

# 2022

# A Look Back



A Journal of St. John's Happenings in 2022



## ***St. John's Lutheran Church Mission Statement***

***"Encountering,  
Connecting,  
Responding  
to Jesus Christ."***

# 2022 BEGINS

## Congregation Meeting

January 2022 started with an uptick in Covid cases, so it was decided to have the Congregation Meeting on Zoom. While it is no easy feat to run this meeting remotely, we were grateful to have the technology so that we could hold the meeting in this safe way. We look forward to 2023 when we can resume the beloved Potluck (precursor to the meeting.) You can't have a potluck on Zoom!



## St. John's Food Pantry

During the pandemic, the St. John's Food Pantry has morphed and grown. The Pantry now has a home in the "Book Nook", the room conveniently located to the "education wing" entrance, so that those visiting the pantry have easy access. Large carts were purchased that can easily be rolled around and maneuvered, making food distribution easier. The congregation and community supported the pantry in 2022 with donations, Food Drives and at generous response at the Cornhole for a Cause event. The "cause" was designated as the Food Pantry this year. See other article with more info about that event.



**743**

People were served at the Food Pantry in 2022!



## Mark Jacobson

From 2012-2022, Mark Jacobson served as a missionary in Tanzania, supported by St. John's Lutheran Church. He passed away in February 2022 surrounded by his family. A man of great faith, he is surely missed by many, but his legacy lives on through all the work he did to improve healthcare in Tanzania, his home for almost 40 years. St. John's was proud to support his important work there.



## Blood Drives

St. John's members and participants, as well as many community members joined hands to give the gift of life 3 times in 2022 as there were 3 Blood Drives during the course of the year.

A total of **126** pints were collected, which was MUCH appreciated by the American Red Cross.





## First Communion

9 children worked hard to learn the fundamentals of the Eucharist, and it was time for them to fully participate at the communion table for the very first time on this special Sunday.



Lucas Ryan Christie  
Tatum Lynn Crawford  
Kyle Robert Hildwein  
Sean Philip Lynch  
Kurt Albert Moore

Gianni Steven Pecchia  
Matthew Christian Pierson  
Gabriel Durwood Swart  
Jordan Alexander Whyte

## Soup Suppers/Mid-Week Lenten Service

It was a thrill to be able to return to the dearly loved Lenten tradition of Soup Suppers. There is something about sharing a simple bowl of homemade soup, tasty bread and homemade cookies that warms the heart, connects us, and allows one to recharge mid-week. Follow that up with an informal time of worship and scripture reflection after the meal, and Wednesday nights were an important part of many people's Lenten journey.



## Holy Week to Easter

St. John's Holy Week path was filled with experiential worship opportunities on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday leading to the joyous Easter celebration of Resurrection Sunday filled with sounds from the choir, brass and timpani.



**JOY**

Being together on Resurrection Sunday was a very moving experience as we worshipped the Risen Savior!



**JOY**

# MUSIC

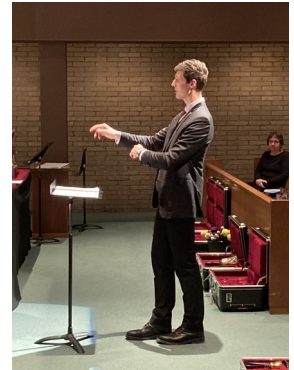
## Bell Concert

The Bell Concert was a huge success, with 173

people joining either in-person or through livestream. \$3190 was raised for the music program at St. John's so we can go above and beyond the budget to continue bringing high quality music for events and worship services.



The Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols told the story of God's salvation in Jesus through word & song.



## Timpani for St. John's!

For Reformation worship in 2021, St. John's borrowed timpani to enhance the music for that special Sunday. After worship, people were all abuzz about the instrument and how moving the music was that Sunday. Fast forward to February 2022, when St. John's debuted our OWN timpani to be used in worship! That's right, St. John's is now the proud owner of 4 timpani due to the

generosity of a St. John's member who donated them. We are grateful for this wonderful contribution and appreciate the richness these magnificent instruments provide for the music here!



