



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Annual Report of the Congregation



P. Skov Vestergaard, Frandsen

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Working through Lutheran churches in Africa, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to eliminate deaths from this disease — for good.

2011

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Directory of staff and boards	P. 1
Minutes of 2011 annual meeting	P. 2
Pastoral message	P. 3
St. John Christian Preschool	P. 4 - 8
Message from the congregation's president	P. 9
Reports from boards and committees	P. 10 - 15
Members transferred in and out	P. 16
Baptisms	P. 17
Affirmation of Faith	P. 18
Burials	P. 19
Parochial report	P. 20
Financial statements for 2011	P. 21 - 29
Proposed budget for 2012	P. 30 - 33



**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2011**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David Werges
Director of Music:	Andrea DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Kathy Hoeft
Business Manager:	Andrea DeVore
Custodian:	Jason McDonald
Director of Preschool:	Whittney Nordmeyer
Assistant Director:	Kate Anderson
Teachers	Debra Hocking Carleen Laue

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Cherie Schafer
Vice – President:	Scott Hansen
Secretary:	_____
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

COUNCIL AT LARGE

Angel McKenzie	*3	Laurie Heidebrink	2	_____	1
Wendy LaBarge	*3	LaVonne Reysack	2	Richard Olesen	1
Wayne McClintock	*3	Jim Zirbel	2	Shirley Ripley	1

BOARD OF FINANCE

Erik Hofer	*3
Walter Armstrong	*3
Kurt Hoeft	2
Diane Melrose	2
Linda Hughes	1
Dennis Sande	1

BOARD OF DEACONS

Lorie Hoeft	*3
_____	*3
Angie Ayers	2
Steve Colasuonno	2
Bob Hammer	1
Kirsten Dietrich	1

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

Ann Prichard	*3
Wendy Johnson	*3
Liz Davis	2
Lori Nettleton	2
Kendra Buenger	1
_____	1

BOARD OF PARISH LIFE

June Kehret	*3
Judy Hughes	*3
Andrea Keifer	*3
Betty Ferch	2
Helen Hagen	2

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Lisa Garden	*3
Ellen Brewer	*3
Marta Fisher	2
Marian Ayers	2
Jacque Moon	1
Ann Voelker	1

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Kent Hoeft	*3
Ed Platte	*3
Mike Tracey	2
Jeff Otto	2
Bob Ohrt	1
Paul Van Ausdall	1

YOUTH BOARD

Erik Hofer	*3
Brad McKenzie	*3
Sarah George	*2
Julie Colasuonno	*2
Candi Lumley	*1
Katherine Bailey	
Tyler Griffin & Jeanne Edson	

FAMILY BOARD

Carole Melrose	*3
Rhonda Schmidtke	*3
Darci Tracey	*2
Jessie Holm	*2
Todd Prichard	*1
Jodi Reetz	*1

ST. JOHN PRESCHOOL BOARD

Marissa Anderson	*3
Dusty Schmitt	*3
Elizabeth Asqui	2
Cheryl Schoeck	2
Jeanne Hansen	1
Angie Parson	1

**Annual Report Minutes
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

January 16, 2011

The Annual meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Cherie Schafer. Thirty-six voting members were present. Opening devotions and welcome were given by Pastor Dennis Niezwaag.

The minutes of the 2010 annual meeting were read by Viva Boerschel. Pastor Werges motioned to approve the minutes and Keith Sylvester seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Niezwaag gave his pastoral report. Pastor Niezwaag encouraged all members to read the annual report. People in the congregation have so many ideas for ministries. The building is used for many ministries including Parkinson's Support Group, MOPS, flu clinics, Alzheimer's Support Group and two new ministries, Parents who suffer the death of a child and a Cub Scout den. Staff changes included saying good-bye to Roger Michael and to Brenda Bailey. He praised and thanked them for their service. Pastor Niezwaag also noted that he is so appreciative of our new custodian, Jason McDonald. He also announced that Sarah Hoffman would regretfully be leaving her position as Preschool Director to relocate to Cedar Rapids with her husband. A search committee has been formed that includes the pastors, Marcia DeVore, Wendy Johnson and Dr. Scott Hansen. Pastor Niezwaag also acknowledged the people who call for the funeral luncheons recognizing that sometimes that can be a challenging duty. Pastor Niezwaag then reviewed the speakers that will be giving the presentations in the Parish Hall starting next month. They will be giving about a twenty-minute presentation leaving time to answer questions. The Council is working on a form that can be utilized by those attending to provide evaluation. Emails of the Council members will also be publicized so that feedback can be received. Possibly another evaluation may be sent out to receive feedback. We need to know is there an issue, are we able to disagree and go forward in ministry together or is that not possible. The Council did not want to rush into anything but wanted the congregation to think, pray, and be knowledgeable. Pastor Niezwaag ended by stating how much he appreciated all the staff and wanted all to know what a wonderful staff we have and encouraged all the members to let them know how much they are appreciated.

