



# THE 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

of

St. John's Lutheran Church  
312 S. 3<sup>Rd</sup> Street  
Evansville, WI 53536

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608-882-4044

Robert Schaefer, Pastor

## ***“WITH HOPE & THANKSGIVING”***

*St John's Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus*

*Christ gathering:*

*To reach up in worship,*

*To reach out in evangelism, and*

*To reach within for spiritual growth.*

**St. John's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting  
Sunday January 25, 2009**

**Congregational Meeting  
Meeting in Sanctuary at 10:00 am**



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## AGENDA

### 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting January 25, 2009 Meeting 10:00 am

Call to Order

Hymn LBW # 423

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Opening Prayer

Pastor Robert Schaefer

Approval of 2008 Minutes

Treasurer’s Report

Pastoral Report

Individual/Organization Reports

Endowment Fund Report

Elections:

- a. Skaalen Sunset Home:  
(Vonnie Hatlen accepts nomination)
- b. South Central Wisconsin Synod Assembly June 6 and 7, 2009)  
(Pastor Bob, plus 3 more delegates needed)
- c. Board of Ushers (John Ruchti and Bob Johnson) Scott Fredendall accepts nomination).
- d. St. John’s Endowment Fund Gene Miller, Craig O’Leary, Nancy Nelson, Ken Fenrick  
and accepting nomination: Linda Gallagher.

Old Business:

New Business:

1. Budget Approval
2. Constitution

Other Business:

Adjournment

Closing with the Lord’s Prayer



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 27, 2008**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by outgoing President Butts at 12:37. The opening hymn, "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" was sung by those gathered. Pastor Bob Schaefer provided the opening prayer.

**II. APPROVAL OF 2007 MINUTES (Annual meeting regarding 2006 business)**

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held in 2007 regarding the business of 2006. (Steve Eager, Steve VerKuilen)

Discussion: none

Action: carried

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion to approve the treasurer's report. (George Nickels, Maynerd Rauk)

Discussion: (led by Bill Lathrop)

- Bill prepared a report explaining general accounting principles (in packet)
- Bill meets with the council monthly and prepares a 4 pg. report
- Note: Worship expenses were nearly double due to new hymnals
- Building was higher due to new lighting
- Cost to run basic operations (staff, utilities, etc.) is about \$186,000
- After basic expenses, 14% is left for benevolence, special items, etc.
- Butts stated that she would like to see benevolence increased

Action: carried

**IV. PASTORAL REPORT**

- Excited to see continued growth through baptisms and new members
- Thanks to Bill L., the website continues to be developed
- New hymnals and pew Bibles are a blessing
  - Content is needed from members.
  - Visionotes will be able to go online for those with internet, saving money (paper, postage, etc.)
  - Working towards having the calendar be "live" in real time
- Became the husband of Gretchen on Dec. 29.

Motion to approve the Pastoral Report (Judy Bratzke, Pam Abey)

Discussion: none

Action: carried

**V. ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

- Individual organization reports are contained in the Annual Report packet.
- Stewardship Committee needs more volunteers. Reminder: "stewardship" is not just about money, but also about being stewards of our resources.

**VI. ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT**

See report in Annual Report packet. An effort will be made to put out more frequent announcements about the fund and how to help.

**VII. ELECTIONS**

- a. **Skaalen Sunset Home:** Ruth Janes and Helen Ekenberg accept nomination
- b. **South Central Synod Assembly May 3-5:** Council Pres. Reese and Pastor Bob will attend. Dolores Reese nominated Sue Reese, with Sue accepting. Steve VerKuilen volunteered to attend, also.
- c. **Board of Ushers:** Doug Soetart will be on one more year with John Ruchti. Bob Johnson accepted nomination.
- d. **St. John's Endowment Fund:** Nancy Nelson and Craig O'Leary accepted nomination. Motion to approve the appointments of the above persons. (Pam Abey, Howard Krueger)  
Discussion: none  
Action: carried

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Thank you to Dan and Lori Drake** in their efforts in youth leadership. They have decided to step down.

B. **Thank you to outgoing council members** Steve Mauch, Sean Greenleaf, and Joni Phillips for their past service on the council.

C. **Parking lot:** Is it possible to have the parking lot plowed between 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM? If it could be done before the teachers arrive, it wouldn't get packed down and become as slippery as it currently is.

D. **Youth Leadership:** There is no job description for the youth leadership position. Pr. Bob expressed that this is a main area of focus. Dave and Doris Franklin will draft a job description after meeting with a youth pastor in Janesville. The youth group discussion needs to be started in the confirmation years.

Carolyn Butts turned the meeting over to new council president, Ken Reese, at this time.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. 2007 Budget Approval

Motion to approve the budget as presented by the council (Howard Krueger, Ken Reese)

Discussion: Led by Bill Lathrop.

Action: carried

### B. Constitution and Bylaws

**Motion** to approve changes to the constitution and bylaws as presented by the council (Carolyn Butts, Kitty VerKuilen)

**Discussion:** Led by Steve VerKuilen. Bylaws changes go into immediate effect. Constitution can be approved now and ratified in 1 year, at which time changes will go into effect. Thanks to Sue Herman for typing changes. Why are we suggesting changes? Interim Pastor Brad Pohlman noticed some gaps, recommendations suggest that these documents need to be revisited every 5-6 years.

