

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 1997 TO 2016

Charles City, Iowa



Compiled by Janet Petefish and Marilyn Isakson

The last church history of St. John was compiled for the church's 125th Anniversary in 1997. Since the history was printed in that church year, a few items are included in this document that occurred after that celebration in 1997.

The following compilation of events and general information occurring from the end of 1997 to 2016 is an ongoing record of the history as recorded at Annual Meetings, Pastoral Annual Reports and in Council and Board minutes. These were made available to us in printed and digital form. It is as accurate as possible and not necessarily in a true timeline as some information was presented as a synopsis of the year and not intended as a historical document. Some items included are changes in Staff, major Buildings and Grounds projects, points of interest from Boards and Ministries and pivotal events in the life and character of the church. Also included are records of past Congregational Officers, Boards and Ministries that have been added or changed and Pastors in this time frame. This record will be updated periodically.

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History 1997-2016

1997

- 125th Anniversary of the congregation
- Andrea DeVore was hired as the church Business Manager.
- Pastor Behling resigned and was called to a parish near Albert Lea, MN.
- The preliminary Call process began.
- Written commitment forms for help, prayers and financial support were created by the Stewardship Board as an update to the Time and Talent forms.
- A new structure for Council and Boards as a result of a 1996 update to the bylaws was instituted. This was a change from most Boards meeting in one night and then joining in a large Council meeting to a separation of meeting times and responsibilities. Boards began taking more ownership of their individual responsibilities and the Council began focusing on the overall well-being of the church and defining a vision for the future.

1998

- The Celebrate Service began in the Parish Hall at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings with a praise band.
- The parsonage was refurbished for a new pastor.
- An interim pastor, Pastor Paul Forde, was hired for three months and then Pastor Sally Gausman filled in part-time until the call process chose Pastor Mark Anderson.
- A new bus was purchased to replace the beloved 'Old Blue'.
- Jack and Jill Preschool's name was changed to St. John Christian Preschool.
- 100 trigger locks were given away at the Cedar Mall in a youth ministry program to save lives. This was covered by local and national news.
- Project Identity of the ELCA helped create community Media presence with ads on cable TV featuring the St. John name, address and phone number daily and with flyer inserts in the local papers.
- New church signs were installed.
- Dennis Petersen created a Nativity Scene for the corner of Gilbert and Main for a Christmas display.
- Repair was done on the stained glass window on the north side of the sanctuary.
- Ron Jensen resigned as custodian and Roger Michael was hired full time and Mark Davidson part-time.

1999

- A scholarship fund was created for the preschool
- The Flood of '99 made St. John the center for the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the United Way. The congregation responded with volunteerism and food.
- Simply Giving was introduced.

2000

- A Sabbatical Leave Policy was added to the bylaws.
- Teen Serve brought 400 teens to Charles City for two weeks to serve by rehabilitating 100 homes of low income and elderly residents. This included cleaning, painting, roofing and basic carpentry.
- The Church mortgage was paid off thanks to the Gladys Gregg estate.
- Shirley Holm resigned as Parish Youth Assistant.
- The congregation was challenged to read the entire Bible in 2000.
- A commercial quality video about St. John was aired on cable TV.
- An after school program for 3rd-5th graders was formed.
- New ceiling, window treatments and lights were installed in the Parish Hall as well as a sound system.
- An LCD projector was purchased and used at meetings and the 9:15 service.
- New tables were purchased for the Parish Hall.
- Dart Ball started.
- Lenten / Easter crosses were installed and the Nativity Triptych was completed for the Gilbert and Main corner.
- WELCA sent representatives to the first Synodical Women's Organization Convention in Ames.

2001

- The second floor windows were replaced to be energy efficient.
- Pictures were taken for the pictorial directory.
- Gloria Crumpton resigned and Susan Wegner was hired as church secretary.
- Pastor Anderson resigned and went to serve at the Synod office.
- The Council began sending Council members to the Board meetings to promote communication between them.
- Deb Hocking painted murals on the stairs and the bottom hallway.
- Lighting was installed for the North stained glass windows in the sanctuary.

2002

- A call committee was elected with 6 members and 1 alternate.
- A new church profile was created.
- The pictorial directory was delivered.
- The second street parsonage was renovated.
- Pastor Werges was hired.
- This was the first year of the Pioneer Club after school program.
- A kiosk bulletin board was built for the Narthex to display items of interest.