Pastor Werges gave his pastoral report. He stated that the congregation is so great when there is a need for help so many members offer their gifts, talents and possessions. He emphasized that the Bible studies were really good this year. Many members were involved in leading them this year. He also emphasized that it is great working with all the staff.

President Cherie Schafer said thank you for the congregation to the pastors for ministering to our needs.

Board reports were presented in the annual report. The motion to approve the board reports was made by Myrna Culbertson and seconded by Arlene Thomas. Motion carried.

Ken Swant, Chairman of the 2010 Finance board, presented the budget for 2011. He noted that 2010 was a difficult year financially. We did end up with a negative cash flow of \$7,900. He also noted that we did make \$3,800 from RAGBRAI. He did note that there will be some changes in the payment method of debt retirement. Staff salaries except for a slight increase for the secretary and custodian were frozen again this year. Motion made by Donn Schafer to approve the budget with a second by Pastor Werges. Motion carried.

The slate of candidates for nomination was presented as a ballot on the back of the agenda. President Cherie Schafer read the list of candidates as presented by the nominating committee. Nominations were opened to the floor with one being made. Justin DeVore motioned that he would recommend that we have more Lutherans on the Preschool board and with that in mind he nominated Jeanne Hansen for the Preschool board. Laurie Heidebrink seconded the motion. A motion was made by Bob Baron to add Jeanne Hansen to the ballot. Jim Zirbel seconded it. Motion carried. Pastor Niezwaag moved that we accept the nominations excluding the Preschool board. Pastor Werges seconded the motion. Motion carried. Linda Hughes explained that we should vote for two out of the three candidates for the Preschool board. That written ballot took place with counting done by Donn Schafer and Peg Poppen. The new members of the Preschool board will be Jeannie Hansen and Angie Parsons.

President Cherie Schafer urged all to attend the upcoming educational sessions.

Monte Waldorf expressed that he would like to have more communication about what the church council was talking about. It was expressed that the Council minutes are available to everyone in the church office. This issue will be addressed at the next Council meeting.

Pastor Werges closed the meeting with prayer and benediction.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Viva Boerschel

Pastoral Report 2011 Annual Report

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary, and his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless
Even the young will faint, and strengthens the powerless
Even the young will faint and grow weary,
and even the young will fall exhausted,
but those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary.
they shall walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NRSV)

Grace and peace to you,

Like so many years, 2011 was a year filled with celebrations, sadness, changes and challenges. In May we said goodbye to our Christian Preschool Director, Sarah Hoffman and her family, Seth, Freddie, and Finn. However, even as we were saying sad goodbyes to them, we were saying glad hellos to Whitney Nordmeyer, our new Preschool Director. And of course we are extremely blessed in that we still have Kate Anderson, Deb Hocking, Carleen Laue, Grandma Evelyn, and Grandma Marlene on our preschool staff.

In Lent, we took a long and in-depth look at the Book of James and over the summer we met each Sunday to hear wonderful and mostly familiar stories of Old Testament Bible characters.

We said goodbye to Wednesday night suppers and weren't sure just exactly what would happen with them.

We had been talking about reorganizing our Women's Ministries and formed the Women's Ministry Task Force and with their energy, ideas, and drive we are building on the wonderful foundation formed by generations of dedicated and faithful women. We have held several wonderful events with more planned. Book club and yoga classes have begun.

Sue McDonald took over organizing our After School program and with the help of Judy Wessel and great volunteers, that program has been awesome!

Pastor Dave Werges and his wife Elayne accepted a call to Iowa Falls and Wellsburg and after nine great years of ministry here, set off to new ministries at the end of October.

Instead of just setting about calling a new pastor right away, St. John took time to pray and reflect of where God is calling us to minister. We held a congregational discussion and at the end of that discussion we discovered that a full-time Youth and Family Director and a part-time Pastor seemed to be the direction that we should be looking and so the Church Council organized task forces to pursue filling those positions.

