

St. John's Lutheran Church

Quarterly Meeting

July 25-26, 2020

1. Opening prayer
2. Call Meeting to order
3. Financial report
4. Senior Pastor's Report
5. Associate Pastor's Report
6. Projects completed in 2020
7. Debt Retirement
8. Council Motion to adjust budget for Staff appreciation gifts
9. Other items
10. Adjournment with Lord's Prayer

St. John's Lutheran Church

Monthly Financial Statement

June 2020

Prepared 7/11/2020

Monthly/Year to Date Major Funds		
Month of:	June	Year to Date
Income		
Current	\$46,793.26	\$319,633.00
Benevolence	\$4,945.48	\$41,116.00
Building & Maint.	\$8,462.96	\$54,446.00
Total Operating Income	\$60,201.70	\$415,195.00
Expenses		
Current	\$44,304.72	\$276,212.00
Benevolence	\$4,325.94	\$31,164.00
Building & Maint.	\$4,434.75	\$60,587.00
Total Operating Expense	\$53,065.41	\$367,963.00
Fund Differences		
Current	\$2,488.54	\$ 43,421.00
Benevolence	\$619.54	\$ 9,952.00
Building & Maint.	\$4,028.21	\$ (6,141.00)
Totals	\$7,136.29	\$ 47,232.00

Approved Non-Budgeted Expenditures	
Account	Year to Date
Current	\$0.00
Benevolence (Previous Year/Designated)	\$12,664.00
Building & Maintenance	\$0.00
Total Income	\$12,664.00

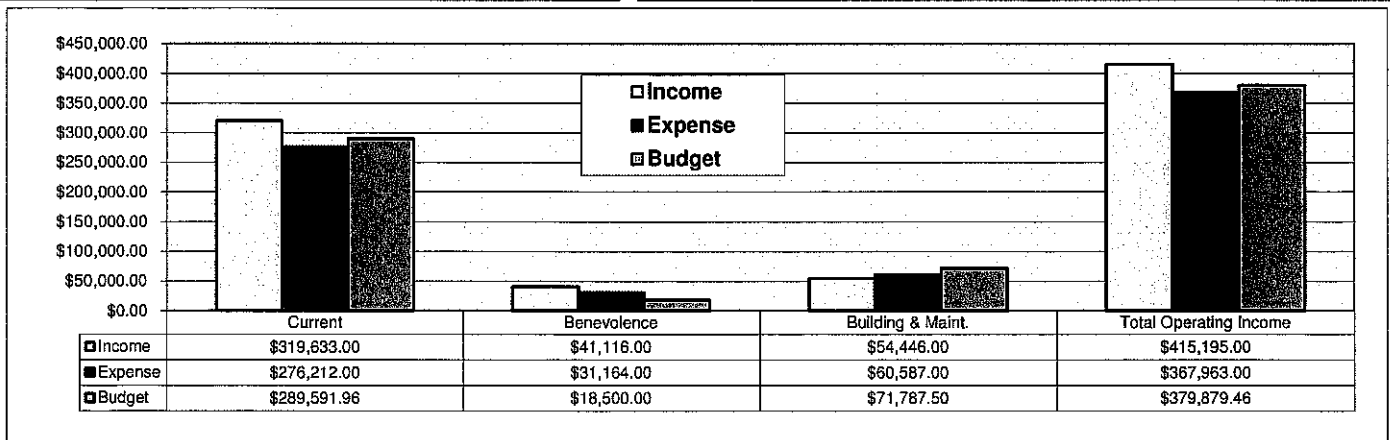
Budget Comparison - Year to Date		
Budget vs. Actual thru	June 2020	
Account	Budget	Actual
Current - Budgeted	\$289,591.96	\$276,212.00
Benevolence - Budgeted	\$18,500.00	\$31,164.00
Bldg & Maint - Budgeted	\$71,787.50	\$60,587.00
Totals	\$379,879.46	\$367,963.00

Budgeted expenditures listed above do not include spending approved from the three (3) operating accounts separate from the budget. These expenditures were approved by either the Council or congregation. They include items such as "pass-through" designated benevolence, benevolence funds received at the end of last year but spent this year, and particular maintenance or capital improvement items.

