



St. James Lutheran Church

God calls us to follow Christ, make disciples, and live the Gospel

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION ANNUAL GOVERNANCE MEETING 10:30 a.m. June 5, 2022

Schedule

9:30 am Service

10:30 am Annual Meeting

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Report of the Tellers (Quorum is 29 voting members)

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes, January 30, 2022

Annual Reports

Report of the President

Report of Interim Pastor Sundberg

Report of the Administrative and Communications
Services Team

Reports of the Committees

Elections

Resolutions

Adjournment

Closing Prayer



Minutes of the Annual Financial Meeting January 30, 2022

Opening Prayer: Pastor Mark Sundberg

Call to Order: 10:45 am Tom Meyer, Council President

Report of the Tellers: 37 (Quorum is 29 voting members)

Motion to Approve Agenda: Michael Montalbano

Motion Seconded: Jim Davoux

Motion Approved: Unanimous

Motion to Approve Minutes of June 6, 2021

Governance Meeting: Doug Gerber

Motion Seconded: Pete Clemens

Motion Approved: Unanimous

Final 2021 Review & 2022 General Fund Budget: Mike Bennett, Treasurer

2022 Budget with Correction of General Fund Budget Summary p. 6 heading to read 2022 (not 2021)

Member Pledges & Giving

- 2021 giving exceeded budget and enabled covering expenses with a \$6500 surplus.
- 2022 pledges were down a bit as no new members in the past two years. Total number of pledges decreased from 103 to 92. Pledges reflect an increase in generosity so overall pledges total \$555,710 v. \$561,880 in 2021.

Financial Resources/Cash and Investments

- With error correction on p.13 to returns in 2021 were 13%, not 10%
- Investments total \$1.7M plus cash on hand of \$312,000 for property upkeep, improvements & benevolence.

Benevolence

- ELCA continues to receive 10% of budgeted member giving, \$58,900.
- All other line items kept flat except Sagrado Corazón, with an added line item for \$2000 as a matching fund to encourage their stewardship
- Tony Danielson Endowment was accessed for \$2000 for Sagrado divinity student and \$6667 for Eric Holmer. Eric will receive the same for the next two years (\$20,000 total).

Personnel

- Biggest change is in Pastor Compensation due to combination of Interim Pastor compensation and Call Committee/Estimated moving expenses for called Pastor.
- Bonuses for staff were voted and approved by Council and have been paid. Of note, the Brass and

Damascus Road had an increased workload thus salary increases for those leaders were warranted.

Property

- Costs returned to normal in 2021
- Major Maintenance Fund at \$180K; will access for needed furnace replacement.

Comments/Questions

- Carol Bennett noted that many active member households which do not pledge do nevertheless make contributions.
- Jim Davoux requested an explanation of the congregation gift to Richard Holmer. The \$60,000 loan forgiveness will take place 1/5 per year over the next five years (unless the Holmers dispose of the house earlier). Accordingly, the forgiveness will be recorded as expense in January 2022 as a deferred compensation liability, and the liability and receivable will each be reduced by \$12,000 per year over the next five years.

Motion to Approve the 2022 General Fund Budget as presented: Tim Anderson.

Motion Seconded: Michael Montalbano

Motion Approved: Unanimous

Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members: One nominee who volunteered to attend is Ron Koepke. Volunteer to attend requested, Jim Davoux volunteered and was nominated.

Motion to approve candidates as nominated: Doug Dusthimer

Motion Seconded: Jim Davoux

Motion Approved: Unanimous

Tom proceeded to express his thanks to Mike Bennett and Chris Meyer for their hard work on the budget. He also thanked the Council for their extra time and dedication during an unusual and interesting year. He thanked Pastor Sundberg for stepping in so ably and filling the void as our interim pastor. Lastly, he thanked the staff and congregation for their faithfulness and generosity. He closed with an excerpt from last year's meeting that spoke to our congregation focus, which is still so apt for this coming year.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Kathy Lowell

Seconded: Doug Dusthimer

Motion Approved: Unanimous

Closed with Pastor Sundberg leading The Lord's Prayer.

Report of the President

The past year has been simultaneously both exciting and challenging for the Church Council as well as the members of St. James. We thank God that as each new challenge has arisen, God has blessed us with the people, talents, and resources to successfully continue with St. James' Ministry.

At the July Council meeting last year, Pastor Richard Holmer announced his intention to retire at the end of the year. This announcement set off a series of new tasks, obligations, questions, long meetings, and extra meetings of Council to determine the proper steps forward for St. James. These tasks included, to name just a few, the finding and calling of an interim pastor, working with Synod representatives to determine the steps to calling a full-time pastor, the establishment of a call committee, and saying goodbye to Pastor Holmer and Susan Jarzembski.

Our October Council Retreat was held at St. James due to Covid issues, and we concentrated on establishing a "base line" Ministry Site Profile to be handed to the call committee, once selected, to help expedite the call process. We were very blessed in finding Pastor Mark Sundberg, who had just finished an interim position with another church in November, and who was ready, willing and able to serve St. James as our interim pastor beginning the first Sunday in January. We are extremely thankful to Pastor Mark for the wonderful job he has done and is doing for our church.

The Council reached out to members of the congregation for volunteers to serve on the call committee, and we were again blessed with a very qualified, diverse, and conscientious committee, led by Andrea Taylor, who have all done a fabulous job in working through the very difficult and prayerful process of calling a new full-time pastor. We offer many thanks to our call committee members for their time and commitment.