2003

- A goal was set to offer more Bible Study.
- A second Sunday of Communion was added; 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

- Visitation Pastor Oppedahl retires and the decision was made to not hire a new visitation pastor. A visitation committee takes over Communion on their visits.

2004

- A mission trip to Washington, DC included work in a soup kitchen and Habitat for Humanity.
- Cindy Zirbel died in a car accident and Sara Hoffman was hired as Assistant Director of the Preschool.
- Julie Randall resigns as Parish Education Assistant and Brenda Bailey was hired.
- Simon Estes visited in May as a result of his friendship with the Christian Ones group and WELCA.
- The after school program changed from 'Pioneer Club' affiliation to St. John 'Discovery Kids'.

2005

- Security cameras and monitor were installed.
- Missionary Maryn Olson came to talk to the congregation about mission work in Namibia.
- The congregation filled a semi with food and supplies for victims of Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, Mississippi.
- A mission trip also went out east for a similar experience to 2004.

2006

- Pastor Werges led a group of volunteers to Biloxi for hurricane relief.
- The stained glass windows were repaired and reinforced and a dedication of the new Ascension window took place in April.
- New banners were made to decorate the Parish Hall.
- The SAFE program was instituted to keep our children safe from predators in church based ministries and programs. Pastor Werges was in charge.
- Ken and Connie Swant helped to bring the internet and email to St. John.
- New support groups were organized for Alzheimer's and Stroke victims as well as continued support for the Parkinson's group.
- Many congregation members committed to read through the Bible.
- The first outdoor service, Praise in the Park, was held.
- The Lent challenge was the call to be a DISCIPLE
 1. Pray Daily
 2. Worship weekly
 3. Read the Bible
 4. Serve the congregation
 5. Be in a Relationship with others to care and encourage
 6. Give of my time, talent and resources
- One service was held on Reformation Day with a 'Pack the Church' Sunday. This was followed by displays and information on various ministries displayed in the Parish Hall.
- Support of missionary Maryn Olson's work on AIDS education in Namibia continued.

- The church bus was sold.
- The organ was refurbished and new features installed including digital recording of the songs played by the organist. It was over 80 years old at this time.
- Tricia Spading, the new Youth Director, helped revamp the third floor.

2007

- A small group began exploring buying a commercial style bus for the church.
- The refurbished organ was dedicated at a service with music by Andrea DeVore and special guest, Mark Babcock, of Central College.
- Rhonda Christiansen retired in May as Preschool Director / teacher after 25 years of service. Sara Hoffman took over and the Assistant Director position was filled by Kate (Christiansen) Anderson.
- Tricia Spading resigned.
- More groups went to Biloxi and southern Minnesota for disaster relief mission and out east for youth mission opportunities.
- Sue (Wegner) Bernemann resigned as church secretary and Kathy Hoeft was hired.
- Kathy Michael, church chef, suffered a health problem and Norm Klemesrud stepped in to continue the Wednesday night dinners. Lori Nettleton and the Wednesday evening Bible study also stepped in to help as well as Ken Swant to keep the ministry going.
- This was the last year of the Christian Ones.
- A major roof repair began in November and a 5000 gallon fuel tank was removed from the church property.
- The third floor was remodeled with a new classroom and meeting area using many adult and youth volunteer hours.

2008

- The church roof project was completed with all of the tiles and the underlying fabric replaced. The tiles were reset and new flashing installed.
- Biblical characters to bring the Gospel message were used in the Lenten services and at some Sunday services.
- June brought another flood to the community and St. John again became the fore-front of assistance to the city as we housed and fed victims and workers. The Salvation Army and Red Cross made St. John their headquarters.
- Pastor Werges took a Sabbatical during the summer.
- The church's old boiler reached the end of its effective life so the replacement of the heating system caused some major remodeling to much of the building. The preschool bathrooms were also remodeled with automatic lights and lower fixtures. The projects also led to some ceiling and wall repairs.
- A bus was purchased.
- Meetings were held in October, led by the Council, to determine priorities for 2009; emphasis would be on family, ministry, youth ministry and outreach.
- Discussion between the Board of Deacons, staff and pastors led to the decision to set the Sunday worship schedule to 8:00 a.m. (traditional) and 10:15 a.m. (non-traditional, contemporary).