Debt Reduction (Principle Reduction)		
Month of:	June 2020	Since Inception
Current	\$0.00	\$262,435.16

The charts below show total income and expense, rather than budgeted items only.

Fund Balances: End of Month Balanced	
Account Name	Amount
OPERATING:	
Operating -- Current + B&M	\$130,871.86
Benevolence	\$16,170.28
Organ & Renovations Debt Reduction Fund	\$11,669.11
DESIGNATED:	
Genesis Fund	\$3,181.88
Youth Designated Fund	\$35,442.22
MOPS Designated Fund	\$3,760.26
Sarah Circle & Elizabeth Circle	\$79.60
Beacons	\$128.00
Bed Brigade Ministry	\$23,408.40
Bereavement Dinner Ministry	\$1,625.83
Designated Funds Interest	\$163.88
MEMORIAL:	
Memorial Fund Unrestricted Savings	\$47,653.98
Memorial Restricted (M/R) Library	\$311.74
M/R Handbell	\$4,521.82
M/R Kitchen	\$5,223.83
M/R Music	\$3,447.47
M/R Youth Camp Memorials	\$349.93
M/R Youth	\$3,414.18
M/R OWLs	\$801.40
M/R Special One-Time Account	\$11,827.44
M/R Van Fund	\$0.00
M/R Puppet Ministry	\$1,350.81
M/R Mission Trip Gen	\$21,034.13
M/R Mission Trip Alaska	\$11,604.36
M/R Mission Trip Mexico	\$10,955.80
M/R Columbarium Fund	\$11,580.00
M/R Bell Tower Carrillon	\$2,000.00
ENDOWMENT-PRINCIPAL:	
Endowment/Gen/Restricted/Principal	\$406,039.25
Endowment/Prop/Restricted/Principal	\$234,229.64
Endowment/Youth/Restricted/Principal	\$32,395.25
Cemetery Endowment Principal	\$45,000.00
Unrealized Appr/(Depr)	\$95,408.34
ENDOWMENT-AVAILABLE INCOME:	
Endowment/Gen/Available Income	\$27,237.70
Endowment/Prop/Available Income	\$7,800.79
Endowment/Youth/Available Income	\$3,504.91
Cemetery Available-HNB Premium MM	\$3,716.06
COLLEGE GRANTS/SUMWALT LOANS:	
College Fund Savings - HNB	\$5,457.96
Sumwalt Savings Account - HNB	\$3,787.97
Loans Payable	
Organ & Renovations Loan	\$25,682.49



Treasurers Report – July 2020

Submitted by Dan Yeater

Please refer to the attached monthly financial summary for balances in all accounts and budgeted income and expense.

The church was on a solid financial footing as we entered the New Year. Christmas was a blessing spiritually and financially. When we entered the pandemic shutdown, I was very concerned if our financial situation health would suffer since we were not having normal services. Looking back “Oh ye of little faith” best describes my thoughts now. I was concerned for no reason, Christ touched the hearts of St. Johns and gifts during the pandemic have been amazing. Our operating account has strengthened since the beginning of the year and the response to the Good Samaritan fund has been huge. The church has been able to help many more folks in these troubled times than we would have been able to under normal circumstances. Your financial support has been an enormous blessing that has allowed us to continue Christ’s work for us.

In summary, the following is the key financial information for the first six months:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| • Operating account balance | \$130,871.86 |
| • Benevolence account balance | \$16,170.28 |
| • Year-to-date budgeted income | \$415,195.00 |
| • Year-to-date budgeted expense | \$367,963.00 |
| • Remaining needed to retire debt | \$14,000 |

If there are questions, please let me know and I’ll try to answer them or find the answer.

