



St. John's Lutheran Church
Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

St. John's Lutheran Church

2023 Annual Report

Mission Statement:

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Core Values:

We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.

All are welcome and valued, with no exceptions

We serve and help our neighbors, community, and those who are in need.

We love, care for, nourish, and support one another.

We are boldly generous with time, talents, space, and our resources.

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Report of the Pastor

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... These words are the opening words of the classic Charles Dicken’s novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, set during the French Revolution. I start my report with these words *not* because 2023 was the best and worst of times for St. John’s – but rather because I thought it might catch your attention... *and* because I reread this novel last February during the second half of the sabbatical you generously allowed me in 2022-2023.

The book was rather bleaker than I remembered. And while it ended with a nod toward hope for a better time beyond the horrific division and violence of the Revolution, to me, the final heroic moment of the story, in which a man gives his own life to save the life of the husband of a woman he has loved from afar, pales in comparison to the pessimistic overarching narrative of humanity turned against itself, descending into chaos and self-destruction. Yes, this noble self-sacrifice brings peace to the one making it and joy to a few other characters, but it means nothing in the world of the novel. It is not visible or noticeable. It meant little or nothing.

The book then, stands in contrast to how I see our life together at St. John’s in the year 2023. As in the novel – as in almost every era – our world is still filled with challenges. Humanity continues to be divided and broken. The news is full of stories of conflict and warfare and disaster. People in every community, including our own, struggle to thrive. Churches and church institutions are faced with declining membership and financial shortfalls. And yet, we still gather to hear again the Good News that this brokenness is not the final word. We gather to support one another with the compassion that God’s love creates in us. We gather because we believe God’s Love can make a difference – does make a difference!

Did we solve the world’s problems in 2023? No.

Did we end division and injustice and brokenness in our community? Of course not.

But did we make a difference in the lives of those who gathered and in the lives of others around us? Yes, we did.

Did people find comfort and strength knowing that that others are walking beside them as they journey through sorrow or suffering? Yes, they did.

Was the journey made more hopeful and joyful through our living into faith, into trusting that God walks with us in this community of faith? Yes, I believe it was.

We could look at this past year and see another year of “rebuilding” and “recovering” from the COVID pandemic. Or maybe we can look at 2023 and see that it was simply another year of walking through life, a journey which always has times of both joy and sorrow, struggle and victory. Maybe we should see it more as a year of responding and reacting in trust and hope, a year of dealing with the world as it is - with faith.

It was a year in which Pastor Craig and Pastor Becky and Deacon Katie and all of you gave me a chance to have a much needed and deeply appreciated chance to rest, and then get back into the routine – into the familiar flow of Lent and Easter, summer activities, fall ministries, and Advent and Christmas.

It was a year of new and renewed leadership, as we welcomed Josh Overby as Director of Music and saw a mixture of returning and brand new faces serve in teams and ministries.

It was a year of comforting and caring for those who lost loved ones and those who faced illnesses.

It was a year of realizing we were at risk of having expenses significantly exceed income – and then successfully conducting not one, but two appeals in faithful response. The *Finishing 2023 Strong* appeal dramatically reduced the 2023 income gap and the tremendous *Celebrating God’s Stories* appeal prepared us to adopt a *Plan for Mission 2024* which both grows ministry forward and is balanced with projected income.

It was another year of strong commitment to faith formation as the congregation sent youth and children to camp at Lutheridge, as well as sending youth to serve alongside disciples who live in poverty at *the Dwelling* congregation in Winston-Salem for the third summer in a row.

It was another year of offering gifts of time and resources to our neighbors near and far, with donations of food, supplies, and funds to the Good Neighbor Clinic, the Nuru Daycare in Kenya, the Salvation Army Food Pantry, HELP of Beaufort, the Franciscan Center Food Pantry, and others. It was another year of sewing and knitting and crocheting and quilting to benefit children and adults locally and around the world.

It was another year of gathering to break bread together, pray together, serve together, grow together, and laugh together in reading groups, youth group, children’s group, Lutheran Women, Lutheran Men in Mission, Young Adult group, and more.

It was another year of gathering for to hear the Good News of God’s love on Sunday mornings, on Wednesday evenings, in Advent and Lent and Holy Week, and other occasions in which we worshiped and prayed together.

It was another year of generously sharing our facilities with the community, hosting 12-step groups, musical ensembles, civic clubs, and more.

It was another year of living into the core values and mission statement we have chosen to guide our community of faith – hearing and sharing the Good News of God’s Love, welcoming all people, serving others in need, caring for one another, and living generously.

The world – and our lives – may sometimes be filled with heartache and struggles. Some days we may feel that we are in the worst of times. But at other times, when we witness God’s love at work among us, it truly seems like the best of times! In the end, each day is a new day – each week is a new week – each year is a new year – each journey is a new journey – and all that is really required is that we faithfully keep walking the road that God opens up before us!

