

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

2020



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
3220 Columbus Street
Grove City, Ohio 43123

Dear Members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

During this Epiphany season we pray that the light of God will shine in your life and fill you with God's love. During this difficult time we will have the Annual Meeting this year, but several things will be done differently due to the Covid virus.

1. **Meetings** will be held in person on January 30, 31 meeting at each service in the same way we do quarterly meetings.
2. **Materials** will be available by January 16 to either pick up at church entrances or download from the church website. The finance report will be available a week later. We hope that everyone will read through the materials ahead of time so that all we have to do during the meeting will be to take the appropriate votes.
3. If you have any **questions** about the reports, please contact the ministry person responsible for the report. Contact information is on each report.
4. If you wish to **nominate** someone other than those put forward by the nominating committee, please contact me by text to 614-404-3281 or by email at nevawarren@sbcglobal.net. **by January 25 so the names can be added to the ballot.**
5. If you are unable to attend in person, you will still be able to **vote** by texting your vote to one of these numbers between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. on January 31.

Neva Warren - 614-404-3281

Melissa Butsko – 614-205-3239

Kevin Stenerson – 614-323-1456

Dan Yeater – 614-309-7070

If you cannot text, you can email your vote to:

nevawarren@sbcglobal.net between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. on the

31st. Please include your name and the issue on which you are voting:

- a. I vote yes/no to approve the minutes of previous meetings
- b. I vote yes/no to approve the finance report.
- c. I vote yes/no to approve the 2021 budget.
- d. I vote yes/no to approve all ministry reports
- e. I vote yes/no to approve the constitutional amendments
- f. Elections: please list name of each person for whom you are voting.

If you have questions about this process, please contact Neva Warren at the phone number and email address given in #4. Thank you for your patience and willingness to participate in the business of the church as we do the Lord's work. Please share this information with any members who may not have access to email. Thank you for your help.

May God send his blessings upon you.

Neva Warren, Congregation President

St. John's Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting

January 30, 31, 2021

1. Opening prayer – Lord, be here among us as we seek to do the business of your church. Give us a sense of peace in these difficult times and send your spirit to inspire and lead us. In Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Call Meeting to order
3. Approval of minutes of previous meetings
 - a) Quarterly Meeting
 - b) Annual Meeting, January 2020
4. Financial report
5. 2021 Budget
6. Senior Pastor's report
7. Associate Pastor's report
8. Business Manager Report/Facility Projects Update
9. Youth Ministry report
10. Lay Ministry report
11. Bed Brigade Ministry Update
12. Membership statistics
13. Ratification of NALC constitution amendments
14. Election of Officers/ Congregation Council/ Nominating Team
15. Close with Lord's Prayer

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
October 24-25, 2020

Opening Prayer: Offered by President Neva Warren.

Meeting Called to Order: President Neva Warren called the meeting to order on Saturday, October 24, 2020 after service and Sunday, October 25 after each Traditional Service. Vice-president Kevin Stenerson called the meeting to order after the Contemporary Service. The Quarterly Meeting agenda, the July Quarterly Meeting Minutes, the September Monthly Financial Statement, Senior Pastor's and Associate Pastor's Reports, and the Youth and Family Ministry's Report were distributed to those in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes from the July 2020 Quarterly Meeting was made by Mike Gibboney and seconded by Cindy Pennington. Motion passes with voice vote as submitted at each after-service meeting.

Financial Report: Dan Yeater led the overview of St. John's September 2020 Monthly Financial Statement. Dan stated that the church is in a strong financial situation due to the generosity of the congregation. The Fund Differences for September show that we overspent income by approximately \$13,000. This was due to several one-time expenses including insurance, recognition awards for staff, and a late invoice for part-time work. Dan brought attention to the outstanding Organ and Renovations Loan of \$17,200.40. There is \$12,624.90 in holding which means \$4575.50 is needed to pay off the loan by the end of the year. A motion to accept the September 2020 Monthly Financial Statement was made by Charlie Brown and seconded by Phil Pennington. Motion passes with voice vote as submitted at each after-service meeting.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth encouraged the congregation to review his report.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti encouraged the congregation to review her report. She expressed thanks to the congregation for their generosity to the Benevolence Fund which includes the Good Samaritan Fund. The Good Samaritan Fund helps 12 – 17 people a month from our community. She also expressed thanks to those who have given to the NALC Disaster Relief efforts.

Other Items: None.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 19, 2020

Opening Prayer: Offered by President Neva Warren.

Meeting Called to Order: President Neva Warren called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Meeting packets were distributed and included: Agenda, Quarterly Meeting Minutes – 10/26-27/2019, Annual Meeting Minutes – 1/27/2019, December 2019 Monthly Financial Statement and Weekly Contribution Summary, Proposed 2020 Budget for Congregational Approval, 2019 Business Manager Annual Report, Associate Pastor's Annual Report, Senior Pastor's Annual Report, 2019 Annual Report from the Youth Staff, 2019 Annual Report from Lay Ministry, Sunday School Annual Report, Altar Guild Annual Report, Bereavement Annual Report, Membership Report and Vision for the Nursery.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Barb Armentrout to accept the October Quarterly Meeting and 2019 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Cindy Henricksen. Minutes approved as submitted.

Financial Report: Treasurer Dan Yeater directed the congregation's attention to the Monthly Financial Statement for December 2019. Dan gave a general overview of Current Operating Fund, Building and Maintenance Operating Fund, and Benevolence Fund balances. He expressed what a blessing it was to have such an outpouring of giving in December. He thanked the congregation for their generosity. A motion was made by Keith Stenerson to accept the December 2019 Monthly Financial Statement. Motion seconded by Teresa Orahood. December 2019 Monthly Financial Statement approved as submitted.

Proposed 2020 Budget: Dan Yeater reviewed the Proposed 2020 Budget with the congregation. This budget is \$17,000 less than the approved 2019 budget. The largest decrease is \$24,390 due to a line-item removal for a visitation pastor. Dan addressed questions from the congregation. A motion was made by Karl Moe to accept the Proposed 2020 Budget. Motion seconded by Cynthia Hutson. Proposed 2020 Budget approved as submitted.

Facility Projects Update: The 2019 Business Manager Annual Report included a list of projects that have been completed and were paid for by donations of the congregation. President Warren thanked the congregation for their generosity.

Associate Pastor's Report: The congregation was directed to review Pastor Patti's written report.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth thanked the congregation for their support and love they continue to show toward him and Karen. He highlighted areas of his annual report including how pleased he is with the small group ministries and how to continue the small groups once *Going Deeper* has ended. He touched on hospital and homebound visitation, Hospitality Team, Safety Team, and the growing Contemporary worship service.

