



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Annual Report for 2010

***Our Mission Statement* - We believe in the Word of God and respond to the Holy Spirit within us by praising the Lord through Worshiping, Praying, Learning, Caring, Sharing and Serving as Witness to God's saving Grace.**

***Our Vision Statement* - As people of God we move forward in unified mission, offering our gifts of time, talents and treasures to the ministries of St. John's.**

2010 CHURCH COUNCIL

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2010 Council Members not continuing in 2011 – Tom Hickman, John Noble, Shelley Walker, Roger Weaver and Kendra Wells.



From Pastor Kern...

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:1-5

John's Gospel begins with the familiar opening line, "In the beginning...". My ministry with you and among you as pastor has begun over the past six months. It has been a time of much joy for me to be with you, to begin to build relationships with you, and to begin to dream about what God has in store for us at St. John's.

Over the past six months we have celebrated baptisms, Reformation, Advent, and Christmas together in fine style. Tuesday Nights at St. John's has moved to a weekly gathering of people and grown in attendance and participation. Wednesday Bible Study has continued in the morning and a small group has begun meeting on Wednesday evenings as well. Together we have received new members and we continue to welcome friends to St. John's. It continues to be a fun time and St. John's is a good place for us to grow in faith together.

In the year ahead, I look to building on our beginning together in ministry. A portion of my time is going to be working with the congregation to develop and name its identity as a Lutheran congregation. Quite a number of people participated in the Reclaiming the 'L' : Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core adult education series in the fall. Together as a congregation, we will be having conversations about what it means to be a Lutheran congregation and what mission God calls us to in the years ahead. Central to these conversations will be discussing and naming our identity as God's people at St. John's. Each congregation has their own identity and passion, just as does each individual.

I rejoice in the many gifts and talents God has given us at St. John's and look forward to the year ahead to see what God in Christ will do through us, with us, and in us here in this place.



Council President's Reflections

What a wonderful and exciting year this has been for us at St. John's. For the first six months we were so faithfully served by our interim pastor, Rev. Cathy Feil. She committed both her genuine care for the congregation and a willingness to serve wherever our needs called her. We send our sincerest thank you to Pastor Cathy, along with our prayers for continued blessings as she serves God's calling in ministry.

Starting in July a new calling was begun with the shepherding leadership of our new pastor, Rev. Travis Kern. The addition of him, his wife Heidi and their daughter Hannah have infused joy, excitement, and participation in a variety of programs and worship opportunities.

This stimulation to participate in ministry programs has provided for the multiple interests in all of us. From Sunday mornings to weekly events our church is enthusiastically active. There is caring for all, coupled with the chance for each of us to use our varied talents and interests in serving. St. John's is experiencing development in worship, Christian education for all ages, Tuesday evenings for dinner, fellowship, music participation, service opportunities, and study of multiple topics.

We are proud of our Missionary, Alicia Cooke, and Seminarian, Anteneh Gebreselassie, and the witness they are giving, with the support of the congregation. We offer prayers for them and their work.

In the review of the year 2010, by recounting all the programs and those who have either led or participated in them, we are given reminders that God has a plan for each one of us. He knows us by name; the fulfillment of individual mission is set out for both ourselves and our church. The very words "congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church" deliver a strong message in themselves for us in the church, as we work in friendship as brothers and sisters in support of each other. We are to pass the peace to each other with true and sincere meaning. That worship response of passing the peace during the service expresses from each of us to the other our caring and desire that God's calm be with those whose hand we shake.

As we close the year 2010 there is seen in our programs and ministries a decided march forward. Joy Leilani- Garbutt moves to just about full time as our music and choir director. Any age group has a spot where one can serve musically. The addition of Jen Beam as Youth Director continues the encouragement and opportunities for all children to become active in so many different activities.

As one of the anchors in this place we are so fortunate to have Gloria Bartholomew holding down the office because she is a grand, upbeat, pleasant, smiling, and totally willing workaholic church secretary. She truly is the light in the office.

On the volunteer side, each member of Council is to be commended for the dedicated and unselfish service given throughout the year.

A special note must be recognized for Betty Henriksen's unceasing and tireless contributions. As Council Secretary she provides a necessary continuity to Council's procedures, work, and understandings. Thank you!

With so much pleasure, accolades are handed out to the multitude of tireless church members who pitch in where needed. Scores of people serve as teachers, ministry team members, as council ministry chairs, as builders of technology for the church, and in the area of maintenance – be it shoveling snow from the walks or seeing that the A/C operates. Folks serve in finance, in an advisory capacity, and by giving of one's time to assist fellow members or those in the community wherever called.

My thanks to each of you for the support and friendship given me as your Council President.

