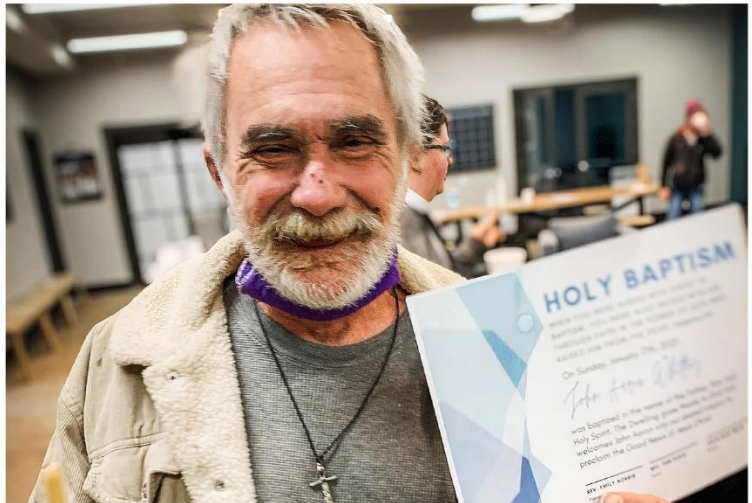


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

Annual Congregational Meeting January 23, 2022

OPENING LITANY

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers,

when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

You have called us for such a time as this. Amen.

Agenda

Call to Order	Deb Clark
Minutes	Millie Sekulski
Pastor's Report	Pastor Brad Carroll
President's Report	Deb Clark
Treasurer's Report/2022 Budget	Donna Waldt
Nominating Committee Report	Jim Hausman
Reports of Circles	
Adjournment	Deb Clark

Vestry – 2021

Officers

President – Deb Clark

Vice President – Lance Burgess

Secretary – Millie Sekulski

Treasurer – Donna Waldt

Members

Linda Bollinger, Kathy Groh, Sally MacGowan, Jon Maury, John Seedorff

Minutes from Congregational Meeting - January 24, 2021 – Deb Clark, Secretary

Call to Order – Don Hausman

Devotions – Pastor Carroll

Minutes from Congregational Meeting held 1/26/2020, Motion made to accept the Minutes by Don Hausman and seconded by Kathy Groh. Motion approved.

Pastor's Report:

Fellowship, Bible Study, Worship and Community Service.

Cameras installed for use now and in the future. Will be able to broadcast live.

Ash Wednesday – Partner with Christ Lutheran Church.

Lenten Midweek and Holy Week – Partner with 4 congregations.

Review of 2020 – Financially OK. Looking ahead for 2021 and what will come.

Thanks offered by many members that attended the meeting to many volunteers as follows:

Eric Blew for his hard work with regard to the employee theft – Sentencing in July probably some jail time and restitution- Continue to pray for her and her family.

Barry Brobst and his Team.

Nancy and the Pastoral Care Team.

Don Hausman and Don Brannan for Vestry Service.

All Circle Leaders.

Eric Gombert for all musical work.

Cantor Report: Arts of St. John's Outreach still ongoing – recording – streaming. Allentown Band April and Bach Choir of Bethlehem – Bach to School. Other programs in the pipeline. Reminder: Login into the Portal to get year-end giving statement.

President's Report: Window maintenance – Earl Brunner's gift covered most of the work. Purchased 3 cameras. Thanks to Donna Waldt and Eric Gombert for their work with finance. Thanks to Eric for PPP Loans. Electronic giving works very well. Thanks to Scott Boka and Nick Kelly for their maintenance work in the Church. Encourage all to get vaccinated.

Treasurer's Report: Thanks to Eric Gombert in cleaning up prior year's accounting. Did not take \$211,000 from Founders' Fund. Used PPP loan to cover deficit.

Motion to accept the Budget made by Don Hausman and seconded by John Maury. Motion Approved.

Nominating Committee: Jim Hausman. Outgoing members of Vestry: Don Hausman, Don Brannan and John Crawmer. Nominees for new Vestry Members: Linda Bollinger, Sally MacGowan and John Maury.

Motion to accept the nominees for Vestry made by Barry Brobst and seconded by Don Hausman.

Motion Approved.

Circle Leader – Formation: Donna Waldt – Thanks to all for the wonderful services this year.

Circle Leader – Outreach: Jim Hausman – Very challenging year. Good Pastoral leadership during challenging times.

Circle Leader – Resource: Barry Brobst – Glazing windows and masonry work continues. Zoom equipment in place for now and future as well. Grateful to Pastor Brad and Eric Gombert and we are lucky to have them to coordinate services. Task Force: Hopefully open after Easter, but we are following CDC guidelines. Many thanks to Donna Waldt and Eric Gombert for their work in straightening out accounting practices. Well done for a hard job.