**Action:** carried

- 1) **Contacting Inactive Members** - VerKuilen recommended the following change  
**Motion** to change **C8.02.01 MEMBERSHIP; Discontinuance of Membership; #3 (line 465)** from "...shall be visited by the pastor or the congregation's officers if they are local residents or contacted by mail if they live elsewhere and encouraged by them to active membership" to "...shall be visited by the pastor **or** the congregation's officers if they are local residents **or contacted by mail if they live elsewhere** and encouraged by them to active membership. (VerKuilen, Carolyn Butts)

**Discussion:**

- Is this in a section that can be changed (not in the ELCA unchangeable part)? Yes, it can be changed.
- What about college students? ‘Wiggle room’ will be used in individual cases regarding exceptional circumstances such as college, military, or temporary job moves.
- What if a person moves, but wants to be buried from here? Associate membership may be retained.
- Are associate members provided with offering envelopes? Yes and they are encouraged to give.

**Action:** carried

**2) Supply Pastors** - VerKuilen recommended the following change

**Motion** to change **C11.01.01 DUTIES OF OFFICERS; #1 (line 856)** from “The president shall secure supply pastors as needed” to “The president, **in cooperation with the pastor and church secretary,** shall secure supply pastors as needed.” (Steve VerKuilen, Sue Reese)

**Discussion:**

- Will it then need to be approved by all of those involved? No.
- If the president can’t be reached, there needs to be an alternate possibility

**Action:** carried

**3) Personnel Committee** - VerKuilen recommended the following change

**Motion** to change wording in **C13.08.01 COMMITTEES; k, #5 (line 1273)** from “Membership on the Personnel Committee shall be by election at the annual meeting of the congregation” to “Membership on the Personnel Committee shall be **by appointment of the church council.**” (Steve VerKuilen, Carolyn Butts)

**Discussion:**

- Are these recommendations coming from the council or Steve VerKuilen personally? Steve VerKuilen
- Why change this? To show diligence and so that appropriate consideration can be given by the nominees.

**Action:** carried

**4) Personnel Committee** - VerKuilen recommended the following change

**Motion** to change C13.08.01 COMMITTEES; k, #6 (line 1276) from “Nominations will follow the same procedures as that of the Council” to “**Appointment by the church council shall occur at the regular council meeting in March of each year that the term expires.**” (Steve VerKuilen, Jeff Farnsworth)

**Discussion:** none

**Action:** carried

**5) Personnel Committee** - VerKuilen recommended the following change

**Motion** to change **C13.08.01 COMMITTEES; k, #7 (line 1278)** from “The Personnel Committee shall consist of three persons, each for a three year term, except in the initial formation of the committee. No member shall be re-elected for more than one additional term” to “The Personnel Committee shall consist of three persons, each for a **two** year term. **Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the church council**” (VerKuilen, Pam Abey)

**Discussion:**

- Why change the term from 3 to 2?

- No term limits?
- Next time, please have these recommendations done ahead of time and in print so that members can follow along better.

**Action:** motion withdrawn by Steve VerKuilen

**6) Quorum**

**Motion** to change the quorum for congregational votes from 50 members to 35 (line 827)  
(Carolyn Butts, Dolores Reese)

**Discussion:** none

**Action:** carried

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 2:03 PM (Carolyn Butts, David Stadt)

**XII. CLOSING**

The meeting closed with all present reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Herman, Council Secretary

## From the Pastor

Dear friends:

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

2008 was a year of celebration for St. John's. This fall we marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of our church home on Third Street. A festive worship service and ceremony were held in September, and we were joined by a handful of family members of our past clergy to help us honor the legacy of our ministry together in this place.

Of course, it was impossible this year to escape the fact that our building *is* fifty years old. Maintenance projects large and small played an important role in our congregational life this past year. Of particular significance:

- Our long-anticipated Phase II flooring project was installed this fall. The main floor of the building is now almost entirely carpeted to match or coordinate with the flooring already installed in the fellowship hall. The new look has been a breath of fresh air in our sanctuary and narthex.
- We initiated a capital project to complete several necessary works, including service on our climate control system, reconstruction of “the pit” on the south side of the building, and various work on the roof.
- We began the process of planning for current and future needs in our use of this building. Conversation will continue into 2009 about how we can best use this space, and what improvements might enhance our ministry here for the next 50 years of our congregation's life.

As we look ahead to 2009, our task will be one of building and strengthening – of our community and relationships here at church, and of our ministry beyond our walls. Evansville is a growing community, and God is providing us with many opportunities for us to reach out to our neighbors, both new and old. As always, I am blessed and grateful to minister among God's people in this congregation. Thank you for your partnership in God's work!

All Christ's blessings,

Pastor Bob Schaefer

## **ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008**

It has been a pleasure working with a fine group of council members this past year. Their energy and attention to church needs has been phenomenal.

We had several major items of business to care for during the course of the year.

- We finally succeeded in getting our new church directory after many adjustments and some fine turning.
- We celebrated a resurrection of the Vacation Bible School program through the devoted efforts of Vonnie Hatlen and her dedicated staff.
- Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated of the laying of the corner stone to the church and were fortunate to have three of Pastor Romstad's children in attendance for the opening of the corner stone vault
- We completed Phase II of the flooring plan with the carpeting of the Sanctuary, Narthex, Library, and Choir Room.
- We undertook a capital improvement program to repair the windows in the upper portion of the Sanctuary, replace the thermostat system for better climate control and repair the "pit."
- We have had a significant resurgence of the Sunday School program due to the devoted efforts of Michelle Janes and her teaching staff.
- We have entered into a legal agreement with an option for an End of Lease Buy-Out to update and improve our copy equipment for the office staff. The new copy machine will be able to better handle the volume of copying required and the old risograph has been repaired maybe for the last time.
- A new envelope system has been introduced to cut down on waste.
- We have entered a new phase of scheduling for worship. As we begin 2009 we will try having a single service on Sunday in an effort to reunite our congregation into one church family.

Thank you to the retiring council members: Steve VerKuilen, Joy Olson and Sue Herman. Your smiling faces at council meetings will be missed.

