

2009 Annual Report

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St. John Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

January 31, 2010

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer, Pastor Tom Koelln
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approval of January 25, 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes
5. Pastor's Report
6. 2008 Year in Review
 - Highlights
 - Organizational and Committee Reports
7. Old Business from 2008 Annual Meeting
8. New Business
 -
 -
9. 2009 Financial Plan for Mission (Budget)
10. Council and Lay Delegate Elections
11. The Lord's Prayer, Council Style

2009 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order by President Jim Casey (89 present)
2. Opening prayer & hymn by Pastor Tom
3. Agenda: add item on conflict with youth
4. Meeting Notes from January – 2009
5. Pastor Report: Pastor Tom presented his annual report and vision
6. Highlights: Council takes the best interest of the congregation. Council members love this church and they want everyone on board. Choose to look at the positive. Kathy Peterson spoke, gives a lot of credit to this council.
7. Committee and Organization Reports: Building & Grounds spoke on the furnace. Problems with the furnaces on the west wing. The furnace is 18 years old.
8. Old business: no business
9. New Business:
 - Preschool Expansion presented by Director, Julie Sabin-Scharber. We turned away 25 people in October 2008. Adding on will add 40 to 50 spots. The

preschool pays for itself. Cornerstone and the church will merge to have one accountant. Personnel are currently joined with the Cornerstone board. The rooms will be able to be used by the Sunday School. Need to have communication between all parties. Cornerstone currently has someone to clean on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Motion to accept the Cornerstone preschool proposal of option 2. Motion carried.

- Conflict with Youth: Dave Vensland spoke. They want to get past all the conflict. The constitution on how to handle conflict. Wants to get the synod office involved and see what programs they have available.
- 2009 Budget: We are in need of money. Borrowed about \$25,000.00 from different savings accounts. We need to have everyone on board. In the bulletin it lists what is needed and what is received each week. ELCA budget line said give when funds available. Add back \$6,000.00 to the Missionary/ELCA line. Question why no funds listed for Sunday School. Add back \$2,000.00 to the Sunday School line. Questions under the Personnel Committee: why youth director pay is increased? The interview committee found a person at higher level and a gift of \$6,000.00 was given for the position. The position also did not start until March. In 2009 it shows the full amount. We have already received a donation of \$2,500.00 for the youth position; will rise to \$3000.00 if matched. The income has the line item of anticipated income, because we are going off a history. Envelope line should be \$107,000.00 instead of \$89,622.00 and the anticipation down to \$21,000.00, the bottom line of income does not change. Question – under Buildings & Grounds, should the furnace be listed? Question – plan for the future? Motion to accept amended budget of \$267,282.00. Motion carried by majority vote. The no votes were not counted. (see bylaws Part IV B4.04)
- Nominees for Council: Kevin Johnson, Justin Anderson, Tom Olson & Jacob Hassing. Any nominee from the floor, asked 3 times. Motion for white ball the 4 nominees. Motion to accept the 4 nominees. Motion carried
- Delegate to Gustavus Adolphus: Maggie Johnson
- Nominating Committee: Nominated Margaret Genung. Motion carried. Nominated Brenda Casey . Motion carried.
- Synod Assembly is May 29 & 30, 2009. Judy Hovis wants to attend. Council will address the remaining two spots.
- Changes to Average Weekly Attendance: 2006 to 246, 2007 to 231 and 2008 to 247. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Annual Pastor's Report for 2009

Pastor Tom Koelln

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen

St. John Mission Statement: **One Body in Christ: Growing, Living, and Sharing God's Love**

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

A look at our past

As I look back at St. John in 2009, I was most excited about our 40 Days of Purpose Campaign that we began on September 27. For forty days as a congregation we immersed ourselves in the Scripture and the five basic purposes of the church: Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Service, and Evangelism. 73 people, members and non-members alike, participated in the small groups that were formed. We concluded the campaign on November 8 with a celebration dinner and party. My prayer is that we continue to be spiritually strengthened as a result of these 40 Days.

This past year St. John also participated in a Bridge Builders process in order to help resolve some continuing conflict that has been present within our community. We met during the fall and have developed ideas in three areas: Healing/community, strategy, and development of a St. John Handbook. A full report will be given to the congregation at our annual meeting.

As it has been these past couple of years, our staff at St. John has seen changes in 2009. In December 2008 Barry Bluhm was called to be our Music Coordinator and he began his service to us in January 2009. Barry immediately began work on forming a "Praise Band" to consistently lead a weekly Contemporary-style Sunday worship. Along with Barry, members of the worship band include, Boomer Bluhm, Marty Fountain, and Wendy Bluhm. Barry also coordinated and directed a Lenten dramatic monologue series entitled, "People at the Cross." Also on the music scene, Jennifer Schurrer, became our volunteer Bell Choir director beginning in September. The former Sanctuary Choir has been re-formed as an Event Choir under the direction of Wendy Bluhm. A Christmas Cantata was performed by this choir as part of our Advent worship in December. Peg Dale and Jean Bostrom continue as our traditional worship leaders/accompanists. Thank you to all of our musicians!

We welcome Geri Fournier as our new church accountant who began her duties with us in April. The accountant works closely with yours truly and our treasurer to make sure bills and salaries are paid and that the Church Council has an accurate financial report at the monthly council meetings. The accountant position is a crucial ministry so we can be good

stewards of the monetary gifts God has given to us. A big thank you goes to Jean Olson who had served for the past several years in that position.

And finally regarding staffing, we had to say good-bye to our Director of Children, Youth, Family and Education Ministry, Rachael Dales. Due to the economic downturn it was determined St. John could no longer afford that full-time position. Rachael left us in March. Her departure placed a large hole in the ministry of St. John, especially ministry with our youth. The position has been cut back to part-time and I am confident it will be filled this coming year.

Kelly Springer and Karen Meyer continue to serve faithfully as administrative assistants in the church office, and Bob Sandberg continues to provide custodial services here at St. John.