I am thankful to serve with you in this congregation. I close with the words that I usually open with in these reports: I cannot believe that almost 18 years have passed since you called me to join you on your journey. Kami and I are so thankful that the Spirit of Christ has gathered us together at St. John’s to share God’s grace and to serve through Love!

Peace. Be well. Seek justice.

Pastor Shannon

Membership Report

2023 Members in: Baptisms 1 (0 confirmed) Members received 5 (3 confirmed)
2023 Members out: Deaths 7 (7 confirmed) Members transferred out 7 (4 confirmed)

Membership Totals	2022 year end	2023 year end
Baptized Members	746	738
Confirmed Members	514	506

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Report of the Deacon

2023 was an eventful year for children, youth, and all families. We were able to plan more events for all families, and the children and youth programs are growing. With a mission trip, baseball game, children's church, camp, and game night, St John's has been working on building community within and outside of the church.

Children's church has grown significantly, with ten children attending. We also have two acolytes that serve during the early service. Family time moved to the church playground, and I have noticed that families seem to enjoy being at the church more than the park, so it was a great decision to make this move. Again kids went to Lutheridge during the summer and enjoyed their time there, making friends and being in the mountains.

Youth group has also grown, with ten youths attending in total. Two of our youth are seniors this year, so while I will be sad to lose them, I am excited to see the potential for the youth group to grow. We went to the Dwelling and Lutheridge this year. Both were back-to-back and I will be honest: while we had fun, a few of us were also tired. The youth, as always, learn much and come away with something new each time we volunteer at the Dwelling.

Our family ministry had a great kickoff with a game night. We played Throw Throw Burrito, Uno, and other fun games. The kids, parents, and older adults had a blast and it was refreshing to see everyone interact as if they were family members. We also went to the Charleston RiverDogs baseball game during the summer. Everyone loved it and we even had a shoutout on the board. We also had a painting party that was well attended and Pastor Shannon was able to brush up on his art skills.

I also had the opportunity to take continuing education courses and vacations to North Dakota and Montana. During my continuing education in North Dakota, I learned about how the church has changed during the pandemic, how we as leaders can help guide this change for the betterment of the congregation, and how to hold space for grieving for what was. During break times, I explored North Dakota and visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was absolutely breathtaking. I stayed with seminary friends during my time in North Dakota, and it was great to catch up with them. Then, I went to Montana to visit a YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) friend that I had not seen in 10 years. She took me to Glacier National Park and I cannot describe the beauty of that beautiful place. I am thankful that St. John's gave me this opportunity to do continuing education and for a restful vacation to see an old friend.

2023, I feel, was a successful year for ministries of all kinds and I cannot wait to see what 2024 holds for us.

Deacon Katie

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Report of the Congregation President

As we reflect on the year that has passed, it's been a journey filled with blessings and challenges that have shaped our community in profound ways. The year began with Pastor Shannon taking the second half of his sabbatical. It was heartening to witness his return, bringing a fresh and renewed energy. Things truly started to feel more like normal around the church with the full Lenten schedule, egg hunt, Holy Week, and Easter. We were also to bring in a new choir director and are happy to see and hear the choir offering a joyful noise and musical praise in the sanctuary again. Throughout the summer, we continued our commitment to nurturing our young people by sending our youth to The Dwelling for the third year in a row and were able to send kids, including mine, to Lutheridge for camp.

Amidst these moments of celebration, we encountered financial challenges that demanded our attention. Due to

escalating janitorial costs and full staff, we faced the prospect of significant financial strain. However, through our collective efforts and a special appeal - *Finishing 2023 Strong* - we rallied together and averted what could have been an unfortunate situation.

We were also able to renegotiate the cleaning contract so that it is more reasonable for 2024. We also had a successful appeal, *Celebrating God's Stories*, in which we were able to hear incredible stories from members of our congregation celebrating what our church means to them and their families.

Due to our congregation's generous increases in giving and with careful budgeting, we were able to create and approve a *Plan for Mission 2024* that will be within projected income for 2024.

As the year came to a close, we concluded with all of our great Christmas activities and traditions, including the parade, youth and young adult parties, caroling, and the two annual Christmas pageants.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president and to walk alongside each of you on this journey of faith and community. Together, let us continue to nurture and strengthen the bonds that unite us, as we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that await us in the coming year.

Sharing God's grace, serving through love,
Joshua Ferguson

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Report of the Assisting Pastor

Annual reports are meant to look back on what has happened in the past year. I am especially thankful for the congregation's celebration of my fiftieth anniversary of ordination. There are few of us who are blessed to reach that landmark and even fewer who are still active in ministry. For over four years St. John's shared me with an interim assignment at Good Shepherd in Walterboro. That unusually long interim finally ended recently and I'm now able to focus on Beaufort while I continue to hold membership at Lord of Life in Bluffton.