We welcome new members to council: Vonnie Hatlen, Bob Johnson, Heather Peterson, Kitty VerKuilen and Kristian Finfrock. We also welcome back Ken Reese, Ann Schoenenberger, Diana Crans, Barb Howarad, Donna Johnson and Rhonda Crans.

We look forward to new ideas and enthusiasm.

In Christ, Kenneth Reese

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

2009

- If any member of St. John's would like to serve on a committee, please call the council representative of the committee.

<b>FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>Council Representative: Diana Crans and Barb Howard</b>		
Name	Phone No.	Email Address
Joy Olson	876-6671	lolson@eishome.com
<b>LIFE AND GROWTH</b>		
<b>Council Representative: Vonnie Hatlen</b>		
Name	Phone No.	Email Address
<b>PARISH EDUCATION</b>		
<b>Council Representatives: Ann Schoenenberger</b>		
Michelle Janes	882-4017	mdjanes@sbcglobal.net
Vonnie Hatlen	882-4707	twohats@ticon.net
<b>YOUTH MINISTRY</b>		
<b>Council Representative: Heather Petterson</b>		
<b>STEWARDSHIP/TIME AND TALENT</b>		
<b>Council Representatives: Kristian Finfrock</b>		
Carolyn Butts	88206082	ButtsCarolyn@JohnDeer.com
<b>SOCIAL CONCERNS</b>		
<b>Council Representative: Donna Johnson</b>		
<b>MUSIC AND WORSHIP</b>		
<b>Council Representatives: Kitty VerKuilen</b>		
Carolyn Butts	882-6082	buttscarolyn@johndeere.com
Amy Eager	882-4159	acemusic@litewire.net
Dolores Rohloff	882-5531	
Melanie Greenleaf	608-751-8745	megreen@parkview.k12.wi.us
Catharine Fellows	882-5867	
Kitty VerKuilen	882-6775	theverkuilens@sbcglobal.net
Marj Hipke	882-4476	
<b>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</b>		
<b>Council Representatives: Bob Johnson</b>		
Men's Work Group		
<b>MUTUAL MINISTRY</b>		
<b>Council Representatives:</b>		
Steve Schneeberger	882-5259	steven.schneeberger@usda.gov
Sara Lehman	882-6720	lehman87@charter.net
Gary Buss	882-5694	
<b>MEMORIALS</b>		
<b>Appointed Position: Rhonda Crans</b>		
No other members		

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**312 S. Third Street, Evansville, WI 53536**  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**2009**

St. Johns (882-4044)      E-Mail: [secretary@stjohns-lc.org](mailto:secretary@stjohns-lc.org)  
 Pastor Bob Schaefer      E-Mail: [Bob@BobSchaefer.com](mailto:Bob@BobSchaefer.com)  
 27 Moonshine Drive, Evansville      882-0786/4044

<i>OFFICERS</i>				
NAMES	ADDRESS	HOME PHONE #	WORK PHONE #	E-Mail
Reese, Ken President	POB 94	882-4150	882-5330	<a href="mailto:reesefam@charter.net">reesefam@charter.net</a>
Johnson, Bob Vice-President	408 Evans Dr.	882-4418		<a href="mailto:bobwand@inwave.com">bobwand@inwave.com</a>
Ann Schoenenberger Treasurer	114 S. Madison	882-4990	Same	<a href="mailto:Schoenod@litewire.net">Schoenod@litewire.net</a>
Crans, Rhonda Secretary	6202 N. Hyne Road	333-7169	882-4500	<a href="mailto:Rhonda_crans@hotmail.com">Rhonda_crans@hotmail.com</a>

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Crans, Diana	10611 W. Oak Ridge Road	882-6833	882-5700	
Finfrock, Kristian	537 Goldcoast Lane	608-347-7301		<a href="mailto:kfinfrock@charter.net">kfinfrock@charter.net</a>
Hatlen, Vonnie	4647 N. Marsh Rd.	882-4707		<a href="mailto:twohats@ticon.net">twohats@ticon.net</a>
Howard, Barb	6597 N. Oak Ridge Road	882-4064		
Johnson, Donna	16024 W. Croft Rd.	882-4192	608-224-4720	<a href="mailto:Johnson@litewire.net">Johnson@litewire.net</a>
Peterson, Heather	17928 W. Milbrandt Rd.	882-0552		<a href="mailto:epeterson@landmark.coop">epeterson@landmark.coop</a>
VerKuilen, Kitty	14357 W. Golf Air Dr.	882-6775		<a href="mailto:theverkuilens@sbcglobal.net">theverkuilens@sbcglobal.net</a>

**Cc: Pastors, Staff, Council**  
**Revised 1/09**

**STATISTICAL REPORT OF MINISTRY  
2008**

**St. John's Membership Data for**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Baptismed	1047	1027	986
Confirmed	746	729	696
Family Units	435	433	419

**Baptisms**

02/03/2008	Stadt, Kenna Ann
03/30/08	Finrock, Kendra and Kaitlynn
05/11/08	Peterson, Ellie Mary-Catherine
05/18/08	Miller, Cayle James
06/01/08	Perzentka, Larry Jr.
09/21/08	Butts, Kaden
10/05/08	Kuehl, Dante
11/30/08	Peckham, Matthew
11/30/08	Peckham, Grace
11/30/08	Gober, Alexandra
11/30/08	Gober, Aleeyah
12/14/08	Reinstad, Camden

