



Rejoicing in Hope,
Persevering in Tribulation
Devoted to Prayer

Romans 12:12

2023 Annual Report

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**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

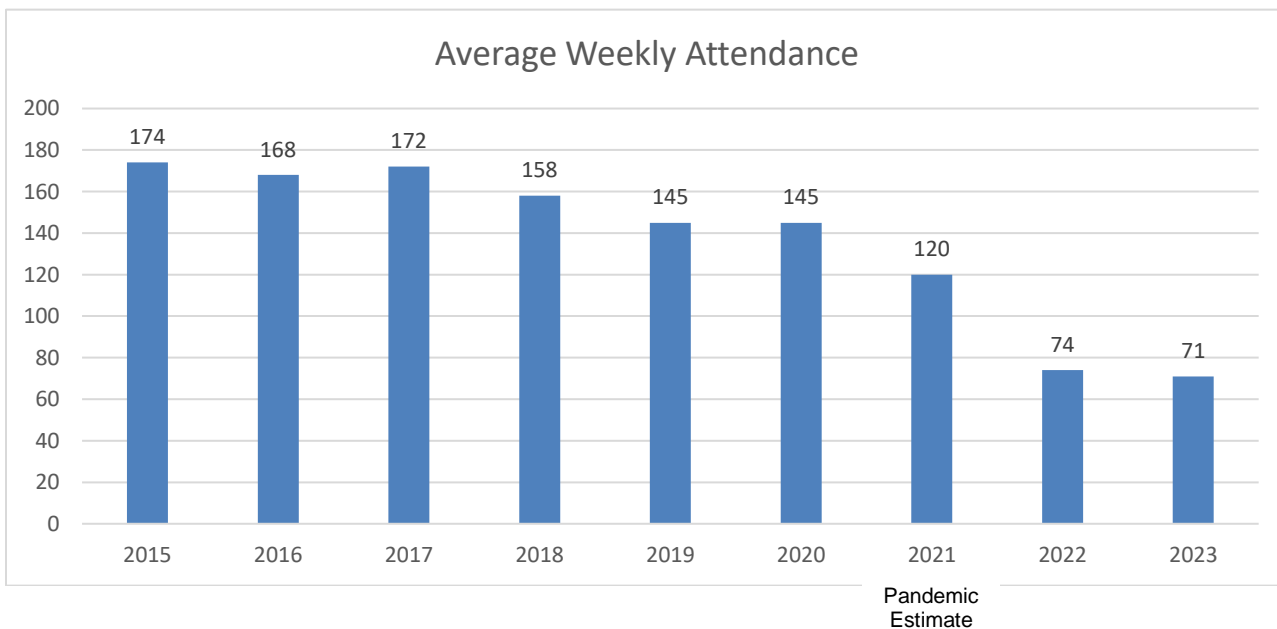


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**PAROCHIAL REPORT
December 31, 2023**

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
Membership as of end of 2023	<u>198</u>	<u>180</u>
Membership received during 2023		
Affirmed Faith	6	2
Baptism 0-15 yrs.		
Baptism Adult		
Other Lutheran		
Transfer		
Total New Members Received	6	2
Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2023		0
Total Baptism/Confirmation Gains	6	2
	<u>204</u>	<u>182</u>
Members Removed During 2023		
Death	8	8
Other/inactivity/moved	54	54
Transfer	5	5
Total Baptism/Confirmed Removed	67	67
Membership as of December 31, 2023	137	
Associate Membership	1	1



MEMBERS RECEIVED 2023

RUBY BURKE
DOROTHY CUNNINGHAM
JOYCE DUNN
JUDI KODAJ
TERRIE MALELLA
NICK WATRY



Members Removed By Death 2023

ETHEL LENZ
NANCY DUTY
HERB HART
JENS DYBDAHL
RALPH MINER
CAROLYN MINER
RICH BEAN
GEORGIANNA HOFSTETTER

Members Removed 2023

MIKE & CHERYL APFEL	CAROL & SCOTT JOHNSON	PATTI ROBERTS
JEANETTE BARTLESON	JIM & CANDY KASEMAN	VALERIE & SHAWN SMALL
BRIAN & DEBBY BELDEN	KEN & LINNEA KLEIST	JIM & KELLY STEGALL
ROCKY ARRIAGA	NAOMI KLINKENBERG	MEGAN WINTERBERG
SELYN BARRETTE-HARWIN	JOANN LINDSTAEDT-WING	DAMON & JENNIFER WOOD
CAROL BURTON	SHELLEY MALCOLM	ANDREW WOOD
ANDY & DANA DODDS	EDIE OVERDUIN	
ROBERT & JANICE GONZALES	CHERYL PRICE	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The present nominating committee members:

**David Goodwin
David Immel
Rebecca Linqvist
Wanda Parker**

After prayerful consideration, we present the following nominees for Council:

**Dawn Drysdale
Ed Muraski
Bob Weiger**

Emanda Miller resigned her position as Council Member; the Church Council after discussion, voted to approve Louise Taylor as Emanda's replacement for the last year of Emanda's term.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2024:

At Large - Four members to be elected for a one-year term:

**Louise Frye
Emanda Miller
Adrienne Rule
Ron Werner**

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – PART II

Saint John's Congregational Meeting, Part II

January 28, 2024

The results were:

New Council Members elected:

Dawn Drysdale

Ed Muraski

Bob Weiger

Nominating Committee slate was approved:

Louise Frye

Emanda Miller

Adrienne Rule

Ron Werner

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PART 1 December 10, 2023

All in person

Call to order by Council VP Janice Goodwin at 11:30 am.

Janice reviewed the purpose and agenda of meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meeting of January 22, 2023: On motion by Bob Weiger and seconded by Ed Muraski minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business: Janice outlined the 3 budget options that the Council considered: conservative (do nothing and cut staff and die), moderate (seek more volunteers and cut back to income levels), or be aggressive and actively seek and fund ways to grow God's Kingdom and bring more to Jesus. Council unanimously rejected the first two options and unanimously approved the third option to "get out of the boat" and seek ways to bring more to St. John's and Jesus.