## Felix Hell Concert

St. John's was thrilled to welcome Felix Hell back to St. John's to perform an organ recital! Over 200 people enjoyed his thrilling performances of works by Bach, Buxtehude, Liszt, and others both in person and via the live stream.





# Special Services & Programs



## Bluegrass Sunday

The Innis boys, once again, offered lively bluegrass music for worship and provided a unique worship opportunity for congregants.

The Hospitality Team ladies offered a "Hoe-down" type reception at the end of the service.



## Celtic Sunday

The Walker family added special music for St. John's first ever Celtic Sunday.



The Hospitality ladies enjoyed creating a themed reception after the service.



## Chalk Talk Event

The Chalk Talk Program/Spaghetti Dinner was a wonderful success with over 65 attending. The theme was "Make a Difference" and the stories told while artist Elva Hurst created a beautiful piece of chalk art, inspired listeners that even small acts of kindness can multiply into something amazing! At the end of the program, special illumination was shone on the picture to reveal other aspects not seen with regular

lighting. A spaghetti dinner offered by the Hospitality Mission Team followed the program. (Jackie Boccio-Team Chair).



## Alzheimer's Info Luncheon

The Alzheimer Awareness Info Luncheon was a huge success with 40 people (the max number) attending. Food was prepared by JJ Manley and Crew, and all enjoyed a tasty luncheon; everyone appreciated their culinary efforts! The Staff at Lutheran Care Center arranged the program with the Alzheimer's Association and it was both engaging and informative.

St. John's Parish Care Team hosted the event. (Jan Viola -Team Chair)





# KIDS & YOUTH



## JAMMIN' at Pentecost

JAM kids learned that the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith and then the "fire" to share our faith with others!



In October, six youth affirmed their baptism on this special Sunday.

Maddy Borra	Catherine Koch
Olivia Borra	Sam O'Shea
Mason Decker	Bella Swatek
Emma Grundig	



JAM Video Production, The Advent Wreath of Light was a big hit as a kick off to the Christmas Extravaganza.





# FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

## The Christmas Extravaganza

A JAM production, the reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, crafts, service project, hot chocolate bar, food and beverages were enjoyed by all at the Christmas Extravaganza! A "Special Visitor" was also a big hit and created a photo op for kids and the young at heart!



There's those Hospitality Ladies again!



## Bunco

Bunco game night was enjoyed by 52 participants.



What a fun night of laughter, smiles & fellowship.

## Trunk or Treat!



The First Ever Trunk or Treat Event was a huge hit with over 150 people attending & 20 cars decked out and showing their owner's creativity.





## Cornhole for a Cause Event

The 2nd annual Cornhole for a Cause event had 18 teams participating, not only for the "Final Round Winners" title, but for unique categories also. ("Best Dressed" and "Future MVP" for example.) The event raised \$2,000 for the St. John's Food Pantry and \$800 of that was matched by Thrivent Choice Dollars for a grand total of \$2,800!



Suzanne & Noah McLeod  
1st Place



Brent Feldweg & Tom Gilgert  
2nd Place

## Boy Scout Sunday

Boy Scouts offered a time of fellowship after the service as they hosted Coffee Hour on Boy Scout Sunday.



## Rally Day

Despite the inclement weather that kept us from having Rally Day outdoors, the turn-out was fantastic and the event was a smashing success! There were ministry tables set up to educate the congregation about the various ministries and activities going on at St. John's and of course lots of good food and fellowship!



Our dedicated cooks, Hilon Potter & Pete Zipser flipped burgers under shelter, but in the rain!



The weather cleared and the kids got a little outdoor playtime.





