glass box was in the Narthex to collect for the Mothers of Preschoolers program. The money collected will be used to offset childcare costs. \$41.00 was collected.

June 19 – St. John Golf Outing

Income:

6 teams x 4 people x \$25 =	\$600
Donation by Riverside Asst Living -	\$100
Total Donations by Banks =	<u>\$200</u>
Total	\$900

Expenses:

Green fees \$10 x 24 people	(\$240)
Food \$5 x 24 people	(\$120)
Gratuity for Food	<u>(\$30)</u>
Total Exp.	<u>\$390</u>
Net Income	\$510

Thrivent Supplement \$500

Total to Floyd County Ministerium \$1,010

October 27 - we had a reverse offering for the Food Bank. The offering plate was passed around with slips of paper with items that the Food Bank needed and people took out a slip and then on Sunday, November 3 they brought their items back to church. The items were delivered to the food bank on.

December - "Gifts for Jesus" box was out the month of December and we collected \$4,465.00.

Family Board 2013 Annual Report

2013 Events:

March: Easter Egg Hunt

April: Taste of St. John

June: Scheduled Kite and Bubble Day - indoors due to weather

Sept: Served the meal for Rally Sunday

Oct: Board members helped with Homecoming Tailgating / Movie at Charles Theatre

Nov: Taste of St. John

Dec: Advent craft activity

Other activities that we have discussed are bag tournaments and setting up a babysitting day in December for parents to go Christmas shopping.

Jodi Reetz and Todd Prichard will end their terms in January.

Parish Education 2013

- The Parish Education Board was blessed to have the following members serve during 2013: Kendra Buenger, Marcia DeVore, Charlie Edson, Lori Gassman, Kailee Jansen, and Virginia Titus. On Ash Wednesday we had twelve 5th grade students receive their first Communion.
- In May we celebrated with 13 graduating seniors at worship.
- Vacation Bible School was held the second week of June. We again used Group Publishing program and this year's theme was "Kingdom Rock." We had a daily average of over 100 students for the five-day event. We were blessed to have many wonderful volunteers help make this ministry possible.
- The Sunday School year kicked off once again on Rally Sunday on September 8 following our Praise in the Park service. Confirmation Sunday found seven 10th graders affirming their Baptism during the rite of Confirmation.
- The calendar year concluded with our annual Christmas program held on the afternoon of December 8. Following a wonderful program by our students, there was fellowship in the Parish Hall with homemade Christmas cookies.

In Christ,
Marcia DeVore, Parish Education Board Chairperson **11**



St. John Buildings & Grounds: 2013 Annual Review

Listed below are the projects completed during 2013 to maintain and improve the St. John's building and property:

1. Stock Glass Co. bid to frame five windows in choir rooms (facing Gilbert St.) When the tuck-pointing was in progress, an inspection found that three of the protective windows had been broken during tuck pointing. This replacement cost will be paid by Karr Tuck Pointing. Stock Glass Co. will install tempered glass to protect the interior windows and seal them to keep out dirt and moisture. This will be done in early 2014 when weather permits.
2. Karr Tuck Pointing completed the tuck-pointing on the exterior of the church building. They submitted the low bid of three bids.
3. Relocated approximately 2000 bricks from Mark Quade's property to the parsonage garage. These bricks match some of the existing church brick.
4. Purchased a walk behind snow blower.
5. Submitted a budget for 2014. This does not include the custodian's salary, pension, health insurance, extra help, and errand allowance.
6. Mill's Inc. removed a failed five ton condensing unit and replaced it with a Lennox 5 ton (60,000 BTU) condensing unit. Mill's Inc. submitted the lowest bid of three bidders.
7. Mick Gage Inc. replaced a rusty, leaking galvanized condensate pan with a stainless steel pan under the evaporator for one of the air conditioners.
8. Thirteen parking curbs were replaced in the parking lot.
9. Revised directional parking spaces in the parking lot to provide smoother traffic flow. Pin Point Striping LLC, from Waverly painted new parking lines, directional arrows, and handicapped parking signs.
10. Preschool drinking fountain was repaired.
11. A new freezer was purchased.
12. The leaking dish washer piping was replaced.
13. Perry Novak Electric installed a new 200 amp fused disconnect in the basement. A new 2" conduit was installed and connected to a new 200 amp circuit breaker in the kitchen. The overloaded circuit breaker in the Sacristy area was replaced with a 200 amp circuit breaker. This completes Phase 1 of the electrical project.
14. Perry Novak Electric removed the old lighting in the parking lot and replaced the lights with high efficiency L.E.D. lights.
15. The organ humidifiers were cleaned and are now operating properly.
16. Greg Heidebrink fabricated a beautiful oak cabinet for the sound system in the balcony.
17. Three electronic bulletin boards have been installed.
18. Replaced a leaking pressure tank on the parsonage furnace.
19. Replaced bad concrete in driveway, sidewalks and parking lot.
20. Installed a new stainless steel hood vent & fire extinguisher system in the kitchen.