2009

- New Boards: Family Ministry and the Board of Youth Ministry.
- The 2009 decisions by the ELCA Church-wide Assembly complicated the life of our congregation with the decision to allow same sex committed pastors to be included in the pool of pastors. This resulted in the strategy to allow church members to choose to express their dissent by withholding their offerings from the benevolence support to the NE Iowa ELCA synod.
- Andrea DeVore was honored for 40 years of service in the music ministry at St. John.
- The Parish Life Board organized a new church pictorial directory.
- A church cookbook was compiled for a fundraising event and sold at Christmas time.
- The parking lot was patched and paved.
- A roof repair over the Parish Hall with a new membrane overlay was completed.

2010

- Roger Michael resigned and Jason McDonald was hired as custodian.
- Brenda Bailey resigned as Parish Education Coordinator
- The computer system was updated with five new Apple computers and a new server.
- Pastor Niezwaag took a sabbatical May through August.
- A security fence was built for the St. John Preschool
- The 3rd floor was updated with commodes, paint, carpet and furniture.
- Mission / Youth Trips: February to Texas, March to the Wisconsin Dells and December to Chicago.

2011

- In the beginning of the year speakers came to St. John to explain the ELCA decision to ordain individuals who are actively engaged in committed, publically acknowledged, long-term homosexual relationships. Speakers spoke for and against the decision. Feedback forms were filled out and reviewed by the Council. The decision was made "to not pursue a congregational vote at this time on the issue and to move on with the business of St. John."
- WELCA disbanded and a task force was formed to reorganize the ministries of that group. Women's Ministries was formed without affiliation with the ELCA.
- Sarah Hoffman resigns as Director of the preschool and Whitney Nordmeyer was hired.
- Wednesday night suppers were stopped for a time until Norm Klemesrud stepped in to restart them.
- Pastor Werges resigned to accept a call in Iowa Falls and Wellsburg in October.
- The Hillside parsonage was sold.
- 200 members attended a meeting to decide the direction of St. John with the departure of Pastor Werges.
- A full-time Youth and Family Director and a part-time Pastor were the direction the council decided to pursue in the hiring / call process.
- A middle school mission trip to South Dakota and a high school trip out East were part of the summer activities.

2012

- St. John Christian Preschool got a website in February thanks to Justin DeVore.
- The 2nd Street parsonage was renovated.
- Pastor Norm Bauer of the congregation helped out by visitation and some preaching.
- Pastor Jim Carpenter was hired as a part-time pastor in April.
- The name of the Parish Life Board was changed to the Parish Communications Board with the focus on dissemination of information, to include the internet and social media.
- Melinda King was hired as Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator.
- Custodian Jason McDonald resigned and John Swiggum was hired.
- The Preschool was restructured with Kate Anderson becoming Director and Whitney Nordmeyer Associate Director.
- The Constitution and By-laws were updated.
- Greg Kreimeyer, a former member of St. John, came to the congregation with a calling as a missionary to Ecuador. He would be included in the 2013 budget.
- Sue Ayers felt a calling to help the people of Haiti after the hurricane there and formed a mission trip December 29th to January 5th. Homes were to be built as well as some medical and educational involvement.
- A sound system cabinet was placed in the balcony to be integrated into an updated sound system.

2013

- Digital Bulletin Boards were added in the Narthex and outside the church office to show up-to-date and visually attractive information.
- An AED (automatic external defibrillator) was purchased and members trained to use it with at least one member regularly attending each service.
- Justin DeVore was hired as part-time Director of Communications. He updated the technology capability of the church. The e-skinny was created as well as a presence on Facebook and Twitter. Recorded announcements, pod-casts (with Ken Swant's help) and dial-a-prayer were developed.
- A task force was created with representatives from Boards to investigate updating technology in the church services; a sound system and screens. The group would work into 2014.
- Greg Kreimeyer began his missionary call to Ecuador with funds raised in the congregation.
- A new logo for St. John was created. **God's Love in Action.**
- The first 'Pub'lic praise hymn sing was introduced in July.

2014

- The Youth Director resigned so Laurie Heidebrink stepped down as President of the Congregation to take that position.
- Eric Johanningmeier took over as President.
- Justin DeVore resigned as Director of Communications.