**Marriages**

09/27/08	Nicole Matzke and Kyle Sperry
10/01/08	Amanda Miller and James Kojis

**New Members Received by Affirmation, Confirmation, Baptism and Transfer**

01/27/08	Tortomasi, Scott & Sara Children: Matthew & Mia	Transfer Prince of Peace Lutheran, Freeport IL (ELCA)
02/11/08	Perzentka, Larry & Jennifer Children: Madison	Transfer from Luther Memorial, Madison (ELCA)
02/11/08	Polluck, James	Other Immanuel Lutheran, Fond du Lac (ELCA)
02/11/08	Burns, Ann	Central Lutheran, Edgerton (ELCA)
02/11/08	Ellsworth, Forrest and Amy Child: Maxwell	Affirmation of Faith
09/10/08	Clark, Millie	Transfer , Bethany Lutheran, Wis. Dells, WI ELCA
11/30/08	Fiedler, Kim	Transfer from St. John's, Oregon (ELCA)
11/30/08	Peckham, Gregg	Affirmation of Faith
11/30/08	Peckham, Joann	Affirmation of Faith
12/14/08	Reinstad, Jason and Amber	Affirmation of Faith
12/10/08	Olsen, Bob and Anne	Transfer, Gloria Dei, FL (ELCA)

**Confirmed Class of 2008**

10/26/08	Bromley, Alec	Confirmed
10/26/08	Eager, Lydia	Confirmed
10/26/08	Hanson, Jake	Confirmed
10/26/08	Hennig, Madison	Confirmed
10/26/08	Johnson, Daniel	Confirmed
10/26/08	Juen, Taylor	Confirmed
10/26/08	Nimz, Brad	Confirmed
10/26/08	Phalin, Mallory	Confirmed
10/26/08	Reynolds, Brianna	Confirmed

10/26/08	Smith, Corey	Confirmed
10/26/08	Wethal, Kate	Confirmed
10/26/08	Wilke, Claudia	Confirmed
10/26/08	Worley, Dalton	Confirmed
10/26/08	Yoerger, Alex	Confirmed

### **Released from Membership**

01/17/08	Sigmund, JoEllen, Rebecca and Bradley	Transfer to Bethany Lutheran, Wis. Dells (ELCA)
03/18/08	Radtke, Anne, Adrian, Monica	Transfer to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran, Edgerton, WI (ELCA)
08/04/08	Schlueter, Rhonda	No forwarding address.
09/09/08	Hubacher, Joanne	Per request.
12/02/08	Paulson, John and Carol	Transfer to Our Redeemers, Suring, WI

### **Deaths**

01/10/2008	Rutz, Merle Faye (Non-Member)
01/09/08	Brunsell, Joan (Non-Member)
03/01/08	Peckham, Margaret
03/30/08	Guernsey, Charles Richard
04/20/08	Waeffler, Willard
07/05/08	Bryant, Dale
09/20/08	Patterson, Ellen
12/05/08	Taplin, Ellen (Non Member)

Rev.12/08

**BUDGET**  
 St. John's Lutheran Church  
 Evansville, Wisconsin  
 Year-End Summary Financial Results

	2008	2007	2008 Budget	2009 Proposed Budget
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
General Contributions	189,171.81	\$ 195,624.42	\$ 202,410.00	\$ 203,280.00
Restricted Contributions	9,363.34	10,285.55	1,130.00	\$ 260.00
Workshops/Events Income	2,731.98	3,738.27	3,050.00	\$ 3,050.00
Benevolence Contributions	6,591.19	8,039.15	7,580.00	\$ 7,580.00
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<u>207,858.32</u>	<u>217,687.39</u>	<u>214,170.00</u>	<u>\$ 214,170.00</u>
<b>Program Expenses</b>				
Benevolence	16,412.31	15,269.51	15,330.00	\$ 15,330.00
Worship	3,208.59	10,438.73	5,030.00	\$ 3,600.00
Education	5,627.54	8,952.19	7,360.00	\$ 7,600.00
Youth and Family	229.89	1,228.90	550.00	\$ -
Evangelism	1,165.15	568.67	460.00	\$ 460.00
Stewardship	-	77.22	-	-
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<u>26,643.48</u>	<u>36,535.22</u>	<u>28,730.00</u>	<u>\$ 26,990.00</u>
<b>Operational Expenses</b>				
Pastoral	75,801.35	70,188.95	77,500.00	\$ 78,272.40
Building and Grounds	44,570.75	43,232.61	29,470.00	\$ 30,590.00
Administration	12,263.64	13,688.03	10,370.00	\$ 13,500.00
Professional Staff	39,799.36	42,119.96	53,150.00	\$ 43,687.25
Debt Service	(11,564.23)	14,448.24	13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
Other Expenses	2,901.39	4,189.95	3,490.00	\$ 4,410.00
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	<u>163,772.26</u>	<u>187,867.74</u>	<u>186,980.00</u>	<u>\$ 183,459.65</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>190,415.74</u>	<u>224,402.96</u>	<u>215,710.00</u>	<u>\$ 210,449.65</u>
<b>Transfers</b>				
Transfers In		15,728.65		
Transfers Out		8,207.08		
<b>Excess Support &amp; Revenue Over Expenses</b>		<u>\$ 806.00</u>		
Cash Balance, January 1	11,790.55	11,702.72		
Net Cash Surplus (Deficit)		806.00		
Cash Balance, December 31	<u>11,790.55</u>	<u>\$ 12,508.72</u>		

**Annual Report  
2008**

St Johns Lutheran Church  
Notes to Financial Statements

**Generally Accepted Accounting Principals**

These financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis. Cash basis accounting, while commonly used by churches, ignores certain principals and practices used by other types of organizations. These principals and practices include treating expenses of long-lived items as assets and accounting for depreciation as well as properly allocating the expense of amounts payable in one accounting period but paid in another.

**Accounts Payable**

At year-end 2008, there were vendor invoices and other amounts totaling \$5297.21 that were allocable to transactions that occurred in 2008 but were not paid until 2009. Amounts by expense category are listed below:

Building & Grounds 1662.10  
Administration Expenses 2334.22  
Payroll Taxes 1300.89

There are no amounts past due to vendors.