Motion for Congregational approval – budget increase

History: When the budget for this year was being developed, our finances were not particularly strong. Consequently we were able to offer relatively small pay increases or in some cases, no increases at all, to our staff. The executive team and council did say that we would review our financial situation in June of this year. Our financial position is much improved from where we were last fall. Consequently, we would request that the congregation increase this year's budget by \$5,000 to facilitate one time recognition awards for the staff. These awards would be a onetime lump sum payment and will not be added to base compensation in subsequent years. Awards will range from \$250 to \$500 depending on the individual.

Motion: The council of St. John's is asking the congregation to approve an increase of \$5,000 to the current budget. The increased budget will be used to provide onetime recognition awards for the staff. This motion has been made in council and seconded. The motion is now ready for congregational vote.

**Senior Pastor's Report
Congregation Meeting
July 25-26, 2020**

The past five months have brought their share of frustrations, but throughout the quarantine, I've found new depths of comfort and peace in God's promises. I've certainly seen his love and grace at work in powerful ways among the people of St. John's.

Thank you so much to all of you who stepped up your support for our congregation during the unprecedented halt to so much economic activity in our country. I fully admit that one of my greatest worries at the beginning of March was that our congregation would be in financial straits within a few weeks of shutting down our corporate worship services. You have humbled me to my core with your amazing generosity, and the Holy Spirit has once again taught the "Eeyore" in me a good faith lesson. St. John's is currently in excellent financial shape, and we should be in a good position to move forward in our outreach and mission without too much stress for the rest of this year. In fact, I am now hopeful that we will be able to get rid of all outstanding debts by the end of 2020.

Although online communication has its limitations, I am so thankful that we've been able to utilize our church website and Facebook pages to offer worship services and proclaim Jesus Christ with sermons and studies through this period. The congregation's response to the online offerings has been wonderful. I give special thanks for Dan Czaplicki, Kevin Goebbel, and Joanne Mekis (our webmaster) for making their audio-visual talents available for the online worship services, and to Dr. John Schuder, Nick Grossman, and David Shrum for organizing the online musical offerings. Also, our weekly "drive-through" communion has been a wonderful way not only to continue sharing the Lord's Supper, but also to connect with people face-to-face and share much-needed encouragement in this trying time.

Personally, my greatest frustration has been not being able to get out and visit people in their homes, the hospitals, or nursing facilities. It is heartbreaking how many people become completely separated from their loved ones after they walk into the emergency room these days. Thankfully though, Pastor Patti and I have been able to make hundreds of phone calls through the last few months to touch base with members, especially those who have been dealing with health issues and losses. Pastor Patti and Elaine Bennett have done a great job setting up a large team of loving volunteers who are calling many of our most vulnerable members, just to talk with them regularly and offer help where needed.

Gary, Laurie and Diana have been making valiant efforts to connect with our youth online throughout the quarantine. I am always inspired by our youth ministers' unflagging energy and their passion to share Christ with our young people. Mike Esposito, Doug Jones, and Mike Grimm have been able to do a ton of painting and decluttering during the quarantine: if you haven't seen their work yet, you will be amazed at how bright and clean the 1st and 2nd floors of our building look now! And, of course, Jan Miller, our beloved office administrator, is continually blessing us all with her support, wisdom, and organizational skills.

Our temporary worship schedule seems to be working so far, offering people opportunities to come to church without having to worry about being packed together. With all the unknowns and conflicting information out there regarding the virus, we will continue with our current schedule and social distancing guidelines at least through the summer. We will try to stick to one schedule for as long as possible, to avoid confusion. When enough time goes by and we gain a better sense of how things are going locally, we may alter the schedule and cautiously add more activities to the weekly church calendar. Of course, our ultimate goal is to shift back to our normal schedule as soon as we can. In the meantime, we will continue to offer online worship services and activities for all who cannot physically come back to church just yet.

Please know that Pastor Patti and I are always here for you. Give me a direct call any time at 217.255.2118 if I can be of any service to you. Thank you all so much for your graciousness, faithfulness and patience as we roll together and improvise through these strange times! I am thankful for every day that I can serve as your pastor, and I ask for your continued prayers.