Annual reports are also meant to look ahead at what is coming. My normal responsibilities include being in the office one day a week (normally Wednesdays), meeting with staff, supervision with Deacon Katie, and visitation. Typically, I preach one Sunday per month, though that may be adjusted in 2024 as we have many summer events and vacations that need to be covered. I feel blessed to be part of such a healthy and committed congregation with a fun, highly capable staff. It's hard to believe that I have now been at St. John's over 10 years. My plan is to keep on for now, but I hope I know enough to completely retire about 2 years before you wished I would have! Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Craig Boehlke

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Report of the Congregation Engagement Table, with related reports

Congregation Engagement Table

This Table serves to support the congregation in its life of discipleship and faith related to worship, education, fellowship, and congregation care.

The year continued to require us to continually think “outside the box,” adapt, and change how to worship and stay connected as a church community. The following reports share much about those activities.

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Music Ministry

The year 2023 was another year of transition in music ministry. We were successful in finding a new director of music, Josh Overby. Josh has done a wonderful job restarting the choir, recruiting new choir members and instrumentalists, scheduling talented musicians in the congregation for special music, encouraging new musicians among the membership, and sharing beautiful solos. He has also started working with the children after the children’s message on Sunday mornings.

We are grateful to St. John’s member and Program Assistant Gloria Bockelman, who continued to provide worship accompaniment at the piano and organ throughout the year. She also coordinates the team of organists who lead worship when she is traveling as well as other times. This year five different individuals served alongside her, at least twice each.

We continue to think about the best way to secure accompaniment for worship. There simply are not that many organists in the community who are interested in having an every-week position, but in the absence of one person who wants to play most weeks, we trust that we will be able to use the team approach.

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Christian Education

Opportunities to grow in faith and discipleship continued through 2023. We continued to provide opportunities both online and in person. Activities included educational times in Sunday worship, the Augsburg Adult Sunday school class, Youth Group, Children’s Storytime, weeks at camp, the service learning trip to the Dwelling, reading groups, Wednesday Nights Together, and monthly Bible studies in the Lutheran Men in Mission and St. John’s Lutheran Women groups.

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Children’s Ministry

The children’s ministry is continuing to grow, with more than ten kids coming on Sunday mornings for children’s church. We also have two acolytes that serve during the early service as well.

Family Time at the Park changed to *Family Time at the Church Playground*. We usually have about 5-7 children that come with parents or grandparents.

Thanks to a generous donation from a family in the congregation our aging playground set was replaced with a beautiful new one, and memorial funds which had been given in memory of Carla Peterson and Jackie Bourque were used to replace the border and replenish the surrounding mulch. The children of the congregation enjoy playing on it very much, not only during Family Time, but also on Sunday mornings. Several children have hosted their birthday parties there as well.

Storytime continues during Wednesday Nights Together. During Advent, we made Mason Jar Candles based on the themes of the Advent Candles that we light during the time of Advent. The Christmas Pageant was again a success with all of the children participating in the pageant and what was really cool was we had a newborn baby star as Jesus! I am

thankful for how St. John's families always want to participate in the pageant.

Deacon Katie Justice

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Youth Ministry

Youth ministry is growing as well. We have between 8-10 youth who participate in Youth Nights. We have been learning and doing service opportunities around the community and at St. John's.

Our youth were able to go to Lutheridge and participate in the Dwelling service learning trip during the summer. Our youth enjoy doing both Lutheridge and the Dwelling because it helps them build relationships with others in and outside the youth group.

We had our annual youth Christmas party at the home of Ryan & Marta Smith, and we all had a blast. I love this tradition with youth because this helps them have fun and build relationships with one another.

We are also preparing for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Deacon Katie Justice

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Family Ministries

Family Ministries increased in 2023 thanks to being able to do more in-person activities.

During the summer, we planned a game night and had a pretty good turnout. We played games like Uno and Throw Throw Burrito, just to name a couple. Fun was had by all. We are looking forward to doing this again.

The annual trip to Harold's Country Club also provided a great opportunity for members to spend time together in fun and fellowship.

We went to a Charleston RiverDogs Game during the summer as well and had a very good turnout. Everyone enjoyed the game, and we even had our church group featured on the board at the game.

Finally, we had a painting party where Pastor Shannon brought back his art skills and taught people how to paint beautiful scenery with flowers. This was also a good turnout; we will try to do something like this in the future.

Deacon Katie Justice

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Young Adults Group

The Young Adult Group met regularly during 2023. Some months the group shared fellowship at the home of members and sometimes met for service projects. We provide four evenings of "family fun" for youth who are sheltered by Beaufort's Child Abuse Prevention Associates (CAPA), providing dinner and fun activities. These included a "stealth egg hunt" in the dark, jack-o-lantern carving, an Independence Day picnic with water fun, and Christmas cookie and craft making. We are excited to continue providing this opportunity to build relationships and care for our neighbors. CAPA events have already been scheduled for 2024!