In spite of the "on again, off again" pandemic throughout the year, we have been blessed that members have continued to faithfully support the mission of St. James, both in their attendance at services and in their giving.

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve with our Council this past year, and I thank them all for their commitment, time, and talents. The church has been fortunate to have such a dedicated group of leaders, all of whom spent many extra hours attending to church business in a year where it was certainly not "business as usual" for the Church Council. David Moore will be leading the Council next year. Dave is a great leader and has an amazing team to navigate another transitional year for our church.

Many thanks to our staff: Kristin (& Dean) Haverkamp, who, among other things moved us forward into live streaming our services; Carol Bennett and Chris Meyer, who kept the day to day operations running smoothly; Sue Thomas, who stepped up to address the changing positions and responsibilities of our paid staff; and to all the volunteers too numerous to mention in service, social ministry & outreach, music and worship. You are all greatly appreciated.

Finally, thank you to all for your encouragement and support throughout this past year.

Your Friend in Christ,

Tom Meyer

Report of Interim Pastor Sundberg

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

We need to be reminded that Jesus is with us through times of transition. These past two years have been full of change, challenges, disappointments, joys; nothing like this pandemic period has been known to any of us for 100+ years! Yet God in Jesus Christ is the reason we still exist, and the reason we are called to share the good news in our corner of the world.

I have been with you at St. James since the beginning of the year. I am the first interim pastor St. James has had in its history. The interim ministry model was adapted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) after its founding by unification of the predecessor Lutheran bodies in the late 1980s. Many other Protestant communions had employed this model before this time. The basic idea behind the interim pastorate is, in simple terms, to provide a buffer between the preceding pastor and the newly called pastor. This buffer, hopefully, prevents parishioners from comparing unfavorably the newly called pastor to the preceding pastor. The interim also demonstrates that there are many differing gifts that pastors bring to ordained ministry.

I have enjoyed pilgriming with you. I have preached and presided in worship; taught confirmation, adult education, and communion classes; baptized; participated in limited fellowship activities; and offered pastoral care within the limits of lingering pandemic protocols. In my limited administrative responsibilities, I have been assisted magnificently by the office staff, by Tom Meyer and the Congregation Council, and by the many leaders of this congregation. I especially have enjoyed the competent and greatly fulfilling music that is the gift of St. James.

At this writing, the pastoral call committee has finally received the first round of pastoral candidates to interview. This is an exciting time. Please continue to pray for the guidance of the Spirit for this group of leaders. Please know that God is active in this process; our call committee needs to know, however, that the congregation of St. James is supporting them in prayer. I look forward to that day when St. James calls its new pastor – not because I want to complete my ministry here, I enjoy being with you – but because I look forward to seeing what God has in view for the future of St. James.

In Christian service,
Pastor Mark Sundberg

MILESTONES

These persons were welcomed into the Body of Christ through Holy Baptism:

Porter Elliott Lowell
Bodie Drake Lowell
James Musser

On June 13 and 20, 2021, these persons were welcomed to the Lord's table to share in Holy Communion:

Isabelle Alexander **Amelia Husemoller**
Elin Bodine **Emily Marsch**
Peter Gerber **Bo Strothman**
Ryder Graf

On September 26, 2021, these persons were confirmed in Christ:

Jack Gerber
Emily Haverkamp

On November 7, 2021, Bibles were presented to:

Jack Alexander
Elle Strothman

Report of the Administrative and Communications Services Team

The last year has seen its share of challenges but finding solutions has been a gratifying experience. After Pastor and Susan Holmer announced their retirement last summer, we began reviewing the office and communications processes. The objective was to find ways to work smarter and more efficiently and not add additional staff. The result is a more streamlined day-to-day operation with more effective use of the equipment and applications we already had.

As part of this process, we asked that communications lead times be expanded as we explore different digital avenues for communications and engagement. The Committee Chairs have been incredibly receptive and helpful.

In the fall, in-person worship officially moved to one service, which made the creation of bulletins simpler. To staff these services, we resumed using our volunteer management software, Ministry Scheduler Pro, which allows volunteers to create their own schedules and makes swapping assignments simple. We hope the ease of use will encourage more people to consider becoming worship servants.

The video production of worship services for our YouTube channel continued as it had in 2020. We appreciate all lay readers and musicians who agreed to be recorded as part of these services. Without them, video worship services would not have been as engaging. It has been a true joy and privilege to connect with members this way. A heartfelt thank you to Dean Haverkamp for his ongoing effort to fill our library with b-roll videos and stunning photographic images of our property and congregation. Dean also provides technical expertise for our computers and networking equipment.

While the possibility of live-stream worship services instead of prerecorded videos was explored in the past, the cost and complexity

made it difficult to navigate. With the arrival of Pastor Mark in January, we began the process of researching live-streaming anew. We are happy to say that we found a system called Boxcast that is straightforward, "plug and play," and budget-friendly. We officially began using the service on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022. Boxcast has been enormously helpful in troubleshooting, even on Sunday mornings. The next step is to better integrate our current sound system into the live-stream and add volunteers to run it. We are grateful to the Worship and Music committee for their partnership in this endeavor, especially Greg MacAyeal and Melinda Voelcker.