A look at our future

God is waiting for us in the year 2010. So no matter what lies ahead, God is already there. No matter what we will do, God will be with us. Certainly one of the challenges of our immediate past has been dealing with the conflict and unrest in our St. John community. We can't change the past, but we can make preparation for the future.

One of the things the Bridge Builder process has made clear to me is the need for a strategic plan for the future here at St. John. In other words, who are we and where are we going? A strategic ministry plan is an attempt to answer clearly those two questions whereby we can define who we are (we are much more than "the green church"), and the direction we need to take. I would suggest our church council and perhaps a Ministry team apart from council come up with a Strategic Ministry Plan for St. John Lutheran Church before the end of 2010. A realistic ministry plan will allow us to have eyes wide open as we travel into 2010.

For example, as part of this plan, I see worship as the vital center of St. John and our ministry. Even though there has been talk about building, perhaps even a new sanctuary, realistically that may be several years away. In the meantime, our present sanctuary, while adequate, could certainly be made better for worship participation. Barry, the Board for Worship and Music, the Buildings and Grounds Board, the Council and I have been discussing ways to improve the worship atmosphere of our sanctuary. Improved lighting, a new sanctuary cross, a permanently mounted screen and projector, and a brighter, more versatile chancel area have been discussed and will be acted on in 2010. Why? To enhance our worship experience because worship is central to all we do here.

There is always much to do in a congregation's ministry. We can learn by looking to the past; we can be inspired and excited by looking to the future. We certainly can do both here at St. John. God is with us.

Your partner in Christ,

Pastor Tom Koelln

Annual Report from the President

Where has 2009 gone? It seems like I just was confirmed not that long ago but the gray hairs tells a different story. My Dad said that years start to seem like months as you get older. I'm starting to see that.

I personally want to THANK EVERYONE for your support of the church council and me. I also want to thank the members of the Council. It has been an honor to work with you this past year.

The St John Community has been busy this year. A new Music Director, the installation of the AED unit, the expansion of Cornerstone Christian Preschool, the community dinners, the installation of the fire alarm system, the Ministry Fair, Forty Days of Purpose, the Fall Festival, Community in the Park, Passing the Bread, the Fall Bazaar to name a few of the events and community functions that happen within the walls of St John and the surrounding community.

How does this all take place? You, the volunteers that step forward to serve the church and the community make it happen.

Our presence within the community has moved us beyond being just "The Green Church".

Hello 2010! Watch us grow in our service to the Lord and His Creation!

Your brother in Christ,

Kevin Johnson

2009 in Review

Baptisms: 27

Confirmed: 23

Cradle Roll: 66

Funerals: 5

New Members: 27

Weddings: 1

Participating Members: 437 (have participated in worship at least once in past 12 months)

Participating Households: 178 (at least one member of household is participating)

Average Weekly Attendance: 235

1st Service Average: 80

2nd Service Average: 92

Weekday Service Average: 50

2003 to 2009 Average Weekly Attendance by Year:

Attendance:	205	203	233	220	216	256	235
Year:	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009

2009 Giving Total: \$204,659.27

(includes offerings given to the general fund by participating households)

Average Weekly Total: \$3,935.76

Average Weekly Gift: \$16.75 per household

2009 Weekly Giving Range: (averaged by participating household/week)

2008	25	68	23	28	12	12	5	5	3	0	4
2009	18	88	24	21	17	10	8	2	3	1	4
Range:	\$0-0	\$1-9	\$10-19	\$20-29	\$30-39	\$40-49	\$50-59	\$60-69	\$70-79	\$80-89	\$90+

2009 Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:

- 01/11/2009 Myla Minnie Haberman, daughter of Jerome & Trisha Haberman.
- 01/25, 2009 Marcee Lynne Bonsante, daughter of Cory & Andrea Bonsante*
- 02/08/2009 Madilynne Kristina Molencamp, daughter of David Molencamp* and Sarah Fountain
- 02/22/2009 Joseph Robert Larson, son of Paul & Jessica Larson
- 03/22/2009 Gail Marie Mason, daughter of Mark Mason & Samantha Mason*
- 04/26/2009 Jonathan Conrad Zimmel, son of Steven Zimmel & Jennifer Lammers-Zimmel*
- 04/26/2009 James Justin Thurber, son of Justin Thurber & Rebecca Theisen-Thurber*

05/03/2009 Lynae Emily Janke, daughter of Arden Janke & Emily Janke*

05/03/2009 Avery Marie Yonak, daughter of Jason Yonak & Sara Riddle-Yonak

05/03/2009 Anthony Michael Obinger, son of Michael Obinger* & Rebecca Stiller-Wiley* and Stepfather Mark Wiley*

05/03/2009 Levi Steven Kloos, son of Steven Kloos* and Kelly Springer

06/07/2009 Cameron Clarence Wetzel, son of Joseph Wetzel* & Christa Marchessault

06/28/2009 Andrew John Sorem,Jr., son of Andrew & Autumn Sorem

06/28/2009 Mason Jacob Morrell, son and Makenna Maxine Morrell, daughter of Jacob & Krista Morrell*

07/19/2009 Bradley Michael Mann, son of Kevin & Lindsey Mann*

07/19/2009 Isabella Grace Mongeau, daughter of Matt & Jamie Mongeau*

08/02/2009 Caiden Eric Vanderlinden, son of Eric Vanderlinden* & Melissa Larson*

08/30/2009 Camarin Collins Josie, son of Sean Josie* & Briana Miller*

09/02/2009 Brady Lee Hanson & Rylan Jeffrey Hanson, sons of Joel Hanson* & Kayla Christensen*