Tom Hickman



CHURCH STAFF

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Virginia Cameron	St. John's Christian Preschool Director	301-946-4977 wk 301-460-8879 hm	sjkidsabc@aol.com

STASTICAL SUMMARY

	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A. Membership										
1. Baptized	945	903	761	229	289	294	341	311	316	319
2. Confirmed	686	662	578	229	238	238	274	254	259	266
3. Confirmed <i>(commune or contribute)</i>	515	489	272	182	223	228	234	238	243	250
4. Child members <i>(who commune)</i>	101	95	50	80	51	51	55	54	54	58
5. Members received	25	16	12	0	22	18	40	14	7	11
6. Transferred Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
B. Pastoral Acts										
1. Baptism	14	5	3	4	5	1	7	7	1	2
2. Confirmations	5	5	14	7	4	3	12	7	1	6
3. Marriages	2	3	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	1
4. Funerals	3	2	2	0	0	5	0	1	2	1
5. Memorial Services	0	2	1	2	2	1	2	1		3
C. Average Sunday Worship Attendance	200	173	161	145	136	124**	128	120	105	99

*membership rolls updated; **incomplete statistics



HOW FIRM THE FOUNDATION

Christian Education and Preschool

Cradle Roll includes children from birth through 2 years of age. The parents receive a CD each year and a monthly newsletter to help them nurture the faith of their children.

Preschool through 5th grade Sunday school classes are taught by Jean Eisenhaur, Martha Wagner, and Chris Howard. There are approximately 16 students. Jean Eisenhaur's class for the Preschool children moved to the Nursery this past fall to be more accessible to younger children. We continue to use the Spark Classroom curriculum; this is a Bible story-based ELCA curriculum with stories from both the Old and the New Testament. The Sunday School students were excited to receive a Spark Bible for their use at home. This year the Sunday School classes have been collecting loose change to donate to World Vision to aid in the relief effort following the earthquake in Haiti. The youngest students also meet with Joy for music instruction each Sunday.

The Parenting Forum was offered again this year during the Education Hour on Sunday mornings. This forum is for parents with children of any age. This parent-to-parent forum gives them the opportunity to discuss the daily joys and challenges of parenting in a supportive Christian environment. Discussion is confidential. Donna Shelly and Tom Hickman are the co-facilitators. Please feel free to join us or contact Donna or Tom for more information.

In 2010, the Confirmation Program used the Augsburg Fortress Program of "Here We Stand" to present the 10 Commandments and the first part of the Lord's Prayer to the Confirmands. About nine Confirmands attended regularly and about eight also attended each of the two retreats; we went to Shekinah in the Spring and to Mar-Lu Ridge in the Fall for a special retreat with the Theological Education of Youth Program from Philadelphia Seminary. All Confirmation students received Lutheran Study Bibles in the fall. St. John's confirmed Megan Dejter, Kyle Deppe, Royce Elles, Steven Nagiel, Larson Shilling and Jessica Vincent at Pentecost. Kate Dolan, Wayne Shelley, Kathy Deppe, Roger Weaver, and Roxanne Elles led the Program.

The High School Class is taught by Brian Shilling, Jen Beam and Karen Shilling. In the fall they attended Pastor Kern's class and the high school students recently led the Christmas pageant for Preschool - 5th grade students.

The Adult sessions have included a series with Stewardship and Outreach and Social Ministry that brought in speakers from several of the Benevolences we support monthly. Pastor Kern led a series based on Kelly A. Fryer's book, Reclaiming the 'L' Word: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core.

As June ended, St. John's and St. Matthew Presbyterian Church congregations again joined together for Vacation Bible School held at St. John's. The theme was "Egypt, Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace." Sixty children ages 4 – 11 attended and had lots of fun as they learned about God's love and ancient Egypt through stories, crafts, music, and games. There were a variety of mission projects, which supported members of the surrounding community. A large number of youth and adult volunteers from St. Matthew and St. John's worked together to make VBS 2010 a wonderful success.

Bible Study is held on Wednesday mornings and a Wednesday evening session was added this fall. Opportunities on Saturday mornings continues for men and women.

We are thankful for all of these St. John's members who share their gifts to sustain the education program at St. John's. May God's grace bless you all!

Respectfully Submitted, All Education Leaders



St. John's Christian Preschool

The Preschool experienced another fulfilling year, despite a continuing decline in enrollment! The budget required tightening and thus we survived the 2009-2010 school year. The Board continues to meet monthly, is always looking carefully at expenditures and has decided to offer extended hours for our all morning classes the next school year, in hopes of meeting the needs of working parents. Currently, our "Lunch Bunch" option continues to enjoy popularity and operates two afternoons a week, meeting a need and creating revenue as well.

Maryland's State Board of Education now requires 12 hours of continuing education for all staff members every calendar year. To accomplish this, our staff is involved in a variety of professional training courses encompassing two full days, on site, while school is closed for Professional Days. Our staff has found this experience very informative and is making use of new approaches in the field of Early Childhood Education.