Adjournment: Don Hausman

St. John's Lutheran Church

as of 12/31/2021

Bank account statement balances:	Embassy Checking	\$ 71,078.36												
Demand Investment account balance:	MIF On Demand Chk	\$ 17,124.86												
Donor Advised Fund	Truist Endowment	560,008.94					493,278.89	66,730.05	71,090.92	-	(4,360.87)			
	Founders	2,271,043.39				2,210,304.15		60,739.24	301,856.14	(222,636.50)	(18,480.40)			
	TOTAL	\$ 2,831,052.33				\$ 2,703,583.04	\$ 127,469.29	\$ 372,947.06	\$ (222,636.50)	\$ (22,841.27)				

2022 Budget

	2022 Proposed Budget	2021 Actual	2021 Budget
Income			
4010 Offering			
4011 Pledged/Un-Pledged	100,000.00	91,584.25	112,000.00
4012 Plate Offering	1,000.00	448.00	2,000.00
4020 Special/Other	3,600.00	5,497.00	8,500.00
4040 Arts at St. John's	5,000.00	2,867.00	5,000.00
4043 Designated Contributions/Special Appeals		4,522.00	
Total 4010 Offering	109,600.00	118,021.33	127,500.00
4100 Endowment Fund (transfer)	22,000.00		22,000.00
4110 Founder's Fund (transfer)	236,545.60	222,636.50	234,585.48
4300 Trusts & Interest/Dividend Income	80,605.20	80,331.33	78,097.52
4799 Miscellaneous	120.00	150.06	100.00
PPP 2 Loan		42,293.73	
TOTAL INCOME	448,870.80	450,329.87	462,283.00
Expense Summary			
5200 Formation Circle	30,150.00	26,386.20	32,975.00
5300 Outreach Circle	17,200.00	3,878.71	18,280.00
5400 Resource Circle	401,520.80	333,830.75	411,028.00
5460 Personnel (included in resource circle amount above)	259,960.80	215,709.81	270,894.00
TOTAL REGULAR EXPENSES	448,870.80	364,095.66	462,283.00
Special Projects		138,190.25	
TOTAL EXPENSES		502,285.91	
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES	0.00	-51,956.04	0.00
<i>Transfers from MIF funds for special projects</i>		106,681.33	
NET		54,722.29	

Nominating Committee 2021

The Nominating Committee is very pleased and excited to announce a full slate of candidates for the 2022 Vestry. With the help of my committee members Kathy Groh and Pastor Brad Carroll, we are proud to present the following members to the congregation for approval: Linda Bollinger, Lance Burgess, Deb Clark, Eileen Lane, Sally MacGowan, Jon Maury, John Seedorff, and Millie Sekulski. Congratulations! These are your leaders for the year ahead. Ask how you can be of assistance in the coming year. We must also thank Kathy for her many years of dedicated service that she provided to our congregation.

<i>Election to first, two-year term:</i> Eileen Lane	<i>Incumbent-first, two-year term:</i> Linda Bollinger, Sally MacGowan, Jon Maury
<i>Election to second, two-year term:</i> Lance Burgess Millie Sekulski	<i>Incumbent-second, two-year term:</i> Deb Clark, John Seedorff

Pastor's Report - The Rev. Bradley T. Carroll

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. *I Corinthians 12:12-14*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Looking back one year to January 2021 I remember thinking that I had no idea what the coming new year might bring. I know that I hoped it would bring about an end to the Covid-19 pandemic so that we could return to life as we remembered it. I also remember realizing that life as we remembered it would not return after so much struggle, hardship, challenges, and changes.

One year ago we continued to worship weekly as we had been through most of 2020 – from our homes via Zoom. We also conducted Bible studies and other education the same way, as well as various meetings as needed. We hoped that we would see an end to our in-person suspension but we did not know when that might occur.

As the year progressed more and more of us were vaccinated and cases began to decline. So much so that we decided to resume in-person worship on June 13th. Well actually we gathered in-person the week before for our annual picnic at the Rose Garden and couldn't have been more excited about the future. A few weeks later four of our young people affirmed their baptisms in the rite of confirmation and two other youths received their first communion. Things were really looking up..

The pandemic didn't go away as fast as we had hoped though. In fact things actually got somewhat worse as the year progressed. We chose to worship while wearing masks and keeping a safe distance from one another so that we could continue in-person worship going forward. Which is what we did up until the current time and will do for the foreseeable future throughout these early days of 2022.

In spite of the setbacks and challenges our mission and ministry has continued to thrive and flourish. We had a successful "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service. In Advent we collected funds for the ELCA Good Gifts global hunger ministry, gifts for students at Jefferson Elementary school, and needed supplies for the annual WELCA In-Gathering for the Lehigh Mission District. We also continue to live-stream our worship services, Bible studies, and meetings over Zoom and You Tube so that no one is left out. All in all, we have strived to make the best of the current situation and continue our work in the name of the Lord.