In February, we launched the Virtual Kiosk, a webpage with quick links to the directory, serving opportunities, upcoming events, etc. The virtual kiosk makes it easier for our members to stay connected even when they are not in the church building. Scan the code below to see the webpage.



Or go to www.stjameslutheran.org/kiosk

Our current focus will be on how to re-engage our congregation and help them feel safe and secure. This is not only in worship but in our various ministries, serving each other and our community.

Be assured we will continue to evolve, explore best practices, and gain insights from fellow congregations as we plan for the future —with a heart for the church's mission.

In His Service,

Carol Bennett and Kristin Haverkamp

Report of the Nominating Committee

The following individuals have expressed their willingness and commitment to serve. Other members of the Congregation who wish to be considered for election to any of the positions below may have their names placed in nomination at the Annual Governance Meeting.

CHURCH COUNCIL - Nominations for three year terms from June 2022 to June 2025:

Robert Kenehan

Five years ago, I joined as a member of St. James Lutheran Church mostly as an extension of my musical involvement, first within the adult choir and then with St James brass where I play the French horn. Besides my musical involvement in church and the community- playing in several orchestras I'm also a long-standing Rotarian (Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Rotary) serving as a foundation board member. I'm also founding board member of a non-for-profit organization, Horns for Hope, which helps disadvantaged youth receive musical grants, instruments, and instruction. My wife JoAnn and I have lived in Lake Forest since 2004 having raised three wonderful children, Connor (28), Carter (25) and Riley (22). Over the last several years I've also served on the church's finance committee.

Annie Moss

I am honored and humbled to accept the nomination to serve on the St. James Church Council. I was baptized and confirmed in the Missouri Lutheran Church. My husband Paul and I joined St. James in May of 2019 and immediately felt very welcome and have found many wonderful new friends. In previous congregations I served on Altar Guild, Fellowship, Choir, and Bell Choir. This past year I have taken over Altar Guild at St. James and serve on the Women of St. James. I was in the Travel Industry for 30 years working for a large corporate agency. I managed Onsite accounts and towards the end of my career I did meeting planning. After I retired, I was a Caregiver for my brother and also my mother. I'm now a stay-at-home housewife and loving every minute of it. Some hobbies Paul and I love doing together include entertaining, our monthly bible study, going to concerts, and great food! We feel so blessed to have found St. James and I am looking forward to serving you as a member of the Church Council.

Bob Narlock

Susie and I have been members at St. James for about 20 years. Arriving just prior to Pastor Holmer. What good fortune. I found myself contributing as various projects around the property would pop up. I had just retired from AT&T after 33years of both residential installation and cable repair work. After a short retirement I was offered a position with the Waukegan school district as a custodial supervisor. Quite a departure from my previous work, but none the less very rewarding. I expected to be with the district for a couple of years, then back to retirement. Twelve years later the adventure ended. I look forward to serving on the church council at St. James Lutheran Church.

Denise Norberg Johnson

As I began high school, my family moved to Lake Forest and joined St. James Lutheran Church. Now, I live in Lincolnwood with my husband of three decades, Dave, and our unreasonably large group of rescued cats. Through a series of career changes, from a pharmaceutical lab to sales, banking, restaurants, and the management of my grandfather's stair building business, I learned to think strategically and advocate for change and transformation in each job and became a servant-leader for several professional associations, striving to make a difference in the larger world. Returning to St. James three years ago, after a challenging decade as a public-school educator, I found a community of compassionate friends who helped me embrace forgiveness and recognize the blessings in my life. As a reader and singer, in study groups and social gatherings, I have experienced the richness of spiritual

practice and the joy of service. It would be a great honor to serve on the St. James Church Council as we navigate our transition to the future, serving our members and making a difference through outreach to the larger world.

Current Congregation Council:

Term Expiring June 2022

Scott Hill
Tom Meyer
Gail Morgan
Alane Wanda

Term Expiring June 2023

Barb Davoux
Sue Ebert
Michael Montalbano
Dave Moore

Term Expiring June 2024

Shelly Holmstrom
Ron Koepke
Greg MacAyeal
Amy Marsch

TREASURER Michael Bennett (term expires June 2023)

ST. JAMES MEMORIAL GARDEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Cobi Stein (term expires June 2022)
Carole Tanner (term expires June 2023)
Randy Daniel (term expires June 2024)
Detlef Koska (term expires June 2025)

Nominee for a 4-year term, expiring June 2026: Bud Lowell

ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current members: Sue Thomas (term expires June 2022)
Anna Verch (term expires June 2023)
Mark Wanda (term expires June 2023)
Hans Bodine (term expires June 2024)
Jim Davoux (term expires June 2024)

Nominee for a 3 year term expiring June 2025: Dee Buckowich

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Current members: Carol Bettendorf (term expires June 2022)
Linda Berner (term expires June 2023)

Nominee for a 2-year term, expiring June 2024: Carol Bettendorf has agreed to serve another term.

Nominee for a 3-year term, expiring June 2025: Emerson Bodell

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Current members: Craig Linn (term expires June 2022)
Steve Thornberry (term expires June 2022)
Teresa Miller (term expires June 2022)
Tom Ebert (term expires June 2023)
Kathy Lowell (term expires June 2023)

Nominees for a one year term expiring June, 2023: Tom Meyer and Alane Wanda (Outgoing Council)

Nominees for a two year term expiring June 2024: Josh Hornaday and Susan Olsen

I thank those on the Nominating Committee for their help. For all those whose terms expire in June of 2022, thank you for your devoted service, service that allows us to follow Christ, make disciples, and live the Gospel. May the Lord bless our nominees and our ongoing members.