Additional Reports: President Neva Warren encouraged members to carefully read the prepared reports made available in the Annual Meeting Packet.

Election of Officers/Congregation Council/Nominating Team

Neva Warren reviewed the Nominating Team's Slate of Officers for 2020:

President: Neva Warren

Treasurer: Dan Yeater

Church Council Members:

Debbie Abbitt

Aaron Clark

Kevin Stenerson

Fred Previts

Nominating Team Members for 2021:

Leigh Counts

Jennifer Uhrin

Karl Eiginger

Barry Fisher

Tammy LeVally

Karen Grossman

NALC Delegates:

Don Allman

Glenda Allman

Karen Bentley

Elaine Bennett

Neva Warren asked for additions to the current slate of nominees. No names given. A motion was made by Jeff Dardinger to accept the entire ballot by acclamation, second – Warren Althoff. Ballot approved by congregational acclamation.

Other items: There was a request to make the church mission statement available to members, possibly post it in the church or include in the bulletin.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting closed at 1:38 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

2020 Financial Summary
Prepared for Annual Congregational Meeting

Overview

2020 has been a very different year in many regards. Our Church family has met unprecedented challenges as have the staff. We have missed worship with our fellow Christians and missed our church activities. Through all of these challenges, God has blessed St. John's in extraordinary ways. The St. John's family's financial response to the needs of the church and to the needs of those less fortunate has been very generous. Additionally, due to the faithfulness of the congregation, we were able to pay off the organ and renovation loan.

The congregation starts 2021 on a very strong financial footing. 2020 saw a 34% decline in attendance, while financial gifts increased by 2% compared to 2019. Gifts designated to help others (benevolence, Good Samaritan, etc.) increased by 40%. This generosity and faithfulness has allowed the St. John's family to help many additional families as they navigate these difficult times.

The detail financial report for month ending December is attached for your review. I am aware of no financial concerns with any of our accounts.

If you have questions or concerns you can contact me by email DLYEATER53@aol.com or by phone at 614.309.7070.

Thank you for your continued support for Christ's work.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Yeater

St. John's Lutheran Church

Monthly Financial Statement
Prepared 1/16/2021

December 2020

Monthly/Year to Date Major Funds		
Month of:	December	Year to Date
Income		
Current	\$66,744.62	\$607,355.21
Benevolence	\$7,646.40	\$68,988.99
Building & Maint.	\$10,101.78	\$100,983.81
Total Operating Income	\$84,492.80	\$777,328.01
Expenses		
Current	\$46,235.86	\$550,758.53
Benevolence	\$4,312.78	\$60,829.11
Building & Maint.	\$6,490.96	\$118,968.89
Total Operating Expense	\$57,039.60	\$730,556.53
Fund Differences		
Current	\$20,508.76	\$ 56,596.68
Benevolence	\$3,333.62	\$ 8,159.88
Building & Maint.	\$3,610.82	\$ (17,985.08)
Totals	\$27,453.20	\$ 46,771.48

Approved Non-Budgeted Expenditures	
Account	Year to Date
Current	\$0.00
Benevolence (Previous Year/Designated)	\$23,829.11
Building & Maintenance	\$0.00
Total Income	\$23,829.11

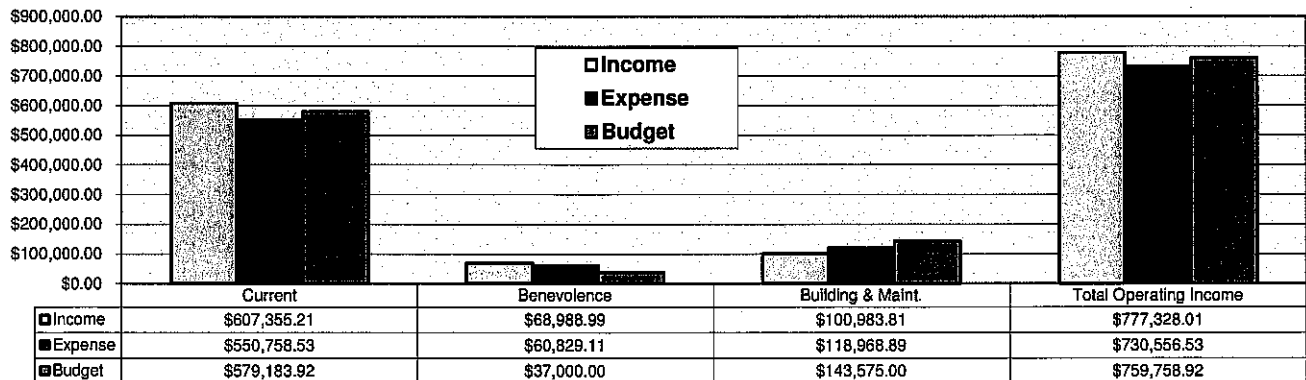
Budget Comparison - Year to Date		
Account	Budget	Actual
Current - Budgeted	\$579,183.92	\$550,758.53
Benevolence - Budgeted	\$37,000.00	\$60,829.11
Bldg & Maint - Budgeted	\$143,575.00	\$118,968.89
Totals	\$759,758.92	\$730,556.53

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:	December 2020	Since Inception
Current	\$0.00	\$288,117.65

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	\$133,820.44
Benevolence	\$12,778.33
Organ & Renovations Debt Reduction Fund	\$1,567.97
DESIGNATED:	
Genesis Fund	\$3,181.88
Youth Designated Fund	\$32,432.29
MOPS Designated Fund	\$3,760.26
Sarah Circle & Elizabeth Circle	\$91.60
Beacons	\$128.00
Bed Brigade Ministry	\$23,201.64
Bereavement Dinner Ministry	\$1,675.83
Designated Funds Interest	\$184.01
MEMORIAL:	
Memorial Fund Unrestricted Savings	\$49,913.75
Memorial Restricted (M/R) Library	\$311.74
M/R Handbell	\$4,521.82
M/R Kitchen	\$5,223.83
M/R Music	\$3,477.47
M/R Youth Camp Memorials	\$849.93
M/R Youth	\$3,589.18
M/R OWLs	\$821.40
M/R Special One-Time Account	\$12,087.44
M/R Van Fund	\$0.00
M/R Puppet Ministry	\$1,350.81
M/R Mission Trip Gen	\$26,314.15
M/R Mission Trip Alaska	\$11,679.36
M/R Mission Trip Mexico	\$12,475.80
M/R Columbarium Fund	\$12,780.00
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)	\$142,713.78
ENDOWMENT-AVAILABLE INCOME:	
Endowment/Gen/Available Income	\$20,345.80
Endowment/Prop/Available Income	\$7,804.74
Endowment/Youth/Available Income	\$3,505.47
Cemetery Available-HNB Premium MM	\$3,716.84
COLLEGE GRANTS/SUMWALT LOANS:	
College Fund Savings - HNB	\$5,508.90
Sumwalt Savings Account - HNB	\$4,087.97
Loans Payable	
Organ & Renovations Loan	\$0.00



2021 Proposed Budget for Congregational Approval

Attached is the proposed 2021 operating budget for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The proposed budget is about \$15,000 less than the 2020 budget. The reason for the decrease is that we are able to remove \$36,000 from last year's budget due to the loan being paid off. There is about a \$20,000 increase in the other operating accounts. The major areas of increase are in building & maintenance and a modest salary increase for the staff.