On a motion by Ed Muraski and seconded by Theresa Schultz approval of the 2024 budget moved forward and the floor was opened for discussion.

There were several questions (Cal Wood and Bob McGhie), mostly centered on missing pages for the budget presented the previous week. This was a minor oversight and Pam Glenn was able to provide copies of the full budget for those that had questions. Sandy Brantingham pointed out that all numbers are included and listed line items that equaled the total bottom line. Nothing changed in the budget from the previous week, all line items remained the same. Wes pointed out that the bottom line is identical. Janice and Gordon reviewed the questions and highlighted once again the changes in the budget for 2024 versus 2023. Any increases were in the areas of new part-time staff or outreach efforts that Council believes could grow the church, such as multimedia and staff to support growth. One member (Tim Myer) commented that this is the most detail the congregation has been able to see, that in the past they were not able to see every line item budgeted. Another (Louise Frye) commented that this is the first time in 21 years that they feel the Council is totally transparent and does an excellent job presenting a very difficult forecast, given falling membership and post-pandemic challenges. Lois Franks commented that she believes we need more volunteers, and we shouldn't have to pay all the music assistants. She stated that she puts in countless volunteer hours and would like to see more people do so for the sake of the church. Adrienne Rule and Sandy Brantingham pointed out that some positions (childcare specifically) can't be volunteers as we have certain liability issues that we cover with paid employees.

Janice asked for a vote at which time we did paper tallies and Mike Johnson and Frank Drake double counted and presented the following to Janice for report to the congregation:

33 YES votes

3 NO votes

2 Abstained

40 members were signed in so we had 2 less votes than the total number of members present.

Janice reported that we have a Quorum and therefore the 2024 Budget is approved.

Adrienne Rule closed the meeting in prayer at 11:58 am.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Johnson, Secretary.

PASTOR

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

This past year has been challenging for us. We continue to say a lot of goodbyes as great folks move away or on to their heavenly retirement. These fond farewells remind us of how urgent it is for us to keep passing the torch to the next generation. This last year, we've taken some great steps toward that goal. We'll continue pressing on into 2024. As Paul says, we are conquerors and nothing can separate us from God's love.

I'm so thankful to have been your pastor these last seven years. Time flies. As we face the brutal reality of our post-pandemic world, I'm glad we're all in this together. My family is so blessed to be part of the Saint John's family.

I'm thankful for our hardworking church staff. Their mission to lead and equip is so empowering for Saint John's. I'm thankful for our key volunteer leaders who keep our mission moving forward. All our committees and teams give their time so generously. I'm thankful for our Church Council finding creative ways to help Saint John's to be Jesus' hands and feet in this hurting world. I'm thankful for all our members and friends who make this congregation a close-knit family. And I'm thankful for all the new folks God has brought our way this year. So glad to have you on board!

We've been blessed by so many who have gone before us. They've laid a strong foundation and we get to keep building. We have so many resources to use for God's mission. We may be small, but with God's Spirit, we are mighty.

Let's be in prayer together for the future of the church. Where is God calling you to stretch and grow in 2024? Read through these reports and you will get some wonderful ideas. Or maybe God has you tapped for something that's never been done before. I can't wait to find out.

Blessings

Greg

Greg Wallace
Pastor

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Speaking for the Council, I wish to thank each and every member of this faithful congregation for their continued support, both in efforts and finances, to sustain this church. We resolve to move forward together, prayerfully listening for God's will.

As a congregation, we have experienced the joy of the celebration of the birth of Christ. We have experienced the hope of resurrection during the sunrise Easter service at Grover Beach. We have attended celebrations of life for those long-time members who have passed on to be with our Lord. On Saturdays, as part of Fun, Fitness & Fellowship, we hiked Pismo Preserve, played Disc Golf, and visited Oso Flaco Lake.

During the summer, the Council learned of a potential budget deficit. The Council passed a resolution maintaining the previously approved 2023 budget for the remainder of the year. To maintain transparency, the Council held a Congregational Forum in August to discuss the current and projected shortfall for the remainder of 2023. Following the budget forum in August, the Council began looking at what to do in 2024. During the discussion, the incident of Peter walking on the water came up (Matthew 14:22-33). The visual of Peter becoming afraid and sinking into the water is striking. We agreed that as a Council we should 'get out of the boat', to walk on the water while trusting Jesus. The congregation focusing on the 'OUT' dimension of St. John's vision statement is the way to grow the congregation. This will be both challenging and uncomfortable as we seek to fulfill this vision.

The Council appreciates the level of trust demonstrated by the congregation in their approval of the 2024 budget in December. 2024 will be a year of outreach and assessment. Anticipate a congregational meeting mid-year. The two new staff positions, Music Worship Leader and Assistant Office Manager, are each funded for six months. If the right candidate is hired soon, the Council will ask for an increase in that budgeted position to complete the calendar year.

This fall, the Council approved a working group to explore the possibility of a Christ-centered children's center, tentatively for ages 2-6 years of age. This opportunity will be explored in 2024, as the working group prudently considers issues to determine the feasibility of such a large undertaking by the congregation. The concept and funding for the project will be presented for congregational approval before any money is spent.

The Council wishes to thank Kerry Wood for her continued efforts as Financial Secretary. Please keep in mind the pledge cards that were sent out this past fall. During the stewardship drive each fall, you can reflect on your giving over the past year as one prays for God's guidance in the future.

As always, ask any Council member questions about finances. The Council strives to remain transparent with any and all issues brought before the Council.

As a church family we wish to continue the good works of St. John's for years to come. Earnest effort will be required in 2024. We look forward to working together as fellow Christians, fellow Lutherans.

In Christ,
Mark Haley

PROPERTY TEAM

Council Representative: Mike Johnson; Committee Lead: David Goodwin

This church family is blessed with an amazing property. As such there is a lot of maintenance required to maintain the grounds professionally. Every 1st Saturday of the month our volunteers worked hard to keep up with trash and plant needs. Lois Franks leads our efforts with her unending care for our property. Most of the plants have been donated by her. Without her and our volunteers this property would not be so beautiful. We are thankful for their volunteer efforts, but we need more hands on a weekly basis to maintain the property. "Many hands make light work".