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Lutheran Women

St. John's Lutheran Women continued meetings the second Tuesday of each month in person and on Zoom, except for a summer break, June to August. The group completed their study of *Living a Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma and enjoyed some sweet treats as well. We have chosen as our 2024 study a book entitled *Defiant - What the Women of Exodus Teach Us About Freedom* by Kelly Nikondeha. This group is open to all women of St. John and their invited guests. We are always ready to welcome new participants!

St. John's Lutheran Women were also involved in sewing ministries:

Most Mondays of the month, the Mission Building was a hub of activity for the many sewing, quilting, knitting, and crocheting groups that produced beautiful, hand-made items for people in need in our community and throughout the world. Some of the regular items that were created included quilts for Lutheran World Relief; baby quilts, blankets, and caps for a variety of local agencies; bibs and carry-all bags for area seniors; and stuffed animals for the pediatric ward and local first responders to distribute. All are invited, regardless of their experience or ability levels. The jobs are easy to learn and "on-the-job training" is available.

St. John's Lutheran Women participated in other ministries which continue to provide care for others:

We continue to provide bereavement boxes and meals to families who have lost a loved one. The casserole ministry also maintained a stock of ready-made meals that were distributed to members who had family members in the hospital or other crisis situations. The Circle has taken on a new service project of supplying basic hygiene products for students at Beaufort Middle School. Anyone is welcome to assist in contributing items for any of these vital service ministries of our congregation at any time.

Robin Barone, St. John's Lutheran Women Leader

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Lutheran Men in Mission

In 2023 the Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) met regularly in person in the church sanctuary.

Continuing their long tradition of providing scholarships to all children and youth from St. John's who attend camp at Lutheridge, the LMM held an Oyster Roast in March to provide funds to offset at least 1/3 of each camper's fees.

The group also prepared and served the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.

Some members of the group also participated in fellowship with a sister congregation by attending the men's group breakfast at Sea Island Presbyterian Church.

All men in the congregation, members and friends, are invited to be a part of the Lutheran Men in Mission as we provide fellowship, Bible study, service opportunities, and support for one another.

Marvin Morrison
LMM President

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Report of the Community Engagement Table

Community Engagement Table

This Table includes the leaders, ministries, and activities which engage the community, both by serving and caring for others and by inviting others to St. John's. Ministries which come under the category of Community Engagement are those which traditionally have been called evangelism, social ministry, or outreach. Melinda Ellis and Jenny Stoddard served as Table Coordinators in 2023.

2023 was another busy year for St. John's. The generosity of our congregation is amazing! Thanks to each of you for your generosity and support of our community.

- + Our congregation members teaching at Lady's Island Middle School, Beaufort High School, Beaufort Middle School and Whale Branch were given snack baskets for Teacher Appreciation Week.
- + The Good Neighbor Clinic was given 103 personal hygiene bags and we still have supplies to fill bags in 2024.
- + The Easter egg hunt was a fun time for our members and neighbors! The Young Adult group treated youth from CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention Associates) to a night-time Easter Egg Hunt also.
- + The team chose to supply the Salvation Army food pantry with canned meat in November due to the community Thanksgiving food distribution, *The Giving*, no longer being held.

- + The generosity of our members provided Christmas gifts for foster children served by Lutheran Services Carolinas.
- + The St. John's Quilters and Crocheters and Knitters have been busy. They worked diligently to make 51 knitted baby blankets with matching hats which were donated to Beaufort Memorial Hospital Labor and Delivery Department. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) received 75 quilts, Arkansas Children's Hospital received 14 quilts and 7 crocheted caps. Martha's Animals continue to supply the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Emergency Department with animals. Dr. Edward McNeil saw the animals in the emergency department and asked if he could have some for his clinic in Africa. Martha's animals are now worldwide! We are also taking the animals to Hopeful Horizons.
- + Numerous community groups (service, 12-step, and musical) used our facilities for their meetings, rehearsals, and performances.
- + Almost \$5,700 dollars were provided by the Love Fund for so many different persons in need, both in the congregation and in the community. Gifts included numerous grocery store gift cards, gas gift cards, and electric bill assistance.

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Report of the Church Support Table, with related reports

Church Support Table

This table is the gathering of leaders of all teams, ministries, and activities which support the work of the congregation. These ministries and activities include property and maintenance, stewardship and finance, staff support and personnel. These ministries provide a foundation for the work of the other tables, managing space and resources which allow so much mission to be done.