If you have questions regarding the proposed budget you can contact me (Dan Yeater) by email DLYEATER53@aol.com or by phone 614.309.7070.

Thank you

Proposed 2021 Budget

1/14/2

Category/Network	2020 Budget	2020 vs 2021 variance	2021 Proposed
Debt Reduction Total	\$36,000.00	(\$36,000.00)	\$0.00
Stewardship Total	\$2,175.00	\$0.00	\$2,175.00
Benevolence Total	\$37,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$38,500.00
Youth & Family Ed. Total	\$8,750.00	\$1,400.00	\$10,150.00
Evangelism Total	\$2,060.00	\$150.00	\$2,210.00
Fellowship Total	\$5,150.00	(\$50.00)	\$5,100.00
Finance Total	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Spiritual Care Total	\$5,100.00	\$1,675.00	\$6,775.00
Worship Total	\$15,425.00	\$200.00	\$15,625.00
Youth Total	\$13,000.00	\$50.00	\$13,050.00
Property Mgt. Total	\$143,575.00	\$5,625.00	\$149,200.00
Admin. Operations Total	\$19,800.00	(\$800.00)	\$19,000.00
Pastoral Staff Total	205,280.60	2,907.21	208,187.81
Youth Staff Total	98,595.98	1,897.92	100,493.90
Support Staff Total	202,947.17	6,380.52	209,327.69
Grand Total	\$795,758.75	(\$15,064.34)	\$780,694.41

**Senior Pastor's Report
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 30-31, 2021**

2020 has been a year of unique frustrations. Praise be to our Almighty God, who continues to speak his life-giving Word to us, giving us forgiveness, wisdom, and courage to be his *royal priesthood* (1 Peter 2:9), proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ in this deeply broken world.

Thank you so much for your flexibility regarding our modified worship schedule and social distancing practices at church. Your loving consideration for each other is very touching to see whenever we gather together in our church building. Many St. John's members are choosing to come physically to worship, and many others are choosing to worship God through our online services. Either way, our members are making wise, faithful decisions that we honor and uphold. All of us are looking forward to the day when we feel comfortable to worship together again in person.

Moving forward, we will continue to follow our policy of pausing in-person worship services if Franklin County Public Health declares a "purple" level health advisory (indicating severe risk of exposure and spread of the virus). We followed this policy when infection levels spiked in November. Thankfully, the county dropped to "red" level before Christmas Eve. We hope and pray that we will be able to continue uninterrupted with our regular worship schedule from here on out, but we will continue to be diligent in monitoring the public advisories.

I want to thank all of you who stepped up your support for our congregation during the unprecedented slow-down of so much economic activity in our country this past year. St. John's is currently in good financial shape, and we are in a strong position to move forward in our outreach and mission in 2021. Great news: **we were able to pay off all our debts in 2020.** Praise be to God, and thank you so much to all of you who gave so generously over the past several years to the organ and renovation fund. St. John's is now debt-free!

The congregation's response to the online worship services has been wonderful. Again, I want to give special thanks for Larry and Johnathan Mitchell, 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 sharing many online musical offerings over the past year. Also, our weekly "drive-through" communion has been a great way to share the Lord's Supper with those who have not been able to come physically into the church building.

Several of our *Going Deeper* small groups have continued to meet online or in person through the pandemic. They are currently studying the Ten Commandments. A new packet of materials will become available in late February. I encourage you to join a small group if you are not already part of one. Give me a call at 217-255-2118 anytime and I will help you connect with a group. This year, I will be encouraging specific people to pray about taking on a leadership role with their own *Going Deeper* groups once we finish with the materials I've been producing. In the future, I want to coach lay leaders who are finding their own ministry materials for their groups. I would love to see the day come when anyone can walk in to St. John's and

immediately connect with a small group who will nurture and uphold them in the Word of God and in loving fellowship.

In addition to producing the small group materials, I've been enjoying the weeknight and Sunday night Bible studies we've been able to do in 2020, on Job, Romans, and 1 Peter. If you haven't ever been part in a Bible study (or it's been a long time), I encourage you to jump into the current offering: 1 John. We meet at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday nights in the Family Life Center, where there's plenty of room for us to spread out.

Due to the pandemic, I've had to temporarily suspend my quest to visit all the member households of St. John's. I've really missed the home visits! However, as restrictions loosen and people become more comfortable with having visitors in their homes, I will resume my efforts. I've gotten off to a very good start. If you receive a phone call from me this year regarding a possible visit, please just let me know if you aren't comfortable with it yet—I will totally understand!

I've been so blessed to work with our wonderful church staff at St. John's. 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, to talk with them regularly and offer help where needed. They've also been organizing regular gift-assistance to members who are in need. Gary, Laurie and Diana continue to connect online regularly with our youth. Our youth ministers' energy and passion to share Christ with our young people is so uplifting and inspiring to me! 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, you will be amazed at how bright and clean the education wing of our building looks now! And, of course, Jan Miller, our beloved office administrator, continually blesses us all with her support, wisdom, and organizational skills.

Please know that I am always here for you. Give me a direct call any time at 217.255.2118. Thank you all so much for your graciousness, faithfulness and patience as we move forward together in Christ through these tumultuous times. I am thankful for every day that I can serve as your pastor, and I ask for your continued prayers.

May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. And brothers and sisters: whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. (Philippians 4:7-8)

In Christ,
Pastor Seth Jersild

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

(Ephesians 2:8-10)

One of the signs that a church is finding its hope and righteousness solely in the good news of Jesus is that the lives of its members are committed to good works, for the glory of God.

While our deeds could never merit the righteousness required to be justified by God, just the same, a faith that is devoid of good works is, as the apostle James says, dead. *‘So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.’* (James 2:17) This past year, our congregation has shown that our righteousness is secured in Christ. The Lord has shown us the needs that have arisen in our congregation and our community, and we have stepped up to meet those needs. In spite of and because of the pandemic, we have found creative and innovative ways to reach out to those in need and show them Jesus. I have heard on so many different occasions the sentiment that “We have never had a church love us so well. Your love has been shown not just in word, but in deed, and we are so grateful for your kindness to us in our time of need.”