Resolved in 2023: The well issue of our neighbor was completed with a new well. The plants and drip lines were replaced by the neighbor under the direction of Lois Franks. All sprinkler lines were repaired but still require some ongoing replacements. Our irrigation system is currently being inspected and repaired as needed by Lois' repair man. Under the leadership of Janice & David Goodwin 2 pet waste stations were installed. Installation of a replacement water heater was completed.

Needing Resolution:

Our greeting sign by the office needs to be upgraded/replaced. getting bids from our sign company. Our Front Sign may be replaced by a new, larger electronic sign; Jeff Metcalfe will follow up on this project.

The Eagle Scout path project was completed. However, it crossed over several drip lines, which will require some upgrades to PVC by the Eagle Scout. DG material still needs to be removed by the Eagle Scout team.

The shed closest to the sea train needs a quote for repair of termite-damaged wood. The sea train is without power apparently due to the addition of our Solar Panels. Our main power box needs the top replaced as it has rusted and leaks, not good. Several other electrical issues exist; all currently being worked on.

Once the Warming Center is done using our facilities, we will check on the drip system that their POD was set on top of.

With the pending project of a Preschool, our property team will be involved in some potential changes to our property. This is work-in-process: most of the lawn area may be devoted to a new playground, requiring a rework of all irrigation lines. A preliminary budget is being developed for all expenses by the group researching this project.

As stated, we have a beautiful property. The hard truth is that this is being maintained by mostly 70, 80 and 90 year-old members. This team needs to begin meeting monthly in 2024 to bring in younger volunteers and have a plan for replacing those volunteers that may not be able to continue helping. Respectfully submitted, Mike Johnson

Youth and Children's Ministry

Youth Group

At weekly youth group on Sunday evenings we continue to see new faces and deeper engagement from the more regular attenders. Lydia and Matthew are committed to seeing the students grow in their faith and help them stay grounded during the challenging teen years.

Trips & Fundraisers

In July we had a great trip with Rock N Water camp. Our students and leaders got to rock climb, experience white water rafting, and had lots of time to worship and fellowship with other Christian teenagers. Thank you to everyone's continued support of our youth ministry. We especially appreciate the prayer and generous financial giving through our chili cook-off and annual auction fundraiser in May.

KidsChurch

We continue to have volunteers help lead KidsChurch and our team is committed to serving kids and families. Even though our numbers are light the kids express great excitement and the teachers are dedicated to making it a special time for attendees.

VBS

This summer we once again joined with a few other local churches for VBS hosted on the Calvary Chapel campus. Our children ministry volunteers ran the craft station this year and had a great week of fun and the traditional VBS elements. Thank you to the team: Dawn Drysdale, Matthew Harter, Paula Harter, Barbara Johnson, Gianni and Malina Lento, Elizabeth Ramirez, Lydia, Greg, Micah & Cindi Wallace. Malina was able to use her volunteer hours towards her National Junior Honor Society award.

Trunk or Treat

The Youth committee, Children's committee and youth group teamed up to return to hosting our annual Trunk or Treat Halloween outreach event. We had over 100 people in attendance and it was a huge success in reaching the neighborhood and members inviting friends. We did a hot dog dinner which allowed committee members to focus on booths and trunks. Thanks to all who served!

Advent

This year we moved our traditional advent night to an all church potluck brunch following the music Sunday celebration. We shared in a meal with a hot cocoa bar, cookie decorating, prepared special gifts to be delivered our homebound members as well as had a few other craft tables.

Submitted by Cindi Wallace, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

STEPHEN MINISTRY



We are so thankful to God to be able to support this caring ministry at Saint John's. This past year we sadly lost several wonderful Stephen Ministers, as Mel Gomez and Therese Wolfe both had to step down for personal reasons. However, God blessed us as we welcomed Ruby Burke as a new member of Saint John's and a new Stephen Minister.

Our current roster, under pastor Greg's guidance, includes Rebecca Linqvist, Ruby Burke, Robin Eiland and Gordon Eiland. We need more Stephen Ministers, and are hoping to add a few more in 2024, so are planning for another training class beginning in early March. We pray some of our congregation will hear God's call to join us. We will also continue reaching out and publicizing what our Stephen Ministry program is all about (one-to-one Christian care, where we are the care givers and God is the cure giver).

In addition to our caregiving, we sponsored a well-received first gathering of Saint John's Book Club, led by Rebecca Linqvist, in October. We all read the book, "The Gift of Empathy," by Joel Bretscher and Kenneth Hauck, and had a wonderful discussion of how to be more empathetic with others who may be hurting. Future books and meetings will be scheduled soon.

Stephen Ministry also continued its tradition of sponsoring one of the Lenten Soup Suppers, and we continued to support our Stephen Ministry resource display just to the right of the entrance to the Sanctuary. This display contains books and short pamphlets to help bring God's Word to people as they face a variety of life challenges, including death of a loved one, cancer, severe illnesses, grieving, mental health issues, loneliness, depression, addiction, and more. All books and pamphlets are complementary. We are happy that many of these books and pamphlets are being taken and used, and we are happy to replenish them.

Thank you, congregation members and friends, for your continued prayers, support and encouragement and for stepping forward as care receivers. It is a blessing for us to witness what God can do for people that are hurting. Please reach out to Pastor Greg, or any of us, if you find yourself in such a situation, and may God continue to richly bless one and all.

In His love and service,

Gordon and Robin Eiland
Stephen Ministry Leaders

Paul guides us, *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.* Galatians 6:2
Jesus directed us, *My command is this: Love one other as I have loved you.* John 15: 12

GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY MISSIONS TEAM

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Psalms 105:1

Our goal is to obey Jesus' mandate to go to all nations and proclaim the good news of salvation. We do this by supporting ministries, locally and internationally, that are also committed to this high calling. The following is a list of special events that we promoted in 2023. Thanks to the team members, Pastor Greg, congregation members & friends that helped their success.