B & G Committee: Dave Boehmer, Dennis Petefish, Dave Ripley, Donn Schafer, Paul Veen, & Paul Van Ausdall, John Swiggum, Custodian



Board of Deacons 2013 Annual Report

In January, the board said goodbye to board member Angie Ayers and chairperson Steve Colasuonno. Their hard work was greatly appreciated. Kirsten Dietrich was named chairperson for 2013 and Kathy Crooks gratefully accepted the secretary position.

Two new members were welcomed in February, Shirley Holm and LaVonne Reysack. Continuing members were Bob Hammer and Wayne McClintock.

Covering the service of communion at both worship services continues to be problematic, as the majority of the deacons prefer to attend the 8:00 am service. We had six faithful members of the congregation who willingly helped us out on a regular basis and were placed on the schedule. Their help is gratefully appreciated. Deacons are still rotating and giving up their preferred early service. I do thank all of them deeply for making it work. I hope members can be found for the coming year to replace the two outgoing deacons this year who can be placed and prefer the late service.

We had Heartland Harmony perform at 2 worship services in June during Synod Assembly. Wayne McClintock made the contact and also opened the worship for them. They did a wonderful job.

Several "Praise in the Park" services were held and enjoyed by many. Kathy Crooks provided her truck to move equipment from and back to church. With all of the help from deacons and everyone else it didn't take much time to set up and take down again.

We did go over our Deacon budget due to buying extra supplies for communion. We also had many baptism and special events. We resupplied our stock and should be in good supply for the coming year.

The Sanctuary was decorated for Christmas on December 5th at 3 pm and with so many volunteers, custodians and deacons there to help we completed it in 2 hours. Jeff Otto took time out of his busy schedule to show us how to hang the greenery around the altar, for which we were grateful. We would also like to thank everyone who came and gave of his or her time. The sanctuary looked beautiful.

2013 started out smooth until we had shortage with help for communion which was unsettling at times but by working together and asking for help it ended as a good year.

I enjoyed serving as a Deacon and Chairperson

Respectfully submitted

Kirsten Dietrich



Parish Communications 2013

One thing about the parish communications board is that we are new. We don't have any regular projects; we don't have any preconceived ideas about what we are here to do. Everything is new and our canvas is blank.

The artists painting on that canvas this year were Tina Marth, Laurie Kristiansen, Justin DeVore, Amos Kraus, and Amy Johnson. Here are a few projects we accomplished:

Digital billboards – The large screens located in the narthex, outside of the church office, and a portable screen that travels around the church were set up and implemented early in 2013. These screens host announcements and directional signage when visitors and members are at church.

Computer Help Desk – The board hosted a help desk to assist people in getting on the church website to find the weekly podcast, find us on Facebook, get signed up and solve any problems in receiving the weekly e-skinny newsletter, and learn more about online giving.

Podcast – Speaking of the podcast - this is a great ministry coordinated by Ken Swant. If you want hear the weekly sermon, you can access it by clicking on the St. John website and listening to it. We appreciate Ken's work every week making worship at St. John accessible to everyone – worldwide.