- The bus heater problems were resolved so the bus continued to be a viable transportation option for the church.
- Norm Klemesrud died and Dave and Shirley Ripley stepped in to take over Wednesday night dinners.

2015

- Pastor Niezwaag retired in August.
- Pastor Odermann came as interim Pastor
- Andrea DeVore retired as Director of Music after over 45 years. In July, Melanie Johanningmeier was hired for this position.
- Andrea DeVore retired as Business Manager at the end of the year and Amy Isenecker was hired to start in 2016.
- Kate (Anderson) Low resigned as preschool director. Whitney (Nordmeyer) Franke becomes director / teacher.
- A new sound system was installed in the sanctuary. The task force created in 2013, Finance Board and Council decided that the timing for further upgrades would be in the future.
- With the help of KCHA, the Finance Board approved the purchase of a device to make the Sunday morning broadcast much clearer.
- The St. John photo directory was completed.

2016

- A Transition Team was formed to assist Interim Pastor Odermann, the Council and the future Call Committee by investigating how the congregation views St. John from the perspectives of past, present and future. This was done in the form of many small cottage meetings of 8-12 members of the congregation discussing the above perceptions of the past and desires for the future. Staff, boards and past presidents were interviewed to get an internal view and an outward perspective was also explored with community interviews focusing on how the community views us. These took place March to May 2016.
- The church's mission statement, constitution, bylaws and many other updates were worked on to prepare for the call process.
- Several visitation groups were formed to visit and take Communion to our shut-ins and nursing home residents.
- Erik Hoefer, Worship Assistant and Youth choir director, left to go to the seminary in August. A coffee was held for him after he preached at a special church service August 28. He will be an asset to the ministry, but a great loss for our church.
- Several new computers were installed along with an updated networking system. The church website, Facebook and church email newsletter, the e-Skinny are updated because of an emphasis in social media in community outreach. Some Facebook posts have over 3,000 views for special postings.
- The parsonage was toured by any interested church members in order to discuss its use at a future time.

- New locks for the church were installed and keys were issued. Kathy Hoeft will keep the list of who has the keys.
- The Chamber Beautification Committee asked the church to take over the landscaping in front of the church. Building and Grounds developed a plan to implement this.
- Some projects for the year include updating the phone system, refinishing the sanctuary floor, carpet in some classrooms, removal of the crosses in front of the church due to rotted timber, and updating the Bride's room.
- The Youth had several successful fundraisers and were able to help participating youth with funding for the South Dakota Mission Trip and future events.
- A new Prayer Shawl Ministry is being introduced in conjunction with the Do Day group to reach out to comfort those with grave health issues. They will also encourage knitting or crocheting of hats and mittens for the Coats for Kids and the clothing room. The Do Day group already has a continuing outreach with quilts and lap-quilts for those in need and nursing home residents.
- A major flood in the area in September interrupted the usual services at St. John because of prohibition of drain and bathroom use in the entire town. Only one early service was held with an invitation (via Facebook) that anyone in town was welcome to come. St. John was contacted as an emergency center, but the city made the decision to use the vacant Middle School facilities.
- Martin Luther and his wife Katy visited in October to help celebrate the upcoming 500th Anniversary of Reformation in 2017. The church service was presented as an interesting way to inform the congregation about the importance of the reformation and to personalize it with the experiences of the couple during that time in history.

*An effort was made to include more personal stories pertaining to the history of St. John in this document. At this point in time the contributions are not numerous enough to include, but at a future date a compilation of those collected will be added.

Pastors, Past and Present

It was my privilege to serve at Saint John for almost three years. Every day I spent with the people of St. John I was amazed at their faithfulness, generosity and commitment to mission in the community and beyond. This was demonstrated especially during the flood of 1999 when the congregation immediately opened its doors to flood victims, volunteers and then both government and non-governmental aid organizations. Saint John's members provided meals, cleaned houses, housed offices and distributed gifts from around the nation. But this was just a very dramatic expression of the daily ministry of this congregation. During these years we also worked with the organization TeenServe to bring 400 teenagers to Charles City over two weeks to rehabilitate 100 homes mostly of low income elderly. This work included painting, roofing, carpentry and cleaning. Virtually every member of the congregation contributed in some way to make this grand mission project a success.