As a result of the discussion we are also looking at some changes in worship such as including more praise music, a new sound system that better supports our music ministry, and more possible additions that would support video possibilities in worship.

Norm Klemesrud also came forward and said that with some help, he would try to get the Wednesday night suppers going again.

Many challenges still remain but we are truly blessed with an awesome staff including Andrea DeVore – Director of Music and Business Manager, Kathy Hoeft – Secretary, Jason McDonald – Custodian, Julie Heddens – part-time custodian, Erik Hofer – Worship Assistant, plus a large number of invaluable volunteers that help to keep things going.

This is such a great congregation and even though there are constant challenges, we have the constant presence and power of God so that in the midst of those challenges there are **CONSTANT OPPORTUNITIES!!!**

Pastor Dennis D. Niezwa

FROM THE PASTOR



St. John Christian Preschool 2011 Annual Report

It has been another wonderful year, learning about and celebrating our wonderful God! It is a privilege to be part of the development of not only our little one's academic and social skills, but also their spiritual growth. It is so exciting to see their eyes light up when they listen to God's word or to see a smile stretch upon their faces when they are singing and dancing to our Praise music. We continue to receive blessing upon blessing to enrich and grow our preschool center!

Our 2010-2011 school year ended with a full enrollment of 90 friends and we were excited to welcome many friends and families back for our 2011-2012 school year. With the addition of a few new faces we were able to start our school year with a full enrollment of 90 friends who were anxious to see what a new year at St. John Christian Preschool would hold for them. As we begin 2012, we continue to see a full enrollment with 90 little ones. As always, we know that we will continue to be blessed with many families who are seeking a Christian education for their little ones and we expect to fill any openings quickly. It is a very humbling gift to know that we are being trusted with such an enormous job, but it is rewarding beyond words.

The spring of 2011 came with some sad news. Our previous director, Sarah Hoffman, had to resign from her position, because her husband received a new job and their family moved to Cedar Rapids. There were many great applicants for the new director, and I am very blessed to say that I was chosen to become the new director of this prestigious program. I transitioned into this position very smoothly, under the wonderful guidance of Sarah. I have had huge shoes to fill, but have tried doing the best I can. This is the most amazing job anyone could ever have!

We continued to offer four classes from which our families could choose. Our older friends who turned at least 4 by September 15 could enroll in our three-day, Monday-Wednesday-Friday program. They were offered the choice of a morning class which met from 8:15-11:15 a.m. or an afternoon class which met from 12:15-3:15 p.m. Our younger friends who turned at least 3 by September 15 could enroll in our two-day, Tuesday-Thursday program. These friends could choose from a morning class which met from 8:30-11:00 a.m. or an afternoon class which met from 12:45-3:15 p.m.

Our registration fee remained \$20 per semester or a one-time fee of \$30 for the year. Our Tuesday-Thursday tuition remained at \$60. Our Monday-Wednesday-Friday tuition remained at \$80. Our preschool board offered a tuition reduction fundraiser each semester which provided opportunities for families who participated in the fundraiser to earn profits to lower their child's tuition payments. Each semester between 40 and 50 families participated and their tuition accounts were reduced accordingly.

We continued to be blessed with grant money from Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Empowerment which is an amazing form of assistance for almost half of our preschool families. The grant offer preschool scholarships for families displaying a financial need or for families who had a preschooler that was kindergarten eligible, by age, but had chosen to give that child another year of preschool experience.

This year we were unable to offer any scholarships for the Cindy Zirbel Memorial Scholarship. This was not because we didn't have any applicants, we had several wonderful applicants. But those who did apply were awarded an Empowerment scholarship, so they were unable to receive Cindy's scholarship. We hope to have some qualifying applicants for next fall. **cont. on P. 5**

We awarded the fifth “Friendship Scholarship” to a family in our Tuesday-Thursday program. Families enrolled in our Tuesday-Thursday program who were not eligible for Empowerment funds were encouraged to apply. The scholarship is in the amount of \$15 a month for each of the eight months in the school year.

I now understand why Sarah loved her job so much. There is no job like this one! I work with the most amazing children in our community and my coworkers go above and beyond “the call of duty.” Working with Kate Anderson, Deb Hocking, and Carleen Laue is an awesome privilege and together we accomplish great things. It is always remarkable to see where a class starts at the beginning of the year (tears and tantrums) and where it ends up when we sing our sunshine song for the last time. To know that we played a small part in that transformation is a completely rewarding experience.