In Christ,
Pastor Seth Jersild

Associate Pastor's Report – July, 2020

"I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." (Acts 2:25-28)

During these unprecedented times, we as people of faith are called to draw on the strength that comes with believing, and reflect that in who we are and what we do.

During these last 19 weeks, since our world as we know it changed with the onslaught of Covid 19, we as a church have never stopped being who we are. Here are just a few of the wonderful things I have been a part of watching unfold.

TELECARE MINISTRY

As soon as we saw that our doors would be closed for a while, a team of 24 callers made a commitment to call 113 of our seniors, shut-ins and most frail members. Each have been assigned 5-6 people to call on a weekly basis, to check on their well-being, assure them of our prayers, and find out what sort of needs we as a church could meet. The response is overwhelming.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Some of our college and high school youth volunteered to run errands, get groceries, mow yards and perform small tasks for those who are shut-in or not venturing out during this time. I am delighted every time I call on one of them to go and be church to those who have a need. We have served many of our folks in this way.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Throughout the course of these weeks, it became apparent that some folks became unemployed, some were in need of financial assistance, and some just needed a helping hand. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have been able to distribute 53 \$100 gift cards from Kroger or Meijer to those hit especially hard during this time. We have also made rent payments and helped a few people off the street with food and shelter. THANK YOU for your generosity in enabling this to happen.

WORSHIP

Becoming a tele-evangelist was never a dream of mine, but I have sure learned the ropes in HOW to put together worship for online purposes during the building closure. Being creative with how we could still maintain a sense of community while being apart was a challenge, but with Drive-Through communion, we have been able to maintain this unity quite well. For a while doing two a week because of Lent and then Holy Week and Easter was a challenge, but we now have the swing of things. Mid-week will continue for a season, or until we deem it no longer necessary.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in faith.

Pastor Patti

Business Manager Report January to June 2020

A lot of remodeling and refreshing has been going on at St Johns. It started last fall and continues as we speak.

Thanks to our members the lower basement bathrooms have been completely remodeled and the Fellowship Hall has a new floor and completely repainted and cleaned up.

Again thanks to our members, the secretary, both pastors, Youth, and Ministry of Music, and Lay Ministry offices have been updated with paint, carpeting, window treatments and used and new furniture.

We also replaced the split-faced heating and ac units that serve both pastor's offices. The old one was not working and too expensive to repair.

One of the double heat and Ac units in the Family Life Center had to be replaced. It was not working and again too expensive to repair. The men's bathroom in the FLC has had all of the toilets replaced. They were having issues as they were installed in 1995.

This past week on June 28th I responded to a letter from the City of Grove City requiring St Johns to remove 7 dead ash trees that have begun falling across the creek towards the property of our neighbors. They have been removed.

Finally a lot of time and energy has been spent finding all of the supplies needed for the drive through communion and now the soft opening of services in the church and the Family Life Center.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or stop in.

Michael Esposito
Business Manager

**YOUTH STAFF REPORT
JANUARY 2020 – JULY 2020 HIGHLIGHTS**

Diana Imbrock (part time)
Gary Pecuch (ten hours a week)
Laurie Pecuch (full time)

January

Super Bowl Service Project brought in \$1,254 for Grove City Food Pantry shopping and \$300 for Lutheran Social Services. Student Leader for Super Bowl Sunday was Mahala Wanner.

Weekly youth groups met: Adventure Club, Faith Trek, Explorers, Energizers, High School Bible Study, Confirmation Sunday School, High School Sunday School

February

Blankets of Love Service Project was led by student leader Lauren Wahl and family. Through the congregation's giving and two Thrivent Grants, 55 Blankets (tied by members of St. John's) sheet sets and mattress pads were given to the Bed Brigade.