**Long Lived Assets**

Purchases of long-lived assets are recorded in the period they are acquired as cash transactions and allocated to the expense category to which they most closely resemble. There is no provision for depreciation – as all expenses are recognized in the period they are incurred. In 2008, the church made the following expenditures that would normally be considered long-lived assets:

**Building and Grounds** -We have taken draws for building improvements in the amount of 23200.00 from the money the Congregation approved at the special meeting in September.

Down payment on retaining wall 8371.98  
Down payment on windows 7000.00  
Heating Improvements 8160.00

**Phase II** - The Church uses a fund for the purchase of long-lived assets, known as the Phase II Building Fund. The balance in this fund at December 31st was \$25499.88, with the bazaar money included. We will have a bill from Drexel Interiors to pay for the carpeting in the amount of \$25255.15.

**Loans Payable** - The Church has a business loan payable to Union Bank & Trust with a maturity date of 10/06/11. At year-end, the balance outstanding was \$30525.14. The current interest rate on this loan is 3.255%.

## **ALTAR GUILD 2008**

The Altar Guild members of St. John's Lutheran Church perform behind the scene preparation for our worship services each week. Parament colors are changed with the church year calendar complimenting the season, candles are kept filled, flower contributions are monitored and the Holy Sacraments of communion and baptism are prepared.

We occasionally meet early spring and fall for preparation of the two major festivals of Easter and Christmas. Through the support of the congregation, Easter and Christmas plants are provided along with additional financial support enabling us to decorate during these festivals. This is appreciated very much in addition to a thank you to those that have provided flowers weekly and donated toward the Flower Fund.

For the third year Winterberry Christmas Trees owned by Greg and Vicki Lancaster gave us our beautiful Frasier Fur and donations paid for the second tree. In tradition, Pastor and Phyllis Garbrecht provided the white candles. Thank you to everyone who helped beautify our sanctuary this past holiday season.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Phyllis Garbrecht for her many years of ministry to Altar Guild. We will miss you. Also, we want to thank Judy Bratzke, Kaye Crocker and Stacy Mauch for agreeing to be on Altar Guild.

If any member of the congregation is willing to make a valuable contribution of a small amount of time and effort for one month a year and become a "real" working partner in the church, please contact the church office or any Altar Guild member.

In Christ,

Debbie Fredendall and Diana Crans  
Chairpersons

## **BEFRIENDER MINISTRY 2008**

The Befriender Ministry was developed to train lay people to assist the Pastor in providing care, support and comfort to those in need. The Befrienders are trained volunteers who may be called upon to make hospital visits, visits to shut-ins, provide transportation to appointments, do errands for those unable to drive themselves, or to answer any number of needs for those in the congregation. Their role is that of Christian caregiver. St. John's has 10 trained Befrienders. If you are interested in training for this ministry please phone Marj Hipke (882-4476) or Deanna Jeans (882-5829).

## **Buildings and Grounds Committee Annual Report 2008**

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has continued to whittle away at the pressing needs identified in the 2007 report to maintain the physical integrity of St. John's. A special congregational meeting was held to approve borrowing approximately \$50,000 to fund the various projects. Some of the improvements have not only addressed deteriorating features but are also intended to reduce energy costs. Again the Men's Workgroup has been an invaluable resource to make these improvements possible. The projects are ongoing due to the early onset of winter. In addition to the physical improvements, the insurance policy for the church has been upgraded to address additional concerns that have been overlooked in the past. Finally, thanks to the ongoing efforts for the Phase II fundraising, carpeting in the sanctuary, library and narthex has been installed and paid.

The ongoing improvements include:

- 1) final cladding the exterior fascia of the upper levels of the church so that periodic painting and deteriorating woodwork problems will be eliminated..
- 2) replacing windows with energy efficient units in the "clear" story of the church and along the east side of the sanctuary.
- 3) changing the thermostatic temperature controls to a wireless system that maintains an appropriate temperature during times of use and idleness in several zones of the church. The previous system was not only difficult to "fine tune" but virtually non-functional in certain areas.
- 4) the large window well in the back of the church is to be partially rebuilt to prevent ultimate collapse. The design and aesthetics of the installation will be consistent with the design of the building. Drainage issues in that area will also be resolved.

For the future, the short list of improvements includes rewiring in the piano and organ area and water leaks in the basement need resolution.

Regarding the insurance changes, these have been made as result of a close review and consultation with Steve Hagen. The existing policy with Church Mutual was analyzed for important deficiencies. It was found that the replacement value of the church was capped at \$2.2M and there were two additional coverages not included. They were Directors and Officers Liability and Sexual Misconduct Liability. As a result of this review, a changeover to Hagen Insurance, with Acuity as the carrier, was decided upon to make our insurance coverage more comprehensive. The cost of the new policy was determined to be very competitive. With the new policy, the coverage for replacement value is not capped and the additional liability riders are included. Further, the council felt that the church would be better served by having our policy with a local representative who could react quickly to our needs be they urgent or purely informational. For the sake of consolidation, the Workers Compensation policy was changed to Hagen Insurance also. The cost of this policy is a prescriptive, fixed price.

Other issues that have been considered include the periodic nuisance of skateboarders on the property, the daily use of the parking lot by the schools and snow removal. The skateboarder issue was discussed with the Evansville Police Dept. and Steve Hagen. Since the church property is private, liability concerns are mitigated by the condition of trespassing by the skateboarders. The schools' continued use of the parking lot became an issue because of wear and tear as well as liability concerns. Although the council expressed a receptive, good neighbor approach to negotiating with the schools, the schools decided to install a new parking lot and prohibit their employees from parking in the St. John's lot. As a result the school system no longer provides weekday snowplowing services. Therefore, Heacox plows and salts the lot on regular, as needed basis.