Respectively submitted,

Tom Ebert

Report of the Social Ministry Outreach Committee

Committee Members: Brooke Davis, Shelly Holmstrom, Ron Koepke, Alane Wanda and Pastor Holmer and Interim Pastor Mark Sundberg

The purpose of the committee is to promote and support activities of various agencies and programs serving the needs of the local community and the ELCA.

Volunteer and Financial Support :

- **COOL Ministries**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Help Within the Family**
- **Lake County United**
- **North Chicago Community Partners (NCCP)**
- **Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter (PADS)**
- **Sagrado Corazón**
- **Waukegan 2 College**

Financial Support Only:

- **Bethel New Life**
- **Career Resource Center**
- **ELCA Benevolence**
- **Samara Care Counseling (Grief Group)**
- **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)**
- **Lake Forest Hospital Chaplaincy**

During summer 2021, the Committee helped establish three focus Sundays for outreach following worship. June 27 activities included planting flowers in flower pots around the church property and making a creative flower art project that hung in the sanctuary. The July 18 focus on Habitat for Humanity included a temple talk from Habitat Family Services Manager Eunice Bridges, and homeowners at worship in addition to engaging members in putting together housekeeping baskets for home owners. On August 8, we focused on our sister congregation, Sagrado Corazón.

Planting the seed of service and assisting our key agency partners is our overarching goal. This requires ongoing communication, and we appreciate the ways both Carol Bennett and Kristin Haverkamp work constantly to highlight opportunities through social media, in Connections and bulletins, via Sign-up Genius forms and with posters on the kiosk. The engaging

flatscreen photos often depict St. James members in volunteer roles out in the community.

Recognizing the blessing of serving our fellow members, the “Soup Ministry” was initiated. Members sign up to make and deliver soup to several member families each week and the soup and brief visits are well received!

The Social Ministry Committee initiated the Grow Together in Faith Lenten Focus – which was enhanced with input from Pastor Mark Sundberg and beautifully developed and shared with members via weekly emails with daily suggestions to pray, study, renew, connect, reflect, serve and worship. Our Interim Media and Communications Coordinator, Kristin, took this idea and executed it beautifully and faithfully.

In spite of ongoing COVID challenges, we were blessed to continue many of our vital outreach programs, including the summer Waukegan to College shower for college bound students, two months of staff lunches and two months of treats for the staff of North Chicago high School through NCCP, and seven months of PADS meals. In March we were invited to provide an etiquette/ dinner and a tutorial to W2C junior and seniors. While at W2C, we were offered a tour of their newly renovated offices which include a space in recognition of the generous support of St. James Lutheran Church.

Thank you to the congregation and Council for emphasizing outreach and service as a key focus of our ministry together and the Committee for their commitment and leadership. We are grateful to Mark Wanda for being our representative on the COOL Board of Directors. The support provided by Pastor Mark Sundberg is greatly appreciated. It is a blessing to assist with the direction of Council and alongside members to live out this important aspect of our mission. Please contact a Committee member with questions and to explore how to re-engage in service. It is a joy to give and serve as a congregation family. God is Good!

Shelly Holmstrom & Alane Wanda, Co-Chairs

Report of the Christian Education Committee

Committee Members: Linda Berner (acting chair), Barb Davoux (Council Liaison), Kathy Lowell, Debbie MacAyeal (Sunday School Director) and Pastor Mark Sundberg

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” Matthew 19:1

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of age.” Matthew 28:19-20

We have been so happy to see children coming back to church and attending Sunday School. Adults have been faithfully attending Bible study groups, both in-person and virtual. Please consider how you can become involved in the important ministry of Christian Education. When the committee reorganizes this summer and when planning begins for the fall education programs, please give prayerful consideration to being a participant.

Sunday School

On Kick-Off Sunday, Sunday School staff led “Olympic”-style games for the children following the introduction of staff and the taking of the traditional group picture.

Sunday School returned to in-person classes on September 19, 2021. While the weather was good, many of the activities were held outside. While inside the building, masks were required to be consistent with the rules for public school. Our rotational curriculum was used, with some modifications due to the small number of children attending. Debbie MacAyeal and Wendy Wieggers led an “opening” activity for students through second grade while students from third through sixth grade attended an enrichment Bible study. They all met together to do the rotational activity.

Debbie provided some new activities to better accommodate the range of ages. Seventh and eighth graders met either outside or in the library for their class, which is a part of their instruction for confirmation.

Youth Education

During summer, 2021, Give 5/4 Need was done in conjunction with the congregational activities planned by the Social Ministry Committee on designated Sunday mornings after worship.

Debbie MacAyeal planned activity bags for families to use each month in lieu of VBS.

Third graders again received their Bibles at outdoor services in September.

The Rite of Confirmation was also held outdoors on September 26, 2021.

Tuesday confirmation classes were held in-doors with masks.

The children’s Christmas program, created and directed by Wendy Wieggers, was “live” this year on December 12, 2021.

The children’s choir and Sunday School children sang and gave a presentation about the prophets on Mothers’ Day.

First communion is scheduled for June 5, 2022.

Adult Education

Sunday morning adult Bible Study began on September 19, 2021.