This has been a hard year, and in the midst of the many challenges we have had to face, many of you were praying and asking for ways to get involved, for ways to love our neighbors, for ways to be a light in the darkness for those in need. Your generosity has been reflected in the giving of your time and energy, your willing spirit, and your financial gifts. Because of you, we have been able to lend a helping hand to so many people, who found themselves unemployed and struggling to make ends meet. Because of you, we have been able to feed those who may otherwise have gone without. Because of you, we have reached out to the lonely and alone with phone calls, letters and cards of cheer, prayer and concern. Because of you we have provided much needed acts of service from grocery shopping, to yard care, to light housework, to bringing meals in times of need. Because of you, we have been able to continue providing beds for those

who have not, blankets and Bibles to warm and comfort, and again, prayer to show the love of Jesus. Because of you, we have continued to reach the youngest members of our community, by providing VBS boxes as well as Sunday School materials so that their tender hearts would be filled with the reminder of God's love for them. You have shown the beautiful picture of what it looks like when the church remembers that it is one body – that *“when one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”* (1 Corinthians 12: 26)

In the unlikely circumstances of this pandemic, The Lord has shown us a way forward to provide love, care and the Good News of Jesus Christ. As your Associate Pastor, I am truly honored to be a part of this wonderful community of faith. I look forward in HOPE to what God will do in and through us in the coming year.

*Forward in Faith,
Pastor Patti*

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

2020

2020 started off like many other years at St. John's with annual inspections of fire, security, plumbing, electrical, and heating and cooling systems.

We had a continuing problem with bats in all three buildings that kept setting off the security system. A pest control company has been working to find where the bats are getting in and blocking access.

We continued with the remodel of both pastor's offices with upgrades in window treatments, paint, carpet, furniture, etc. The offices of the Minister of Music and the Director of Lay Ministries were also updated with paint, carpeting and furniture.

Then Covid arrived at St. John's. With no services, programs and all meetings in the building were suspended. It seemed to be the ideal time to do repairs, paint, replace carpeting, install new flooring, remodel bathrooms etc. so that is what happened. It was necessary to replace the split face heating and cooling units that service the pastor's office's, the office, the work room of the secretary, and one of the large double heating and cooling units in the Family Life Center. Member donations allowed for the repairs to two sections of the sidewalk on the west side of the church. The viewing and seating area in front of the Columbarium at our cemetery was black-topped, ending the ongoing problem with weeds. The handicapped ramp at the church was also repaired. Member donations covered the cost of the majority of the projects such as the flooring, carpeting, painting, bathroom remodel, and furniture upgrades. The donation of members time and talents, as well as monetary donations, were involved in many of these projects.

Due to Covid, groups who normally met at St. Johns could no longer access the building and began meeting in the shelter house. Since they could not access the building I rented a Port-a-Potty to give them bathroom access.

This year the entire front and back parking lots were crack sealed. It was a good time since there were no cars to deal with. Next year will be time to do a complete seal and restriping.

Covid changed our Faith Mission Dinner Program. We could no longer bring actual food in and feed the men dinner due to the dining room currently being used as sleeping quarters. The women's circles have been on hold for fixing food and the family who support this program has been mailing a donation to the mission for them to purchase what they need to keep these men fed, while keeping our volunteers safe from the virus.

I want to especially thank all of our members who helped with many of the projects that have been completed at St. John's this past year through their donations of money and time and talents. I want to thank our two custodians, Doug Jones and Michael Grimm, for the excellent job they did keeping our facilities clean and their never ending willingness to remodel, upgrade and paint. Great Job Guys!

2021 Projects

1. Altar Guild Room needs to be updated with a new sink, countertop and heat source.
2. Install a concrete sidewalk on the west side of the Family Life Center where we currently have pavers. Due to freezing and thawing, the pavers are not level making them a tripping hazard.
3. We need to continue the process of replacing more of the old fluorescent ceiling lights with new LED fixtures. The LED fixtures require less maintenance while providing better and more consistent lighting.
4. The addition of a free-standing storage building behind the dumpster on the north side of the garage. This building will hold items like our Christmas decorations, and Vacation Bible School materials and supplies. This will eliminate some paid storage expenses.

Michael Esposito
Business Manager
St. John's Lutheran Church

Youth Staff Annual Report 2020

Diana Imbrock (part time)

Gary Pecuch (ten hours a week)

Laurie Pecuch (full time)

Highlights for 2020

- Souper bowl Service Project, student-led by Mahala Wanner, raised \$1,254 for Grove City Food Pantry and \$300 for Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. Mahala is now a freshmen at Ohio University. Blake Lang is going to take over this project in 2021.
- Blankets of Love, student-led by Lauren Wahl (and her family), gave 55 fleece blankets (along with sheets and mattress pads) to the Bed Brigade. This was made possible through the congregation's giving, two Thrivent Grants, St. John's small groups, and countless hands that lovingly tied blankets.
- The Lenten Bible Project, 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), collected \$2,173 for the purchase of bibles that were given to the Bed Brigade.
- With the pandemic and state stay-at-home order, we moved all youth group activities (Adventure Club, Faith Trek, Explorers, Energizers), middle school confirmation, and high school Sunday School and bible study to virtual meetings. Coordinating our efforts with Sunday School Superintendent, Tim Allman, youth ministry materials for ages 3 through high school were made available to children, youth and families. These materials correspond with weekly themes and are experienced during virtual meetings or at home with a parent. Stepping up to help package these materials: Debbie Abbitt, Don and Glenda Allman, Tim and Christina Allman, Karen Grossman, Barb Hill, Susan Koehler, and Sue Sutton.
- Student Celebration, student led by Brooklyn Cress (and family), collected close to 1,000 notes of encouragement to student who had completed an unprecedented school year with CoVid19. Eighty-eight students, grades K – 12 (along with a few pre-schoolers), came through the parking lot on June 7th and received special recognition.
- Graduate Sunday was also held on June 7th. Fourteen seniors received recognition and beautifully made prayer shawls from the St. John's Prayer Shawl Ministry.
- With the pandemic and camps being closed for the summer, we created a new ministry for families which we call the "Family Faith Box". Each box contains materials for the family to experience faith together. Up to 60 boxes were delivered throughout the summer. Helping deliver were Debbie Abbitt, Barb Hill and church staff. (This ministry continues to be offered.) Throughout the summer, we also continued with weekly virtual meetings with middle and high school youth.
- Students who confirmed their faith at in-person worship on September 27: Ally Blankenship, Tyler Dent, Alli Ferguson, Jaylynn Jermann, Blake Lang, Ellen Previts, Ethan Weaver
- Operation Christmas Child, led by the Butsko family (Rick, Melissa, Jeremy, Annaleise) collected 162 boxes for Samaritan's Purse. Creating an on-line box was made available for the first time this year.