This was the year of a playground improvement –the children are enjoying new climbing equipment. Once the equipment fund can once again handle a large expenditure, we plan on installing a large shade tent.

Caring and supportive church members who regularly volunteer their time and talents again include Durond Brown, who provides ongoing tech assistance, and Mike Ball and Erik Hanson who make necessary and ongoing repairs. We thank Tim Reachmack for painting the new entrance doors once again "Lutheran Red". The preschool school is always appreciative of helping hands!

The Preschool staff shares the love of God and Jesus with 80 special children. We thank our devoted and professional teachers and assistants, Pastors Cathy Feil and now Travis Kern, Gloria Bartholomew, and extend a special thank you to our office assistant, Kathy Arvedlund, for shepherding God's children on behalf of our church.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Cameron (Director)

For the Board of Directors: Gretchen Dejter (Chair), Marilynn Schreiberstein (Treasurer), Durond Brown, Elaine Steele, Pat Williams, Martha Wagner and Lisa Tekelenburg



Comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

Congregational Care and Fellowship

There has been much to celebrate at St. John's and Fellowship has been very busy.

As part of Fellowship, we celebrated the arrival of Pastor Kern, Heidi and Hannah. We celebrated Reformation with a cookout, games, a bounce house, and a climbing wall. We have celebrated new members and baptisms.

Tuesday Nights at St. John's now meets every Tuesday night. There are 40-50 people who regularly gather for dinner and fellowship and there is always room for more. Lessons and Carols were part of Tuesday night during the Advent season.

Many thanks go out to Marilyn Mathews for leading Fellowship and Donna Shelly for leading Congregational Care. More information on some of these activities is below.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Ledbetter



Healing and Wellness Ministry

The Healing and Wellness Ministry was established to provide support to members of St. John's through prayer, hospital and home visitation and sending cards to members who are identified through the church office. We also promoted wellness by offering a variety of programs, such as the fall flu shot clinic, blood pressure screening and CPR classes in the past. There is a bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall with brochures, programs offered in the community, support groups, etc. Flu and Pneumonia shots were given in November 2010. We had 15 people receiving protection for the upcoming flu season. Our numbers were down this year as the flu shots were readily available in the community. Blood Pressure screening was offered this fall. The "Health Corner" continues in the Messenger. Donna Shelly attended three conferences in the fall concerning "Health Ministry" which were free of charge. In January, 2010, the Healing and Wellness Ministry will reorganize the support and programs offered to the congregation and community. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested contact Donna Shelly.

In His Service, Donna Shelly



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry has had another successful year at St. John's. Shawls are knitted or crocheted for ladies and lap robes for gentlemen who are ill and for families suffering the loss of a close family member. We also made afghans for High School Graduates. In addition, scarves and hats were given to the children at Wheaton Woods Elementary School through Linkages-To-Learning that the church and Preschool support. Baby blankets, hats and sweaters were again given to Holy Cross Hospital and premie blankets and hats to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia, South Carolina, where Ashley Wells is a nurse. Two new outreaches this year were to present blankets to families of children baptized at St. John's and provide some handmade items to the Auxiliary of the National Lutheran Home to sell at their Fall Festival.

The garments are all made with prayers for the recipients, dedicated during a church service, and given to people so they can be wrapped in the prayers of the St. John's family. Six shawls and lap robes, three afghans and two baptismal blankets were distributed in 2010. Linkages-To-Learning received 77 scarves and 86 hats, Holy Cross received 27 blankets, 98 hats and Palmetto Health received 57 blankets and 64 hats for NICU babies. Three shawls, one afghan, four baby blankets, one baby sweater, a hat and scarf set, and 19 crocheted shopping totes were donated to the Fall Festival. The ministry is continuing into 2011 and would love to have some new members.

There are presently 19 participants in this Ministry, including some young people, and we are busy knitting and crocheting away. Sincere thanks to all who participate and support the Ministry. If you don't knit or crochet, you are asked to consider contributing yarn or money to purchase it.

The group meets at 7:00 pm the fourth Tuesday of the month (except December) at the church. Lessons are always available; several new learners have been successfully started on their way to happy stitching. Please come and join us, it is a fun ministry!!

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Pullen, Coordinator



Dinner Club

Dinner Club continues to be well attended and an informal fellowship activity for the church family. Now in its 17th year, Dinner Club is one of the largest activities at St. Johns. More than 35 members host and attend a variety of monthly dinners. It remains a wonderful way for new members to get acquainted with other members of the church, as well a great way to stay in touch and enjoying the company of our longer term members.

Respectfully Submitted, Coordinators: Debbie Ball, Martha Basinger, Joann Swanson, and Lisa Tekelenburg



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

St. John's Evangelism Ministry continued to reach out to visitors to services, and partnered with Stewardship Ministry for an Adult Sunday School session to witness to all the good news shared at St John's, what our faith is about, and to ensure that all visitors feel comfortable and welcomed.