Press Releases – We attempt to get our messages from St. John in all available media. Laurie Kristensen coordinated our press releases to area media the past two years. Our media coverage in local newspapers has taken a huge step forward the past two years.

Bulletin Boards – There are two bulletin boards in the church where we keep track of St. John and the people of St. John in the news. Cherie Schafer and Arlene Thomas are people who've helped us clip articles when we make news.



AED – An AED (automatic external defibrillator) is a portable electronic device used to reestablish a heart beat in the event of a life threatening cardiac event. This is located in a central location in the narthex. We've talked about adding an AED to our congregation (church) for years. Thanks to the work of the Parish Communications Board and our council liaison Barb Tommingo we were able to make this happen in 2013.

Logo – Using the God's Love – In Action theme, we contracted with an artist to create the new St. John logo. We are using this logo on our regular communications and our new congregational apparel.



'Pub'lic Praise – In July we hosted our first 'Pub'lic Praise event. This was an event originally experienced in Minneapolis, by our council liaison Barb Tommingo and we wondered if it would be possible to bring it to Charles City. We did, it worked, and we will plan to continue it in 2014.

Christmas Shoebox – This is one of the events we carried over from the parish life board, where the congregation packs shoeboxes with toys, gifts, and needed items for children overseas who wouldn't receive a Christmas gift.

We always invite ideas for projects... and once again start the 2014 year with a blank canvas. Have you seen ideas at other churches you visit in other communities that would work at St. John? Do you have an idea where you would like to help implement that idea with the Parish Communications Board? This is your church. Help make it an even more active and thriving place where we demonstrate God's Love – In Action.

Parish Communications Board

Women's Ministry 2013 Annual Report

March: Purchased freezer for kitchen
May: Honored St. John Christian Preschool staff at a Sunday Service.
June: Purchased Welcome banner for church yard & seasonal tablecloths for bistro tables
July: Helped with 'Pub'lic Praise Hymn sing
August: Served root beer floats after Sunday services
September: Contributed towards purchase of popcorn machine for youth & church use
October: Made cookies for the St John Tailgate Event
Nov: Hosted cookie decorating class
Dec: Cookies with Christ event
Dec: Helped fund Angel Tree Ministry Food Box
Ongoing: Rada knives & KayWos cloth sales
Ongoing: Supply coffee & cookies in Narthex before services
Ongoing: Supply "Christ in the Home" booklets

The St John Women's Ministry is open to any & all women interested in promoting Christian Fellowship in our church & community. Meetings are held the first Tuesday night of each month at 7 PM (after yoga) & are very informal.

Members this year include: Arlene Thomas, Connie Swant, Barbara Bunston, Angel McKenzie, Shirley Platte, Julie Begemann, Diane Loudermilk, Kirsten Dietrich, Karol Carpenter, Ellen Brewer, Leslie Becthold, Tina Marth, Gina McClintock, Barb Tommingo & Pastor Niezwaag.

We also would like to thank all of those in the congregation who have helped us out with the above events. "Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Proverbs 3:6

In Christ, Barb Tommingo

John Angel Tree Ministry Report for 2013 Submitted by Jean Rima & Shirley Holm



In December 2013, the Angel Tree Ministry collected and distributed 38 gifts to 16 children of prisoners and their caregivers. Each child received two gifts and their caregiver also received a gift. In addition to the donated gifts, each family received Christian reading material provided by Angel Tree donations from the St. John congregation. Bibles and Christmas cards were sent to 5 prisoners. Six families received food vouchers provided by Angel Tree donations and St. John's Women's Ministry along with Nativity sets donated by Bob and Sue Baron. The gifts and food vouchers were picked up by the families. The prisoners and their families are especially appreciative of this ministry.

St. John Lutheran Scholarship Committee 2013

Your St. John Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee is excited! For the first time in 36 years, or since its inception, the Scholarship Application is now on line for all interested to apply.