Pastor Mark A. Anderson

Served as Pastor
1998-2001

Pastor David Werges was called to St John and began pastoral ministry there in December 2002. St John has a passion for giving themselves away by serving others. Under his leadership he planned and led mission trips to numerous destinations including Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, Biloxi, Louisiana, South Dakota, Guatemala, and Haiti. On these mission trips the teams helped build houses, repair houses, worked at nursing homes, food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, national parks, plus other projects. One of the highlights of these mission trips was being asked to participate in the Jimmy Carter Habitat for Humanity Blitz where our team built an entire house in one week, dedicated the house and handed the keys to the new home owner.



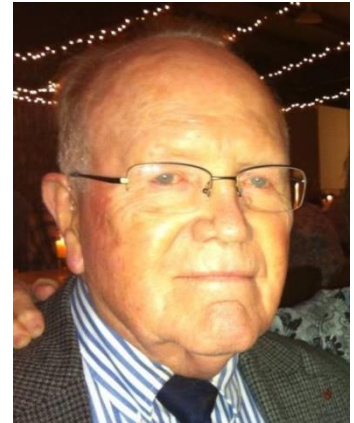
Pastor David Werges

Served 2002-2011

He revamped the confirmation program in an effort to have students build a faith based relationship with God and adult leaders through small groups. Expanded youth ministry into family focused ministry. He started a visitation group that reached out to members that were in nursing homes and home bound. He was instrumental in the purchasing of a bus to enhance the ministries of St John. His passion for preaching and spreading the Gospel message of Jesus Christ empowered others to share that message.

"I have fond memories of the eight years I was a Visitation Pastor with you people of St. John Lutheran in Charles City. There was the great satisfaction in sharing the Word and the Word-Made-Flesh in the Lord's Supper with so many saints that could no longer make it to worship. For the first six years I was given the privilege of having supper and a stay-over with welcoming members. Then some members bought a motel and gave me their warm hospitality for the night of my two-day visitation. I am indebted to our Lord and to Pastor Niezwaag and all the others who welcomed me so warmly.

I pray for continued rich blessings upon the ministry and members of St. John Church in Charles City.



Pastor Andrew Oppedahl
Served 1995 to 2003

Pastor Jim Carpenter was a part-time pastor with St. John. He did a great deal of visitation for the congregation and occasionally would give the message on a Sunday morning. He was ordained in the ministry June 21, 1970. His previous parishes have been in South Dakota, Sioux City, Bode and Belmond. He is married to Kathy and has two grown children.



Pastor Jim Carpenter
Served 2012-2015

Pastor Paul Nelson was St. John's Visitation Pastor. He retired as pastor after 37 years of pastoral ministry. He grew up at Roland, near Ames, where his father was a pastor for 27 years. He has served in Lime Springs, Council Bluffs, Grundy Center and Mason City. While serving as visitation pastor for St. John, he also served as an interim Pastor in Tripoli in 2014 and then at Trinity in Waterloo in 2015. He lives with his wife, Kathy, in Waverly. They have two adult children, both of whom are married.



Pastor Paul Nelson
Served 2014 to 2015



Pastor Dennis Niezwaag
Served 1983 to 2015

Below is an excerpt from Pastor Niezwaag's Annual Pastoral Report for 2014. It is reproduced with his blessing. Pastor Niezwaag retired at the end of August, 2015 after 33 years in ministry at St. John.

The first time that I heard the name of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church was in the spring of 1981 while I was finishing my second year at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA. They told me that it was going to be the church where I would do my pastoral internship.

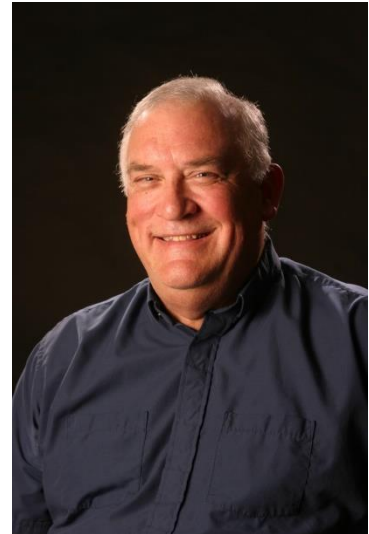
During that summer we decided to get up early one Sunday morning, get the kids ready and come to worship at St. John. It was very early because worship at St. John did not include an 11:00 service and we had a little over 2 hours to drive to get there. But we made it only a little late and came in during the opening hymn. When the hymn was over, the current intern at the time, Mark Gravidahl, said, "Everyone please be seated EXCEPT for the family that just came in." Several people later told us that they thought he might say something about us being late. But really all he wanted to do was introduce us as the new pastoral intern and his family.