- We sent urgent financial assistance to Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz, a Hispanic church in Santa Maria, CA to provide food to families of farmworkers. Due to heavy winter storms, many were without work.
- Provided funds to China Service Ventures to help send local missionaries to serve Chinese migrant families from Hong Kong that relocated to the UK. A summer camp for families brought Jesus' love and the Good News!
- **NEW PROJECT:** We assembled "Agape Love Baskets" for shut-ins, and for those in need of encouragement. The baskets contained snacks, note cards, a prayer book, and more. They were very much appreciated.
- We again raised funds for the Five Cities Homeless Coalition by offering handcrafted soup bowls for donations. Saint John's members stepped up and provided enthusiastic support to help the homeless members of our community. THANK YOU!
- **NEW PROJECT:** In August Saint John's held an outdoor worship service on the lawn that included a blessing of the animals/pets. Our team helped bring local animal service organizations to offer information on their services. A good outreach effort. A hot dog lunch followed (no pun intended!).
- We sent a full year's tuition support for two students at the Zozu Solid Rock Christian school in Uganda.
- In coordination with our annual stewardship campaign, our team helped with an international foods themed dinner. Representatives from the Zozu Project, China Service Ventures, Frontiers (minister to Muslims), and Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz attended and gave us updates on their ministries.
- In December we finished the year with the Christmas Angel Tree project which invites people to sponsor a child from Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz needing a Christmas gift. Forty children received gifts of love from members of Saint John's! THANK YOU!

We are grateful to our members and friends for your continued support of global and local ministries. You are making this world a better place with the love of Jesus. If you'd like to join our team, we'd love to have you! Submitted by Pat Muran, Chairperson
Team Members: Jeff Metcalfe, Marcy Richardson, Esther Jensen and Pastor Greg

EVANGELISM GOOD NEWS TEAM

This year's Good News Team has dwindled down to Pastor Greg and myself. The committee has been dormant most of the year. As acting chairman, with Pastor Greg's encouragement and God's Will, I would like to rebuild The Good News Team.

In 2023 I will endeavor to repopulate the team and continue the evangelical work this committee has performed in the past. Please prayerfully consider joining this "Great Commission" outreach committee. Godspeed

Jeff ><> Metcalfe, Acting Chairman

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Like other ministries, the pandemic forced us to find new ways to keep sewing dresses and send them where they were needed. We cut our team of dress makers to only members of Saint John's because our campus was closed to outsiders at that time. Unfortunately, many of the ladies who participated felt they were being snubbed because they couldn't come on campus. The result is that our team of ladies has shrunk considerably, even though we are back to a new "normal". Our partnership with Operation Christmas Child, who was able to get out of the country during the pandemic, has grown now to four different coordinators, one locally and three others in Southern California. We have also continued to have dresses available for Zozu Project, Iglesia Luterana, China Service Ventures. We also have some new ministries - Elizabeth Anne Seton Catholic Church in Los Osos, the church of one of our sewists, is taking dresses to the Philippines, twice in 2023. One of our OCC coordinators has opened the door for us to send dresses to a ministry called Life Impact. And another group, Praying Pelican Missions, with local groups within 100-200 miles, do missionary trips to Mexico, Central America, etc. and are interested in a possible partnership with Dress A Girl. That being said, it would also mean we need more sewing people – God has a plan!

This past year, we still received multiple deliveries from House of God in Redlands & Gracepoint Fellowship in Yucaipa. Along with those, our group here at Saint John's made several hundred dresses and last but not least, many of our sewists like to sew at home and bring their completed dresses in to us. In 2023, collected and sent out 1,732 dresses to different ministries who distributed them around the world! The first year we started this ministry, thanks to Greg & Cindi, we made 200 dresses that Zozu Project took in backpacks to Arua, Uganda!

It's an exciting time for us – can't wait to see what God has in mind this year!

Be Blessed - Make a Dress!

Pamela Glenn, Dress A Girl Coordinator for Saint John's Lutheran Church
Dress A Girl Ambassador for the Central Coast of California

MUSIC MINISTRIES

This past year has presented challenges for our music ministries and our musical offerings but we have all worked hard to provide a varied and Spirit-led worship experience at Saint John's. If there's a place you'd like to jump in and join the music ministry, please know that you are welcome! We've got a framed poster in the choir room that says, "All God's critters got a place in the choir" - and it's TRUE! If you have any sort of love for music, even if you aren't musical, there's a place for you to help with the ministry.

The Chancel Choir and Heavenly Handbells have provided special music once each month in the spring and fall, as well as Advent and Christmas. The choir continues to be a group of Jesus-loving, praying friends who just happen to sing together! Those two groups also provided worshipful and joyful music during Lent, at Easter, and throughout the Christmas season. You may not know that none of our handbell ringers knew how to read sheet music before they started playing but, with the patient teaching of Shari Bowman and a little help from some color-coded music, they are able to put together amazing musical offerings month after month. I hope this encourages YOU to consider giving it a try - contact Shari or Janice.

The combined musical efforts of Choir and Handbells culminated in our Christmas music Sunday titled "Love Came For Us." Choir, Handbells and other musicians from around Saint John's were included. It was all woven together for a joyous Christmas program.

We continue to utilize the talents of all four of our worship music leaders at the 9:30 service including Cal Wood, Janice Goodwin, Lydia Wallace, and Pastor Greg, so that everyone has the opportunity to serve and use their gifts, as well as give others time off for travel and family obligations. The other great gift we enjoy is the diverse group of musical members in the bands, who are all interchangeable on the various teams and give of their time and talents so willingly! We are excited about the new Worship Music Leader position that will be advertised in the very near future. Please pray that God will bring exactly the right person our way to help us launch an evening worship service to minister to the needs of those who have not found Saint John's yet.

Thanks to the expertise of our sound engineer Jon Lopez and his team in the sound booth we have ironed out many of the sound issues we were having a couple of years ago. Thanks also to Matthew Harter, Evan Reilly, and Micah Wallace for serving in the sound booth each Sunday! Because of their dedication and hard work we are able to not only have an excellent worship experience on the campus but also to those who worship online. We couldn't do it without the media team.

We continue to be blessed by the talents of Dawn Russ and Shari Bowman on the organ during our traditional worship services at 11:00am and special services throughout the year. We are grateful for the spirit of cooperation and support that exists.