We are supported by an amazing back-up team that includes our two Foster Grandmas; Evelyn Schmidt and Marlene Mohring; as well as our dedicated Pastor, faithful office secretary, Kathy; highly efficient business manager; Andrea and great custodial staff Jason and Julie. Without their hard work, we would not be able to accomplish the things that we do.

We often tell people who come to visit to follow the angels down the stairs and then listen for the laughter and singing. We are proud that you may hear us before you see us and we invite you to come and “sing along” anytime. Our harmonies may be a bit off but our enthusiasm is strong and regardless of how we may sound we will happily sing and dance and praise God with our loudest voices!

Whittney Nordmeyer



2011 President's Report

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. I Corinthians 15:13-14

Wow, what a busy and wonderful year at St. John! We are extremely blessed to have so many faithful people who do God's work just because they see a need and respond. To all of you who work so unselfishly to show God's Love – In Action, Thank you so much!

We are also blessed with a caring, hard-working, and efficient staff. They often say, "Sure, I can do that," they remain forever cheerful, they often make do with less, and they continue to take on more and more responsibilities. Thank God for our wonderful pastor and staff!

This year has been filled with challenges and changes. We sold the Hillside Drive parsonage, which allowed us to pay off the debt remaining from the heating system. To fill a vacancy due to a work related move, we hired a new St. John Preschool Director, Whitney Nordmeyer. We worked to organize a 2012 schedule for adult mission opportunities at the local, regional, national, and international level. The Council helped create and approve a job description for a Youth/Family program director.

We began the year by hosting five educational sessions regarding recent changes in the ELCA. Approximately 100-150 people attended each of these sessions as well as a separate session with our own pastors. Feedback forms were received and reviewed by the Council. As a result of this input, the Council voted to not pursue a congregational vote at this time and to move on with the business of St. John.

The relocating of Pastor Werges saddened our entire church family. We also realize that this is an opportunity for both he and Elayne to serve and share their gifts together. We wish them God's Blessings.

This year the Council has voted to give the 1% monthly benevolence offering to the following: MOPS (mothers of preschoolers), Fuller Institute (mission trip organizer), youth mission trips, ELCA Disaster Relief, extra expenses of St. John Preschool, ELCA Mosquito Net Mission, Feed My Starving Children, St. John Needy Fund, and Charles City Ministerium Fund. The Council also granted the Finance Board the authority to donate the collected thank offerings to local charities that were suggested by members choosing to do the thank offering.

In early December, the Church Council sponsored a Congregational meeting with food and discussion for the future direction of St. John. We were richly blessed with nearly 200 members present who were so willing to share their love, frustrations, and wishes for St. John. As a direct result of this meeting, we have charted our future direction. A task force has been appointed to interview and hire a youth/family program director. Another task force has been appointed to develop a job description, interview, and hire a part time pastor. Thanks to new volunteer efforts, our Wednesday night suppers have recently returned by popular demand. Changes are also being made in the music selection of the 10:15 Celebrate Service and a new sound/video system is being purchased. The council will continue to review the suggestions with more changes yet to come.

Great things are happening at St. John! We continue to be God's Love – In Action!

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your President.

God's Blessings to you all,

Cherie Schafer, President of the Congregation



Finance Board 2011 Annual Report

The St. John Finance Board was blessed to have Diane Melrose, Dennis Sande, Walt Armstrong, Kurt Hoeft, and Linda Hughes serve during 2011. Pastor Niezwaag, business manager Andrea DeVore, and council representative Richard Oleson also joined us on a monthly basis. Here is a quick recap of some of the more important decisions made by the board this year.

With the help of Stewart Realty, the parsonage on Hillside Drive sold this year. As Pastor Niezwaag and Diane moved into their own residence, it was the opinion of the board that the parsonage be put on the market instead of keeping it for future church staff. In a relatively short time period, an offer was accepted and the house was sold. As a result of this sale, the remaining amount of the capital improvement loan was paid off. In addition, the board approved some revised standard guidelines for Pastor Niezwaag in his new residence.

With Pastor Werges accepting a new call, discussion has taken place regarding the 2nd Street parsonage. As of this time, two bathrooms will be redone, carpeting will be replaced, and improvement projects will move forward. The plan is to keep this parsonage, as it is potentially attractive in the hiring of a new church staff member.