That was how my ministry here at St. John began. I had a wonderful year of internship then returned to seminary for my last year. It was during that year that I started hearing about how the ministry team at St. John was changing and that there might be an opening for an Associate Pastor in the spring of 1983. I focused on my studies but always in the back of my mind was the question of what I might do if that ministry position was offered to me. I know that my family had also had a very good experience at St. John and so I was hoping for this to be God's will for me.

And so it came to be. On August 15, 1983 I began work as the Associate Pastor here at St. John. Ten years as the Associate Pastor, then becoming the Senior Pastor in the summer of 1994, and now on August 14, 2014 it will be about 20 years as Senior Pastor and a total of 32 years doing ministry here at St. John. This is the only church where I have served as an ordained pastor.

Pastor William Odermann has been an intentional interim pastor since 1998 and began serving St. John Lutheran on September 1, 2015. He graduated from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and then trained as a hospital chaplain before transferring his ordination into the ELCA. Bill served a number of interim positions with congregations in Minnesota and South Dakota before coming to St. John. Bill and his wife, Diane and their daughter, Anneliese, make their home in Austin, Minnesota.

“Serving as interim pastor at St. John has been rewarding for me. It’s ‘the people’ of St. John that make is so! I experience them as a people with a hunger for spiritual things and high regard for the Word of God. They care about their church and their city and the city know they care! When you visit, you will experience a positive spiritual climate that makes you feel right at home and one of them!”



Pastor William Odermann
2015 to present

STAFF MEMBERS OF NOTE



Andrea DeVore

Andrea DeVore served St. John as the Music Director for many years (46) before retiring from that position in 2015.

In 1998 she added Business Manager to her responsibilities. She, along with a dedicated group of ladies, counted the weekly offerings from the congregation on Monday mornings and also lent her expertise to the financial matters of the congregation. Andrea retired from this position in 2016 after training the new manager in the extensive task of Business Manager to a large congregation.

Andrea's family has a distinct connection with St. John. Her family is one of only two families to have seven generations baptized at St. John.

Andrea DeVore 1941-2016



Erik Hoefler

Erik Hoefler was St. John's go-to person. As worship assistant, Erik filled nearly every role in worship. Erik was part of traditional worship service as cantor and served as contemporary worship as leader of the Praise Band. He directed Carol choir, St. John's children's choir, and was an active leader in our youth ministries including confirmation. He served on several boards and was the host of Bibles before Books. Erik's full time job was a 5th grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in Charles City and was "The Voice" of the Comet High School sports.

Recently Erik served notice that as of August, 2016, he was resigning from his teaching job as well as many of the above activities to pursue his Call to the ministry.

Erik's contributions to our ministries will be missed as we support him and wish him well in the calling that will take him from our congregation.

BOARDS

According to the Bylaws of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church,
The Boards of the congregation shall be:

'Comprised of' 6 members each for 3 year terms with approximately one third of the member's terms to expire per year.

1996	<u>Board</u>	<u>Additional advisory members to the Boards</u>
(a)	Buildings and Grounds	
(b)	Deacons	Director of Music and an Altar Guild member
(c)	Finance	Business Manager and Scholarship chair
(d)	Parish Education	Church School Superintendent, Vacation Bible School Director and a Preschool representative
(e)	Parish Life	*WELCA President, representative of Youth Ministry, *Christian Ones and Small Group Ministry
(f)	Stewardship	The Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries
2009	<u>Addendum to the Bylaws</u>	
(g)	Youth Ministry	<i>This will consist of a 9 member Board, 6 adults and 3 Youth. Adults to serve 3 year terms and Youth 1 year terms, but may be re-elected.</i>
(h)	Family Ministry	<i>Objective to proclaim the Gospel through development of educational, servant and social opportunities for families that allow family members to grow in spiritual relationships with Christ and one another.</i>
2012	<u>Change to Bylaws</u>	
(e)	Parish Communications (Was Parish Life)	<i>The objective is to proclaim the Gospel by utilizing and developing assets to use to communicate Christ's word to the area.</i>

*Christian Ones was disbanded in 2007 due to aging leadership.