Considering the undertakings of the past year, my final input to the congregation would be that there is an urgent, underlying need to form a strategic, long term planning committee. Their work should address both programming direction and physical needs, which would then serve as a roadmap for the council. I say this as a member of the council where programming issues beg for attention and, as member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the physical property has great potential that deserves attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Ver Kuilen



## FELLOWSHIP/LIFE AND GROWTH COMMITTEE 2008



"We're looking for a new church. Could we see today's coffee fellowship menu?"

If we walk in the light as He walks in the light, we have fellowship, one with another.

John 1: 7

It has been a pleasure to work on the Fellowship/Life and Growth Committee this past four years. We have had many successes and this year was no exception.

We started in February with a better than average turn out for photos for our 2008 directory. One hundred and thirty seven units had their pictures taken. Twenty family unit pictures were submitted.

March brought the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Feather Party." Steve and Sylvia Schneeberger have assumed this responsibility and it has been a great success. Just ask anyone who has attended.

May was the month we started working on bazaar activities, bringing in new chairmen and envisioning new ideas. For example, the plant shop was a new enterprise for the bazaar.

June was our month to be at Skaalen Home helping with activities and serving ice cream weekly. The comment was made by employees, "We can always count on St. John's, Evansville." I thank our dedicated congregation for their work.

In July Life and Growth started plans for a welcome unit at St. John's.

August brought "The Basement Church Ladies" entertainment. This event was attended by forty eight people at the Overture Center with dinner in Oregon.

In September we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church building on Third Street. A rededication service was held. A group picture of all in attendance was taken. The cornerstone was opened and displayed with extra items to be included with its rededication. A lovely luncheon and ceremony welcoming former Pastor Bob & Phyllis Garbrecht, the family of Pastor Romstad, including Mr. & Mrs. Karl Romstad, Mr. & Mrs. David Romstad and Judy Romstad, was held. A special thank-you to Judy Bratzke for making the anniversary banner for the raffle. Joy Olson was the lucky winner. Joy donated the banner back to St. John's. A Pewter anniversary ornament was commissioned to be sold and to commemorate this milestone.

In October we were working hard on the bazaar and November 22 came very quickly. Our 4<sup>th</sup> bazaar was again very successful with nearly \$8,000 raised for Phase II flooring.

December saw our carpet laid in the narthex, Sanctuary, library and choir room. This was truly a wonderful way to finish the year. Money from the 2007 and 2008 bazaars, as well as memorial gifts and our Angel gift of \$1,000 matched by \$2,000 more from our congregation contributed to the carpet improvements. We were able to pay the entire \$25,000 for carpeting without borrowing any money. My congratulations to all involved for this accomplishment.

We continue, "We Can Do It," by selling our aluminum cans and the Greeting card station as services of the Fellowship/Life and Growth Committee. Thanks also to the many contributors to our between services fellowship activities.

Our Welcome Unit will be completed in 2009, thanks to both Neil Lein and the senior woodworkers. Plans are already underway for a family fun day to be held on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Olympus in the Wisconsin Dells.

My thanks to the 2008 Fellowship/Life and Growth Committee:

Pam and Tonto Abey  
Steve and Sylvia Schneeberger  
Steve and Stacy Mauch  
Pam Keisler  
Jan Wienke  
Barb Howard  
Diana Crans  
Michelle Rowley  
Joy Olson

Please add your name to this list, as many hands make big jobs small

God Bless,  
Joy Olson

**2008 HOLIDAY BAZAAR and LUNCHEON**

**BOOTH RECEIPTS;**

**EXPENSES:**

Antiques & Collectables	328.25
Pantry	399.00
Raffle	772.00
Kid's Korner	311.00
Silent Auction	242.00
Basket Shop	615.00
Bakery	850.25
Woodcrafter Shop	75.50
Candy Shop	502.50
Quilter's	480.00
Knitter's Knook	288.50
Craft Fair	448.00
Plants & Bulbs	157.00
Donut Shop	59.45
Resale Shop	575.55
Luncheon	1,469.06
Post Bazaar Sales	344.25
Post Bazaar checks	543.00
Trivent Matching Funds	<u>1,000.00</u>

Piggly Wiggly	443.49
Woodman's	10.27
Sam's Club	46.17
Hometown Herald	86.25
Great Dane	90.25
Edgerton Reporter	56.25
Milton Courierads	78.50
Janesville Jotter	90.00
Evansville Review	180.00
Ind. Register, Brodhead	<u>90.00</u>

TOTAL RECP'TS & EXP            \$9,460.31

\$1,171.68

Balance of \$8,188.63 applied to Carpet Fund  
and \$100.00 given to Sunday School

Submitted by Eileen Meredith  
coordinator

**LIBRARY REPORT  
2008**

We received several donations this past year. We have the "Bible" on CD, which includes 15 disks telling the story of the Bible – New Testament.

I also received several new books. The library at this time needs to be put back together after the laying of the carpet so once that is done please stop by and choose a book to read or CD to listen to.

Respectively Submitted,

Janet Wienke, Librarian

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**  
**2008**

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has been responding to emergencies and disasters for over 60 years. With partners and global relief and development networks in 35 countries, LWR works to create a world where each person and every generation lives in justice, dignity and peace. LWR engages in international relief, development, advocacy, and social responsibility in collaborative ministry with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and others.

St. John's has been a contributor to LWR for many decades. In 2008 our church sent the following items to LWR:

295 quilts, 220 bars of soap, 11 sewing kits, 25 health kits, 69 layettes, 66 school kits and 33 blankets. Through sale of some quilts and a Sunday offering, \$746.00 was also sent to LWR to help ship these projects to wherever in the world they are most needed.