09/13/2009 Britta Allyson White, daughter of Jason & Shannon White

09/20/2009 Gage Thomas Arbic, son of Myca & Joanna Arbic*

09/27/2009 Parker Roger Schmidt, son of Shaun & Janelle Schmidt*

10/18/2009 Clayton Ray Denis, son of Raymond Denis III & Sara Gill*

10/25/2009 Mason Thomas Jablonic, son of Michael & Mary Jablonic

11/15/2009 Violet Francine Johnson, daughter of Ryan & Cheri Johnson

12/13/2009 Kiana Lisa Sikkink-Spence, daughter of Russ & Krista Sikkink-Spence*

12/13/2009 Chelsea Ann & Chloe Bea Krone, daughters of Josh & Cassie Krone

Confirmed:

05/03/2009 - Grant Akre, Jeffry Anderson, Drew Chicras, Katelyn Jenkins, Nathan Christensen
Zachary Copic, Kyle Forster, Tyler Jenson, Gabrielle Gilbert, Allison Hasslen, Lynae Janke

,Dakotah Knox, James Kosilla, Christopher Kotek, Jr., Kendra Kraabel, Phillip McChesney
Matthew Milless, Anthony Obinger, Sierra Pollard, Brandon Schafer, Brandon Smith,
Sheila Suelter, Gavin Vensland

Funerals:

02/13/2009 Joanne Leger*
08/17/2009 Shirley Furness*
08/24/2009 Steven Miller*
10/07/2009 James J. Genung*
10/28/2009 Ruby D. Kreager

Weddings:

08/15/2009 Robert Dane Copic & Katie Jo Gilbert

New Members:

02/01/2009 Jake Oviatt, Terry Clayton, Kevin Hiller, Joshua & Michelle Kreager

05/01/2009 Jason & Sara Yonak, children Avery & Calvin
Shane & Kari Steinbrecher children Abigail & Colton
Andrew & Autumn Sorem, children Aunna & Andrew
Karen Chesborough and son Sean Bunce

09/27/2009 Joan Marlene Swenson
Stephaine Lynn Hillman, children Caitlin Argent & Mason Hillman
Chad & Jolene Wilbur and son Charlie Jerald Hokanson

Transfers:

01/14/2009 Rob & Heidi Skuza and children, MacKenzie & Allison
06/11/2009 Gary & Deborah Beck
10/01/2009 Dean & Amy Kossila and children, Emily, James & Patrick

*denotes non member

Music and Worship Committee / Music Coordinator Report

2009 was a year of change in the W&M area of St. John, with the hiring of a new Music Coordinator, (Barry Bluhm), we had many things to discuss. Topics of discussion included , Communion Methods, Frequency of Communion, Times of Worship Services,

Types of Worship Services, Usher Coordination, Alter Guild, Special Worship Service possibilities, Should St. John have a Vocal Choir , Bell Choir, Worship Team, Video systems, Utilization of our current Worship facility. And many other topics.

M&W made recommendations to the council on ideas to upgrade, the video projection system and lighting in the Sanctuary, as well as recommendations to not have a Wednesday evening Service throughout the Summer months.

M&W also authorized the purchase of video cables, electronic projection screen, monitor speakers, rack mount FX unit, and a video scalar /switcher. Also, authorized the selling of some old outdated audio equipment.

St. John experienced many outstanding worship events, throughout the year , including a series Pastor Tom preached on 40 days of purpose. Lenten Drama's, Easter Services, Bell Choir special music, Event Choir Concert, Christmas Services, Healing Services. All of which numerous people gave their time and talents, to assist and partake in the worship and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the year 2010, I hope to continue what we have started, by continuing the traditional, and contemporary worship services, as well as more involvement with the members of St. John in the area of Drama, Youth Music, Event and Bell Choirs, and possibly a summer outdoor worship schedule. Many things are possible with the Church Body. We are always looking for more involvement in the worship service from individuals with the desire to serve in the area of special music, and audio/video operation. Both adult and youth. The involvement of more individuals will become greater as we develop and build the infrastructure of the music program. My door is always open to suggestions for what direction St. John would like to go.

Submitted by, Barry Bluhm

Audit Committee

The St. John Audit Committee, consisting of members, Bobbie Leitzke, Dawn Bourdeaux, Kim Forster, Mary Hass and Darlene Bouley met on Monday, October 5, 2009 to review the bookkeeping records for the months of January – September, 2009, for St. John Lutheran Church, St. John WELCA, and Cornerstone Preschool.

The bookkeeping records for St. John Lutheran Church, dated January – September, 2009, were in order and the Audit Committee has no recommended changes at this time.

The bookkeeping records for St. John youth, dated January – June, 2008, were in order and the Audit Committee has no recommended changes at this time.

The bookkeeping records for WELCA, dated January – September 2009, were in order and the Audit Committee has no recommended changes at this time.

The bookkeeping records for Cornerstone Preschool, dated January – September 2009, were in order and the Audit Committee has no recommended changes at this time.

The next audit should have been held the end of December 2009.

Submitted by Darlene Bouley

Christian Education Committee Report

Christian Education has been working hard to provide for the ministry of our youth at St. John. We have experienced many changes and challenges this year. Through many prayers and lots of hard work by all of our volunteers and ministry partners we have provided a positive experience for our youth at St. John.