Janice Goodwin, Music Coordinator

WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF SAINT JOHN'S

Women's Ministry of Saint John's Lutheran Church holds quarterly meetings during the months of March, June, September and December. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. The Board of Directors include Rena Weiger and Louise Frye, co-chairs; Ruth Kapka, Treasurer, Linda McNair, and Joyce McGhie. Ethel Lenz, former board member passed on early in the year. We are thankful that Joyce joined the board earlier this year. Linda will be leaving the board in 2024. We thank her for many years of service.

All women of the church are members of Women's Ministry. The board members provide refreshments at the meetings as well as kitchen supplies, coffee supplies and cookies to serve between services. Additionally, we collect weekly funds from the basket in the Commons. All monies donated becomes the Good Samaritan Fund and is distributed by Pastor Greg to needy and hungry people. In March 2023, the featured speaker was Bonnie from the Tree of Life Pregnancy Center. Bonnie presented the various outreach projects: Counseling, emotional support, and material items for babies. The most important aspect is providing a safe and nonjudgmental atmosphere for pregnant women, both religious and secular, to share their emotions openly.

In June 2023, the meeting opened with a delicious potluck luncheon at noon. Our speaker was Charlene Ables from the San Luis Obispo Assistance League. Charlene has a great passion for her work and ministry. For those of us who attended, it was heartwarming to hear how the Assistance League helps to support needy families by providing free clothing from various stores such as Kohl's in Paso Robles, and Old Navy in San Luis Obispo. All the monies from the purchases at the Thrift Store in San Luis Obispo, are used to purchase clothing for children.

In September the guest speaker was Katherine Vouse, a Beekeeper and retired schoolteacher. In October, we had our very successful White Elephant and Bake Sale. We also had our annual distribution of towels, and other items for Lutheran World Relief. In December 2023, Women's Ministry had a successful Christmas Luncheon with thirty-two people in attendance, including Pastor Greg. The luncheon was held in the Commons with a festive atmosphere and décor. In the absence of Ruth who was on a cruise, Joyce was the chief decorator who created centerpieces composed of colorful ball ornaments. Linda arranged for the wonderful variety of sandwiches, shrimp, cold cuts, and a large vegetable tray from Von's. Board members provided other salads. Dessert included cheesecake and pumpkin pie from Costco. Entertainment included a Christmas Word Scramble Game, a historical description of Christmas Carols presented by Rena and musical entertainment featuring piano and saxophone by Louise & Janice.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Frye

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Financial Report - 2023**

income

white elephant & bake sale	\$7,666.56
memorial	\$450.00
Christmas luncheon	\$480.00
donation	\$55.00
trivent gift card	<u>\$500.00</u>
<i>total income</i>	\$9,151.56

expenses

kitchen supplies	\$1,123.60
Christmas luncheon	\$368.70
memorial contribution	\$130.79
LWR-towel kits	\$837.95
speaker fee	\$300.00
misc expenses	\$152.56
white elephant expenses	\$383.64
<i>total expenses</i>	\$3,297.24

donations

Tree of Life	\$500.00
Salvation Army	\$500.00
Boys & Girls Club-Oceano	\$500.00
Meals That Connect	\$500.00
Iglesia Lutherana	\$500.00
Turkey/Syria Earthquake	\$1,000.00
Disabled Vet SLO-Women Vet	\$500.00
Children's Resource Network	\$500.00
Ukraine Refugee Relief	\$1,000.00
SLO County Assistance League	\$300.00
Captive Hearts	\$500.00
People's Kitchen	\$500.00
5 Cities Homeless Coalition	\$500.00
5 Cities Food Pantry	\$300.00
Maui Fire Relief	\$500.00
Zozu yearly for Maureen	\$500.00
Zozu Christmas Gift for Maureen	\$100.00
Good Samaritan	<u>\$360.00</u>
<i>total donations</i>	\$9,060.00

checking account balance-December 31, 2023 **\$8,956.19**

Scrip Program

December 31, 2023 Scrip Card Inventory

Scrip Physical Inventory

Item Description	\$ Value	Count
Ace Hardware	\$ 25	3
Ace Hardware	\$ 100	1
Amazon . com	\$ 25	2
Amazon . Com	\$ 10	1
Amazon.com	\$ 100	1
Arco 100	\$ 100	4
Arco 250	\$ 250	1
ARCO 50'S	\$ 50	4
Bath & Body Works	\$ 10	7
Bath & Body Works	\$ 25	2
Big 5 Sporting Goods	\$ 25	3
Burger King	\$ 10	2
CVS Pharm	\$ 25	2
DR10	\$ 10	3
Home depot 1	\$ 100	1
Home Depot 2	\$ 25	4
I-tunes 25	\$ 25	1
Kohls 25	\$ 25	6
Olive Garden	\$ 25	2
Office Max	\$ 25	4
Ross Dress for less	\$ 25	3
Regal Enter.	\$ 25	4
Starbucks Co	\$ 25	5
Smart & Final	\$ 100	1
Smart & Final	\$ 25	7
Smart & Final	\$ 50	2
SHELL 25S	\$ 25	6
Taco Bell	\$ 10	6
Target	\$ 25	1
Vons 100	\$ 100	5
Vons 25s	\$ 25	4
Walgreens	\$ 100	2
Wal Mart 100	\$ 100	1
Wal Mart	\$ 25	9

RESURRECTION GARDEN & COLUMBARIUM

The SJLC Resurrection Garden & Columbarium (more commonly referred to as simply “the columbarium”) is a beautiful and peaceful place for Saint John’s members and their family members to be placed for their final rest.

We had an unfortunately busy year as many of our Saint John’s saints passed away and went to be with their Savior. Unfortunate for those of us left behind, but what a glorious promise they now enjoy!

This year, in cooperation with the Property Committee, we arranged for and completed the replacement of the fence surrounding the columbarium which had become rusted at the base as a result of years of exposure to the salty air coming in from the ocean. The new fence should last us many, many years to come.