Evangelism and Stewardship Ministries partnered on presenting the Adult Sunday School session "Invite" about being a more welcoming church and reach out to others.

Thanks to Karen Shilling for her faithful follow up on visitors to St. John's. During 2010 eleven new members joined St. John's.

Evangelism Ministry



In our effort to support St. John's ministry and mission, the finance ministry continues to ensure the Church's best interests by:

- Keeping detailed and accurate records and ledgers in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- Providing monthly and yearly reporting to both Council and the congregation on the financial status of St. John's.
- Supporting other committees and church offices in creating and keeping within their budgeted expenditures. Also to work with Council, the Pastor and all ministries with ideas to improve St. Johns' financial status.
- Reviewing insurance policies.

Over the course of the year the committee accomplished several goals to benefit the fiscal health of the congregation. These included:

- Coordinating the weekly Money Counting.
- Working with our new Pastor to inform and educate him as to all aspects of the St Johns' financial life.

If you would like to join us in the coming year, we meet monthly on the third Monday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the church conference room. All are welcome to join us, no financial knowledge required.

At this time I would like to thank our Treasurer, John Wells, who has done an outstanding job as Treasurer in his first year in that position. I also thank Charlie Deppe our Financial Secretary, and Tim Reachmack, chairman, as well as Al Ledbetter, Lisa Sally and Betty Henriksen, our other Ministry members. Also, Carol Noble who in charge of our money counting

John Noble, Council Liaison to the Finance Ministry



Property

St. John's Property Ministry and its volunteers continue to maintain and improve the Church building and grounds, and to oversee our building services contracts. Major 2010 tasks involved:

- Organized and directed annual Spring and Fall clean-up days
- Reviewed and updated facility use contracts
- Performed routine and unexpected building repairs
- Worked together with Tim Reachmack to shovel and clear the massive snow that fell during the heaviest snowfall in Church history!

Mike Ball, Council Liaison to the Church Property Ministry



Service and Outreach

During 2010, our Ministry sponsored activities and projects throughout the year to offer St. John's members a way to make a positive difference in the lives of those in need through special and on-going activities. The special activities included:

- Lutheran World Relief Soap Collection- Donated soap collected from members to LWR for worldwide distribution.
- Gifts of Hope- A Christmas season alternative gift-giving activity that involved buying a symbol of a gift and giving the symbol to someone. The actual item was given to someone in need of the gift. Gifts of Hope benefits local social ministry organizations, Lutheran camps and the Synod's companion Lutheran churches abroad.
- LWR School Kits collection- Assembled and donated school kits to LWR for distribution to needy children throughout the world.

- Annual Yard Sale- On October 9, the early dampness didn't keep away the volunteers and the shoppers, making this a very successful event. Our Committee was happy to help out by arranging for the proceeds to be donated to the ELCA's Lutheran Malaria Initiative.
- Christmas Giving Tree- The Service and Outreach Ministry collected gift cards in different denominations for groceries, gas, and Visa gift cards during Advent. A tree in the Narthex held leaf tags indicating what type of gift card was needed and the dollar amount. These gift cards were used to help members of our own congregation who were in need this Christmas Season, as well as members of our immediate community.
- On-going Linkages-To-Learning collections- Throughout the year, St. John's supported the Linkages program site at Wheaton Woods Elementary School through an on-going collection effort. Our collected items were donated to at-risk children and their families to improve performance in school, home, and community. Many of these families are struggling financially and our collections helped to ease their burden.

Our other on-going activities:

- Fair Trade/Equal Exchange Coffee- Fair Trade is a viable solution to this crisis, assuring consumers that the coffee we drink was purchased under fair conditions. St. John's has been a Fair Trade supporter for years.
- Magazine Collection- A wonderful way to share used Christian reading materials with the inmates who live at the Clarksburg jail.
- Monthly Benevolence- Each month the total donations collected in the Blue offering envelopes were distributed to a monthly recipient: Transitional Housing Corp., Lutheran Social Services, Love Thy Neighbor, N Street Village, Mar-Lu Ridge Camp, Neighbors in Need (Pastor's Discretionary Fund), Meals on Wheels, Interfaith Clothing Center, Montgomery Hospice, and the National Lutheran Home.
- N Street's Bethany House Casseroles- St. John's members made casseroles that were donated to the residents of this women's shelter.

Respectfully submitted, Phil Eisenhaur

National Lutheran Home **and the Auxiliary**

The National Lutheran home continues to provide superior care for the older seniors. The auxiliary contributes generously to help the Home with its expanding needs. The National Lutheran Home and Village here in Rockville and the proposed new Home in Winchester, Virginia, called the Village at Orchard Ridge, together are named National Lutheran Communities and Services. These communities are part of three Synods in the greater Washington Area.