# Learning



## Bible Studies

Although the pandemic restrictions eased, we found great benefits in offering Zoom Bible studies in addition to in-person sessions during the year. This has allowed for greater participation as well as out of town folks to join in remotely.



One Christ Care Group also takes turns meeting on Zoom and in person so that members who have moved away can still participate.

## Lesson Discussion Group

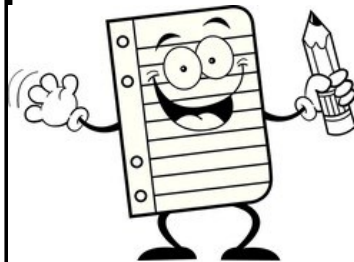
Every Sunday a group of people gather in the Blue Room from 10-11am to discuss the day's scripture readings that are read aloud during worship services. These discussions help give participant's new insight into these passages as well as a fuller worship experience as the theme of these readings are intertwined in the worship service song selections & sermon.



## JAM Walks Through the Bible

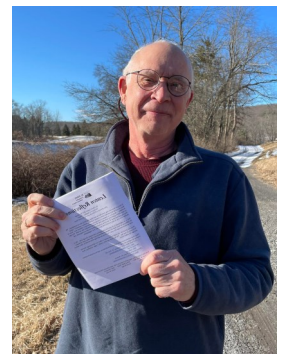


The JAM kids used a curriculum last year entitled, Walk Through the Bible. Each week JAMers came to "Chapel" where they sang and learned about an Old Testament book. They are continually reminded that the Old Testament reveals the need for Jesus and the stories point to a Savior who is the solution to the problem of SIN! With each book of the Bible, the children learned a word/phrase that illustrates the "theme" for the book, as well as a motion to help remember the word/phrase. There are a LOT of books in the Old Testament, so while this program started in 2022, it continues in 2023. The Jam kids can't wait to share what they have learned with the congregation!



## Lenten Devotion

For 6 years now, John Dux has been organizing a Lenten Devotion Booklet filled with scripture reflections from St. John's members, participants and friends from the past. It is no small feat to organize all those different writers so we are grateful to John for putting it together. The devotion booklet, has become a meaningful tradition that is eagerly anticipated by many as the Lenten season approaches. We learn from each other!





# STAFF CHANGES

## **Doug Ohlandt**

Doug Ohlandt was the St. John's Office Administrator for 8 months and we are extremely grateful for his dedicated service during that time. We appreciate Doug's continuation in ministry at St. John's despite not sitting in the office admin chair at St. John's: as the percussionist at the contemporary (9am) service, bell ringer with our St. John's Bell Groups and timpanist.



## **Maggie Jack-Carrington**

Maglyn (Maggie) Jack-Carrington came on board as St. John's staff soon after Doug's departure. She greeted all who came to the office with a friendly, warm smile, enthusiastic and ready to help. Maggie not only sat in the office administrator chair, but participated in the life of the church as she attended many St. John's events, bringing family members along as well.

Maggie recently resigned from her position at St. John's and we wish her the best moving forward with other endeavors. We are currently looking for another person who can take over the St. John's office administrator position.

## **Patrick and Michelle**

On May 14, 2022, the St. John's Music Director, Patrick Walker and the St. John's Video Production Manager, Michelle Locke got married! All smiles, they both continued



their work at St. John's, but Michelle soon got a dream job which combined her video skills with her love of aviation. Soon afterwards Patrick landed a new church job. They said their goodbyes at a reception and moved on to Maryland on their new adventure!

Michelle's departure left a hole in the



videographer seat which was immediately filled by Tim Gerstner, a certified editor, film maker, music composer and self-proclaimed Transformers nerd!

## **Dillon Streifeneder**

We are grateful that God immediately provided Dillon Streifeneder as the new Director of Music at

St. John's. Dillon has a BA in Sacred Music and Organ Performance as well as a PhD in history.

He has been active in bands and choirs all



through school and has served in Lutheran, Episcopal, and Methodist parishes in Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and Ohio.