The Columbarium is financially sole and separate from the rest of the church finances and is funded strictly by niche purchases and is managed by a Board of Trustees. The Board is currently seeking a couple of members to help manage the activities of the Columbarium. These tasks include niche sales, record keeping, opening and closing the niches during memorial services, and assisting family members as they prepare for those services. Please contact David or Janice Goodwin or Pastor Greg if you are able to help with any of these needs.

Janice Goodwin, Trustee

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee continued their stewardship of the following Endowment Funds:

• The Saint John’s General Fund	1/1/2023 Balance - \$61,824.00
• The Edwin & Gloria Medley Global Mission Fund	1/1/2023 Balance - \$50,551.83
• The Marty Hanson Memorial Fund	1/1/2023 Balance - <u>\$35,616.12</u>
TOTAL	\$147,991.95

These funds are managed by Thrivent Charitable and are invested in a “Growth” Portfolio. designed to meet our long-term growth objectives. The goal of maintaining these Endowment Funds is to generate earnings to support ministries within Saint John’s. The distribution of investment profits is limited to 5% of each fund’s year-end value, if the distribution does not take the fund below its principal investment value. When these funds were originated, the following distribution protocols were established:

- General Fund – 15% Youth, 20% Mission, 15% Worship & 50% Any Area
- Medley Fund – 100% Global Missions
- Hanson Fund – 100% Youth

During the first quarter of each year the Endowment Committee assesses fund performances, in accordance with the By-Laws, to determine if earnings allow for a distribution. If so, ministries are encouraged to complete a funds request to be considered by the committee. Distributions are typically made in May of that year.

Fund performances during 2022 were quite poor, taking the balances well below the threshold for distribution. Therefore, no distributions were made during fiscal 2023.

A preliminary review of 2023 fund performances shows moderate improvement, but not enough to warrant a distribution for fiscal 2023, which would have been made in early 2024.

The 2023 Endowment Committee Members were Bob Weiger – President/Treasurer, Terry Fibich, Gordon Eiland and Pastor Greg Wallace.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Weiger, on behalf of the Endowment Committee.



SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Saint John's Lutheran Church, Financial Secretary Annual Income Report January - December 2023

General Fund Offerings

1-4105	Envelopes	273,294.89
3-4107	Loose Plate	3,548.00
7-4113	Initial	78.00
20-4125	Ash Wednesday	441.00
21-4120	Lent	66.00
22-4122	Maundy Thursday	437.00
23-4124	Good Friday	405.00
24-4126	Easter	2,305.00
26-4128	Thanksgiving	600.00
27-4129	Christmas	2,275.00
		\$283,449.89

General Fund Special Income

11-4242	Outside Donations - Facility Use	6,497.89
17-4226	General Fund refunds	15.45
94-4248	Scrip Sales Net Income	4,204.66
124-4256	Staff Gifts	310.00
130-4234	Misc. Special Income	16.61
311-4242	Outside Donations - One Time Hall Use	900.00
		\$11,944.61

General Fund Designated Benevolences

37-4425	Misc. Benevolence – Zozu	184.00
83-4425	Disaster Relief	2,000.00
		\$184.00

General Fund & Endowment Fund Sub Total

\$295,578.50

Dedicated Funds

28-2801	Family Crisis	99.00
32-2861	Good Samaritan	363.00
36-2852	Global Mission	100.00
42-2803	Youth Ministry	6,188.00
47-2858	Dress A Girl	923.00
60-2860	Endowment Grants	0.00
66-2819	Stephen Ministry	225.00
72-2817	Social Outreach Services	300.00
119-9965	Pastor Appreciation	1,055.00
120-2865	Pastoral Discretionary	4,000.00
140-2839	Special Blessings & Celebrations	100.00
186-2802	Property Refurbishment	150.00
192-2859	KidsChurch – Zozu	220.00
194-2815	Council Discretionary	0.00
202-2803	Youth - Summer Trip	936.00
213-2803	Youth - Winter Trip	600.00
		\$15,259.00

Memorial Funds

8-2900	Memorial Funds	406808.07
		\$406,808.07

Dedicated & Memorial Sub Total

\$422,067.07

Respectfully submitted by Kerry Wood, January 8, 2024

Grand Total

\$717,645.57

Treasurer Saint John's Lutheran Church

Good news! We finished the year much better than expected. Compared to the forecast we presented during our 2024 budget meetings, offerings came in higher, expenses were lower, and investment earnings were dramatically higher. After a few late adjustments after we distributed the Giving Statements Letters, we ended the year with an operating loss of \$106,367, but our investments earned a whopping \$70,667, which reduced the net loss to \$35,700, compared to last year's net loss of \$28,396 in 2022 and our forecast of a \$99,419 loss. We even ended up beating our original budgeted loss of \$49,971. Below is a summary of our financial results for 2022 and 2023 and our approved budget for 2024:

	Actual 2022	Bud. 2023	Fcst. 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Total Operating Income	\$ 351,888	\$ 363,000	\$ 280,329	\$ 296,466	\$ 280,329
Total Operating Expense	\$ 395,554	\$ 412,971	\$ 405,182	\$ 402,833	\$ 458,054
Operating Income/(Loss)	\$ (43,666)	\$ (49,971)	\$ (124,853)	\$ (106,367)	\$ (177,725)
Investment Income and One Time Items	\$ 14,730	\$ -	\$ 25,434	\$ 70,667	\$ 50,053
Total Net Income /(Loss)	\$ (28,936)	\$ (49,971)	\$ (99,419)	\$ (35,700)	\$ (127,672)

While the loss of \$30,126 is concerning, it is much better than expected and as we noted in our last congregational meeting, we now have reserves of cash, investments, and endowments over \$1.2 million from which we can fund operating losses, if we decide to do so, as we did for the 2024 budget. During 2023 our reserves were bolstered by two remarkable gifts: \$304,000 from the Ethel Lenz Estate and \$100,000 from the Bob and Sylvia Gold estate. Below is our year-end balance sheet:

	12/31/22	12/31/23
Checking accounts	\$ 79,643	\$ 173,461
Investment accounts	\$ 754,786	\$ 972,260
Endowment funds (restricted)	\$ 131,289	\$ 147,992
Other	\$ 526	\$ 4,610
Current Assets	\$ 966,244	\$ 1,298,323
Land, Buildings, Improvements	\$ 2,475,144	\$ 2,508,108
Total Assets	\$ 3,441,387	\$ 3,806,431
Current Liabilities	\$ 12,556	\$ 1,344
Reserves, Dedicated and Memorials	\$ 700,663	\$ 1,111,814
Retained earnings prior years	\$ 2,757,105	\$ 2,728,973
Net Income current year	\$ (28,936)	\$ (35,700)
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,441,387	\$ 3,806,431

The Church Council is committed to building on the wonderful legacy left by those who sacrificed to build the church and those no longer with us. In today's world we cannot stand still. We are all called to make more disciples and grow God's kingdom on earth. The Council, with the approval of the Congregation in the 2024 budget, wishes to more aggressively, but thoughtfully and prayerfully, use a small portion of the resources we have for more outreach and efforts to grow our membership with the goal of again reaching the breakeven point. You will hear more about efforts here as the year unfolds. As Treasurer I fully support the Council's direction.

Many of you feel we should be cutting expenses. The Council continues to look for opportunities to cut costs or raise new revenue, but we do not wish to reduce the worship experience, which we feel is a key part of attracting new members.

To summarize, while we have been losing money for several years now, we have ample reserves, resources and financial strength to last a long time, even with the current losses, and even after allowing for the cost of new investments being considered such as a Christian Preschool at Saint John's and improved signage.

Following this letter is a detailed table of our income and expenses by line item for 2022 and 2023, along with our approved budgets for 2023 and the upcoming 2024 year. As discussed at the congregational budget meeting, none of the paid staff are getting cost of living increases, despite inflation. The increases in the staff payroll line item is to fund additional support for office administration (where previous cuts proved unsustainable), and new outreach efforts to grow membership, including more events, social media marketing, and a new music director position.

If any of you have questions or comments about our finances, please feel free to call or email me at any time.

With love for all of you, and in His service,

Gordon Eiland
Treasurer

**Saint John's Income Statement, Actual 2022, Actual 2023, Budget 2023, and
Approved 2024 Budget**

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	Approved Budget 2023	Approved Budget 2024
Account			119	119
4105 Envelopes	328,845	274,614	346,745	264,357
4107 Loose Offerings	3,412	3,550	3,137	3,354
4109 Sunday School	250	-	-	-
4113 Initial Offerings(Envelopes)	182	76	317	25
4120 Lenten Services	20	66	-	66
4122 Maundy Thursday	590	437	590	437
4124 Good Friday	515	405	515	405
4125 Ash Wednesday	890	441	890	441
4126 Easter	2,700	2,305	2,700	2,305
4128 Thanksgiving	430	600	250	250
4129 Christmas	2,870	2,275	1,000	1,000
4147 First Place Ministry (deleted)	-	-		
Total 4100 GF Offerings	340,704	284,769	356,144	272,640
4215 Other Income	29,792	-		
4226 Gen. Fund Refunds - Specify	-	15		-
4234 Misc. Special Income	1,592	-		
4240 Office Donations	2	17	356	-
4242 Outside Donations	7,327	7,398	6,400	7,689
4252 Special Events	60	-	100	-
4256 Staff Gifts	890	(90)	-	-
Total 4200 GF Other Income	39,663	11,545	6,856	7,689
4300 Interest Income	3	19		-
4425 Misc. Specify (Zozu / Others)	1,310	134		
Total 4400 GF Designated Benevolence	1,310	134		
Total Income	\$ 381,680	\$ 297,488	\$ 363,000	\$ 280,329
5500 Office Exp	78	193		-

			Approved Budget	Approved Budget
	1/23/24 13:08	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023
				2024
Account			119	119
5504 Bank Charges	542	791	500	745
5508 Bank Supplies	72	435	200	522
5512 Bulletins/Office Supp.	2,319	1,281	2,000	1,284
5520 Computer Expense	3,893	3,364	3,500	3,747
5528 Council Discretionary Fund	356	-		
5532 Devotions/New Publication	808	376	1,000	367
5536 Off Equip R&M	13,534	16,521	11,700	14,000
5544 Paper	677	926	1,000	1,068
5552 Phone	3,024	2,531	3,380	2,775
5556 Postage	919	1,758	2,020	1,989
5564 Publicity/ADVERTISING	-	-	-	5,000
5572 Staff Christmas	725	-		
Total 5500 Office Exp	26,948	28,174	25,300	31,497
5605 Pastor Salary	43,488	45,662	45,662	45,662
5610 Pastor Housing	50,000	50,313	52,500	52,500
5615 Pastor Auto Allowance	6,000	5,750	6,000	6,000
5620 Pastor Pension	9,812	11,161	10,416	10,416
5635 Pastor Health/Life/Disb Ins.	31,035	31,805	35,365	38,902
5640 Sr. Pastor Sabbatical	415	-	600	600
5655 Pastor Coastal Christian School	3,655	-	6,000	-
Total 5600 Pastor Expense	144,405	144,691	156,544	154,080
5805 Director of YM Salary	10,250	-	11,440	11,440
5820 Director of YM Health/Life/Disb	-	-		
5825 Director of YM Cont. Ed.	-	-		
5830 Director of YM Prof. Exp.	-	-		
Total 5800 Director of Youth Ministries	10,250	-	11,440	11,440
5900 Worship & Music	-	-		
5904 Acolyte Supplies	-	-	50	50
5906 Advent Night	-	-	100	100