St. John's contributes both money and time to the National Lutheran Home and Village here in Rockville.

Both the Spring and Fall Festivals, held annually at the Home, were very successful in raising funds which go directly to help the residents. Membership dues raised here at St. John's brought in over \$800. We can be pleased with the wonderful support that is so needed at this time.

With the new name for the Home and new building underway for additions to care – "Assisted Living," we also have a cordial and qualified leader director in Mr. Frank McGovern. Also, the home continually needs funds to make its vision become a reality. You may contact the home for answers to questions at 301-424-9560 or Key Person for the home, Carolyn Hickman, at 301-929-9660.

Submitted, Carolyn Hickman, Key Person



Piecemakers

Piecemakers this year produced more than 20 quilts to be distributed to people in disaster areas, both abroad and here in the United States. Quilts will be blessed and delivered to SERRV in the new year.

We meet the second Wednesday of every month at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship hall. We welcome all who would like to participate. No experience is necessary--we will teach you all you need to know. There is an ongoing need for donations to purchase supplies and for fabrics, batting, or sheets, so please let us know if you can help.

Mary Patterson, Coordinator



Stewardship

"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part" (2 Cor. 8:1-2)

The Stewardship ministry at St. John's has two primary focuses: 1) Building stewardship and discipleship into the ongoing life of St. John's; and 2) Conducting an annual "every member response" to provide St. John's members with the opportunity to respond to God's gifts with a pledge of time, talents, and financial resources to support our ministries, both inside and outside the walls of our church home.

In the spring we co-sponsored a four-week study about being a welcoming church. The small group Sunday morning study, "Invite," stimulated much good discussion and several class participants indicated an interest in continuing to address this topic. The Stewardship ministry team supports Tuesday Nights at St. John's in partnership with others and members have been involved in planning for weekly TNSJ that began in the fall.

Our annual pledge of financial resources began in October with the theme '*Giving in Faith...For People of Faith*'. A letter and series of postcards were sent to highlight the many ways that our gifts support ministries within and outside our church walls. We celebrated the promised gifts on Reformation Sunday. We are thankful for our members who shared their faith stories in worship during the pledge period and to the members who made a pledge of financial resources for 2011. In difficult economic times it is a blessing to be able to offer our gifts to God, who provides for our needs, so that we may continue to carry out His work in the year ahead. We will work with Pastor Kern and other ministry teams to develop a calendar of programs and events that can provide a way for our members to share their time and talents.

We participated in the ministry fair during the September fellowship event to share opportunities to serve with members of the congregation and we welcome new team members and especially new stewardship and discipleship ideas! May God richly bless us all as we continue to share our time, talents, and treasure.

Stewardship Ministry Team – Kathy Clark, Diane Lawrence, Pastor Kern, and Kendra Wells



Tech Support

We have had another busy year supporting technology at St. John's. Throughout the year, we resolved many technical issues, updated software and replaced hardware as necessary.

In October, we installed a new computer in the AV room.

From the ChurchInfo database, Gloria published a new membership directory in November. This was the result of many hours of updating and checking members' information.

Thanks to Mark Kidwell for maintaining and managing the microphones, projectors and amplifiers in the A/V room and Sanctuary.

In 2011, we plan to update the website and continue supporting the computers and users at the church and Preschool. We welcome additional support and volunteers and look forward to 2011.

Peace, Durond Brown



WORSHIP and Music

Christmas Eve candlelight worship services at 7:30 pm (contemporary) and 9:30 pm (traditional) in 2009 marked the beginning of a new church year.

St. John's and Cristo Señor de la Vida congregations joined once again for bilingual Ash Wednesday and Good Friday worship. For Palm Sunday, the interactive reading of the complete Passion narrative involved the entire congregation at both Sunday services. During Lent, midweek Lenten services followed the Tuesday Nights at St. John's meals.

In February, St. John's youth led worship by telling about the symbols in the mosaic wall they had just completed.

Single combined festive worship services took place on several Sundays: June 13th for Teacher Appreciation and to acknowledge interim Pastor Cathy's last Sunday at St. John's, Rally Day in September, and Reformation Sunday in October. The Hand Chime Choir, Sunday School singers and Praise Teens took part with the choir and Praise Team for most combined services.

St. John's completed the call process for a permanent pastor with much thanksgiving in July when we welcomed Pastor Travis Kern. The church celebrated his Installation Service on October 10th.

Vacation Bible School had kids and adults singing songs with spirit for the opening and the closing of each day's session. Summer Music Camp at St. John's, led by Music Director Joy Garbutt, brought together children of 2nd – 5th grade age in August to play and learn about music.

An Advent service of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, December 14th, included every St. John's music group, with singers and musicians of all ages. Children's sermons based on the Advent wreath were offered at each Sunday service during Advent.