And though it may seem like a long way off right now, we just this month began making plans for our annual church picnic once again in 2022. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to richly bless our work together in God's most holy name.

Vestry President's Report – Deb Clark

Well, 2021 did not quite start out the way we all hoped as far as in person worship, but with the hard work and guidance of our Task Force, we were able to open the St. John's building and attend services in person in June. We were fortunate to have church services available via Zoom and YouTube during the time the building was closed, and still have these options available in addition to our regular Sunday service in our beautiful worship space.

Many thanks to Pastor Brad Carroll and Eric Gombert for their leadership and planning, and the other members of the Task Force, Barry Brobst, Jim Hausman and Donna Waldt, for their hard work in planning how to safely reopen St. John's.

Pastor Brad Carroll has provided excellent leadership, and we are fortunate to have him as our Pastor.

In addition to all the administrative work, Cantor Eric Gombert has provided us with fantastic music and a terrific choir, an essential part of our worship service.

The Circle Leaders, Barry Brobst, Donna Waldt and Jim Hausman, have worked hard for the congregation, and their work is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to our Sexton, Scott Boka, for his work in keeping our Church building maintained.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the members of our Vestry, Lance Burgess, Vice President, Millie Sekulski, Secretary, Donna Waldt, Treasurer, Linda Bollinger, Kathy Groh, Sally MacGowan, Jon Maury and John Seedorff. In addition to Pastor Brad and Cantor Eric, Jim Hausman, Barry Brobst and Scott Boka attend the monthly meetings. It has been a pleasure serving with all of these members of Vestry.

Please take a moment to read the reports provided within the Annual Report to see what wonderful things have been happening within our Church and congregation.

Thank you all for sharing your time and talents.

Cantor's Report – Eric Gombert

Who would've thought that:

- we'd go 63 weeks unable to worship together in-person including 2 Easters and a Christmas?
- we'd be wearing masks to worship?
- we'd be concerned about where to have and how long meetings and rehearsals could be?

Well, it happened, is still happening, and yet God's people here at St. John's Allentown are still a vital worshipping and serving community.

Stay tuned as we continue to work toward the return of a more active Arts at St. John's series. We've got some great programming for the upcoming season that's been delayed for two years. Thanks to David Umla for his continued leadership and our committee members, Elaine, Pastor Carroll, Ann, Beverly, and Nelvin.

My thanks to all who serve, but especially our Chancel Choir including section leaders Vicky, Sue, Lane, William, and David, for enduring this crazy environment and continuing to rehearse regularly, lead worship, and make great music.

Formation Circle – Donna Waldt

Worship in 2021 continued on Zoom due to the pandemic. St. John's again joined the West End Collaborative Ministry Churches: Redeemer Lutheran, St. Timothy's and Christ Lutheran, for Ash Wednesday worship, Lenten Wednesday worship followed by discussion, and Holy Week services, all on Zoom. Easter Sunday worship was celebrated with a unique and inspirational service from the Sanctuary on Zoom. On June 6th St. John's members gathered at the Rose Garden to worship for the first time in person since the pandemic began. The service was followed by our annual picnic which was enjoyed by all. On June 13th our congregation finally resumed in-person worship in the Sanctuary while we continued to offer fellowship on Zoom and our worship service on Zoom and YouTube. Our Wednesday evening Bible Study continued on Zoom and Pastor Carroll completed the Tuesday morning Bible Study which he began in October, 2020. Again, thank you to Pastor Carroll, Eric Gombert, our Choir and other musicians who continued to provide us with inspiring worship and music throughout the past year. Our gratitude and appreciation also go out to the faithful volunteers who returned to serve in worship on September 5th and we welcome the new members to the group.

Hanging of the Green - James Hausman - Immediately after the church service on November 21st, 30 of our members shared lunch together before we decorated our amazing church. How beautiful everything looked when we were all finished. The two new trees in the front of the church on both sides of the altar reminded those of us old enough to remember the huge trees that we used to bring into the sanctuary for the holiday season. The swags on the columns looked great, and the wreaths in the other areas of the church were beautiful. When you add in the advent wreath, and the creche, St. John's truly looked magnificent. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this event a huge success.

Bible Study - James Hausman/Mary Hausman - Our Bible Study Group continued in 2021 with a very faithful and inspired group. We used several resources for our studies, but relied mainly on the weekly studies from the Wired Word. We discuss the topic of the week, and relate it to stories and readings from the Bible. We have continued our Wednesday Night classes on Zoom. Truly believing that the B.I.B.L.E. stands for Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth, we invite all members of our congregation and any additional family or friends to join us on Wednesday Nights from 7:00pm until 8:00pm for our lively discussions and interactions. Each week is unique, and no sign-ups are necessary. Eric Gombert lists all of the necessary login information on our weekly e-spire, and the information is also on the church website: sjat.org. Please contact the Hausman's for any additional information.