As you think about your desire to make yourself more employable for next year, remember that your church has two types of scholarships; EPIC for students attending Lutheran Colleges and your “Saint John Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund” for all students, high school, and adults, who wish to enhance or further their education, whether at a college or a trade school. Since its start in 1978, the “St. John Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund” has given a “scholarship boost” to well over 190 students and adults. When this committee was formed, it was decided **to use only the interest earned each year for scholarships.** Because of this, we are very dependent on the continued generosity of members through your gifts and/or memorials. **We need your support!!!** We say a special “Thank You” for your support of **this scholarship fund** in the past, but we need your continued help!

Interested individuals are asked to stop by the church office to obtain the online address. The application is divided into five parts: general background, scholastic ability, leadership qualities, good citizenship and career interest. The application must be received at the church office **by April 1, 2014**, after which the committee will meet to award the scholarships. I think it is **important to note** that the selection committee does **not know the names of the applicants when reviewing the applications.** In our decision making process **we look very carefully at your listed church activities and also on your continued religious involvement while away at college.** If you have questions or concerns please feel free to talk to any member of the committee. Shirley Holm, Wendy LaBarge, Cherie Shafer, Kay Tjaden, and Kip Hauser, chair.
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Scholarship Recipients 2013/14

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Abby Ayers | University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Parents: John & Angela Ayers |
| 2. Katherine Bailey | University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Parents: Brad & Brenda Bailey |
| 3. Malayne Meyer | Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
Parents: Terry & Becky Meyer |
| 4. Abigail Platte | Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa
Parents: Ed & Shirley Platte |

EPIC Scholarship Recipients 2013/14

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Peter Rogotzke | St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN
Parents: Rusty & Kathy Rogotzke |
| 2. Jeanne Edson | Wartburg College, Waverly, IA
Parents: Charlie Edson & Laurie Kristiansen |
| 3. Alexis Watkins | Wartburg College, Waverly, IA
Parents: Brian & Kim Watkins St. |

SCHOLARSHIPS
SCHOLARSHIPS

TRANSFERS IN

These Christian people from other churches came to us in 2013, and expressed their desire to practice their membership at Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church. Their former pastors, by the authorization of church councils, transferred their membership into our family.

Lenis & Nadonne Buseman

Will & Elizabeth Wahl

Whitnee

Alyssa

Jackson

Ryan & Jan Hennings

Kimberly

Ernest

Zachary



TRANSFERS OUT

These Christian people left our congregation to join other congregations.

Pastor Norman & Carol Bauer

John & Myrna Culbertson

Vicky Schroeder

Joseph & Lori Nettleton

Joseph & Sophia

BAPTISMS

It is at baptism that you become a member of the one great holy Christian church. In 2013, parents and godparents brought these children to Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church for baptism into the holy Christian church.

Kyndra Kay Grace McDonald

Annabel Faith Ann McDonald

Jaxon Scott Douglas McDonald

Emersyn Rae Miller

Renner James Kober

Carter Dean Charlton

Addison Renee Charlton

Kaylee Ann Zech

Keirleigh RaeLynn Lindahl

Austin Rodney Hinz

Hazel Grace Hansen

Colin Bruce Croal

Charles Ryan Kraus

Kynsie Ann Eckhoff

Hayden Leigh Janssen

Mercades Lynn Motz

Ashton Michael Fairhurst

Corbin Allan Farihurst

Hunter Cameron Rule

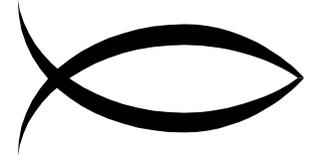


Baptized in water,
Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit...
sealed by the Spirit...



CONFIRMATION

The following Christian young people, baptized into Christ's holy church, were received as confirmed members.