AV technology upgrades for worship and music included a new computer for the AV room in October and a new wireless microphone for Pastor Kern. The website for St. John's stayed current

with updated information on regular and special worship services and music events thanks to Durond Brown.

Thank you to all who use their special talents to minister to our worship, especially to Pastor Kern, and also to Gloria Bartholomew for her work each week on bulletins, newsletters, slides, and so much more.

Kathy Clark, Worship and Music Ministry Chair



These are activities in which the Youth participated in 2010:

- Tile Mosaic on Sundays and Tuesdays
- Faithful participants on Tuesday Nights including cooking a meal and cleaning up
- Super Bowl/Valentine's Day Subs (Feb.)
- Youth Sunday based on the mosaic symbols (Feb.)
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper/Mosaic dedication (Feb.)
- Trip to N Street Village (Feb.)
- Robert Wolcott presented a concert for the Youth and they invited everyone to attend (May)
- Decorated pillowcases for LSS campers
- Youth assisted at Services with Bishop Graham who talked at length to the youth about the mosaic project that was included in The Lutheran magazine (June)
- Silent Auction and Talent Show fund raiser (June)
- Ice cream social (Oct.)
- Had fun times with bowling, games, ice skating, a movie and game day, and a Christmas shopping trip to Columbia Mall complete with a scavenger hunt
- Directed and led the Christmas pageant for preschool and elementary children
- Went on a retreat with youth from St. Matthew Presbyterian Church
- Holiday dinner, followed by a service project with Operation Homefront (Dec.)
- Group planning meetings were held to plan projects and events.
- Assisted with Vacation Bible School, the fall yard sale, and hanging of the greens.
- Praise Teens, Praise Team, acolytes, readers, nursery volunteers abound among the youth.

Thanks to Joy-Leilani Garbutt for leading the Youth from January through August. Thanks also to Jen Beam who became Youth Director in September and is expanding this program. A special thank you to the youth who participate and all who drive, chaperone and otherwise support the youth at St. John's.

*In Christ, Joy-Leilani Garbutt and Jen Beam, Youth Directors
Maija Mikkelsen and Brian Shilling, Council Liaisons*



Congregational Meeting Minutes

Annual Meeting, January 24, 2010

Special Meeting, May 2, 2010

Special Meeting, November 21, 2010



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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CAIHY FEIL
INTERIM PASTOR

MINUTES of the ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 24, 2010

The Council President, Tom Hickman, called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. Forty-one (41) voting members were present.

Interim Pastor, Cathy Feil opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tom Hickman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He then presented the reports in the Annual Report for approval. A motion to approve the Reports as presented in the 2008 Annual Report was made by Carol Noble and seconded by Betsy Taylor. There being no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Tom then presented the Minutes of the January 25, 2009 Congregational Meeting included in the Annual Report for approval. A motion to accept the Minutes as presented was made by Pat Connoley and seconded by Roberta Juchnewicz. Being no discussion, a vote was called and the January 25, 2009 Congregational Meeting minutes were approved as presented. The Minutes of the November 15, 2009 Congregational Meeting included in the Annual Report were presented by Tom for approval. A motion to accept the Minutes as presented was made by Mary Carson and seconded by Carolyn Hickman. Being no discussion, a vote was called and the November 15, 2009 Congregational Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The President asked for a motion to approve the 2009 Treasurer's Reports, as distributed, subject to audit. A motion to this effect was made by Wayne Connoley and seconded by Carol Noble. There being no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Tom Hickman, the new Council President introduced the other Council Members present, noting their office and/or ministry liaison assignment: Mike Ball, Church Property Ministry; Martha Basinger, Worship and Music Ministry; Phil Eisenhaur, Service and Outreach Ministry; Maija Mikkelsen, Youth Ministry; John Noble, Finance Ministry; Brian Shilling, Youth Ministry; Shelley Walker, Christian Education and Preschool Ministry; Roger Weaver, Evangelism Ministry; and Kendra Wells, Stewardship Ministry. (Anne Ledbetter, Vice-President and Congregational Care and Fellowship Ministry was unable to attend.) He also introduced Betty Henriksen, Council Secretary and John Wells, Treasurer. Financial Secretary Charlie Deppe was unable to attend. Tom thanked John Wells for volunteering to be Treasurer in 2010.

The President then reiterated the latest Call Committee status. The Committee thought they had a candidate and before they could contact the person, another Synod issued a call. While this should not happen in the process, it did. New names will have to be gotten from the Synod Office and the interview process begun again.

Tom commented on the mosaic that the Youth and others have made in the library area and thanked Art Ho for his time and talent and Karen Shilling for her organization and leadership. The Youth will explain the mosaic symbols at the services on February 14th and the mosaic will be dedicated on Shrove Tuesday, February 16th at the Pancake Supper. Tom Hickman thanked the Council members who completed their three year Council terms in December 2009. Marilyn Matthews and Kathy Deppe were each presented with a personalized copy of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Tom also thanked Marilyn Matthews for her editing of the Messenger and Kathy Deppe for all the “goodies” she provides for the Sunday coffee hour. Virginia Cameron, who also completed her term, was not present and will receive her ELW later.