The Wednesday Zoom adult Bible study continued with Pastor Holmer through December and with Pastor Sundberg beginning in January. They discussed the lessons for the following Sunday.

Devotional booklets were available to the congregation for both Advent and Lent.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Berner

Report of the Worship and Music Committee

The past twelve months have been “Variations on a Theme” for the worship life of our congregation – namely the theme of Adaptation.

As summer 2021 began, our congregation had resumed in-person worship in the sanctuary, but as the Delta variant began to emerge, we returned to outdoor worship. When cold weather returned in the fall, we once again held worship in the sanctuary, albeit with reduced singing during the services.

December 2021 marked a major event in our worship life as Pastor Holmer entered retirement. We were blessed to celebrate a joyous and well-attended Christmas Eve service together as well as a final worship and Godspeed to the Holmers on Christmas morning.

In the new year, Pastor Mark Sundberg began his ministry at St. James as our interim pastor, and we have been blessed by his leadership and warmth during this time of transition for our congregation.

During the early months of 2022, we continued in-person worship with an increase in musical responses. During Lent we resumed the in-person Vespers services on Wednesday evenings, and we were especially grateful to be able to celebrate the major holy days of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday together. Pastor Sundberg introduced us to a new ritual with the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday, which we hope to continue in future years with expanded participation.

Other practices we resumed this year included the distribution of wine at communion and the return of the Children’s Sermon. We were also blessed to welcome Annie Moss to our committee this year as she took over the role of Altar Guild chair from Carol Bennett.

A major change for us this year in our worship life has been the transition to live streaming our worship services. With the departure of Susan Jarzembski Holmer and the transition to Kristin Haverkamp’s taking on the role of Interim Communications Coordinator for the church, we moved from preparing pre-recorded video worship services (which required immense resources of time and logistics) to live-streaming our in-person worship services. This allows our at-home viewers to virtually attend our worship service and to see their fellow congregation members, either in real time or archived for later viewing. The church has purchased new camera, audio, and streaming equipment to facilitate this project, and Kristin has been leading us through the process of learning how to optimize our broadcast for viewers. We are quickly identifying areas for improvement and each week’s live stream continues to increase in quality.

Our musical ensembles have provided tremendous leadership and support to the congregation throughout this year, and we continue to praise God for the richness of musical blessings we enjoy at St. James. Our ensembles will be on a reduced schedule through the summer but will return to a full schedule in September. Also of note: this summer the congregation will enjoy some outdoor worship services, as we plan to worship on the back lawn on the 4th Sundays of June, July, and August.

Faithfully submitted,

Mark A. Taylor

Chair, Worship and Music Committee

Report of the Stewardship Committee



Our theme for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign, introduced in the fall of 2021, was “BE GRACIOUS”. This year’s message serves as a catalyst to personal reflection. As Pastor Holmer shared with us in his letter to the congregation: God’s steadfast love never ceases, God is gracious and merciful. This is the blessing that God first pronounced through Moses, a blessing that was affirmed and expanded in Christ. God is gracious to us, his children, and we in turn are empowered to be gracious to one another.

We shared our BE GRACIOUS message with the congregation through various mailings, in-person and recorded temple talks, a service banner, and videos of members sharing personal stories of grace.

Additionally, in keeping with this committee’s desire to create and share a tangible reminder of our annual Stewardship theme, we distributed framed Philippians 4:8 verses to each member family.

Once again, our congregation responded positively to our Stewardship message. We had a successful



commitment Sunday! We are blessed and thankful for the continued grace that is shared by our St. James Family. The financial commitments that are made each year allow us to do so much of what we wish to accomplish with the various organizations that we support.

Last, it is good to remember all the grace we have experienced in our personal lives and as a congregation. We know what it is to receive goodness that we have done nothing to deserve. In turn, and in response, we are empowered to be gracious toward others. In our serving and in our giving we can offer the kind of faithful and generous blessings that we have received.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Numbers 6:25

Many thanks to our Stewardship Committee Members for their dedication and energy throughout the year.

Committee Members: Madeleine Jorgensen, Craig Linn, Michael Montalbano, Dave Moore

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Montalbano

Report of the Women of St. James

The Women of St. James had an active schedule throughout the year, even with the ongoing pandemic. To say the least, we were all creative and flexible.

Annual Cookie Exchange

St. James women gathered on Saturday, December 4th for the annual cookie exchange. There was a great turnout for brunch, and we had two large tables of cookies for the exchange. Typical of St. James women, many donated cookies without even attending the event. On Sunday, December 5th following the 9:30 AM service the St. James congregation actively supported the cookie bake sale by contributing \$750. The contributions were used to support the crisis in Ukraine. The \$750 was matched by Lutheran World Relief for a \$1500 total donation to Ukraine Relief efforts.

On Sunday, March 30th a Friendship Dinner was held at church with a delicious buffet dinner and much discussion among the attendees. It was a chance for the Women of St. James to reconnect with one another. We ended the evening with Sue Ebert reading the daily devotion from the Henri Nouwen booklet.

Nineteen St. James women were involved in a book study over Zoom for five consecutive Wednesday evenings. The book was titled, Lenten Study 2022, "A Way in the Wilderness." We had fabulous discussions each evening which brought us all closer together. We thank all the participants for their genuine commitment.

An Invitation

All women are invited to attend these programs throughout the year and guests are welcome. Meetings provide opportunities for sharing laughter and building friendships. Rides will gladly be arranged, and childcare is available upon request. We learn from each other and enjoy the blessings of abundant life that God has promised us when we gather in His name.