These projects will be collected again in 2009 through a "Project of the Month" emphasis. The need for these items never ends. Thank you to all of the quilting ladies who tirelessly make the quilts at church throughout the entire year. Thanks to those who work from home sewing quilt tops or school bags, or knitting sweaters for the layettes. Thanks to those who purchase items for the various projects. This congregation has been very generous to those in desperate need. As Jesus said, "Just as you did it for the least of these...you have done it unto me." (Matthew 25)

Deanna Jeans  
Lutheran World Relief Coordinator

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
MEMORIALS ACCOUNT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2008**

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To the Members of St. John's:

Monetary donations were received in loving memory of the following persons:

Helen Klug	Peg Peckham	Willard Waeffler
Clara Forster	Mabel Ferm	Dale Bryant
Jennie Paulson	Ellen Patterson	Thayne Andersen
Hazel Whipple	Linda Peterson	Harriet Persons

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of St. John's, donations were received in memory of the following charter members: Clara Reese and Borger & Inga Hansen.

Donations were also received in honor of Pastor Bob and Gretchen's marriage.

Memorial funds were used to purchase a new microphone for Pastor in 2008, and also used to help purchase the Vacation Bible School materials. Memorial funds were also designated for World Hunger Relief.

Balance on hand 12/31/2007:			\$4,057.75
Receipts:			
Memorials	\$2,595.00		
Interest	<u>33.43</u>	+	\$2,628.43
Disbursements:			
Vacation Bible School materials	99.99		
Microphone for Pastor	831.11		
Transferred to Youth account	<u>325.01</u>		
		-	<u>\$1,256.11</u>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/2008:</b>			<b>\$5,430.07</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Crans

**MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND  
2008**

The purpose of the Mission Endowment Fund is to receive gifts from individuals, trusts, grants, bequests or property and then to administer the income from these gifts for religious, educational and charitable programs through St. John's Lutheran Church. The principal is preserved and only the interest earned on the fund is expended.

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee met quarterly during 2008. There were several gifts to the Endowment Fund during its fiscal year (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008). The donors were as follows:

St. John's Women of the ELCA  
Peg Rosen memorials  
Harriet Persons memorials  
Willard Waeffler memorials  
Willard Waeffler estate gift  
Roland and Deanna Jeans  
Various gifts given as memorials

The amount of money disbursed from Endowment Fund income was \$1,147.24 for 2008.

The following disbursements were made:

40% (\$458.90) to Pastor's Discretionary Fund  
40% (\$458.90) to St. John's for Phase 2 building improvements  
20% (\$229.45) to Seminary Assistance Fund

There are 5 members on the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. Deanna Jeans has completed her second three year term on this Committee and is ineligible for re-election. Her successor will be elected at the annual meeting.

Information on the Mission Endowment Fund may be obtained from the church office or by contacting one of the committee members, Gene Miller, Craig O'Leary, Nancy Nelson, Ken Fenrick or Deanna Jeans. Giving to the Endowment Fund is a fine way to honor someone, to celebrate a special event, or to memorialize someone.

Submitted by Deanna Jeans, Recording Secretary  
St. John's Mission Endowment Fund

**MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND  
FINANCIAL REPORT 2008**

**October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2008**

<b>BALANCE ON HAND 10/1/2007</b>	<b>\$46,812.55</b>
<b>Receipts 10/1/2007 – 9/30/2008</b>	<b>\$4,663.50</b>
<b>2008 Interest Income</b>	
UB&T Savings	\$10.34
UB&T CD	\$271.44
Mission Investment Fund	\$99.80
MIF CD	\$180.53
M & I CD	\$585.13
<b>Interest Income 10/1/2007 – 9/30/2008</b>	<b>\$1,147.24</b>
<b>Disbursements for 2008</b>	<b>-\$959.85</b>
<b>Unrealized Gain/Loss 9/30/08</b>	
<b>Charles Schwab Account</b>	<b>-\$786.68</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,876.76</b>

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**Investments as of 9/30/2008**

UB&T Savings #7108356	\$1,795.48
Mission Investment Fund #MP 09180017581	\$2,374.52
Mission Invest. Fund CD	\$15,625.84
Charles Schwab Acct. #3025-8311 (Oakmark Equity & Income Fund)	\$19,646.71
M & I CD	\$11,434.21
<b>Total Investments on 9/30/2008</b>	<b>\$50,876.76</b>

## **Music and Worship Committee Annual Report 2008**

The Music and Worship Committee has continued to provide for the various needs of the congregation in concert with many independent contributors. The list of those who contribute to the service include the organists, ushers, soundboard operators, projectionists, altar guild, praise team, soloists, choirs, our favorite, stalwart Worship Steward, Carolyn Butts and especially Debbie Fredendall who keeps track of all these contributors. The dedicated core team of Music and Worship continue to be Kitty Ver Kuilen, Amy Eager, Carolyn Butts and Pastor Bob. On behalf of the congregation and the Church Council, I extend our most sincere thanks for all that you do and the time you contribute.

The biggest change instituted by the committee has been the single Sunday service format, which will be implemented in 2009. The stated objectives of this change are to encourage mentorship, increase fellowship for the congregation as a unified body, regain a sense of our common purpose and, as result, generate a critical mass to increase participation and initiatives to regain a robust and dynamic sense of service. The style of worship, traditional and contemporary, will alternate from week to week. This change is intended to be temporary until we realize the objectives for the change and/or the attendance of the service increases beyond the capacity of the sanctuary.

As the “sense of service” grows the Music and Worship Committee would like to see:

- Increased participation/membership in the committee itself.
- Increased membership/participation in the Praise Team and adult choir.
- Hiring a music and choir director.
- Improvements to the sound system.
- An additional accompanist.

Other details the committee has considered and/or acted upon are:

- Scheduling a worship assistant.
- Drawing more songs from the Red Hymnal.
- Providing printed sheets with Praise Team Lyrics in the pews.
- Standardizing the pay scale for the accompanists.
- Purchasing a portable sound system.
- Comment box for the new service.