What talent he brings to St. John's; we are blessed to have him here!



# ELVES IN ACTION

There are many “ELVES” who help behind the scenes at St. John’s; here are a few of them.



Steve Polichetti (community member) offers his business services each year when we rake leaves at church.. Phew, he cuts the raking time considerably!



4 times a year volunteer “elves” clean up the roadside St. John’s has adopted, to help the community and to be an example of neighborliness. Bob Deik faithfully organizes the pick-ups.



Stephanie Weigel is more like a birthday fairy than an elf, having written birthday cards to members for many, many years on behalf of St. John’s. Stephanie put away her pen this year, and newbie, birthday fairy, Rosanne Leigh took over the task. Many thanks to Stephanie for her years of dedication in this ministry and to Rosanne for immediately volunteering to take up the pen.



Volunteers help at the Arlington Street Fair each year to represent St. John’s and offer the church as a place of hope and light.



These real-life elves decorated the church for the season. Many hands work faithfully behind the scenes to decorate, prep the church for worship and to clean up after services.



Seafarer Satchels coordinator and Head Elf for the project, Doug Ohlandt, recruited these 2 “delivery elves”, who drove the satchels to the Seafarer Headquarters in New York where they were distributed at Christmas.

The St. John’s facility is a building used not only for worship services, programs and ministries of the church, but it is a hub of activity for community members too. Many building users utilize the space regularly, often remarking at how well-kept it is. This is largely due to a small band of “elven” men named “The Property Mission Team”. These elves do small tasks like changing light bulbs (although if you saw the height of our ceilings, maybe that isn’t such a small task!) as well as handling emergencies such as leaky roofs & a malfunctioning heating system. Their dedication and hard work is one of the reasons St. John’s is renown in the community as a stellar facility.





# St. John's Lutheran Church Leaders 2023

Looking forward to the next year in ministry together!

## *CHURCH COUNCIL*

Pastor Jeffrey Koenig  
Bob Knapp – President  
Lee Pagones – Vice President  
Dave Hawkinson – Secretary  
Art Upright – Treasurer  
Mary Heller– Worship  
Mike Ignaffo  
Suzanne McCleod  
Karen Olson – Fellowship/Property  
James Swart – Evangelism

## *MISSION TEAM CHAIRS*

John Dux - Adult Ministry MT  
Sandy Sherwood - Children's Ministry MT  
Doug Ohlandt - Communications MT  
Susan Lamberton- Evangelism MT  
(No chair) Finance & Admin. MT  
Mark Decker - Financial Secretary  
Jackie Boccio - Hospitality MT  
Janice Viola- Parish Care MT  
(No chair) Property MT  
Abby Dux & Linda Haas Manley-  
Social Ministry MT  
Steve Jones - Stewardship MT  
Anne Christmas - Worship & Music MT  
(No chair) -Youth Ministry MT

## *ST. JOHN'S STAFF*

<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Jeffrey Koenig	<a href="mailto:revkoenig@stjohnselc.org">revkoenig@stjohnselc.org</a>
<b>Deacon:</b> Richard Ferolito	
<b>Director of Music:</b> Dillon Streifeneder	<a href="mailto:dstreifeneder@stjohnselc.org">dstreifeneder@stjohnselc.org</a>
<b>Office Administrator:</b> Maggie Jack-Carrington	<a href="mailto:mjack@stjohnselec.org">mjack@stjohnselec.org</a>
<b>Director of Lay Ministry:</b> Jeanne Jones	<a href="mailto:jjones@stjohnselc.org">jjones@stjohnselc.org</a>
<b>Contemporary Worship Team Leader:</b> Jeanne Jones	
<b>Bookkeeper:</b> Alison Schlak	<a href="mailto:aschlak@stjohnselc.org">aschlak@stjohnselc.org</a>
<b>Video Manager:</b> Tim Gerstner	