With the loss of our youth director, we have three co-superintendents working hard to put the program in motion. Michelle Ahrens (also our Sunday School preschool teacher) Rochelle Arellano (also our Sunday School Nursery teacher) and Lori Schleif (also leads the Sunday School children in music). **Sunday School** has begun using a new curriculum with much success! Background study checks were put into place for all of our volunteers. The enrollment is at 120 with about 70 attending each Sunday. Sunday morning classes are staffed with a valuable, caring group of giving volunteers. Their time and talents are priceless! Our Sunday School office is staffed each Sunday by Emily Carr and Gina Kadlec. Their vast knowledge of past practices and computer skills keep bookwork, paperwork and attendance reports current. We couldn't run efficiently without them! Lori McChesney teaches our **Weaving Wednesday** program. This program serves 10-12 children each week and follows the new Sunday School curriculum. She does an awesome job teaching the children from ages 5-15 about the word of God! Dan Hackbarth has stepped up to lead our **Jesus Rocks** program. This program hosts youth from 6th grade and up. It is held at the House of Rock Legends on Sunday mornings. Dan has several volunteers that help present the materials with him! **Vacation Bible School** served over 50 children under the

direction of Brenda Casey this summer. She did an awesome job coordinating all of the volunteers to run a very fun and upbeat program! **Adult Education** included Crossways! Bible study in the spring with 14 people involved. This fall, the 40 days of Purpose campaign was a big success with 73 adults participating! Sally Harrison led a women's bible study class on Thursday mornings in the spring and fall for 35 women. There is also a men's bible study group that meets the first Saturday of each month, year round. Our **Confirmation** program serves 44 students. Pastor Tom leads the large group of youth, 7th grade and up. Several volunteers help with small group discussions. Our **Cradle Roll** coordinator is Marge Niebergall. She currently sends out mailings each month with information and activities to 28 children. At the age of 3 the children are invited to join us for Sunday School. Thank you Marge for you continued service! Our **Library** coordinator is Sandy Berning. She organized a book fair in November which raised funds for new books and a book cart. Good job Sandy! Autumn Sorem is our new Sunday morning worship **Nursery** coordinator. She has done a great job of staffing the nursery with an adult and a youth each week at our 10:30 service. This is a great service to parents with small children. Thanks for taking on this important task!!

Christian Education has many areas. All of these areas are staffed with volunteers. We have been blessed to have found many talented, caring and awesome volunteers to fill these positions! Please continue to pray for our volunteers as they work with the children of our church!!

Your Christian Education Chair,

Lori Schleif

Christian Education 2010 Budget

Cradle Roll	\$1,000.00
Library	\$200.00
Sunday School	\$1,900.00
Vacation Bible School	\$1,000.00
Confirmation	\$500.00
Jesus Rocks	\$500.00
Adult Education	\$500.00
Youth	\$1,500.00
Background Studies	\$500.00
Budget Expense Total	\$7,600.00

Cradle Roll

We have 66 children in our Cradle Roll program. This includes 26 children who are inactive. This means the child was baptized and sent the mailings each month until age 1 and then chose not to continue with the monthly mailings. They will continue to receive birthday cards and will be invited to our Sunday School at 3 years of age.

There were 28 baptisms in 2009. The Cradle Roll tree in the Narthex and a wooden heart with the child's name is placed on it when they are baptized.

The parents receive a monthly mailing called "Splash", with information about raising their child and activities to do with their child. The children receive a birthday card at age 1, 2 and 3. They are invited to Sunday School when they are 3 years old by September of that year.

There were 28 children invited to Sunday School in September, 2009.

The Cradle Roll is a continuing ministry at St. John, which started in 1993. It is an important outreach and I'm happy to serve as the coordinator.

Submitted by,

Marge Niebergall

Cornerstone Christian Preschool

Cornerstone Christian Preschool, an outreach mission of St. John Lutheran, has started the 2009/2010 school year strong. We had our annual fall family fun night with games, activities, singing, and dancing, everyone was invited and had a great time. We're finishing up our 2009 year with many activities planned.

Our 09/10 class sizes have increased from last year. We offer four classes, M/W/F a.m. or p.m. option, and T/TH a.m. or p.m. option, with a total of 94 students. We have 8 spots currently open within the preschool in different classes out of an extra 20 spots being offered this year. We're looking at utilizing the downstairs space more effectively by adding a 5 day p.m. program that will open up 10 spots (currently the room isn't being used in the p.m.) this would allow us to offer the current teacher down in the room a full time position; which is what she is looking forward to.

Julie Sabin-Scharber is CCP's director and one of three lead teachers. Carrie Anderson is the other lead teacher on MWF upstairs, Kris Lindner is the lead teacher downstairs, and Deb Herman is the aide for all classes.

The current 09/10 committee consists of the following: Laura Marks (Chair), Paul Larson (Council Liaison), Heather Luby (Scholastic and Fundraising), Amy Lillquist (Co- Chair), Anna Johnson (Secretary), Sara Yonak (Family Fun Night) and Pastor Tom.

Pastor Tom continues to be a great supporter of CCP. The children absolutely love chapel time and seeing him in the halls. He always has time to say hello to them and check in on how we're doing.

Geri Fournier is our accountant. Our finances are becoming steady and on track slowly after the expenses of the downstairs remodel. We've just finished our annual poinsettia fundraiser with a profit of over \$2,000 which was all given to the church to help with the furnace purchase.

We continue to tith 10% of our tuition income to St. John Lutheran. We sincerely thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Evangelism Committee Report to Annual Meeting

January 2010

Evangelism Committee

New member orientations in January, July, and September. Evangelism committee members provide a dinner and welcome new members with a package of gifts and information. This is done the week before they are received by the congregation.

Prayer shawl ministry gives gifts of shawls to babies and children baptized at St John. Thanks to all of you who knit and crochet.

Mugging program continues. Visitors are "mugged" with a cup and a welcome gift along with information about St John.

Advertising: 1/4 page ad was placed in the Zimmerman Visitor. Worship event advertising is done by Evangelism. C & E advertising is done through cable ads and newspapers.

Prayer Walk : Zimmerman Community Church invited us to join in this program from January 3 - 7, 2010.

Budget: A higher budget allowance for 2010 is being requested. Evangelist Ivan's income has been added to Evangelism, new programs have to be implemented, and advertising costs are higher.

Side-door ministry continues at St John with the auction, preschool, bazaar, youth activities, and other events. New ideas will be implemented for 2010. Possibilities are Memorial Blood Drive, speakers, group activities.

Relational evangelism continues with members inviting others to activities at St John. We have great evangelists at St John who continue working for Christ. 40 Days of Purpose was a great bonding for the St John Family.