Goody Bags/Cookie Caper (June/December) - Nancy Miller/Ronnee Moyer - In spite of the pandemic, our faithful volunteers baked, packaged, assembled and delivered Goody Bags filled with cookies and treats to 25 homebound members in Spring and cookies and candies to 28 shut-ins in December. Thank you to all who participated in these projects which remind the recipients that although they cannot attend Church, they are still part of St. John's family and have not been forgotten.

Card Ministry - Ronnee Moyer - This ministry continued in 2021 with the sending of 31 cards including cards to shut-ins, get well and sympathy cards to members, a baptism card, Christmas, Easter and birthday cards to the Pastor and staff, and milestone birthday cards to members.

As we adjust to the "new normal" worship and fellowship in our beautiful Sanctuary, we pray that the pandemic will soon run its course. With God's guidance, we can use what we have learned from this experience to seek additional worship opportunities and activities on our journey toward the fulfillment of the Formation Circle's mission to "grow (be 'formed') into the image of Jesus Christ".

Outreach Circle – Jim Hausman

Cleaning Project- Getting ready to reopen.

As we prepared to reopen the church in June, we had seven volunteers help to clean areas that had not been occupied for over a year. Cleaning included both inside and outside the church. We want to thank these volunteers who took the time to help us return to in person worship in our beautiful building.

God's Work Our Hands 2021-Helping others with food and clothing.

This year's project provided food and clothing for people that request help from our church in times of need. Through the generosity of our members, we collected food and clothing that enabled us to fill 56 bags to give out to those in need. On September 12, after sharing lunch together, we formed teams to complete sorting the items into bags. If someone visits our church and asks for assistance, we now have the resources necessary to be able to help. The excess food that was collected was donated to the Grace Food Pantry located at 5th and Linden Streets. Thanks to all 22 volunteers who helped us complete this worthwhile project.

Boy Scout Troop #11-Making a difference in young men's lives.

Our scout troop was greatly affected by the pandemic. While we tried to maintain some form of normalcy, it was difficult to do so. We did go winter camping in February for a weekend, but did not meet in the church until June. We missed an entire year of programming. The six scouts on our roster have returned to continue working on their scouting skills and advancements. We were also able to attend summer camp at Camp Trexler in July for an entire week. We currently have two scouts who have achieved their Life Rank, and our working on their Eagle Ranks. The Troop appreciates the continued support and sponsorship of St. John's. Anyone interested in volunteering or financially assisting the Troop should contact Don Hausman 610-432-8833 or Jim Hausman 610-428-7874. Scouting for Food-Our annual food collection effort was very successful this year because of the generous donations from St. John's. We collected 350 lbs. of food and donated it to the Grace Food Pantry.

Advent Project Good Gifts 2021-God's Global Barnyard.

Our Advent project for 2021 was again contributing to the Good Gifts program. We had a very nice response to this year's campaign and collected \$ 465.00 to help this worthy cause. Thanks to all of our members who contributed to the Good Gifts project.

Jefferson Elementary School 2021-Secret Santa.

The pandemic has drastically changed our involvement with Jefferson. While we still encourage donations to the Clothing Closet and the Food Pantry, we do not volunteer at those programs any more. However, we still decided to continue our Secret Santa campaign this year. The response was tremendous. Presents were brought to the church wrapped and identified so that families would benefit from the generosity of our members. Sally MacGowan, our liason to Jefferson, delivered these gifts to the school. Thank all of you who contributed, and thanks to Sally for all of her work on behalf of St. John's at Jefferson.

Resource Circle – Barry Brobst

Work continued and was completed on the windows on the North, East, and West sides of the church.

The Congregation approved the costs for the maintenance work on the South side window (above the altar) and that work is expected to start in spring 2022.

Work was completed on the mechanical systems to provide treated filtered air in the worship and narthex spaces for a safe return to in person services.

New thermostats were installed in order to control the heating and air systems remotely.

Panic hardware was installed for better control and security of the church.

The bat debris was cleaned in the spire area.

The parking lot lights were replaced with LED units for better lighting and energy efficiency.

We are currently having water problems in the spire area and will have to do some flashing repairs during 2022.

We are monitoring the Vestry Room heating and air conditioning units and may have to replace one or more units during 2022.

Extensive work at the church was planned and accomplished in 2021. This effort could not have been accomplished without the involvement, discussions, commitment and cooperation of many individuals and groups. The maintenance repairs were much needed, a system that allows in person worship and a “ZOOM” system that continues to allow remote worship puts St. John’s at the forefront of most churches.



Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

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2021