Sam Cowan, Table Coordinator

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Finance Team

The Finance Team held meetings through out the year to stay abreast of the financial obligations of St. John's. It was decided midway through the year to have a special appeal, *Finishing Strong 2023*, so that the church could end the year on solid financial ground. The Finance Team did a careful analysis of expenses of 2023 to create the *Plan for Mission 2024*. Following the campaign, the Congregation Council made some modifications to the plan. The congregation adopted the Council proposed *Plan for Mission 2024* on November 19, 2023. This plan appears on page 17 of this report.

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Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team spearheaded the annual stewardship appeal for the *Plan for Mission 2024, Celebrating God's Stories*. This appeal featured members sharing stories of God at work in their lives through the St. John's congregation. The stories which were shared, both in video and in the appeal brochure and flyers, were an amazing testimony to the faithfulness of God in our congregation.

The congregation responded with amazing generosity and shared intentions for a significant increase for 2024. The successful appeal ended with the annual Oktoberfest picnic which was enjoyed by many members and friends of St. John's.

Endowment Fund Team

The congregation established the Endowment Fund consistent with furthering its mission, *Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love*. The Endowment Fund offers an opportunity for members and friends of St. John's Lutheran to provide a living legacy. The team in 2023 consisted of Curt Cianci, Carl Kilpatrick, Bill Libert, and Gerald Pfarner.

As of December 31, 2023, the total value of the Endowment Fund was \$172,586.91, which is 99% invested with Thrivent Investment Management. Accounting for the fund is as shown below:

Closing Fund Balance for December 31, 2022	\$ 148,764.67
Contributions received	1,265.00
Dividends earned, reinvested	3,343.35
Capital Gain earned, reinvested	1,873.46
Account Fees	-2,335.68
Other Activity	14.47
Change in Value	19,661.64
Closing Fund Balance for December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 172,586.91</u>

Thrivent offers professional management of the Fund through balanced, diversified investments in Money Markets (2.1%), Equities (78.9%), and Fixed Income (19.0%). After a difficult 2022 when the Fund lost \$27,164, 2023 marked a much-needed recovery to both the stock market (+25%) and the bond market from a combination of a solid economy, better-than-expected corporate earnings, and an apparent end to Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes. The Endowment Fund enjoyed a time-weighted return of +15.17% for the year. Since the Team moved the Fund to Thrivent in August 2019, the annual rate of return has been +5.59%, even with the difficult 2022 performance.

Over the 16 years the Endowment Fund has operated, total contributions have been \$84,293. The Endowment Fund Team may make expenditures of up to 4% of the Fund each year. Our committee recommends that we let the fund value reach and exceed \$200,000 before making any future expenditures.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee, Gerald Pfarner, Endowment Fund Financial Secretary

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Audit Team

Members of audit team: Perry Dukes, Sona Lyttle, and Ann Nizzi

Audit Date: March 12, 2024

The committee audited two months of operating account records, selected at random: May and October 2023. We reviewed bank statements, accounts payable documents, income records, VANCO records (the company that provides our online giving services), and weekly stewardship reports. We compared monthly financial reports provided to Council to the bank statement. VISA credit card statements were reviewed against the financial records for three months; May, September, and October.

This audit did not include the Thrivent account, the Schwab account, the Endowment fund, the Zinser account, or Shepherd's Staff records.

Findings/Questions:

Several payment records were filed in the incorrect month. All the records were located in previous or following months.

Four debits on the VISA statements did not have supporting receipts or invoices. Two of the items included notes of what they were for and two had no indication at all. The two charges with no indication were minor and were explained by staff.

Recommendations:

No recommendations regarding the operating funds are made since the findings are minor and require no changes to the procedures.

The audit team does recommend that the Schwab account, Endowment fund, Zinser account, and congregation giving records should have independent reviews in the future.

Conclusion: Based on this review, the audit team concluded that the financial records pertaining to the operating funds and associate bank account are accurate.

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Report of the Treasurer

The main project of the Treasurer this year was to address the situation created when the congregation's paid bookkeeper resigned. I worked with Program Assistant Gloria Bockelman and Administrative Assistant Anne Marcengill to go through the books and make recommendations for moving forward. Anne indicated that she had experience with the accounting software St. John's uses and volunteered to do the bookkeeping for an interim period. Eventually it was decided for her to continue doing the bookkeeping. Funds equivalent to four hours per week were put in the *Plan for Mission 2024* to compensate Anne for this additional duty. A small amount of funds were also budgeted for technical assistance from a bookkeeping consultant.

We made several changes to the way our funds are organized and reported to make it more easy to see the full financial picture. The congregation operating account includes funds of three types, the Plan for Mission/general funds, designated funds, and a small portion of the Zinser funds which is used for Deacon Katie's compensation and therefore is not invested with rest of that fund. The reports now make it much easier to see the different types of funds separately and have a clear picture of the current financial status of the congregation.

Although operating expenses exceeded income for the year, a special giving appeal brought in enough money from the generous St. John's family to end the year with enough operating funds to begin 2024.