The Lenten Bible Project started in February, led by fifth and sixth graders: Corban Allman, Dylan, Allman, Jacob Allmon, Brooklyn Cress, Layla Greer, Brayden Gottshall, Matthew Little, Ben Previts, Colton Thompson, Hunter Thompson, Jake Westerfeld, Merrick Wilson.

Weekly youth groups met: Adventure Club, Faith Trek, Explorers, Energizers, High School Bible Study, Confirmation Sunday School, High School Sunday School

March

Second Year Advance for 8th grade confirmation class took place at Lutheran Memorial Camp

Weekly youth groups met through mid-March: Adventure Club, Faith Trek, Explorers, Energizers, High School Bible Study, Confirmation Sunday School, High School Sunday School

Due to CoVid and quarantine: Virtual GoToMeetings started for all weekly youth groups the last week in March.

The Lenten Bible Project continued.

April

Weekly virtual GoToMeeting for Children's Connection (taking place of Adventure Club, Faith Trek, and younger Sunday School classes)

Weekly virtual GoToMeetings for Explorers, Energizers, High School Bible Study, Confirmation Sunday School, and High School Sunday School

The Lenten Bible Project collected \$2,173. Bible were purchased and will be delivered to the Bed Brigade when it's safe to do so.

Missing our faith web...connections were made with children, youth, and adult leaders through notes, calls, and emails.

(more on next page)

May

Weekly virtual GoToMeetings for Children's Connection (taking place of Adventure Club, Faith Trek, and younger Sunday School classes) met through May 14.

Weekly virtual GoToMeetings for Explorers, Energizers, High School Bible Study, Confirmation Sunday School, and High School Sunday School met through May 24.

High School Sunday School helped distribute Mother's Day Flowers on May 10.

Safely distanced visits were made to homes, dropping off end-of-year bags to Children's Connection, Explorers, and Energizers.

June

Student Celebration, led by Brooklyn Cress and family, collected close to 1,000 notes. Eighty-eight students, grades K – 12 (along with a few pre-schoolers), came through the parking lot on June 7 and received special recognition.

Graduate Sunday was also held on June 7. Fourteen seniors received recognition and beautifully made prayer shawls from the St. John's Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Started Two New Ministries: *Summer Connex* (weekly virtual Zoom meetings with middle school and high school youth) and *Family Faith Boxes* (monthly devotional box that is hand delivered to homes – each week has a special faith activity for families to experience together – we do a weekly facebook video highlighting the faith activity for that week)

56 FAMILY FAITH BOXES were delivered in June to families who requested the box. Of those 56 boxes, 11 are being delivered to families who requested a box to share with their neighbor.

July

60 FAMILY FAITH BOXES were delivered in July to families who requested the box. Of those 60 boxes, 13 are being delivered to families who requested a box to share with their neighbor.

Connex continues with middle school and high school youth (weekly Zoom meetings)

Report from the Minister of Music

In my eleven years of serving St. John's, I've yet to write a report to the congregation—in fact, it is not a requirement of my employment—but given the nature of life as we are now living it and the necessity of adapting to the new circumstances this requires, I thought a few words about the music ministry at the church might be in order.

Following the lead of the pastors, I and the musicians of the Family Life Center provided musical segments for the online services and now can once again produce sacred music for those who feel comfortable coming into our spaces for worship. I believe I speak for everyone involved when I say we all are overjoyed to be serving the church with at least some of the congregants we are accustomed to seeing and eagerly anticipate the time when everyone is able to rejoin us in corporate worship.

Speaking personally, I have been so grateful for the devotion of choir members and their willingness to gather for rehearsal, recording sessions, and now sanctuary services. Of course, the number of singers participating has had to be limited by seating restrictions within the requirements of social distancing, but I hope to gradually add others who are comfortable with the current arrangement. Except for most Sundays in August, singers will continue to join me in the chancel. In the meantime, I extend my deep appreciation to all the participants with special thanks to our pastors for adding their fine voices to our efforts. And, since it is difficult to record the organ as it truly sounds, it is a pleasure to be playing our magnificent instrument for worship in real time!

John