The board also focused on the thank offering money currently being given by some in the congregation on a weekly basis. This is money that is designated as benevolence but not sent to the ELCA. The board designed a survey asking contributors which local and area benevolences they wanted the money to go to. The first recipients of this money were our own St. John Christian Preschool (for scholarships), Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI), the Parkinson's Support Group, and the local food box. The board will name new recipients each quarter of the year.

Each year, the Finance Board works during the final few months to prepare a budget for the next twelve months. This year was no exception. For 2012, however, we were planning a budget that included only one pastor. We approved a 5% raise for the current staff as they had not received anything for the past three years. We also set aside \$60,000 for 2012 for future staff. After tweaking a few other line items, the final budget was set at \$503,128.

The board relies on God to lead us in our decisions, and we pray we are following the path God has set for us. We look forward to continuing to make decisions that will lead St. John into a very bright future.

In Christ,
Erik Hoefler

FINANCE



**Building and Grounds
2011 Annual Report**

The Building and Grounds board consisted of Kent Hoeft, Ed Platte, Mike Tracey, Jeff Otto, Bob Ohrt, and Paul van Ausdall.

In 2011 St. John sold the parsonage on Hillside Drive. We made repairs to the bus as needed. After Pastor Dave Werges left for his new call in Iowa Falls, it was decided to repair the 2nd Street parsonage.

Respectfully submitted, Kent Hoeft

**Board of Deacons
2011 Annual Report**



Lorie Hoeft is going off the Deacon board. Steve Colasuonno is the new chairperson for 2012.

At the 8:00 service there are 3 stations for communion during the school year and only 2 stations during the summer months. The 10:15/9:00 service runs 2 stations for communion all year.

In June when the pastors were at Synod Assembly, the group Heartland Harmony performed the worship service. Deb McInroy is the contact person. Praise in the Park was also held this summer.

In October the Deacons hosted a going away open house for Pastor Dave Werges and Elayne. It was very well attended.

Christmas decorating was held December 8. Thank you to anyone that was able to help with this activity.

Respectfully submitted, Lorie Hoeft

**Youth Board
2011 Annual Report**

The goal of the Youth board continues to be that of planting seeds of God’s ministries through providing and coordinating opportunities for St. John and community youth to make lifelong, Christ centered decisions. The 2011 board consisted of Tyler Griffin, Jeanne Edson, Candy Lumley, Katherine Bailey, Michael McKenzie, Sarah George, Erik Hoefer, Julie Colasuonno, Julie Sindlinger and Brad McKenzie. The board was also blessed to have the support and advice of Sue Foster and Pastor Dave Werges.

Some of the youth events offered this year were Bibles Before Books, Easter Breakfast, a couple of burrito breakfasts, ski trip to Welch Village, spring break in the Dells, spaghetti supper and talent show, three lock-ins, concession stand at Christian concert, two hockey games, corn maze, caroling in Holiday Parade, and the Chicago mission trip in December. A middle school “Taste of Mission” trip to South Dakota and a high school trip out East were also part of 2011 summer activities.

The board continues to look for new ideas for projects and activities, as well as opportunities for the youth to earn money to help offset the cost of the various activities. We are looking forward to another great year and a full calendar of opportunities for our youth.

Respectfully submitted, Brad McKenzie

Parish Education 2011



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The year began with the addition of Kendra Buenger to our board. We have been blessed throughout this year with her ideas, commitment, and assistance.

*January, we thanked the Parish Education Board members leaving after 3 years; Diane Sande and Jodi Heyer.

*February was the first Sunday school teacher meeting where we talked about the vision of our Sunday school program.

*March was a month full of work and preparation of the memory work. Camp EWALU made a visit and shared camp opportunities for our youth. It was also soap month.

*April was the Lenten Activity for families. The clay pots and prayers were a hit!

*May was a busy time planning for Vacation Bible School. The last Sunday school session was held on May 1st.

*June 6-10th was PANDAMANIA! It was a blast for anyone who volunteered, brought his or her children, or attended as a child. The theme was engaging and exciting, the music was fantastic, and the children were such a blessing. We were proud to show off some of our awesome singing on Sunday too! We appreciate the amount of time and talents shown during this week.

*July is when the board worked on a Sunday school calendar outline, teacher handbook, and setting up meetings to gain feedback from teachers. We also ordered a new curriculum from Augsburg; which has already had great responses. The children now take something home weekly, it is an ELCA based program, and it does not require great amount of time planning and preparation for the teachers like the online Akaloo did previously. There is a goal in mind in each lesson and the curriculum has our children involved in the catechism and Bible.