I worked with the Finance Team to consider moving the Zinser funds from Thrivent to another investment platform for a greater rate of return and easier management of the account in the future. That work will be completed in 2024.

The lion's share of the efforts to update St. John's bookkeeping was done by Gloria and Anne and I am thankful for their perseverance and patience with the transition!

Mike Masters, Treasurer

St. John's Budget Versus Actual January - December 2023

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Cash Basis

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actual Plan for Mission January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
Mission Plan Income			
Interest Earned - Operating	104.25		
Mission Plan Income - Other	475,745.64	472,089.00	100.8%
Total Mission Plan Income	475,849.89	472,089.00	100.8%
Total Income	475,849.89	472,089.00	100.8%
Gross Profit	475,849.89	472,089.00	100.8%
Expense			
CONGREGATION ENGAGEMENT			
Worship-Continuing Education	525.00	1,300.00	40.4%
Worship-Instrument Purch/Maint	245.00	600.00	40.8%
Worship-Choir/Music Expense	79.00	1,280.00	6.2%
Worship-Supplies (Altar/Seasona	2,112.96	2,500.00	84.5%
Worship-Supply Pastors	370.48	700.00	52.9%
Christian Education	1,261.66	1,000.00	126.2%
Fellowship Food & Kitchen Suppl	5,558.81	3,000.00	185.3%
Youth & Children	1,366.96	2,500.00	54.7%
Congregation Care Projects Even	1,196.06	2,300.00	52.0%
Lutheran & SC Lutheran Magazine	81.20		
Total CONGREGATION ENGAGEMENT	12,797.13	15,180.00	84.3%
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT			
SC Synod & ELCA Benevolence	40,000.00	40,000.00	100.0%
SC Synod Assembly & Convocation	2,431.04	2,500.00	97.2%
ELCA Missionary Support	0.00	1,100.00	0.0%
Outreach-Evangelism Projects	440.18	1,000.00	44.0%
Outreach-Social Ministry Projec	1,438.78	1,000.00	143.9%
Family Promise Support	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Outreach-Mission Organizations	85.59	2,000.00	4.3%
Total COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	44,395.59	48,100.00	92.3%
CHURCH SUPPORT			
Mortgage	26,076.00	26,400.00	98.8%
Utlities	19,734.19	20,000.00	98.7%
Insurance	24,933.78	22,500.00	110.8%
Maintenance & Repairs	7,357.97	10,000.00	73.6%
Maintenance Contracts	38,511.05	24,000.00	160.5%
Maintenance Reserve Fund	1,999.92	2,000.00	100.0%
Copier Lease & Copy Fees	5,602.53	4,800.00	116.7%
Computer Related	1,572.24	3,000.00	52.4%
Office Supplies	2,366.18	2,200.00	107.6%
Postage	1,480.15	2,000.00	74.0%
Bank Processing Charges	2,827.20	3,000.00	94.2%
Storm Water Fee	1,466.00	1,600.00	91.6%
A/V Equipment & Maintenance	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Cleaning Supplies	147.87	850.00	17.4%
Stewardship Materials/Annual Ap	1,542.92	3,000.00	51.4%
Staff Support	111.91	500.00	22.4%
Outsource - Bookkeeper	3,764.00	9,740.00	38.6%
Outsource-Payroll Company	2,323.58	2,400.00	96.8%
Total CHURCH SUPPORT	141,817.49	138,490.00	102.4%

St. John's Budget Versus Actual January - December 2023 (con't)

2:23 PM

Mar 6, 24

Cash Basis

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actual Plan for Mission January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget	% of Budget
STAFF			
Pastor-Base Salary + Housing Al	89,760.00	89,760.00	100.0%
Pastor-Social Security Allowanc	13,733.04	13,733.00	100.0%
Pastor-Benefits (Pension, Healt	53,062.39	51,691.00	102.7%
Pastor-Auto and Cell Phone Allo	7,260.00	7,260.00	100.0%
Pastor Continuing Education	2,500.00	2,500.00	100.0%
Assisting Pastor Salary	14,845.20	14,845.00	100.0%
Assisting Pastor Auto	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Deacon Salary	0.00	3,800.00	0.0%
Administration Assistant Salary	18,081.12	18,081.00	100.0%
Program Assistant Salary	44,200.16	44,000.00	100.5%
Music Director Salary	16,625.00	21,630.00	76.9%
Organist	11,850.00	13,000.00	91.2%
Nursery Attendant	1,333.00	1,600.00	83.3%
Staff Payroll Taxes	12,475.84	8,656.00	144.1%
Council/Table Discretionary Fun	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total STAFF	285,725.75	291,056.00	98.2%
Total Expense	484,735.96	492,826.00	98.4%
Net Income	-8,886.07	-20,737.00	42.9%