In Closing...

A very special thank you to Carol Bennett and Kristin Haverkamp for willingly assisting the Women of St. James in many ways.....Honestly, anything we ask they both have been there to support us. We could not survive without you two! Thank you!

Submitted by Kathy Lowell
On behalf of the Women of St. James

Report of the Sewing Group

The sewing group continues to meet the first Thursday of the month. We continue to make quilts, bears, and hats. At our November meeting Terri Gens from LSSI came and gave us a presentation. We presented her with 45 bears, 20 baby hats and 15 hats for children. The bears will be given to foster children when they first come into the system.

In March, after hearing about the war in Ukraine and the thousands of children leaving, we decided to meet in the middle of the

month to work on bears. We finished 50 bears that were taken to a church in Ukrainian Village. They are being given to children who come to Chicago as well as children who live here but have family in Ukraine.

We will deliver our quilts before October. Lutheran quilts are delivered everywhere there is a need.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Anderson

Report of the Endowment Fund Board

Members: Jim Davoux, Anna Verch, Hans Bodine, Sue Thomas, Mark Wanda

The Endowment fund began 2021 with a balance of \$366,767 and ended 2021 with a balance of \$392,773. This includes the “matching gift” funds that are currently co-invested with the other endowment funds. In August of 2021, a disbursement of \$6,667 was made from the Danielson Fund to provide financial support to Eric Holmer as he started his seminary education at Duke Divinity School. In October and December of 2021, disbursements totaling \$5,400 were made from the Other Restricted Funds for organ repairs. In early 2022, a disbursement of \$2,000 was made from the Danielson fund to the Lutheran School of Theology “Giving Day.”

The Land Fund began 2021 with a balance of \$1,162,578 and ended 2021 with a balance of \$1,274,802. The markets performed well so the

full 4% disbursement of \$45,709 was made from the Land Fund. Those funds were made available to the church council for major maintenance and benevolence. The investment performance of the Land Fund has done well during the ups and downs of the Covid pandemic due to the conservative nature of the investments. We are on track to be able to take the full 4% disbursement here in July of 2022. The committee will continue to monitor the markets during these uncertain times with the assistance of Wintrust as our investment advisors.

The congregation is always welcome and encouraged to submit ideas to the board for potential disbursements from the Endowment Fund. Contact any member of the board to discuss your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Davoux

Report of the Evangelism Committee

Members: Barb Davoux, Melinda Voelcker, Tom Ebert (retired), Scott Hill (Council Liaison)

The purpose of the evangelism committee is to engage congregational members in continuous and focused methods to reawaken the member’s spirituality, and to reach others, who are as yet unknown, with the Gospel and introduce them to Christ’s Church.

While the projects and activities of Evangelism this past year were limited, we look forward to completing some of those already planned or discussed, including:

- Sending upcoming event announcement postcards to members to encourage joining the St. James family again for in-person services, focusing on special events such as St. James Kickoff Sunday in September, Advent and Christmas activities.
- Continue efforts to assemble a “Connection Center” located in the narthex adjacent to the coffee pots to display “Opportunities to Connect” and provide opportunities to serve and invite. The plan is to “reformat” the Bulletin Board to make it more user friendly and draw attention to important news and make upcoming event information easily

accessible for members not yet receiving the Connections newsletter and for visitors.

We encourage all in the St. James family to attend services in-person or join remotely via the livestream – and share with others! There are many ways that we can all stay connected and re-engage with the family at St. James including the weekly Connections newsletter, weekly Reflections and Zoom bible studies and more – and share with neighbors and friends! We can all be the welcoming hands and feet of Christ!

If you are interested in helping build a stronger community within St. James and to create meaningful ways to welcome others to Christ’s community at St. James, please reach out to Melinda Voelcker or Barb Davoux. We welcome your participation and contributions (big and small) on the committee.

We also offer our heartfelt thanks to Tom Ebert for his many, many years leading the evangelism committee. He is truly an evangelist at heart, and we are ever grateful for his energy and thoughtfulness in faithfully leading the committee!

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Voelcker, Committee Member

Report of the Property Committee

Committee members: Carol Bennett, Hans Bodine, Pete Clemens, Josh Hornaday (current chairman), Chris Meyer, Werner Stein, Dave Stresser, John Tanner, Dave Van Singel

We are planning to have a property day at some point this summer. We will put the date in the bulletin once the date is selected. We will do our best to pick a date to provide enough advance notice for those members who want to participate to get it on their calendars.

Our big spend this year was the narthex HVAC totaling \$44,265 which was taken out of the Major Maintenance Fund.

The font was leaking under the sanctuary flooring and into the grout and that required resealing the caulking inside the font.

We replaced another 9 incandescent floodlights in the sanctuary with LEDs. Now 75% are LEDs and we've reduced electric usage by 5,000 watts and have gone more than a year w/o another bulb burning out.

We repaired the two garden fence sections that blew down, rebuilt the raised flower beds and fixed the leaking waterline. We also drilled draining holes in some of the large flower pots so hopefully they will have a longer shelf life.

The big pine tree in the back that had blown down was removed.

We also patched the potholes in the parking lot before winter. The parking lot remains a future potential big spend.

Special thanks to Werner who replaced exterior lighting timers and repaired several parking lot lights.