Ellen Howe has been setting up an **information table about upcoming events** at the St John Community Dinners.

Approximately 250 **VBS invites** were delivered to the community by members of the Evangelism Committee and others.

Research is being done on providing a **new Member Pictorial Directory** for the congregation.

Evangelism Committee Members:

(10 new members will be joining in the new year)

Pastor Tom Koelln ,Evangelist, Ivan Cholopray, Wanda Thoreson, chair, Joyce Bost, asst. chair Ellen Howe, Mark Hassing

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Thoreson

CAER Food Shelf

St. John is one of the founding churches that created CAER Food Shelf in 1979. Pastor Tom has served on the CAER Board of Directors these past three years. In 2009 we did not have a lay representative. However, just prior to this report being written Judy Enberg has stepped forward to fill that position. Thank you, Judy!

Due to the economy the need for food and other services provided by CAER continued to grow as the rising number of people using it strained the resources of our local Food Shelf. CAER (Community Aid – Elk River) serves people living in the 728 School District of which Zimmerman is a part. Under the guidance of Executive Director Jenny Gray, CAER has been able to meet the needs as giving to the food shelf also increased this year by 30%. CAER not only distributes food but also clothing, and helps out with subsidies for housing, car care, gas, utilities, prescriptions, etc. Approximately 30 of St. John members volunteer to work in various capacities at the Food Shelf.

Thank you to all who helped in any way this past year.

Pastor Tom Koelln

Prayer Chain

Matthew 7:7 & 8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. We have 39 people, who receive e-mails and 5 who are called with prayer concerns. We have had a total of 402 prayers this past year. If you are interested in being on the prayer list please contact me, Joalyn Welte - 763-441-2768

Personnel Committee

Committee members: Margaret Genung, Kevin Johnson, Paul Larson, Tom Olson

There have been many personnel changes this year. Barry Bluhm was hired as our Music Coordinator and has rejuvenated our services. He has been with us almost a year now.

Unfortunately the position of Youth Director was not affordable for St John and Rachael Dales position was eliminated. We are considering other options for youth leadership.

Our accountant position changed to cover both the church and Cornerstone and therefore Geri Fournier was hired and has been working for us the last 8 months.

Cornerstone hired two new teachers this year, however due to family issues one resigned and therefore a new teacher was hired in November with involvement by personnel on all their hires.

Special Projects Committee

Auction Report

Thanks to everyone who donated and purchased items at the annual church auction. This year's auction was once again a fun-filled afternoon that raised money for the church. We had a very good turnout and raised \$3296.

Next year's auction is already in the planning stages. As we plan for the coming year we are looking into finding a way to store donations during the year so when you do your spring cleaning and have a item you want to donate contact one of the committee members and we will take care of you.

Thanks to all of the members of the auction committee and to everyone who made this year's auction a huge success. We would also like to thank Pat Kluge and Chris Sandberg for clerking the Auction.

Thank the following committee members and their wife's for their time and service:
Hank Bost, Richard Granlund, Butch Hass, Jim Harrison, Bert Howe, Kevin Johnson, Harry Kluge, Keith Larson, Larry Thoreson

A special thanks to Kevin, Nancy and Dan Hiller of Hiller's Auction Service for their time and services.

Thanks again. See you at next year's auction.

Submitted by Kevin Johnson

St John Special Projects Committee

Fall Festival Report

The Fall Festival was held on Saturday, September 5th. We had a food table featuring pulled pork sandwiches and roasted corn on the cob. There were several children's carnival type games with prizes. This event compliments the Firemen's Open House. Information was available to attendees, regarding church services and Sunday School. All food was donated by the congregation. The food table earned \$361.25 and the game earnings were \$123.71. Thrivent provided matching funds of \$350.00, for a total of \$835.00. This money was deposited in the "furnace fund". This event was staffed by many volunteers from St. John - Thanks to all of you!

Praise and Glory to God!

Janna Luebben

Community Dinner Report

The Community Dinner was started in April 2009 and is served on the third Thursday of each month. The Dinner is free for the Community of Zimmerman and for all of the members of St. John. We have served Spaghetti, Tacos, Chili and Baked Potatoes. For November we served a Turkey Dinner with all of the fixings and for December we served a Ham Dinner with Potatoes and Vegetables.

To date we have served over 1,400 plates. None of this could have happened if it wasn't for all of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers of St. John. A big thank you to all of you who have either volunteered or supported this outreach thru your financial/supplies donations. Come and enjoy some great food and some great fellowship with members of our Church/Zimmerman Community. This Dinner is meant for everyone.

Fellowship Breakfasts

As things come and go in our church, some things last a long time and others have short life. Our Fellowship Breakfast lasted for 4 years and was a money maker for some organizations within the church. We learned from it, we enjoyed the fellowship that it brought to young and old. It was a nice time to share things, meet new people and reacquaint old friendships. The hard work of making breakfast, for how many you never knew, but there was always enough and the dishes were usually done by some very nice gentlemen. We are saddened to see this chapter close, but change is good and other things will come to take its place.

Cliff and Joalyn Welte

Thrivent Committee Report

Thrivent Committee members: Rachel Leonard, Pauline Youngbloom and Barbara Nicholson.

An update 2009 Thrivent: Three goals were enacted.

1. Make it different from previous year – not business as usual. This mission was delivered at the District meeting.
2. Help our church where greatest need was this year.
3. Make it easier on everyone be partnering with other events so that people labor was minimized.

First match was \$400.00 for Bible School. We achieved this be free will offering. First service collected by Pauline. Second service collected by, Rachel. So \$800.00 was utilized by Bible School.

Second match was conducted at the free Community Dinner in August , \$506.00 was collected. We were short, so I put \$200.00 towards the effort . Many people gave and the Thrivent matched the \$500.00, so \$1.000.00 was put toward the new furnace.