Tom thanked Betty Henriksen for being Council Secretary and filling in as Treasurer in 2009, as well as other things she does at the church. The President especially thanked Erik Hanson, Mike Ball and Tim Reachmack for all they do to keep the building and grounds in good shape and functioning. Erik Hanson was also thanked for starting the “Tuesdays at St. John’s” which promotes spiritual growth and fellowship. Thanks to Erik and others who have been active in this community building activity.

The President then thanked the Pastor, Joy-Leilani Garbutt, the other musicians who lead the worship services and Gloria Bartholomew, the Administrative Secretary. He particularly thanked Pastor Cathy for being the Interim, which is a tough job. Her door is always open if anyone needs her. Pastor noted she was very glad to be at St. John’s.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 1:03 PM, following a prayer by Pastor Cathy.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Henriksen
Secretary, Church Council

NOTES: After the Meeting, the following items were brought to the Secretary’s attention.

1. Typos - The cover page of the Financial Reports should read December 31, 2009 instead of 2008. In Footnote 4/ on the Revenue and Expense Detail Report, the word “principle” should be corrected to “principal”.
2. Kendra Wells requested that the following write up on “Tuesday’s at St. John’s” be included in the Minutes even though the event was mentioned in the report.

Tuesday Nights at St. John’s

Tuesday nights at St. John’s is a new congregational project. On the first and third Tuesday of October, November, and December, between 30 and 40 children, youth, and adults shared a meal and fellowship in a group gathering, and participated in small group study, service projects, or an informal class. We give thanks for Arturo Ho who worked with our high school youth to lead a very special art project for people of all ages! Pastor Cathy led a book study, we had an Advent

workshop, conducted three service projects, decorated the church for Christmas, and a special outing to see the lights at Brookside Gardens was offered.

The purpose of Tuesday Nights at St. John's is to:

- Provide an opportunity for congregational fellowship and learning
- Provide an opportunity for members to invite friends and neighbors to St. John's
- Provide programs that meet the needs and interests of the congregation and our neighbors

Tuesday Nights at St. John's are for everyone – young, old, single, families, friends, and your extended family – and will continue in 2010, beginning Tuesday night, January 4th. The schedule is flexible – you can come just for dinner, just for the programs, or for the entire 2 hours (6 – 8 p.m.). To help with dinner plans, sign up in the narthex for the weeks you will attend.

Special thanks to Erik Hanson for his vision and work to make TNSJ a reality, to Mike Ball for his excellent banners to promote each night's program, to Karen Shilling for inviting Arturo to share his gifts, to Pastor Cathy for her enthusiastic support, to those who led projects and classes, to all the families who provided such warm, nourishing meals for our gatherings, and to everyone who attended and shared their gifts in any way!

3. Kendra also requested the following Stewardship report be included:

STEWARDSHIP

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's 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 God.’” Lamentations 3: 21-24

The Stewardship ministry at St. John's has two primary focuses: 1) Building stewardship and discipleship into the ongoing life of St. John's; and 2) Conducting an annual “every member response” to provide St. John's members with the opportunity to respond to God's gifts with a pledge of time, talents, and financial resources to support our ministries, both inside and outside the walls of our church home.

In early 2009 small group studies were continued in the homes of our members, through the season of Lent. At least one small group continued to meet through most of the year. The Stewardship ministry team met with the small group leaders for a reflection on this ministry. St. John's offers ongoing group study opportunities on Saturday morning for men and women, Wednesday morning for St. John's and the members of the Aspen Hill Community, and Pastor Cathy initiated two small groups in the fall of 2009. These small groups provide an opportunity for growing disciples and building relationships and we hope to see this ministry grow in 2010.

In March the Stewardship team led a study on *Prayer* during the Adult Sunday School hour, continuing a series on Faith Disciplines prepared by the ELCA.

Our annual pledge of financial resources began in October. We celebrated the promised gifts on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We would like to thank Durond Brown for highlighting the campaign on the St. John's website. We are also thankful for our members who shared their faith stories in worship during the pledge period. In difficult economic times it is a blessing to be able to offer our gifts to God who provides for our needs so that we may continue to carry out His work in the year ahead.

Thank you to Steve Swift for his service to the Stewardship Team for the past several years. We welcome new team members and especially new stewardship and discipleship ideas! May God richly bless us all as we continue to share our time, talents, and treasures.

Stewardship ministry team – Kathy Clark, Diane Lawrence, Roger Weaver, and Kendra Wells



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CAIHY FEIL
INTERIM PASTOR

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **MAY 2, 2010**

The Special Congregational Meeting to vote on the call of a Pastor and the related compensation package was opened at 10:13 AM by Council President, Tom Hickman. Seventy (70) voting members were present, exceeding the minimum for a quorum.