- The Bike Project, student-led by Dylan Allman, raised \$1,523 assembled and delivered 25 bikes to The Buckeye Ranch, for distribution to children and youth in foster homes in the Columbus area. Thrivent monies were also allocated for this project.
- The Mitten Tree, student-led by Ellen Previts, collected and delivered 393 mittens, gloves, and scarves to the LSS Champion Food Pantry.

Two new goals for 2021:

- AXIS, an on-line parenting resource, will be provided to parents, families, and adults who faith web with our youth.
- Researching a video resource for confirmation students who are unable to attend in-person learning events. Upon completion, this make-up resource could be made available to other NALC churches.

Special thanks to:

- Gary and Kim Allen for their generous donation to the St. John's playground. We will be getting a team together in 2021 to assess the playground for future improvements.
- Ron Nighbert for being the financial recorder for the Youth Designated Fund.
- Gayla and Jeff Anderson for their continual donations to the Youth Ministries.
- Kevin and Holly Starr for their special donation given every year in honor of Brock, Grace, Jaxon and Alice Starr.
- Pam Wittenberg for her expertise and support with the SCRIP program. SCRIP raised \$1,895 in 2020.
- Kevin Goebbel for beautifully recording worship on Confirmation Sunday and his continual creative energy in promoting the youth ministries at St. John's.
- Jenny Brockman for her boundless knowledge and expertise in assisting Gary with his faith webbing podcasts and for her creative family advent calendar that lifted hearts in 2020.
- Karen Grossman who faithfully sends birthday cards to Adventure Club students throughout the pandemic.
- Members who use AmazonSmile when ordering through Amazon thus raising \$228 for the youth program in 2020.
- Members who have linked their Kroger Card with the Kroger Community Rewards Program, raising \$1,860 this past year. Our enrollment number is EY530.

St. John's is a treasure and a gift. Our faith web is very dear to us! Thank you for your faithfulness, prayers, and support! -Gary, Laurie, Diana

Director of Lay Ministries 2020 Annual Report

As we all know, the year 2020 began as any other year. Lay ministries were moving forward and many good things were happening at St. John's.

One of the things I was most excited about was our plan to kick start our Sunday school program. Pastor Seth, Tim Allman, the youth directors and myself were meeting regularly to share ideas and map out a plan for increasing Sunday school interest and attendance. A Sunday school teacher's appreciation luncheon was held on Sunday, February 9th. On March 1st we held the first (of what we had hoped were many) parenting classes. It was well attended, there was a positive energy in the room as we were excited to move forward. Also at the beginning of March, Easter Family Fun Night was completely planned out and I was beginning to recruit volunteers for all of our Holy Week and Easter activities. Then, on March 12th everything was shut down.

Our staff met to talk about what church would look like going forward. We closed off the building, cancelled in person services and began to offer drive thru communion. I, as well as many of our staff members, spent the coming weeks connecting with our members to make sure everyone was safe and healthy and to see if anyone was in need of assistance from the church. I was and still am responsible for lining up volunteers to help with drive thru communion. I have also been responsible for sending regular communications to the congregation regarding worship schedules, happenings within the congregation, etc.

Shortly after the shutdown happened I helped organize and promote a food drive for the Grove City Food Pantry. For 2 weeks we collected food and household items as the shelter house in connection with drive thru communion. The response was overwhelming. Many, many box loads of goods were donated to help our community get through this difficult time.

As Holy Week and Easter approached, I worked closely with Pastor Patti to help enhance the drive thru experience for our members. Stations of the Cross were set up in the back parking lot and side drive. On Easter Sunday, we played Easter hymns on the loud speaker, the driveway was decorated and the front crosses were draped in cloth. Members were very complementary of all that was done to make Holy Week and Easter feel as special as possible given the circumstances.

Small gift bags were assembled and passed out to all of the mothers attending drive-thru communion on May 10th to wish them a Happy Mother's Day during this time when families were encouraged not to spend time together. This was also well received and the same was done for all of the dads on Father's Day, June 21st.

In July, a small team of volunteers gathered in the Family Life Center to assemble Vacation Bible School boxes for our youth and children in the community. The VBS boxes were a mix of virtual learning and hands on learning. The boxes also included a theme related snack each day and service projects for the children to complete at home and distribute within our community. They also included a few fun surprises. 😊

In the fall our nominating team met on a regular basis to discern our church leaders for coming year. The team did a wonderful job of asking and lining up our leaders for next year. Thank you so much to the team for all of their hard work.

Also in the fall, a small group of people got together to plan a socially distanced and safe Trunk or Treat experience for the community. All activities took place outside and were well-spaced out. We had a wonderful turnout from the community and our church family. We had plenty of volunteers and a good and welcoming time seemed to have been had by all.

On Election Day, outreach bags were distributed to the members of our community that came to vote at our church. The bags contained a KIND bar, a bottled water, a verse of encouragement and a label listing our worship schedule. We thought a little KINDness could go a long way in the current political climate.

A team of volunteers helped decorate the sanctuary again this year for Christmas. Since we were not sure if we would be worshiping in the church or not, we definitely scaled back our decorating. I am very thankful for the volunteers who

helped assemble and decorated the Christmas trees and decorated the sanctuary. It looked beautiful for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to do our traditional Christmas Caroling to our homebound members. Instead, we decided to deliver "Christmas Kindness" to many people in our congregation. We assembled gift bags containing communion, Christmas face masks, a Christmas card, Portals of Prayer and a few other goodies. We also purchased a small poinsettia to be passed out. On December 13th, 28 volunteers (individual and households) made deliveries to 80 families. Our recipients were called in advance to let them know someone would be stopping by. The goodies were left on our members porches so all deliveries were contactless. It was great to be in contact with and deliver Christmas cheer to so many in one afternoon.

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to everyone who helped carry out our ministries during this strange and difficult year. Even though our church was shut down for in-person worship for the majority of the year, I feel that many wonderful things still happened in the Lay Ministry area.

On a personal note, I am extremely thankful and blessed by everyone who prayed for my family, provided meals and sent us cards while Tony and I had COVID. You will never know how much that meant to us. You will also never know how very happy I was and am to see everyone at drive thru communion on a weekly basis. That is truly the highlight of my week each and every week. It is such a great relief to see everyone, even if briefly, and to know that you are okay.