Confirmation - October 2013

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Parent's Name</i>	<i>Baptism Date</i>	<i>Confirmation Verse</i>
<i>Regan Timothy</i>	<i>Connell</i>	<i>Tim Connell & Jill Connell</i>	<i>2/6/98</i>	<i>Psalm 23:1-2</i>
<i>Isaiah Harry</i>	<i>Eppley</i>	<i>Rodney Eppley & Rita Booker</i>	<i>2/28/99</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:1</i>
<i>Austin Lee</i>	<i>Ferch</i>	<i>Adam Ferch/Mitch & Chasity Engelhardt</i>	<i>11/16/97</i>	<i>Mark 3:12</i>
<i>Branden Lee</i>	<i>Holthaus</i>	<i>Edgar & JoAnn Holthaus Hervert</i>	<i>11/8/98</i>	<i>John 1:18</i>
<i>Sara Ann</i>	<i>Titus</i>	<i>Jeffrey & Virginia Olesen Titus</i>	<i>8/9/98</i>	<i>Titus 3:5</i>
<i>Megan Marie</i>	<i>Vance</i>	<i>Matthew & Julie Jones Vance</i>	<i>7/19/98</i>	<i>Jeremiah 29:11-12</i>
<i>Nicholas Andrew</i>	<i>Wegner</i>	<i>Andrew & Arlene Vic Wegner</i>	<i>1/11/98</i>	<i>1 Timothy 4:12</i>

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The following people have been received by affirmation of faith.

Paige Hagarty

Donna King
Justin Pickerell

Glenda Link

Don & Deb Bohlman

Deven & Sarah Murray

Chris & Dave Baldus
Savannah, Rose, Wolfgang, Anastasia, Colton

Doris Lovejoy

Laura Lonergan



2013 BURIALS

Listed are the burial services at which the pastors officiated during the past year. We remember the ways these people served their Lord and church. We are reminded that, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord". *Romans 8:39*

Phyllis Mae Bork Gifford

Richard Kent Lindaman

Herman Otto Gerberding

Dennis Neal Wilson

Janet Della Thomsen Schwartzkopf

Glen Richard Brinkman

Melvin Henry Schilling

Glenn Hubert Stohr

Marva Hilda Martha Wedeking Stratton

Hildegard Martha Glomsda Ennen

Joanne Kathryn Sisson Blong

Mary Ann Fisher

Norman Clinton Watson

Duane Henry Robbins

Clayton LeRoy Martin

Vern Wilber Kramer

Delores Pearl Haradon Berns

Georgia Nellene Brown

Joel Douglas Jung

Arnold Ernest Haller

Dennis Lee Beaver

Adeline "Addie" Matilda Chroup

Beverly Carol Luttrell

Shirley Ann Porter Harman

Alexander Ray Potratz

Jesse William Wilson

Hazel Kapka

Jim Zack

Robert Benjamin Woolworth

Maxine Dorothy Core Eggert

Dorothy Mae Springer Mohring

Juanita Marie White Jacobs



PAROCHIAL REPORT

BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2013.		1,248
2012 - 1,243		
CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2012		887
2012 - 882		
Number of confirmed members who received Holy Communion at least once in 2013		500
Number of non-confirmed members who received Holy Communion at least once in 2013		192
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP EACH WEEK		357
2012 - 371		
GROWTH OF ST. JOHN CHURCH BY THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM		19
1) Children	19	
2) Adults	0	
GROWTH OF ST. JOHN CHURCH BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND REINSTATEMENT		32
1) Youth.	7	
2) Affirmation of Baptism	17	
3) Reinstatement	8	
GROWTH OF ST. JOHN CHURCH BY TRANSFER FROM OTHER PARISHES.		12
BURIAL SERVICES AT WHICH THE PASTORS OFFICIATED		32
MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED AT ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.		8
TRANSFERS OUT OF ST JOHN CHURCH INTO OTHER CHURCHES		7
RELEASED FROM ST. JOHN		0
CONFIRMED MEMBERS REMOVED FROM THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN 2011 (due to their failure to attend worship, receive Holy Communion, or to contribute for at least one year, according to our records)		37
2012 - 24		
NUMBER OF COMMUNIONS GIVEN AT NURSING HOMES IN 2013		436
Members of St. John	120	
Members of other parishes.	316	