Tom introduced John White, the representative of the Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod of the ELCA. Verse 1 of Hymn 638 ELW (Blessed Assurance) was sung, followed by a prayer.

The President stated the purpose of the Meeting: (1) vote on the call of the Reverend Travis Kern to be Pastor of St. John's; and (2) if called, to approve a compensation package for Pastor Kern.

Tom thanked the Call Committee members for all their time and effort in selecting a candidate to present today and asked Al Ledbetter, the Chair of the Committee to introduce the rest of the Committee. Al introduced Kathy Clark, Jean Eisenhaur, Erik Hanson, and Karen Shilling. Lisa Tekelenburg also served, but was unable to be here today.

Al Ledbetter, Kathy Clark and Karen Shilling addressed the meeting stating the reasons the Committee selected this candidate. Questions were asked of the Call Committee.

Tom Hickman, Council President, presented, on behalf of the Council, the motion to call the Rev. Travis Kern as Pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rockville, Maryland. Shelley Walker seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, ballots were passed out to the voting membership present (Attachment 1). The membership was reminded that it took a two-thirds majority to call a Pastor.

Ballots were collected. While the ballots were tabulated, the remaining verses of #368, ELW were sung.

Results were given to John White and he announced the following result:

Yes (to call)	- 67
No (do not call)	- 1
Abstain	- 1

John announced that Pastor Kern would be called.

Al Ledbetter was called upon to explain the makeup of the proposed compensation package and answer questions.

Tom Hickman presented the second Council motion to approve the compensation package for Pastor Kern as presented. A copy of the slides on the package are attached (Attachment 2). The motion was seconded. A voice vote was clearly in favor of approving the package and, as a result, increasing the 2010 approved budget.

Tom Hickman thanked John White for attending. John closed the meeting with a prayer at 11:05 AM and Hymn 660, ELW (Lift High the Cross) was sung.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Henriksen
Secretary, Church Council

BALLOT FOR CALL
OF REV. TRAVIS KERN
May 2, 2010

YES - To vote to call Pastor Kern

NO - To vote NOT to call Pastor Kern

ABSTAIN

COMPENSATION PACKAGE SLIDE PRESENTATION
SLIDE 1

- Salary and Housing
- Benefit Costs
- Budget Impact

SLIDE 2

Salary & Housing

•Salary	47,000
•Housing	20,000
•Total	\$67,000

SLIDE 3

Benefit Costs

• Social Security Tax Allowance	4,468
• BOP Health Insurance	21,672
• BOP Retirement	7,147
• BOP Disability	1,858
• BOP Retiree Support	500
• TOTAL	\$ 35,645

SLIDE 4

2010 Budget Impact

	2010 Forecast*	2010 Budget	Difference
Salary	63,500	80,589	17,089
Benefits	25,953	8,090	-17,863
Mileage	2,640	1,320	-1,320
Total	92,093	89,999	-2,094

* Half year with interim and half year with new pastor



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REV. TRAVIS E. KERN
PASTOR

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **NOVEMBER 21, 2010**

The meeting was opened at 10:16 AM by Council President, Tom Hickman. Pastor Kern led a prayer. Forty-eight (48) voting members were present, exceeding the minimum for a quorum.

The President stated the purpose of the Meeting:

- (1) To elect the new Council Members for 2011 and;
- (2) To approve a budget for 2011.

Tom asked Shelley Walker to present the nominees for Council from the Council Nominating Committee for three (3) year terms on Council beginning in 2011. They were Kathy Clark and Richard Koski.

The President explained that the Council had decided to reduce the size of the Council to allow for more leaders to support other areas of ministry. A short discussion followed.

Tom asked for any additional nominees. Being no additional nominees, a motion was made to close the nominations. It was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to elect the two nominees named above to Council for terms beginning January 1, 2011. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The President thanked the Nominating Committee and the Council-elect who have agreed to serve.

The President introduced the Finance Ministry Chair, Tim Reachmack to answer questions on the Budget.

A motion was made to approve the 2011 Budget, as presented, and it was seconded.

The anticipated total income is \$357,462 and estimated expenses total \$384,645, resulting in a Faith Factor of \$27,183.

Discussion followed. Questions were asked and answered about the Youth Director position and program support for children and youth. Tim talked about income and the Faith Factor was also addressed. Pastor Kern commented to those present, asking the question "What kind of congregation do you want to be?"

Being no further discussion on the budget, a vote was called for and the budget was approved as presented.

Tom thanked the Finance Ministry, especially Tim Reachmack, John Wells and Charlie Deppe, the Council, and all others who provided input to the budget.

Tom thanked the Secretary for her help in preparing for the meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 AM following a prayer by Pastor Kern.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Henriksen
Secretary, Church Council