*August was back to school and that means planning for Rally Sunday. The registration is now easier for parents as the database can hold information year to year. We also began the search for an after school leader.

*September was rally Sunday and the first classes. The lifelong discipleship tools were given out again to each child and teachers. These are found on the church's website or can be printed for you if needed.

*October was preparing for the Advent activity and beginning to plan the Christmas program. There was also 10th grade confirmation and Bible distribution this month.

*November was food month. The children did an amazing job with remembering donations. The office counter and a whole cart were full of food, which helped with the angel tree baskets and local food pantry.

We also began practicing for the Christmas program; Erik Hoefler leading 2nd-6th in song and Diane Sande leading our 3 year olds-1st grade. The theme was Follow the Star.

There was also the family Advent activity. We prepared for 100 and had at least 60 in attendance. Pastor Niezwaag led the event with an explanation of Advent being the time of watching and waiting, preparing for Jesus' birth. The board then provided each family with an Advent daily chain, Advent calendar, and a star, which the children decorated, colored pictures to attach each week, and put on Velcro fasteners.

*December was such excitement with the children's Christmas program. Surge groups baked over 30 dozen cookies for the refreshments. The 5th and 6th graders had speaking parts, the 7th and 8th graders handed out bulletins, and the 9th graders collected offering.

Children 3 years old through 3rd received a book and bag as a Christmas gift. Those children in 4th-6th received a bag with a fruit and candy. Lori Nettleton and Ann Prichard put the teachers' gifts together.

The parish education board will be collaborating with the Family Board during the next year to see how we can help support each other's ministries. There are several activities and goals that overlap in these boards. Having a larger number of people assisting and planning will help us improve and maintain the fantastic things going on in our church.

In Christ,
Parish Education Board

Board of Stewardship 2011

January 26th the Stewardship board hosted a Wednesday night supper. The menu was Chicken Spaghetti, Olive Garden salad, bread & brownies

The Golf Outing was another big success. Kathy Crooks once again catered the meal of sandwiches and dessert. We thank Kathy for all the hard work she puts into the meal and hopes she will continue to do this for the board.

We had a “reverse offering” in which the offering plates were filled with slips containing needed items for the local food box. Those who chose to participate could take out a slip, purchase that item during the week and then bring that item to church on the following Sunday. From here the items were delivered to the Food Box. Jason McDonald volunteered to take the items to the Food Box on the 21st. It was unbelievable how many items were collected. Thank you to all who participated. It surely was a worthy cause.

The last activity for this year was the “Gift for Jesus” campaign. An envelope is mailed to each St. John family and the family in turn can donate an amount equal to that of a gift they would have spent on someone. Money donated was a little over \$2000.00 and will go to the general fund. Thank you to everyone who donated.

We appreciate everything the people of St. John do to make our board run more efficiently. God Bless!

The Stewardship board

Parish Life Board 2011 Annual Report

The Parish Life Board was blessed to have the following members during 2011, Andrea Kiefer, Judy Hughes, June Kehret, Betty Ferch and Helen Hagen. Our board enjoyed our fellowship during our meetings and accomplished the following projects:

In March/ April we shopped and packed Easter boxes for military members or relatives of the St. John family. We do this project to remind those serving our country they are not forgotten back home in Charles City. If you know of someone receiving a box that is no longer in active service or some one who recently joined the military, please contact the church office with the name and address.

Our next yearly project was planning, shopping for and serving the Rally Sunday meal in the park.. We enjoyed the beautiful day God gave us and served chicken sandwiches, beans, chips, cookies and root beer floats. We had help serving from a few Surge students.

Planning and serving the annual confirmation dinner was our third service. It is held the Sunday before Confirmation for the students and their family members. Kathy Crooks cooked the meal and again enlisted a few Surge students to help serve and clean up.

Our last project each year is to help get the Operation Christmas Child box's assembled and ready for church members to take home and fill and return. We had an awesome response in filled boxes.

Respectfully submitted, June Kehret



Parish Visitors Report for 2011



Parish Visitors is a vital ministry that we have at St. John. We have several shut-ins who are unable to attend church and would like to receive communion in their homes or would appreciate just a visit once a month. We could use YOU! If you are interested or have questions call Kathy at the church or Arlene Thomas at 228-4708.