May 2021 be a year of rich blessings to you!

Sincerely,

Elaine Bennett

Bed Brigade 2021 Update
Jan 2021 -> from Dean Hoover

Bed Brigade operates as a ministry of St. John's. We build and deliver beds all over Franklin County in an effort to see God's kingdom come, here in Columbus. Each person receives a bed and mattress, mattress pad, sheets, blanket and pillow, a stuffed animal, Bible or age-appropriate Bible story, and a Prayer Shawl. The only criteria are that a person (1) need a bed, and (2) that they contact us. We receive referrals from social agencies, pastors, neighbors, family and some find our page on Facebook.

In this Covid season, we have developed two new practices. To protect our new friends and our team, we developed Stop, Drop and Pray. We Stop at a home, Drop off beds and bedding, along with instructions and a YouTube link, and we offer to Pray with the family. At the end of each month we offer further assistance to the more needy (single moms, elderly, infirm), and we enter the home and assemble beds as we did prior to Covid. We have lately been delivering in 'Micro' teams. Teams of 1-3 volunteers prep and deliver beds. We are working to minimize contact and prevent spread of the Covid virus.

We were shut down in March due to Covid. We didn't deliver any beds. It felt pretty miserable. At that time, we didn't know how we could proceed. Ron Nighbert wasn't feeling good and was diagnosed with cancer in his stomach. Ron heads up our Bed Builds and Prep. He spent a good part of 2020 fighting cancer. Additionally, with colleges and universities shut down, our primary source of mattresses was shut off. It felt like the last straw was increasing cost. After 2 hurricanes in the gulf and BLM protests, the cost of lumber to build our beds soared. The cost of a 2 by 4 increased from \$3.45 last winter to almost \$6 currently. Overall, our lumber cost has increased around 50%.

Our ability to meet these obstacles did not seem sufficient. We witnessed God come alongside and overcome each of these barriers. We resumed deliveries in July. Ron has completed chemotherapy and looks and feels much better (Please continue in prayer as his final check is coming up in Feb). We have received grants and donations to cover the costs of materials and lumber. We currently have enough mattresses to carry us through summer.

Remarkably, despite all of this, we have built and delivered **nearly 500 beds** in 2020! We partnered with neighboring churches like the Naz, Cypress and Covenant. Civic groups, the Rotary Clubs of Grove City, Westerville and Upper Arlington, and the Elks have all helped out. Our Monday night delivery team has been faithful. Our friends at UALC have been faithful. Our volunteers from Peace Methodist and Peace Lutheran have been faithful. God has been faithful!

500 beds in this Covid season seems a lot, and it is! But it's also MORE. That's 500 people up off the floor! Maybe 500 children out of bed with stepmom/ stepdad. 500 people with their own personal safe place to rest this year! God is good!

On Friday, January 15th, Dean Hoover and Dale Corey will receive the 2020 Community Partner Award from Franklin County Children's Services on behalf of Bed Brigade. We appreciate the honor and the recognition. More so, we accept the opportunity to see Bed Brigade expand its ministry in 2021, as more families become aware that we are ready to help them.

Dreaming a new future in 2021

I look forward to delivering and assembling beds **in** the homes of our clients in 2021. I look forward to re-connecting with volunteer groups like the high school Honor Society, and other friends who have had to withdraw support in this Covid season.

As we pass out of this Covid, I would like to develop a drama team to share our mission with other churches. Just a few people to travel to churches and assemble a bed and demonstrate how easy it is to help someone in need. I believe this will attract new volunteers, increase donations, and spread the mission of Bed Brigade.

I would like to see chapters of Bed Brigade spring up in other areas of the city. Currently we have about 40 families/ 100 beds on our list. I usually ask for volunteers and then call Suzie Brace to organize our deliveries. I look forward to the day when our list is small enough that Suzie calls me! "Hey, Dean, we have 2 families, 5 beds. Can you assemble a delivery team?" Now that will be a great day!

Jeff Stenerson has been gracious to loan his Chevy Suburban to Bed Brigade almost every weekend. I would like to have a dedicated delivery vehicle.

God has been so good to us. We are grateful for his continued guidance and support. We are grateful to operate under the umbrella of St. John's. We are grateful for the leadership of friends who set this ministry in motion successfully. We are grateful for the prayer covering that protects and encourages us. We are grateful to the Grossman family for partnering with us and allowing us the use of their shop. We are grateful for the volunteers who help to organize, purchase supplies, build and deliver beds. We are grateful for the knitting ministry that provides prayer shawls. We are grateful to God.

God already knows the challenges we will face this year. He lights the path in front of us. By His grace we will stay true to that path and our ministry will bring glory and honor to the name of Jesus. That's what I want for 2021.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2020

Baptized Membership as of end of 2019	1838	Confirmed	1047
Members received during 2020			
By Baptism: Children	11		
By Baptism: Adults	1	01	
By Affirmation of Faith:	3	03	
By transfer	8	08	
From other sources & statistical adj.	1	1	
Total Members received in 2020	24		13
Baptized youth who were confirmed	<u>07</u>		<u>07</u>
Total Members Received 2020	31		20
Members removed during 2020			
By death	20	20	
By transfer	04	03	
Other sources and statistical adj.	06	06	
Total members removed in 2020	30		29
Membership end of 2020	1839		1038



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888 551 7254 ☎
office@thenalc.org ✉

September 16, 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

We pray our Lord Jesus is keeping you safe and healthy in the midst of all that is happening in our heavenly Father's creation. Thankfully, He is Lord and King of all creation.

One of the NALC's four Core Values is Congregationally Focused. Congregational participation is a cornerstone of the North American Lutheran Church's (NALC) governance. By requiring congregational ratification of certain key decisions, the NALC ensures that its members are aware of and broadly support those decisions. Participation in the ratification process is an important right and responsibility.

The 2020 Mission Convocation approved most of the constitutional amendments we proposed. As a result, each congregation is asked to schedule a duly called congregational meeting for the purpose of voting "yes" or "no" on the convocation's action to amend various articles of the NALC Constitution.

Under Section 17.03 of the constitution, to take effect, all constitutional amendments require ratification, and a congregation's ratification vote must be taken "in and through properly called congregational meetings." Ratification may happen at any congregational meeting, in accordance with the congregation's constitutional requirements. Normally, a simple majority is required, unless the congregation's constitution stipulates otherwise. *Ratification may only happen through congregational action at a congregational meeting. Congregations cannot delegate responsibility to their councils, pastors or any other persons or groups.*

The deadline for voting on ratification is within six months of the close of the 2020 Mission Convocation – February 8, 2021. However, congregations are asked to vote on ratification as soon as possible, perhaps at a brief, specially called meeting. *Congregations are asked to vote on ratification prior to December 31, 2020.* All congregations belonging to the NALC at the time of the 2020 Mission Convocation are entitled to vote on ratification.