Janna Luebben worked the food booth at the Fall Festival which earned \$361.25, with \$350.00 match from Thrivent, \$711.25 was also put towards the furnace fund. Kevin Johnson generated \$123.75 in games, towards the new furnace at the Fall Festival. With all funds earnings, \$1,835.00 was collected for the purchase of the furnace. This gave a zero balance in the Thrivent monies match for 2009, fulfilling our mission.

Presently, the ballots being voted at our church generates a small fund which our three member committee can commit to some church need. I will be giving these ballots to vice chair, Mike Cheney, of our district office. He apologized for not getting the packet to me.

The present Thrivent matching program ends in December 2009. Next year, a new way of conducting the Thrivent outreach program will be put into place in April. It will be connected directly with Thrivent members voting.

Pauline or Barbara please feel free to chair our mini committee.

Submitted by,

Rachel Leonard

Stewardship Committee

2009 Stewardship Highlights

Stewardship Committee

Chair: Dan Hackbarth

Council Liaison: Karen Meyer

Members: Peg Bodell, Hank Bost, Pastor Tom

Ministry Fair

As part of the *40 Days of Purpose* the Stewardship Committee hosted a Ministry Fair on Sunday, October 25th and Wednesday, October 28th. With a sports theme of "Get in the Game" the purpose of the fair was to make the ministries and missions more visible at St. John and help the respective groups collect volunteers. It was a festive atmosphere with great conversation and goodies. Thanks to all those that participated!

Pledge Drive: November

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Households Pledged	106	94	83*	121*	66
Pledged amount	\$151,811	\$158,747	\$178,670*	\$107,484*	\$116,709

*Note that these totals DO NOT include Simply Giving households.

Submitted by,

Dan Hackbarth

WELCA Annual Report

WELCA meets every third Monday of the month. We have attempted a "business only" format in attempt to increase attendance at our meetings. If you are interested in helping out with some of the projects we have throughout the year, please know you are welcome to attend.

We collected Birthday bags for CAER which contained cake mix, frosting, candles, and other items needed for a birthday party for a child. Approximately 20 bags were collected.

A group of 10 went to "Feed My Starving Children" in Brooklyn Park to volunteer for this worthy cause.

This year we hosted the Daughters of All Ages luncheon on April 18th. A lively group of 54 women attended this fun day, with a presentation, "In God's Image" by Mary Tina Lawrence. Also in May we acknowledged the hard work and dedication of our Sunday School teachers and helpers and Confirmation teachers. A donation of \$100 was given to CAER in honor of the St. John Sunday School and Confirmation staff and a certificate was given to the Sunday school coordinator's office to share with their staff.

In May in honor of Mothers' Day, we collected toothbrushes, toothpaste and other personal items to be delivered to the Alexandra House Women's shelter.

In June, we cleaned the kitchen in lieu of our meeting.

Our annual Harvest Hoedown Bazaar on October 10th was a great success. We had many prizes for the raffle tickets. The soup and all of the baked goods sold out. If you have any new ideas you would like to share to improve the bazaar, please do so.

Our Thank Offering Sunday was November 22th. Carolyn Schwab gave the message on her mission trip, earlier this year, to Honduras. Her story was inspiring and appreciated. Thank you to all of you who helped that Sunday.

On December 5th, we had our WELCA Christmas Brunch. There were 27 women, and we all had a great time. The theme was, "Remembering Advent". We found out who our Secret Prayer Partners were and drew for next year's Secret Prayer Partners. Remember to keep the gift simple and inexpensive. Always remember, prayers and thoughts are the important things in life.

The Fourth annual Cookie Walk/Lefse bake was a huge success. Thank you Shirley Anderson and Diane Gould for chairing this event, and thank you Tom and Donna Olson and family and Pat Anderson for the fresh baked lefse! Thank you, also, to the Youth Group for all the wonderful, baked treats they donated! There were many different and wonderful

cookies brought in for this event, and the cookies were sold out within two hours! Thank you to all who contributed your cookies and your time.

On December 14th, we packed 27 cheer baskets that were brought to people who needed a little cheer at Christmastime.

Carolyn Schwab and Vickie Johnson wish to thank this year's officers for the great job they did. Molly Heffron was the Sunshine Lady. She sent 146 cards to people to brighten their day and let them know they are in our thoughts. Lillian Olson takes all of the great notes that helped us get this report together. Diane Gould takes care of all the money and keeps us on track financially.

WELCA is taking on a fresh appearance this next year, as the current officers have stepped down and no replacements have come forward. We will still try to continue the favorite events! At our December Brunch, Carolyn asked for volunteers to chair various events for 2010, and many women stepped forward as the following co-chairs:

Appreciation Dinner – Janna Luebben

Pie stand for the auction – Lil Olson

Bazaar – Vickie Johnson & Carolyn Schwab

December Brunch – Rachael Leonard, Donna Olson & Dee Dougherty

Cheer Baskets and the Chamber of Commerce Dinner – Deb Christensen

Prayerfully submitted,

Vickie Johnson, Carolyn Schwab, Diane Gould and Molly Heffron

WELCA 2009 Financial Summary

During 2009 St John WELCA had a total of \$3,592 in donations for the year. This included \$1,023 for the electric bill for three months for St. John church, \$113 for the Vacation Bible School Curriculum, \$865 for the Sunday School Guides and Packets, \$400 to Carolyn Schwab for her Honduras Mission Trip, \$400 to Wanda Thoreson for her Alaska Mission Trip and \$600 to CARE, \$100 of that was in honor of the Sunday School Staff and all the helpers. WELCA also purchased Bibles for the 3rd graders for \$191. The WELCA Bazaar took in approximately \$3,350, the pie stand at the Auction took in \$250 and WELCA collected \$ 420 for their Thank Offering. The annual Cookie Walk and Lefse Bake took in \$1157. WELCA also served the Zimmerman Chamber of Commerce lunch in October for the first time.