Respectfully submitted, Arlene Thomas

“Recycled with Love” Card Ministry Outreach 2011 A ministry of the whole congregation PLUS...

...OUR MANY FRIENDS AT THE TWO ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCES AND THREE CARE FACILITIES...who this past year have helped us make almost 1000 cards. We have such fun at our “card parties”. The activity itself is part of our “reaching out”. Our friends love to have us come. We enjoy visiting and working together and they have satisfaction knowing they are doing something to help others.

This past year, you, the people of our congregation have taken cards and made personal visits to extend our St. John family’s “Congratulations” to those having birthdays (80th and over) and anniversaries (50th and over), and for Easter and Christmas greetings from our pastors and congregation. You have mailed cards to our post-high school youth, persons on our prayer list and service list and out-of-town members, former pastors and interns, and you have also remembered those who have lost a spouse or a child.

A special “thank you” to those who are personally involved in getting these cards ready. Keeping records, buying supplies, helping to make the cards, signing your names on the special birthday and anniversary cards, picking up cards for mailing or delivery and setup and being at the tables Sunday mornings and especially your prayers for all the ministries of our congregation.

We continue to meet once a month, the 2nd Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. either in the church basement or at a care center. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for reminders. Call Sue Baron at 228-4006 if you need a ride.

Working together, we are making a difference with this simple ministry. God bless you all.

Sue Baron, Chairperson

St. John Angel Tree Ministry Report for 2011 Submitted by Jean Rima & Shirley Holm



In December 2011, the Angel Tree Ministry collected and delivered 55 gifts to 22 children of prisoners and their caregivers. Each child received two gifts and their caregiver also received a gift. In addition to the donated gifts, each family received Christian reading material provided by Angel Tree donations from the St. John congregation. Christian literature and Christmas cards were sent to 11 prisoners.

Eight families also received a large food basket provided by Angel Tree donations and St. John Women’s Ministry. The gifts and food boxes were picked up by the families or delivered in person. The prisoners and their families are especially appreciative for this ministry.

St. John Lutheran Scholarship Committee 2011

(Appointed by the church council)

As a result of the economic difficulties which occurred in our country and as a way to help our member's families in 2011, your church invited individuals who wished to further their education or learn a new skill, the opportunity to do this with the assistance of the St. John Scholarship Fund. As you think about your desire to make yourself more employable for next year, remember that your church has two types of scholarships; EPIC for students attending Lutheran Colleges and your "Saint John Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund" for all students, high school, and adults, who wish to enhance or further their education, whether at a college or a trade school. Since its start in 1978, the "St. John Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund" has given a "scholarship boost" to well over 180 students and adults. When this committee was formed, it was decided **to use only the interest earned each year for scholarships**. Because of this, we are very dependent on the continued generosity of members through your gifts and/or memorials. **We need your support!!!** We say a special "Thank You" for your support of **this scholarship fund** in the past, but we need your continued help!

Interested individuals are asked to stop into the church office to pick up an application which is divided into five parts: general background, scholastic ability, leadership qualities, good citizenship and career interest. The application must be returned to the church office by March 1, 2012, after which the committee will meet to award the scholarships. I think it is **important to note** that the selection committee does **not** know the names of the applicants when reviewing the applications. In our decision making process **we look hard at listed church activities and also on continued religious involvement while away at college.** If you have questions or concerns please feel free to talk to any member of the committee. Kip Hauser, chair; Myrna Culbertson, Shirley Holm, Lyle Sprout, and Kay Tjaden.

2011 Committee Scholarship Recipients

Kristen Garden
Piper Colasuonno
Abigail Platte
Jared Tieskotter
Drew Armstrong
Breanna Stone
Cala Westergard

SCHOLARSHIPS
SCHOLARSHIPS

EPIC Grant Recipients

Brianna Tieskotter
Peter Rogotzke

TRANSFERS IN

These Christian people from other churches came to us in 2011, and expressed their desire to practice their membership at Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church. Their former pastors, by the authorization of church councils, transferred their membership into our family.

Jason & Laura Walker
Bryce Walker

Karol Carpenter

Josslyn Jackson

Shirley DeVries



TRANSFERS OUT

These Christian people left our congregation to join other congregations.

Les & Shyrl Gehrels

Jane Knudson

Paul & Janice Fisher

Mike & Sharon Sindlinger

Pastor David & Elayne Werges

Christopher Arp

RELEASED FROM ST. JOHN

These Christian people left our congregation to join another congregation.