A copy of the amendments approved by the convocation is enclosed. Deletions are marked with a strikethrough and additions are in red font. We have also included an explanation of

the amendments divided into two groups — apportionment of additional lay delegates and a shift to biennial convocations.

Each congregation votes “yes” or “no” on the proposed amendments. No amendments or changes may be made to the amendments passed by the convocation. A congregation must ensure that its members have a clear way to express their preference for having the congregation vote either “yes” or “no” on the proposed amendment. The best way to accomplish this is to use a paper ballot with the wording from one of the included model ballots.

We have included two ballots — one for congregations that want to consider all the amendments in one resolution, which would entail one “yes” or “no” vote. The second ballot may be used by congregations that want to consider the two groups of amendments separately, therefore having two “yes” or “no” votes. Either way is valid. Congregations may decide which way to consider ratification.

Two forms are included for a congregation to submit its ratification vote — one for congregations using one resolution and the other for congregations using two resolutions. The form may be returned via email, mail or fax, as indicated on the report form. **Congregations must use one of the prepared forms to report their vote with two signatures on the form as indicated.**

Ratification will be fully accomplished once two-thirds of the congregations voting have voted “yes.” A quorum for a valid ratification vote is 50% of NALC congregations voting. The sooner a congregation votes on ratification, the better.

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry we share.

Yours in Christ,

NALC Executive Council

The Rev. Bassam Abdallah
The Rev. Mark Braaten
Mr. Richard Jansak
The Rev. Melinda Jones

Ms. Lynn Kickingbird
The Rev. Ken Kimball
Mr. Scott Kramer
Mr. Brian Sutton

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE 2020 MISSION CONVOCATION

2020 RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

6.05 Prior to each annual Convocation, the NALC shall calculate for each congregation a benevolence share of the proposed NALC annual budget based on congregational size and resources.

Article 7 – ~~Annual~~ Biennial Convocation

7.01 A Convocation of the NALC shall be held ~~annually~~ biennially.

7.02 Delegates with voting privileges at a Convocation shall be the ordained ministers of the NALC and at least an equal number of laypersons. Each congregation of the NALC shall elect at least one lay delegate to the Convocation ~~for every 750 baptized members, or fraction thereof, of such congregation. For purposes of determining the number of lay delegates that a congregation may elect, associate members (those holding primary membership in another congregation) shall not be counted. In the event that the total number of lay delegates elected pursuant to the preceding sentence is less than the total number of ordained ministers, the Executive Council shall apportion additional lay delegates based on the relative size of the congregations of the NALC.~~ The Executive Council shall apportion additional lay delegates based on the baptized membership of congregations so there is approximately an equal number of lay and clergy delegates to the Convocation. To the extent appropriate to maintain good order, and subject to any action by the Convocation, the Executive Council may adopt procedures relating to the timing of delegate selection and to verifying the credentials of all delegates.

7.04 The responsibilities of the ~~annual~~ biennial Convocation shall include: election of the Bishop, the Executive Council, and any other position requiring election; adoption of a budget for the two subsequent calendar years; consideration of teaching statements; reception of reports; and other items of business as may be determined by the Executive Council or by the Convocation.

9.08 In the event of vacancy in the office of Bishop, the Executive Council shall appoint a Bishop to fill the vacancy on an interim basis. The next ~~annual~~ Convocation shall elect a Bishop, who shall take office for a four-year term beginning the following October 1. In the event of vacancy in the office of Recording Secretary or Treasurer, the Executive Council shall appoint an interim to fill the vacancy until the following October 1, when

the successor elected by the Executive Council shall take office for a four-year term. If the vacancy in the office of Recording Secretary or Treasurer occurs in September of any year, the Executive Council may choose to extend the term of an interim until October 1 of the next calendar year, when the successor would begin a four-year term.

9.09 The Executive Council is empowered to suspend the Bishop by a three-quarters vote of all members, excluding the Bishop, for cause, as outlined in the provisions for discipline in Section 14.01, in consultation with the Court of Adjudication and the Commission on Theology and Doctrine. The Executive Council will appoint an interim Bishop to exercise the office until the next ~~annual~~ Convocation. The next ~~annual~~ Convocation may subsequently remove the suspended Bishop by a two-thirds vote and set in motion a process for the election of a successor according to Article 8. In case of death or disability precluding the exercise of the office, the Executive Council may appoint an interim Bishop to serve until the next ~~annual~~ Convocation.

10.02 The terms of elected members shall be staggered such that ~~one~~two ordained ministers and ~~one~~two lay members will be elected at each ~~annual~~ Convocation. Each term shall begin on the October 1 immediately following the ~~annual~~ Convocation and shall end on the September 30 four years later. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Council may appoint an interim replacement, who will serve until the next October 1. The next ~~annual~~ Convocation shall elect a permanent replacement, who shall serve the remainder of the term to which the original holder of the seat had been elected. ~~If necessary to create or maintain staggered terms, an annual Convocation may elect an Executive Council member for a term of less than four years.~~ To the limited extent necessary to assure that an equal number of seats will be open at each Convocation or that the seats open at each Convocation will be evenly split between those held by ordained ministers and those held by lay members, the Executive Council as a provisional matter may change the number of seats open for election at a particular Convocation and may shorten the term to which a particular member is to be elected.

10.05 The duties and function of the Executive Council shall be to:

- e. Ensure and approve long-range planning for the NALC to be presented at the ~~annual~~ Convocation.
- j. Adjust the budget approved by the ~~annual~~ Convocation as prudence dictates in response to changed financial circumstances.
- l. ~~Report all actions to the next annual Convocation.~~ Report all actions quarterly to the congregations and clergy of the NALC, as well as to each Convocation.

10.06 The Executive Council is empowered to suspend any member of the Executive Council by a three-quarters vote of all members for cause, in consultation with the Court of Adjudication and the Commission on Theology and Doctrine. The Executive Council may appoint an interim replacement until the next ~~annual~~ Convocation. The Executive Council is empowered to suspend or remove any other elected officer by a three-quarters vote of all members.