As 2009 progresses please consider how you might contribute your Time and Talents to the benefit of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Ver Kuilen

**MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM REPORT  
2008**

The Mutual Ministry Team currently consists of 4 members (Steve Schneeberger, Sue Herman, Gary Buss, and Lynda Mosely). The purpose of this team is twofold:

- (1) To encourage and support the paid staff members on behalf of the congregation.
- (2) To direct parties with questions or problems regarding church issues to the appropriate channels for discussion and potential resolutions. This committee is NOT involved in job evaluations.

During 2008, the Mutual Ministry Team provided a small gift of ‘thanks’ for each paid staff member. The team also enjoyed a book study with Pastor Bob which explored the meanings, duties, etc. of a mutual ministry team.

**NURSERY REPORT  
2008**

St. John’s is currently without nursery coverage. If anyone would like to coordinate a nursery coverage schedule, please contact the church office.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Fredendall  
Parish Secretary

**PARISH EDUCATION REPORT  
2008**

We started the year out with the classroom setting and it is going very well.

We still would like to see more support from the parents in helping out and teaching.

This year we had a few people willing to take on the Christmas Program. It was performed on December 14 and was a huge success. John’s hopes they will continue it next year.

The Children’s service for Christmas Eve had very low attendance from children. We assume this was due to having a Christmas Program . In 2009 if there is a Christmas Program we will plan on having the 4:00 worship service on Christmas Eve as a regular service with children in mind also.

I want to thank everyone for their continued support in helping with the Sunday School Program. I invite all member and parents of the children to get involved in the Christian upbringing of our young children by being a teacher or helper

Again, thank you to everyone for your continued support and for sharing your children with us each Sunday morning

Michelle Janes  
Parish Education Superintendent

### **SOCIAL CONCERNS 2008**

No report.

### **STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

What do you think of when you think of STEWARDSHIP? In all likelihood, you think of the pastor standing the pulpit talking about giving more money to the church. Or you might think of a member of your congregation standing at your front door asking you to make an estimate of giving pledge for the next year. Or you might think of filling your offering envelope to put in the collection plate each Sunday morning. Chances are you when you thought of STEWARDSHIP one of these financial things came to your mind. STEWARDSHIP is much more than just money! STEWARDSHIP encompasses our time, talents, resources and much more. God had has given all of these things and we are only stewards of them during our time here. When we realize how much God has blessed us, we see that to be good stewards we must share those blessings with others.

This past fall our pledging campaign consisted of mailing a letter and an estimate of giving card to the membership only because we did not have the manpower to take on a full blown Stewardship campaign.

It can be said that 2008 was a year of reorganization for the Stewardship Committee. Kristian Finfrock has joined the committee and brings some much needed new energy to the group. With the assistance of Rolfe Nervig from the Synod office in Madison, we are planning a ministry fair to display our many ministries. At this time we will be including our Time and Talent surveys and include a brunch. Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 22.

We are always looking for new ideas and welcome new participation.

Rollie Jeans  
Kristian Finfrock  
Carolyn Butts

### **USHER REPORT 2008**

The Usher Board chairpersons were Doug Soetaert, John Ruchti and Bob Johnson. Thank you for overseeing the usher teams.

The usher committee consists of 10 teams with each team serving 2 months out of the church year and taking turns serving the worship service during the summer months and special worship services. There are over 50 men, women and confirmation students serving on the usher teams.

Thank you to all members for providing this needed ministry to your church family.

New for 2009 we have went to one worship service so consequently the teams will only serve one month from January – May and then during the summer each team will take a Sunday. As far as September goes we will have to see if we stay with one worship service.

If anyone would like to be on an usher team or be on the alternate list please notify the church office.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Fredendall, Parish Secretary

## **VOLUNTEER GROUP**

**2008**

What would St. John's do without the wonderful group of volunteers (too numerous to mention by name) that provide this much-needed ministry to our church family.

The volunteers at St. John's are the "Cream of the Crop." You are always available when I need help with mailings etc. Your help is gratefully appreciated.

Volunteers are everywhere at St. John's. Don't forget that council members, council committees, ushers, soundboard team, fellowship providers and the list goes on are all volunteers. St. John's is blessed!!

Debbie Fredendall, Volunteer Coordinator

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
2008**

Balance brought forward	\$ 112.44
<b>INCOME:</b>	
Funerals	\$ 725.00
Other Income	39.82
 Total Income	 \$ 877.26
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles	192.42
Debbie Fredendall – Manor birthday cakes	30.46
Helen Ekenberg – Skaalen Presents	77.41
St. John’s Endowment Fund	200.00
Kitchen Baskets	33.48
 Total disbursements	 \$ 533.77
 Balance as of 12/31/2008	 \$ 343.49

\*\* Please note \$200.00 has been held back for the purchase of a furniture setting in the Narthex.

Respectively Submitted,

Ann Schoenenberger  
Treasurer of Women of ELCA

**WORLD HUNGER REPORT  
2008**

No Coordinator for 2008  
No report.

**CONFIRMATION MINISTRY**  
**2008**

Our confirmation program for 2008-2009 includes 41 middle school students, in grades 6-8. We have seven adult volunteers who serve as mentors to groups of four or five students and meet with them each week during class, and one substitute group leader. We are also blessed with volunteers to lead our mentor program, a fund raising coordinator, and two videographers who capture each week's lesson on DVD.

Our curriculum is Augsburg Fortress' "Here We Stand" – a large-group/small-group style curriculum with strong roots in our Lutheran faith. Students utilize *The Lutheran Handbook*, a useful, insightful, and often funny tool for learning about the Catechism and what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. We meet every Wednesday for 90 minutes, with several weeks devoted to fellowship or service outings.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Pastor Bob Schaefer