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2023

9:30 AM
03/07/24
Cash Basis

St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Palmetto State Operating - 584	188,363.58
Reserve Fund Savings	
Charles Schwab Reserve 2839	731.66
Total Reserve Fund Savings	731.66
Restricted Fund Zinser Accounts	
Thrivent 4114	393,870.36
Thrivent 2365	418,819.23
Total Restricted Fund Zinser Accounts	812,689.59
Endowment Fund - Thrivent	142,736.30
Total Checking/Savings	1,144,521.13
Total Current Assets	1,144,521.13
Fixed Assets	
FIXED ASSETS	
16 Ft. Trailer - 2014	1,836.00
Baptismal Font - 2014	1,086.16
Building - 2001	2,203,454.13
Building - 2013	225,910.48
Chairs - 2006	5,325.00
Freezer - 2016	565.20
Furniture - 2014-2016	7,293.21
GPS Systems For A/C	6,450.00
Grand Piano - 2008	20,000.00
HVAC - 2015/2016	21,256.47
HVAC - 2020	46,856.00
Irrigation 2006-2014	6,000.00
Land - 2008	300,000.00
Organ - 2013	40,300.00
Picnic Shelter - 2013	4,092.70
Refrigerator - 2014	404.80
Walkway Covering - 2016	27,758.00
Total FIXED ASSETS	2,918,588.15
Total Fixed Assets	2,918,588.15
TOTAL ASSETS	4,063,109.28
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
COUNCIL ALLOCATED FUNDS	
ALLOCATED - MAINTENANCE FUND	
Maintenance Fund - C/O	44,841.48
Total ALLOCATED - MAINTENANCE FUND	44,841.48
ALLOCATED - MEMORIAL FUNDS	
Memoral Funds - Allocated	2,000.00
Memorial Funds - Spent	-1,934.60
Memorials - C/O	21,892.39
Total ALLOCATED - MEMORIAL FUNDS	21,957.79
Total COUNCIL ALLOCATED FUNDS	66,799.27

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2023 (con't)

9:30 AM

03/07/24

Cash Basis

St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23
DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS	
DEACON CONTINUING EDUCATION	
Deacon Continuing Ed C/O	789.95
Total DEACON CONTINUING EDUCATION	789.95
ENDOWMENT FUND	
Endowment Fund Collected	1,265.00
Total ENDOWMENT FUND	1,265.00
FLOWER FUND	
Flower Fund - Collected	2,600.00
Flower Fund - Spent	-3,232.29
Flower Fund C/O	244.22
Total FLOWER FUND	-388.07
KENYA DAYCARE	
Kenya Daycare - Collected	16,762.00
Kenya Daycare Spent	-16,937.00
Kenya Daycare - C/O	775.00
Total KENYA DAYCARE	600.00
LOVE FUND	
Love Fund Collected	4,743.00
Love Fund Spent	-5,628.71
LOVE FUND - Other	1,495.23
Total LOVE FUND	609.52
MUSIC MINISTRY	
Music Ministry - C/O Balance	1,575.00
Total MUSIC MINISTRY	1,575.00
PASS THRU	
Pass Thru Collected	646.55
Pass Thru Spent	-859.79
PASS THRU - Other	152.93
Total PASS THRU	-60.31
PASTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION	
Pastor Continuing Ed C/O	180.93
Total PASTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION	180.93
QUILTING GROUP	
Quilting Group Collected	600.00
Quilting Group Spent	-714.42
QUILTING GROUP - Other	114.42
Total QUILTING GROUP	0.00
SEND A KID TO CAMP	
Send a Kid to Camp Collected	8,569.39
Send a Kid to Camp Spent	-8,569.39
Total SEND A KID TO CAMP	0.00
STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT	
Staff Christmas Gift Collected	2,275.00
STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT - Other	100.00
Total STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT	2,375.00

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2023 (con't)

9:30 AM
03/07/24
Cash Basis

St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23
UPCOMING YEAR	
Upcoming Year Collected	1,510.00
Total UPCOMING YEAR	1,510.00
WORLD HUNGER	
World Hunger Collected	150.00
World Hunger Spent	-100.00
Total WORLD HUNGER	50.00
YOUTH DONATION PASS	
Youth Donation Pass Thru Spent	-150.00
Youth Donation PassThru Collect	275.00
YOUTH DONATION PASS - Other	-75.00
Total YOUTH DONATION PASS	50.00
YOUTH GATHERING	
Youth Gathering Collected	1,465.00
Youth Gathering Spent	-2,692.20
YOUTH GATHERING - Other	5,573.91
Total YOUTH GATHERING	4,346.71
Total DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS	12,903.73
RESTRICTED ZINSER FUND	
Zinser Funds in Operating Acct.	55,039.70
Zinser Thrivent Investments	812,689.59
Total RESTRICTED ZINSER FUND	867,729.29
St. John's Endowment Fund	142,736.30
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,090,168.59
Total Current Liabilities	1,090,168.59
Long Term Liabilities	
Mortgage Principal	194,106.75
Total Long Term Liabilities	194,106.75
Total Liabilities	1,284,275.34
Equity	
Net Assets - Designated	6,660.45
Net Assets - Income	39.42
Net Assets Without Restrictions	2,843,496.55
Net Income	-71,362.48
Total Equity	2,778,833.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	4,063,109.28