15.01 There shall be a Court of Adjudication consisting of seven members, each elected to a four-year term by the ~~annual~~ Convocation. Each term shall begin on the October 1 immediately following the ~~annual~~ Convocation and shall end on September 30 four years later. Terms shall be staggered so that ~~two~~four seats will be open each year, ~~except that every fourth year, only one seat will be open. If necessary to create or maintain staggered terms, an annual Convocation may elect a Court member for a term of less than four years~~ at one biennial Convocation and three seats will be open at the next. The Nominating Committee, after soliciting names from congregations, shall place in nomination one or more names of candidates for each seat that needs to be filled effective on the upcoming October 1. Supporting biographical information shall be made available to the members of the NALC no less than 90 days prior to the Convocation. Three or more delegates representing at least three congregations may together submit an additional nomination in writing. To be in order, the nomination, together with supporting biographical information, must be submitted to the Nominating Committee no later than 45 days prior to the Convocation. If more than one seat is open for the same term of years, the seats shall be filled using a single ballot that includes all candidates. Those receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. No member of the Court shall serve on the Nominating Committee. To the limited extent necessary to assure that the number of seats open at each Convocation is as close to equal as possible, the Executive Council as a provisional matter may change the number of seats open for election at a particular Convocation and may shorten the term to which a particular member is to be elected.

17.02 A minimum of twenty-five delegates to an ~~annual~~ Convocation may propose an amendment to the Constitution. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at such Convocation as well as the subsequent ~~annual~~ Convocation. Amendments approved pursuant to this Section 17.02 shall be submitted to congregations for ratification after approval by a second consecutive ~~annual~~ Convocation.

EXPLANATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

2020 RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Apportionment of Additional Lay Delegates

Article 7.02 specifies 750 baptized members as the baseline number for apportionment of lay delegates to each convocation. Congregations automatically receive one lay delegate per 750 baptized members. As needed, the Executive Council then apportions additional lay delegates from congregations to achieve an equal balance of lay and clergy delegates. The number was based on the number and size of congregations expected to be in the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) in the first couple years after its formation.

The number of NALC congregations has grown with a very different mix of sizes. The number of NALC pastors has also grown at a greater rate than congregations. With those changes, the number 750 no longer works. In recent years, the Executive Council has apportioned additional delegates using a much lower number of baptized members. Rather than set a specific number in the constitution, the amendment would allow for the Executive Council to use a number based on the current congregational and clergy membership of the NALC leading up to a convocation.

Change the Requirement for an Annual Convocation to a Biennial Convocation

The main amendment is in Article 7.01, but it also requires deleting “annual” in Articles 6.05, 7.04, 9.08, 9.09, 10.02, 10.05, 10.06, 15.01 and 17.02.

The following is a summary of the Executive Council’s rationale in proposing these amendments. The main purpose of the amendments is to address how the NALC might best deploy its resources and time to perform the mission the Holy Spirit has put before us. That mission has come into sharper focus in the 2020 *Vision* endorsed by the convocation. To be best equipped to succeed, the NALC needs the flexibility and nimbleness to invest its resources and time more effectively in service of Christ's Church.

This includes all parts of the NALC – congregations, mission districts, staff and committees. The NALC invests a significant amount of time, energy and resources for annual convocations and events. The average cost for congregations sending delegates to convocations is \$1,300 per delegate. The cost is greater if attendees are also participating in the other events during Lutheran Week.

Registration fees cover only about half the expenses of a convocation. Therefore, on average, the NALC subsidizes the event with \$110,000 to keep the cost manageable for congregations.

Annually, the NALC staff devotes 12% of its time, about 2,750 hours, to the convocation and Lutheran Week. A full-time position involves 2,080 hours of work per year, so more than one full-time equivalent NALC staff position is devoted to the annual event.

The amendments do not change Article 7.06, which allows for more frequent convocations. The bishop or the Executive Council may call for special convocations for specified purposes.

The Executive Council, deans and staff have had discussions about events and gatherings that could be held regionally in the years there is not a convocation. Regional events, with NALC continental leaders present, could potentially enable more people to attend an event beyond their mission district. Many of the valued experiences in the events at and preceding an annual convocation could be provided more broadly across the NALC at these events.

If congregations ratify the shift to biennial convocations, then the following amendments are in order to make that shift:

Provide Flexibility for Elections to Shift to Biennial Convocations

The election cycle of Executive Council and Court of Adjudication members is currently tied to annual convocations. The amendments to Articles 10.02 and 15.01 provide the flexibility to elect those members during the transition from annual to biennial convocations. The Executive Council would oversee the process, adjusting the timing and terms of office as needed.

Change in the NALC Budget Process

The 2020 Convocation accepted the amendment to Article 7.04 as a friendly amendment from a lay delegate. It specifies that each convocation is to adopt a budget for the next two calendar years.

Quarterly Reports from the Executive Council

During the discussion of the proposed amendments to shift to biennial convocations, an amendment to Article 10.05.i. was proposed to require the Executive Council to report all actions quarterly to congregations and clergy, as well as to each convocation.

**BALLOT FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS
(ONE RESOLUTION VERSION)**

2020 RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Grove City, Ohio

How should _____ vote on whether to ratify the amendments to Articles 6.05, 7.01, 7.02, 7.04, 9.08, 9.09, 10.02, 10.05, 10.06, 15.01 and 17.02 of the NALC Constitution, which were approved by the NALC's 2020 Mission Convocation, to:

- Delete in Article 7.02 the specific number of baptized members for the apportionment of additional lay delegates to the convocation, and to clarify the Executive Council's responsibility for apportioning additional lay delegates to meet the requirement that "at least an equal number of laypersons" and ordained NALC ministers serve as delegates at each convocation;
- Change the requirement for an annual convocation to a biennial convocation in Article 7.01, which requires deleting "annual" in Articles 6.05, 7.04, 9.08, 9.09, 10.02, 10.05, 10.06, 15.01, and 17.02;
- Amend Articles 10.02 and 15.01 to authorize the Executive Council to adjust terms for the Executive Council and the Court of Adjudication to make the transition from annual to biennial convocations;
- Amend Article 7.04 to require each convocation to adopt a budget for the next two calendar years; and
- Amend Article 10.05.I. to require the Executive Council to report quarterly all actions to congregations and clergy, as well as to each convocation?

Yes _____

No _____

Nominating 2021

Secretary

- 1.) Karen Bentley

Church Council:

- 1.) Warren Althoff
- 2.) Michael Grimm
- 3.) Doug Cress
- 4.) Shirley Blake
- 5.) Wayne Beavers

NALC Convocation (Corpus Christi Aug) and Ohio Mission District Assembly (May)

- 1.) Don Allman
- 2.) Glenda Allman
- 3.)
- 4.)

Nominating Team (6 Needed):

- 1.) Dave Grossman
- 2.) Jo Dimond
- 3.) Jennifer Czaplicki
- 4.) Dave Keil
- 5.) Dave Stallard
- 6.) Lisa Stallard