Submitted by treasurer,

Diane Gould

St. John Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund 2009 Annual Report

Members of the endowment fund board:

Chris Kotek – President
 Bruce Weaver
 Tom Olson
 Cheryl Johnson
 Kevin Johnson
 Pastor Tom Koelln
 Larry Thoreson

Accomplishments in 2009:

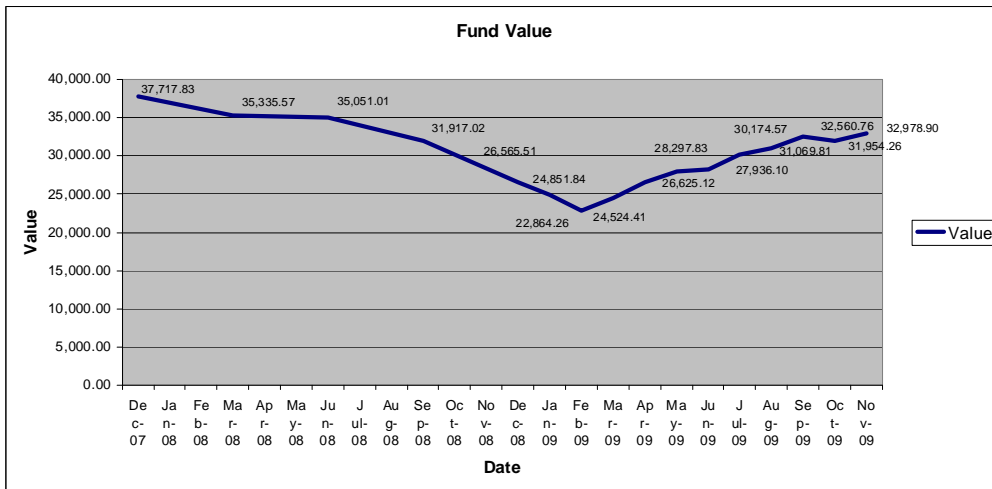
Created endowment fund bylaws
 Created endowment fund brochure
 Participated in the ministry fair during 40 days of purpose
 Distributed brochure to all recipients of the monthly newsletter

Financial Information:

New endowment money received in 2009: **\$0.00**
 Balance as of January 1, 2009: **\$24,851.84**
 Balance as of November 30, 2009: **\$32,978.90**

St John Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Value

Date	Value	Percent Change From Previous Period	Total Percent Change	
Aug-07	36,856.50			
Dec-07	37,717.83	2.34%		
Mar-08	35,335.57	-6.32%		
Jun-08	35,051.01	-0.81%		
Sep-08	31,917.02	-8.94%		
Dec-08	26,565.51	-16.77%		
Jan-09	24,851.84	-6.45%	-32.57%	
Feb-09	22,864.26	-8.00%	-37.96%	
Mar-09	24,524.41	7.26%	-33.46%	*Div Amt: \$398.62 purchased 0.547 shares
Apr-09	26,625.12	8.57%	-27.76%	
May-09	27,936.10	4.92%	-24.20%	
Jun-09	28,297.83	1.29%	-23.22%	*Div Amt: \$405.21 purchased 0.489 shares
Jul-09	30,174.57	6.63%	-18.13%	
Aug-09	31,069.81	2.97%	-15.70%	
Sep-09	32,560.76	4.80%	-11.66%	*Div Amt: \$411.09 purchased 0.437 shares
Oct-09	31,954.26	-1.86%	-13.30%	
Nov-09	32,978.90	3.21%	-10.52%	



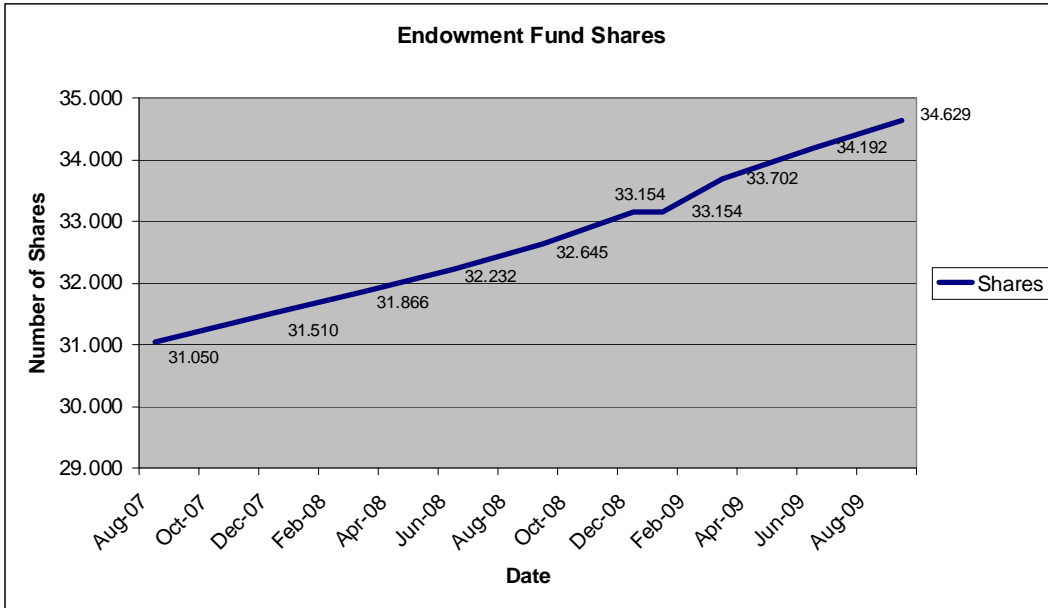
St John Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Number of Shares

Date	Shares
Aug-07	31.050
Dec-07	31.510
Mar-08	31.866
Jun-08	32.232
Sep-08	32.645
Dec-08	33.154
Jan-09	33.154
Mar-09	33.702
Jun-09	34.192
Sep-09	34.629

Shares increased 0.489 in June, 2009

Unit price as of 11/30/2009: \$952.33

Shares increased 0.437 in September, 2009



Building & Grounds

The year 2009 was a year of change for our congregation and our building. The change was in recognition that our facility needs our attention and commitment to continue to serve our community and its members. Through this recognition, many projects have been completed:

1. Cornerstone Preschool growth renovation
2. Building wide fire detection system
3. Parking lot crack seal and resurface
4. New tree plantings on grounds

The church community of St. John Lutheran has many wonderful people in it, far too many to thank individually. From those who keep the grounds neat in the summer, to those who clear snow in the winter. From those who keep us warm, to those who keep us cool. From those who repair to those who clean.