Richard & Sharon Pahnisch

Roger & Susan Ramthun

Mark Melrose

Judy Thorson

Susan Ross

Dennis & Rhonda Westergard

Eileen Ross

George & Ruth Mitchell

Paul & Pat Heddens

Rhonda Christensen

BAPTISMS

It is at baptism that you become a member of the one great holy Christian church. In 2011, parents and godparents brought these children to Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church for baptism into the holy Christian church.

Graham James Hansen

Eli Mitchell Engelhardt

Carson Harold Mullenbach

Riley Jean Quade

Hayden Michael Koenigsfeld

Sophia Lyn Downs

Isaiah Keaton Watkins

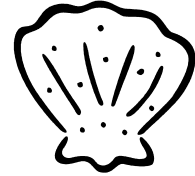
Hailey Jean Rule

Owen William Prichard

Kielyn Jean Bahe

Isaac Ryan Gassman

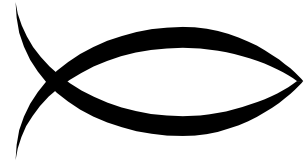
Ava Blair Wegner



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

CONFIRMATION

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



Brady Robert Garden

Tyler Jacob Griffin

Katie Lea Hoeft

Tyler Scott LaBarge

Derek William LaPolice

Sabrina Skye Lievrouw

Cynthia Rose Lumley

Hunter Jay Menken

Myla Ann Meyer

Alexander Ray Potratz

Alberto Hans Sveum

Ashley Lynn Vance

Katelynn Raye Wells

Connor Lee West

Mckinna Mae Wilts



2011 BURIALS

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



Everett Carl Pattschull

Shirley Alice Stratton Bunston

Shirley Rose Albertson Begemann

Myron Russell Wulff

Robert James Eggert

Gertrude "Gertie" Edna Nack Kroneman

Mary Virginia White Lovrien

Susan Elaine Fisher

Cathy Diane Johnson

Wayne Edward Swant

Evelyn Irene Runge Klinetop

Elsie Elizabeth Becker Hoeft

Irene Heckman Stohr

Pern D. Mead French

Dean Alfred Rivers

Loretta Jean Whitmarsh Wiltse

Clarence Frank Prange

Donald Frederick Holthaus

Elsie Rebecca Holien Gordon

Darrell Dean Tynan

Irmgard Anna Elizabeth Knock Becker

Betty Jean Grossmann

Gilbert Louis Otto Bartman

Elaine Jean Soli Schreier

Grace Leona Hoeft Cummings

Dale Leland Chestek

Idah Ione Hunter Quigley

Erin Lorraine Heffron

William "Bill" Robert Rickart

Jim Joseph Zbornik

Charles "Chuck" Walter Stanbro

Beverly Jane Shaffner Fix

Doris Helen Springer Martin

Dorothy Leona Litterer Schmidt

Evelyn Irene Berding Johlas

Dorothy Maxine Bluhm Phillips

Tim Allen Rowe

Juanita Helena White Mehmen

Neil Kent Vest

Catherine Joan Springer Hartmann

Glen Rufus Nelson

PAROCHIAL REPORT

BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2011.....		1,216
2010 - 1,231		
CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2011		880
2010 - 909		
Number of confirmed members who received Holy Communion at least once in 2011		554
Number of non-confirmed members who received Holy Communion at least once in 2011		150
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP EACH WEEK		396
2010 - 417		
GROWTH OF ST. JOHN CHURCH BY THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM		12
1) Children	12	
2) Adults	0	
GROWTH OF ST. JOHN CHURCH BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND REINSTATEMENT		39
1) Youth.	15	
2) Affirmation of Baptism	0	
3) Reinstatement.	24	
GROWTH OF ST. JOHN CHURCH BY TRANSFER FROM OTHER PARISHES.		6
BURIAL SERVICES AT WHICH THE PASTORS OFFICIATED		41
MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED AT ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.		7
TRANSFERS OUT OF ST JOHN CHURCH INTO OTHER CHURCHES		10
RELEASES TO NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH.		15
CONFIRMED MEMBERS REMOVED FROM THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN 2011 (due to their failure to attend worship, receive Holy Communion, or to contribute for at least one year, according to our records)		27
2010 - 50		
NUMBER OF COMMUNIONS GIVEN AT NURSING HOMES IN 2011		855
Members of St. John	267	
Members of other parishes.	588	