St. John's Plan for Mission 2024 Adopted

Plan for Mission 2024 - Adopted by Congregation November 19, 2023

Expense		Expense	
Congregation Engagement		Church Support	
Worship: Music Director	22,000	Administrative Assistant	18,720
Worship: Organist	13,000	Mortgage	26,400
Worship: Continuing Education	1,300	Utilities	17,760
Worship: Instrument (Purchase/Maint.)	600	Insurance	22,500
Worship: Choir/Music Expense	1,280	Maintenance & Repairs	10,000
Worship: Supplies (Altar/Seasonal/Weekly)	2,500	Maintenance Contracts	31,937
Worship: Nursery Supervisor Wages	750	Maintenance Reserve Fund	2,000
Worship: Substitute Pastors	700	Copier Lease & Copy Fees	4,800
Christian Education	1,500	Computer Related	3,000
Fellowship: Food & Kitchen Supplies	3,500	Office Supplies	3,000
Youth	2,500	Postage	1,900
Congregation Care projects & events	2,300	Bank Processing Charges	3,000
Scholarships for Adults for Camps/Retreats	1,000	Storm Water Fee	1,600
Visiting Author/Artist/Teacher	1,000	A/V Equipment & Maintenance	500
		Cleaning Supplies	0
		Offering Envelopes	0
		Stewardship Materials/Annual Appeal	3,000
		Staff Support	500
		Outsource: Bookkeeper	3,750
		Outsource: Payroll Company	2,400
Total Congregation Engagement	\$53,930	Total Church Support	\$156,767
Community Engagement		General - supports all 3 tables	
SC Synod & ELCA Benevolence	44,800	Pastor: Base Salary + Housing Allowance	91,735
SC Synod Assembly & Convocation	500	Pastor: Social Security Allowance	14,035
ELCA Missionary Support	1,100	Pastor: Benefits (Pension, Health, Disab.)	39,790
Program Assistant Salary	45,320	Pastor: Auto and Cell Phone Allowance	7,260
Outreach - Evangelism projects	1,000	Continuing Education	2,500
Outreach - Social Ministry projects	1,500	Assisting Pastor Salary	15,290
Family Promise Support	0	Assisting Pastor: Auto	500
Outreach - gifts to organizations we support	2,000	Staff Payroll Taxes	8,804
		Deacon compensation	3,800
Total Community Support	\$96,220	Total General	\$183,714
		TOTAL	\$490,631
Fred & Dorothy Zinser Fund for New Mission 2024			
Deacon: Base Salary	48,374	Shift to Plan for Mission 2024	3,800
Deacon: Social Security Allowance	7,401		
Deacon: Benefits (Pension, Health, Disab.)	14,613		
Continuing Education	1,500		
TOTAL	\$71,888	Final Zinser Expense Total	\$68,088

2024 Congregation Leaders, as of March 7, 2024

Congregation Officers

President – Josh Ferguson
Secretary – Tammy Verheyden

Vice President – Kris Cianci
Treasurer – Ann Nizzi

Congregation Council Members - with council term ending dates

December 31, 2024

Susie Braiden
Josh Ferguson
Laird Griffin
Susan Heim
Tammy Verheyden
Mike Masters

December 31, 2025

Robin Barone
Victoria Bishop
Kris Cianci
Jim Colwell
Lori Libert
Ben Murray

Endowment Committee Members - with endowment term ending dates

December 31, 2024

Gerald Pfarner
Bill Liebert

December 31, 2025

Curt Cianci
Carl Kilpatrick

Table Coordinators/Team Leaders/Group Leaders - as of March 7, 2024

Congregation Engagement Table

Altar GuildKris Cianci
Fellowship Team Sam Cowan and Pat Bennett
LibrarianJane Pfarner
Lutheran Men in Mission PresidentCurt Cianci
Lutheran Women Lydia Circle LeaderRobin Barone

Community Engagement Table

Coordinators Melinda Ellis and Jenny Stoddard
Family Promise Team..... Candace Camp and Perry Dukes

Church Support Table

Coordinators Sam Cowan and Sarah Anderson
Financial SecretaryCurt Cianci
Finance Team Sam Cowan

Staff

Pastor.....P. Shannon Mullen
Deacon Katie Justice
Part-Time Assisting Pastor Craig Boehlke
Administrative Assistant..... Anne Marcengill
Program Assistant.....Gloria Bockelman
Music Director..... Josh Overby
Custodian On-Point Cleaning Commercial & Residential