The building and grounds committee would like to thank each and every person for their time and of their financial commitments to the facility.

One body in Christ, Growing, Living, and Sharing Gods Love

The Building and Grounds Committee

Alter & Coffee Fellowship

With funds from Coffee Fellowship we purchased the following:

- 7 new seasonal banners
- Alter cloth cleaned
- Flowers for Narthex
- Contributed to the sound system
- New clock for the kitchen

If you would like to help so we can buy what we need for the church, please sign-up on the schedule in the kitchen and serve coffee between 1st and 2nd service.

Thank You,

Alter Guild and Coffee Fellowship

Lil Olson & Phyllis Belanger

Youth Committee

The Youth began 2009 with a weekend retreat to Camp Onomia, they learned the Bible story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace and how to apply it to their lives. Time was spent to learn new things about each other and enjoy in fellowship and music. In February, the Youth sponsored a youth and family event; snow tubing at Elm Creek Park. The Youth participated in a lock-in sponsored by the House of Rock Legend where time was spent listening to local Christian bands. In April, the Youth sponsored another youth and family event at Otsego Water Park, the theme of the event was Baptism. Rachael Dale's position was cut in April, with Rachael leaving at the end of April, there was a large void left in the Youth Committee. We found ourselves trying to figure out what direction to go without Rachael. Plans had been made for the Youth to have a food booth at Unity & Community during Wild West Days, it was decided to continue with those plans. The Youth served pork chops and snow cones and handed out balloons. The booth was a big success. A camping trip was planned when Rachael was still here for July and an attempt was made to have the camping trip, but due to a family emergency the trip was cancelled at the last minute. The summer was slow as we tried to re-organize and begin to make plans for the fall. In October, the Youth went on a horse pulled hayride and had a bon fire and Halloween party after at the church. In December, the Youth went caroling to 6 homes and hope to make this an annual event and also make it a family event.

The Youth Committee met with the Youth Leaders of the Wave Youth group to discuss opportunities to participate in activities and Community service projects together. The Youth Committee plans to pursue this in 2010.

Technical Committee

Members of the technical committee:

Chris Kotek, Bill Munz, Garry Bost

Accomplishments in 2009:

Launched redesigned green-church.org website

Participated in the ministry fair during 40 days of purpose

Goals for 2010:

1. Install second wireless access point in basement
2. Complete inventory of all hardware and software at St John
3. Conduct automatic backups of church serve

2010 Council Positions

There are 4 vacancies on the church council. The nominees for these positions are: Chris Kotek, Margaret Genung, Bruce Weaver and Gina Kadlec.

Thank you to the 2010 nominating Committee members: Jim & Brenda Casey

Thank you! We thank the following outgoing members of our church council for their commitment to the mission of St John: Mary Troseth, Dawn Bourdeaux, Justin Anderson, Jim Casey, Tom Olson and Kevin Kraabel

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2009

Greetings from your colleagues in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! Being your partner in ministry is a foundational way we seek to live out our vocation as a college of the Church. We delight in our calling to help students attain their full potential as persons, developing in them a capacity and passion for lifelong learning, and preparing them for fulfilling lives of leadership and service in society.

Our work each year is a mixture of delighting in what God has made us to be and, together as a community, “dreaming, debating and discussing” the ways we sense God calling us forward. Over the last few years, five major points of focus have emerged into a Strategic Plan for the College—one of which is to “Engage faith to inspire understanding and lives of leadership and service.” In 2008, President Jack Ohle led us into Commission Gustavus 150, a major forward-thinking initiative to focus energy upon the integration of the strategic plan and to broadly engage the College’s constituency. The commission was organized into eight task forces comprising more than 225 faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, board members, church leaders, and friends. The full report from Commission Gustavus 150 can be found at www.gustavus.edu/commission150.

We are proud of our relationship with the Lutheran Church and continue to provide countless resources to our Gustavus Association of Congregations, which has surpassed 545 member congregations! This Association of ELCA congregations is important to the life of the College, being the place where official governing boards of the College are elected each April. As a resource for the Church, we offer an ever-expanding menu of resources available to congregations. To access a full listing of resources we offer, please visit www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations

PLEASE JOIN US AT GUSTAVUS FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2010:

- **Gustavus Association of Congregations 2010 Convention—APRIL 17, 2010**

The theme for the 2010 gathering will be *Growing Healthier Congregations*. Dr. Pat Taylor Ellison of Church Innovations will bring the keynote address, “Building Agreement and Strategies for Spiritual

Discernment.” Our second annual **Youth Leadership Day** is planned separately on this day with the keynote presentation by Tiger McLuen of Youth Leadership. It will be a great opportunity for congregations to bring 2 to 4 key student leaders for this festive and special leadership development event.

- **Trinity Institute® 40th National Theological Conference— JANUARY 27–29, 2010** This year’s conference, *Building an Ethical Economy: Theology and the Marketplace*, will be webcast live from the Trinity Institute, New York. With the Economics and Management Departments at Gustavus, we invite you to join us as we explore the relationship between economics and Christian belief and action.
- **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—APRIL 28, 2010**
- **Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 5-6, 2010** *Making Food Good*
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 3–5, 2010**

For more information about these events and the resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations (507-933-7001) or visit us on-line at www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations.

Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Grady St. Dennis Director of Church Relations