One project that may be in the future is to get a new platform for outside services. The platform had been in ground for a long time during covid times and it did not look very good when we pulled it out. We will look at it when we put parts of the platform out for summer services and make a determination at that time. We may also need to place down some seed or sod in that part of the lawn where the platform usually sits.

Pete continues in his semi-retirement as our behind the scenes man. And John Tanner also regularly spots issues and makes the needed repairs. John is also our "roof inspector" - checking for potential leaks and shoveling off leaves and debris from our flat roofs.

Don Bergsrud is working his way through all the sanctuary chairs to tighten or replace the screws holding the back cushions in place.

As a reminder, I spoke to four good gents last year about being on call to help us with certain things around the church. If you don't remember, that's ok, I remember who you are.

Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Hornaday

Report of the St. James OWLS

The St James OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) managed to keep busy despite the challenges caused by the on-going pandemic.

We met in person and virtually and even travelled to Starved Rock State Park for a guided tour followed by lunch and a concert. We had a "Show and Tell Your Bible" Program. Detlef Koska gave us a presentation on the carnivals of the world, and we participated in several service projects. A Bible Trivia meeting is planned for May 26th.

We are planning further events and hope for more participation as we welcome all interested persons. Our events are mentioned in Connections and further details may be obtained by contacting Ann Anderson or Madeleine Jorgensen.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Jorgensen

Report of the Finance Committee

Throughout 2021 the St. James Finance Committee was blessed by the diligent and effective stewardship of our Treasurer Mike Bennett and Business Manager Chris Meyer. We continue to manage through evolving and sometimes challenging conditions, through which we also continue to be grateful for the steadfast generosity of our congregation which allows us to prioritize our benevolence and social ministry goals. We are thankful that St. James has been able to weather the recent challenges and endure

through change. And we are constantly reminded that our wealth resides not just in our financial statements, but in the faith, energy and talents of our church body.

Thank you also to Jon Paul, Bob Kenehan and Ron Koepke for their contributions as members of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Miller
Finance Committee Chair

Report of the Fellowship Committee

Members of the committee included: Sue Ebert, Madeleine Jorgensen, Gail Morgan, Annie Moss, Shelly Holmstrom

The Fellowship Committee met twice with the Women of St. James and OWLs leadership to coordinate the calendar and activities.

The Fellowship Committee sponsored several events during the year:

- 1) Assisted in coordinating with members to provide treats after worship over the summer.
- 2) Worked with the Social Ministry Committee in assembling bags to every St. James member household to communicate the "Plant Yourself at St. James" program held three Sundays during the summer to encourage members to participate in fellowship and service after worship.
- 3) Held a reception following Reformation Day

worship 10/31 which included a visit from Bishop Curry.

4) Coordinated the Advent Dinner held Sunday evening, November 28. A marvelous team of "meatball rollers" worked their magic and a traditional potluck menu of Scandinavian food was enjoyed that evening. Coincidentally, the dinner followed a magnificent organ concert by Nathan Laube, honoring Donna Fortney.

Looking ahead to Sunday, June 19 Father's Day pancake breakfast!

Please contact a committee member with ideas for future events! We look forward to many more opportunities to be together.

Shelly Holmstrom

Submitted on behalf of the Committee

Report of the Youth Ministry Team

A monthly activity has been planned for the Junior High schoolers, but most have been canceled due to lack of participation. We did hold two events-going to Kroll's corn maze in the fall and Nerf Wars in the spring. The Senior High events have had better attendance. Doug Dusthimer has been hosting a Sunday morning gathering once a month prior to the church service with good attendance.

We are hopeful that we will be having a mission trip in conjunction with St Johns church, currently

scheduled for July 10-15 with several youth signed up to go. We had been signed up to be part of Serve Boldly, but they canceled the event. The mission trip is currently being navigated by Pastor Evan of St. Johns to see if the infrastructure is still in place enough for us to do it on our own.

Doug will also be assisting at Campfirmation which is scheduled for June 26 to July 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ebert

Report of the Call Committee

The Call Committee was installed January 9, 2022 and had its first meeting on January 10. The main goals of this organizational meeting were to assign positions within the committee, review documents describing the work of a Call Committee and begin completing the Synod's Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Through January and February the committee met to work on the MSP, a document to which the Church Council had already added thoughtful input. It provides information about our congregation and the surrounding community to prospective pastors as well as details for what St. James is looking for in its next pastor. Once completed, the MSP was approved by the Council and the Synod and then posted on the Synod website in early March. Throughout this time, committee members welcomed the input of the congregation. Reporting comments back to the full committee is a standing item on the agenda.

The committee met with Pastor Severson, our Synod representative, on February 7 to discuss the call process. At this meeting members of the committee were challenged to consider whether our committee was open to considering all candidates whose qualifications and fit with St. James appeared strong, regardless of sexual orientation, gender or age. On March 1, after a month for private consideration and prayer, deep and open discussion led the committee to a

consensus that we are open to considering all candidates. The consensus was not unanimous but it was clear.

On April 4, the committee met to consider questions to be asked during interviews with candidates. Members had individually reviewed lists of questions provided by the synod as well as written some of their own. These were discussed and categorized to relate to the priority attributes we were looking for in a new pastor. They were then divided into questions to be asked during first and second interviews.