*WELCA was disbanded in 2011 and the responsibilities reorganized into other groups. The names of some of the other designated advisory members have been reorganized or absorbed into other ministries. The Constitution and Bylaws will be updated to reflect these changes.

MINISTRIES

Women's Ministries
Carol and Trinity choirs
St. John Christian Preschool
The meal preparation groups
Youth ministry opportunities
Parkinson's support
Alzheimer's support
Mothers of Preschooler's (MOPS)
Flu Clinics,
Operation Christmas Child
Feed my Starving Children
Angel Tree
Parents Who have Suffered the Death of a Child
Cub Scout Den
Scholarship Committee
Yoga
Zumba
Quilting
Recycled with Love Card Ministry
Bibles before Books
Funeral callers / Workers / Providers
Meals on Wheels
Coats for Kids
Small Group Bible Study
Home Baked Outreach
Alter Guild
Home Communion Outreach / Parish Visitors
Clothing Room
Parish Education
Vacation Bible School
Bible Before Books
Needy Fund
Mission Trips
Bulletins to Nursing Homes
Wednesday Night Suppers
After School Program
Confirmation
Wind Ensemble
Ushering
Greeters
Softball
Dartball
Transition Team
Prayer Shawl
All the ministries that have not been mentioned.

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 1998**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Visitation Pastor:	The Reverend Andrew G. Oppedahl
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Gloria Crumpton
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Education Coordinator:	Julie Randall
Parish Youth Coordinator:	Shirley Holm
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Preschool Director	Rhonda Christensen
Assistant Director:	Cynthia L. Zirbel
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefel

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	David Markle
Vice President:	David Watson
Secretary:	Marietta Sylvester
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 1999**

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Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefel

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	David Watson
Vice President:	Janet Petefish
Secretary:	Lori Otto
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2000**

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Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Education Coordinator:	Julie Randall
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Preschool Director:	Rhonda Christensen
Assistant Director:	Cynthia L. Zirbel
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hofer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	David Watson
Vice President:	Janet Petefish
Secretary:	Lori Otto
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2001**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend Mark A Anderson
Visitation Pastor:	The Reverend Andrew G. Oppedahl
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Gloria Crumpton
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Education Coordinator:	Julie Randall
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Preschool Director:	Rhonda Christensen
Assistant Director:	Cynthia L. Zirbel
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hofer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Janet Petefish
Vice President:	Mark Kimzey
Secretary:	Chris Wells
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2002**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David A. Werges
Visitation Pastor:	The Reverend Andrew G. Oppedahl
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Susan K. Wegner
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Education Coordinator:	Julie Randall
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Preschool Director:	Rhonda Christensen
Assistant Director:	Cynthia L. Zirbel
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Janet Petefish
Vice President:	Mark Sindlinger
Secretary:	Chris Wells
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2003**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David A. Werges
Visitation Pastor:	The Reverend Andrew G. Oppedahl
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Susan K. Wegner
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Education Coordinator:	Julie Randall
Custodian:	Roger Michael
Preschool Director:	Rhonda Christensen
Assistant Director:	Cynthia L. Zirbel
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Mark Sindlinger
Vice President:	Gregg Grimm
Secretary:	Diane Barr
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2004**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David A. Werges
Visitation Pastor:	The Reverend Andrew G. Oppedahl
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Susan K. Wegner
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Education Coordinator:	Julie Randall / Brenda Bailey
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Preschool Director:	Rhonda Christensen
Assistant Director:	Cynthia L. Zirbel / Sara Hoffman
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefel

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Mark Sindlinger
Vice President:	Gregg Grimm
Secretary:	Diane Barr
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2005**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David A. Werges
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Susan K. (Wegner) Berneman
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Education Coordinator:	Brenda M. Bailey
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Preschool Director:	Rhonda Christensen
Assistant Director:	Sara Hoffman
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Substitute:	Pam Vetter
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefel

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Gregg Grimm
Vice President:	Janet Petefish
Secretary:	LaVonne Reysack
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2006**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David A. Werges
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Susan K. Berneman
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Education Coordinator:	Brenda M. Bailey
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Preschool Director:	Rhonda Christensen
Assistant Director:	Sara Hoffman
Part Time Assistants:	Debra Hocking Pam Vetter
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Gregg Grimm
Vice President:	Janet Petefish
Secretary:	LaVonne Reysack
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2007**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David A. Werges
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Kathy M. Hoeft
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Director of Preschool:	Sarah J. Hoffman
Assistant Director:	Kate M. Anderson
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Education Coordinator:	Brenda M. Bailey
Youth Coordinator	Patricia A. Spading
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Parish Chef:	Kathleen K. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Janet Petefish
Vice President:	Justin DeVore
Secretary:	Betty Ferch
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2008**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David A. Werges
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Kathy M. Hoeft
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Director of Preschool:	Sarah J. Hoffman
Assistant Director:	Katie M. Anderson
Part Time Assistant:	Debra Hocking
Parish Education Coordinator:	Brenda M. Bailey
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Justin DeVore
Vice President:	Cherie Schafer
Secretary:	Betty Ferch
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2009**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor	The Reverend David A. Werges
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary	Kathy M. Hoeft
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Director of Preschool:	Sarah J. Hoffman
Assistant Director:	Kate M. Anderson
Part time Assistant	Debra Hocking
Parish Education Coordinator:	Brenda M. Bailey
Custodian:	Roger L. Michael
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Justin DeVore
Vice – President:	Cherie Schafer
Secretary:	Viva Boerschel
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2010**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis D. Niezwaag
Pastor:	The Reverend David A. Werges
Director of Music:	Andrea B. DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Kathy M. Hoeft
Business Manager:	Andrea B. DeVore
Director of Preschool:	Sarah J. Hoffman
Assistant Director:	Kate M. Anderson
Part time Assistant	Debra Hocking
Parish Education Coordinator:	
Custodian:	Jason I. McDonald
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

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

**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
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

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

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2012**

CHURCH STAFF

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

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend William Odermann, Interim
Pastor, Part-time:	The Reverend Jim Carpenter
Youth & Family Coordinator	Melinda King
Director of Music:	Andrea Devore
Parish Secretary:	Kathy Hoeft
Business Manager:	Andrea DeVore
Custodian:	John Swiggum
Director of Preschool:	Kate Anderson
Assistant Director:	Whittney Franke
Teacher:	Carleen Laue
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefler

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Scott Hansen
Vice-President:	Laurie Heidebrink
Secretary:	Brenda Stone
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2014**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis Niezwaag
Pastor, Part-time:	The Reverend Jim Carpenter
Pastor, Visitation:	The Reverend Paul Nelson
Youth & Family Coordinator:	Laurie Heidebrink
Director of Music:	Andrea DeVore
Parish Secretary:	Kathy Hoeft
Business Manager:	Andrea DeVore
Custodian:	John Swiggum
Director of Preschool:	Kate Low
Assistant Director:	Whittney Franke
Teacher:	Carleen Laue
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Laurie Heidebrink / Eric Johanningmeier
Vice-President:	
Secretary:	Brenda Stone
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2015**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend Dennis Niezwaag The Reverend William Odermann, Interim
Pastor, Part-time:	The Reverend Jim Carpenter
Pastor, Visitation:	The Reverend Paul Nelson
Youth & Family Coordinator:	Laurie Heidebrink
Director of Music:	Andrea DeVore / Melanie Johanningmeier
Parish Secretary:	Kathy Hoeft
Business Manager:	Andrea DeVore
Custodian:	John Swiggum
Director of Preschool:	Whittney Franke
Teacher:	Carleen Laue
Substitute Teacher:	Dusty Schmitt
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefer

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Eric Johanningmeier
Vice-President:	Jeremy Heyer
Secretary:	Brenda Stone
Treasurer:	Andrea DeVore

**SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIRECTORY OF STAFF AND OFFICERS 2016**

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Reverend William Odermann, Interim
Youth & Family Coordinator	Laurie Heidebrink
Director of Music:	Melanie Johanningmeier
Parish Secretary:	Kathy Hoeft
Business Manager:	Amy Iseneker
Custodian:	John Swiggum
Director of Preschool:	Whittney Franke
Teacher:	Carleen Laue
Part time / substitute Teacher:	Dusty Schmitt
Worship assistant and youth choir:	Erik Hoefler

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President:	Eric Johanningmeier
Vice-President:	Jeremy Heyer
Secretary:	Virginia Titus
Treasurer:	Amy Iseneker