			Approved Budget	Approved Budget
1/23/24 13:08	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023	2024
Account			119	119
5908 Altar Guild	741	72	400	400
5912 Chancel Choir Supplies	68	337	200	200
5920 Copyright Fee	243	256	400	400
5928 Handbell Supplies	146	146	150	150
5936 Lillies & Poinsettias	-	-		
5944 Nursery Supplies	-	28	25	25
5948 Organist Supplies	-	76	25	25
5952 Seasonal Decorations	-	-	75	75
5960 Songfest Supplies	162	171	50	50
5964 Sound System/Media Ctr.	49	-	100	100
5968 Special Worship Supplies	34	29	500	500
5976 Tuning & Repair	-	200	200	200
Total 5900 Worship & Music	1,443	1,315	2,275	2,275
6015 Global Mission	-	750	750	750
6020 Misc/Publicity Expense	-	264	-	-
6030 Promotional Materials	-	508	500	500
6040 Programs	198	373	400	400
6045 AG COC Annual Dues	-	-	-	-
6050 Stephen Ministry	-	-	200	200
6060 Neighbor to Neighbor (deleted)	-	-	-	-
Total 6000 Evangelism-Good News Team	198	1,895	1,850	1,850
6100 Stewardship	-	-		
6105 Envelopes/Offering	479	528	500	500
Total 6100 Stewardship	479	528	600	600
6208 Adult Sunday School	-	-	100	100
6212 Adult/Home/Small Groups	-	-	150	150
6224 Bibles	-	-	100	100
6232 Confirmation	-	-	200	200
6236 Crossways Bible Study	-	-	100	100

			Approved Budget	Approved Budget
	1/23/24 13:08	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023
				2024
Account			119	119
6248 Misc Christian Ed Expense (deleted)	-	-		
6251 Teacher Appreciation	117	192	200	200
6260 Special Events - CE	3,414	3,003	3,500	10,000
6268 SS Curriculum	1,035	1,089	1,200	1,200
6272 Teacher/Staff Training	13	250	250	250
6279 SS Music - Christmas Program	-	-	100	100
6288 VBS Supplies	543	52	500	500
Total 6200 Christian Education/Events	5,122	4,586	6,400	12,900
6310 All Youth	575	530	600	600
6315 Middle School	651	660	700	700
6320 Family Outreach	966	1,113	1,100	1,100
6335 High School	460	153	500	500
6340 Van Ministry (deleted)	-	-	700	-
6345 Sunday Youth Group	633	630	-	700
Total 6300 Youth Programs	3,285	3,086	3,600	3,600
6435 Special Events	-	620	300	300
6445 People's Kitchen	861	683	1,100	1,100
Total 6400 Social Ministry	861	1,303	1,400	1,400
6500 Property R&M	-	-		
6505 Custodian Supplies	520	605	484	528
6510 Fire Extinguishers	-	387	250	250
6515 Flood Assessments	4,641	14,731	9,561	11,000
6520 Fumigation	380	380	380	380
6525 General Maintenance	1,511	5,654	1,750	1,750
6530 Insurance -Liability & Umbrella	10,600	11,942	10,397	13,497
6535 Landscape Gardening	6,400	7,050	6,060	9,000
6540 Landscape Materials	-	170	600	600
6553 Property Improvement	-	-		

			Approved Budget	Approved Budget
	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023	2024
1/23/24 13:08				
Account			119	119
6555 Property Refurbishment	499	-	-	
6565 Security Monitoring	2,120	1,485	2,256	1,494
6581 Pacific Gas & Electric	8,453	9,651	8,250	120
6582 The Gas Company	2,074	2,782	2,150	3,222
6583 South County Sanitary	2,197	2,427	2,450	2,535
6584 Water & Sewer	1,331	1,438	1,150	1,479
Total 6580 Utilities	14,054	16,297	14,000	7,356
6590 Water System Testing	290	322	290	332
Total 6500 Property R&M	41,015	59,023	46,028	46,187
6629 Media/Website/Marketing Tech		1,317		
6629 Media/Website/Marketing Tech		329		
6641 Organist (not hourly)		-		
Total 6600 Staff Payroll & Expenses	126,160	127,622	122,546	165,780
6629 6629 Media/Website/Marketing Tech		-		
6705 PB - 5Cities Christian Women	3,329	2,913	3,499	2,726
6711 PB - LCMC House of God	1,534	1,748	2,099	1,363
6712 PB - LCMC - National	1,997	1,748	2,099	1,363
6714 PB - NALC Nat'l	2,501	182	2,099	1,363
6717 PB - NOT Frontiers AKA Allegro	(142)	-		
6719 PB - Lifeline Pregnancy Center	(1,019)	1,764		545
6720 PB -Frontiers/Allegro	1,343	583	700	545
6722 PB - Coastal Christian Scholar	1,181	583	1,400	-
6736 PB - China Service Ventures	2,996	2,622	3,149	2,454
6745 PB - Good Samaritan Non-member	407	404	700	545
6775 PB - Iglesia Luterana SanJuan				
Bautista	8,322	7,284	8,747	7,361
6776 PB - Zozu Project	2,996	2,622	3,149	2,454
6783 PB - Family Crisis (Member)	2,204	197	350	273
6785 PB - Peoples' Kitchen	4,349	4,079	4,898	3,817

			Approved Budget	Approved Budget
1/23/24 13:08	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023	2024
Account			119	119
6796 PB - Slovakia Bible School	999	874	1,050	818
6798 PB - Ministry Needs for 2018	1,496	591	1,050	818
Total 6700 Benevolence - Planned	34,387	28,193	34,988	26,446
6825 DB - Misc Offerings	1000	-		
Total 6800 Designated Benevolence Pmt.	1,000	-		
6626 Media/Website/M (deleted)		-		
Sick Pay		-		
Vacation Pay		-		
Total Expenses	395,554	401,627	412,971	458,054
NET ORDINARY INCOME	\$ (13,874)	\$ (104,139)	\$ (49,971)	\$ (177,725)
7900 Endowment Restatement	28422.37	16,703		\$ 5,000
7920 Thrivent Portfolio Restatement	-33733.19	53,779		\$ 45,053
8002 Ded. Sabbatical Leave	-1050	-		
Total 8000 Dedicated Accounts Reserve	-1050	-		
8301 Columbarium Sales	3000	(1,250)		
Total 8300 Columbarium Income	3015.68	(1,250)		
Total Other Income	-3345.14	\$ 69,233		
9300 Columbarium Expenses	10825	-		
9302 Col - Cast Bronze Plaques	892.36	794		
Total 9300 Columbarium Expenses	11717.36	794		
Total Other Expenses	11717.36	794		
Net Income	\$ (28,936)	\$ (35,700)	\$ (49,971)	\$ (127,672)