During the first week of May the Synod released its first slate of candidates to the committee. The committee met to find dates available for interviews and to begin to review the materials submitted by the candidates. This part of the process is the most confidential. No names or information will be released about candidates considered except for the one recommended to the Council and congregation.

Michael Bennett
Hans Bodine
Linda Berner
Doug Gerber
Gail Morgan
Andrea Taylor
Mark Wanda

Report of the Memorial Garden

Burials

There were one interment within the last 12 months.

Memorial Plaque

There are no current plans to add a new name to the plaque. But there is still plenty of space to engrave more names. Please contact any of the trustees with any questions.

Sale of Burial Sites

No site was sold during the year. A number of sites are still available, especially on the “outside” (north side) of the Garden. The “outside” is very attractive because one can enjoy a clear view of the Church as a background.

Financials

The check book balance amount is \$499. The outstanding loan owed to the Endowment Fund is \$4,000 and the outstanding loan owed to General Fund is \$1,000.

Current Rate Structure

The current rate structure remains unchanged as follows:

- Full site for 6 urn interments \$2,200
- Quad site for 4 urn interments \$1,500
- Half site for 3 urn interments \$1,100
- Double site for 2 urn interments \$ 750
- Memorial Wall engraving per name \$ 650
- Interment Service \$ 750

Board Members

The current composition of the Board is as follows:

Cobi Stein - thru June, 2022

Carole Tanner—thru June, 2023

Randy Daniel – thru June, 2024

Detlef Koska, Chairman – thru June, 2025

Tom Meyer – Legal Counsel

Respectfully submitted,

Detlef K. Koska, Chairman

Resolutions

WE, THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, DO HEREBY RESOLVE THAT:

We thank God for the Gift of the Holy Spirit, alive and active in this congregation, and we pray that the power of the Spirit will bring about increased spiritual growth and commitment among our members, that Christ's work may truly be our own.

We express our thanks to Interim Pastor Sundberg, all our salaried staff and our many volunteers - committee chairpersons and members, organizational leaders, church school staff, choir members and musicians, ushers, worship assistants, nursery attendants, altar guild, sewing group and all the dedicated individuals who have given service in 2021-2022.

We express our gratitude to all who serve on the Church Council, especially Scott Hill, Tom Meyer (President), Gail Morgan, and Alane Wanda (Secretary) who have completed their terms of office. In addition we acknowledge with great appreciation our other 2021-2022 officers: Dave Moore, Vice President, Joe Voelcker, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Mike Bennett.

We remember in our thoughts and prayers all who mourn the loss of loved ones through death; those who have been hospitalized or seriously ill at home due to the loss of good health; those who have known the fear and frustration of job loss; those who in any way have experienced the pain of great sacrifice. We pray that all may find comfort and help in the promises of our loving and merciful Lord, Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior.

We give thanks for all the blessings bestowed upon us individually and upon our congregation. We are particularly mindful of the material blessings that are ours to share with others and we are grateful for the ever increasing evidence of faithful stewardship of our resources.

We thank God for guiding and preserving us through the challenges of the pandemic and through the transition to an Interim Pastor. We express our gratitude to all those who put in extra time, effort and talents in so many ways, enabling us to continue to function as a vibrant church despite the obstacles. We share our hope that the Spirit will lead us in the process of returning to life together as a congregation and in the calling of a new full-time Pastor.

WE GIVE THANKS ALWAYS TO GOD THE CREATOR STILL CREATING, TO HIS OWN SON WHO LIVES TO SAVE, AND TO HIS SPIRIT EVER GUIDING AND PROTECTING.

**2021-2022 Officers of
the Congregation
and Church Council**

- President**
Tom Meyer
- Vice President**
Dave Moore
- Secretary**
Alane Wanda
- Treasurer**
Mike Bennett
- Financial Secretary**
Joe Voelcker
- Council Members**
Barb Davoux
Sue Ebert
Scott Hill
Shelly Holmstrom
Ron Koepke
Greg MacAyeal
Amy Marsch
Tom Meyer
Michael Montalbano
Dave Moore
Gail Morgan
Alane Wanda
- Interim Pastor**
Mark Sundberg
- Church Staff**
- Business Manager**
Chris Meyer
- Administrative and
Communications Services
Team**
Carol Bennett and
Kristin Haverkampf
- Sunday School Director**
Debbie MacAyeal
- Youth Ministry Director**
Doug Dusthimer

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**Standing Committee Chairs
and Other Leaders**

- Christian Education**
Linda Berner
- Church Property**
Josh Hornaday
- Evangelism**
Acting Chair Tom Ebert
- Fellowship**
TBD
- Finance**
Teresa Miller
- Social Ministry**
Shelly Holmstrom and
Alane Wanda
- Stewardship**
Michael Montalbano
- Worship & Music**
Mark Taylor
- Endowment Board of Trustees**
Jim Davoux
- Memorial Garden
Board of Trustees**
Detlef Koska
- St. James Owls**
Ann Anderson and
Madeleine Jorgensen
- Sewing Group**
Ann Anderson
- Youth Ministry Team**
Sue Ebert
- Women of St. James**
Kathy Lowell
- Altar Guild**
Annie Moss
- Church Staff**
- Director of Music**
Rae-Myra Hilliard
- Organist**
Wendy Unrath
- Damascus Road Directors**
Greg MacAyeal and
Melinda Voelcker
- Director of
Children's Music**
Wendy Wiegers
- Brass Ensemble Director**
Ryan Ringnalda