

**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

**20**



**19**

**ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**STOVERTOWN**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**We, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church of Stovertown, being children of God, would like to invite all to share in the good news of Jesus Christ. As witness of God's love and forgiveness we reach out to you.**

## 2020 Annual Meeting -- Pastor's Message

At the start of this new year, what's new? Resolutions and/or promises made to family or ourselves are soon forgotten. Even attempts to renew our faith may fall by the wayside. As humans, there is only one hope that any of these good intentions will come to pass: the Spirit at work IN and AMONG us!

Over the last few years, I have heard, in several different settings, presentations about the nature and problems of the Christian church. The consensus seems to be that there are only two kinds of churches, and that they are at odds with each other. They can be described as Churchianity (the Church as a clubhouse) and Christianity (being the Church in the world).

Churchianity: Centuries of Christian culture have made it easy and common to practice this, even though this Church Culture is collapsing. The trademark of this culture is: Am I getting what I want?

Christianity: In an ever-changing world, disciples must think outside the box to grow the church. The answer to the lament "We need more members" is to GO GET THEM! Traditionally this was called "Mission." Seminary Professor Mark Allen Powell summed it up nicely: "The mission of the church is simply to be the result of what God did on Easter. No more, no less."

There is a long history of emphasis on programs -- looking for the right program to accomplish a particular goal. That has not worked out well, so now we are called to practice our faith in the world!

God's Mission is redemption, and we are called to be his Missionaries!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Al

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Stovertown**  
**Congregational Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2019**

Bob Pletcher called the meeting to order at 12:16 P.M.

There was at least 29 voting members present.

Bob Pletcher opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the 2018 congregational meeting were presented Frank Dietz. They were approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Susan Sands.

The 2018 treasurer's report, cemetary fund, memorial fund, and you camp/PRAAYER CO fund were reviewed and discussed. This report was approved on a motion from Susan Sands and Steve Wolfe.

The WELCA treasurer's report was reviewed and approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Jessica Fabiny.

The endowment fund was discussed. The fund saw an earning average of 3.36% and a \$5000 transfer to the church general fund. The endowment fund report was approved on a motion from Jessica Fabiny and Jamie Brassfield.

The finance committee chair for 2019 Bill Thomas presented the 2019 Stovertown financial budget. After explaining how the budget was prepared and answering questions, the finance committee chair also stated to the congregation that Stovertown's Mission Support Goal for 2019 is \$5,800. The report was approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Susan Sands.

The Envelope Giving and Service Attendance reports were reviewed and approved on a motion from Bill Thomas and Nathan Atkins.

Carol Cramer presented the Worship and Music committee report. Carol Cramer was also thanked for her work on the church's website maintenance. The report was approved on a motion from Susan Sands and Steve Wolfe.

Nathan Atkins discussed the highlights of the property committee projects during 2018. This report was approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Delores Wolfe.

Steve Wolfe discussed the events sponsored by the 2018 PRAYER CO. He also made pitches for the 2019 Stovertown Stomp and the Triple Nickle County Cruise In. The report was approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Susan Sands.

OLD BUSINESS 12:42

NEW BUSINESS 12:43

The church yard sale will be July 19 and 20, 2019. Please do not bring items till after June 22. The church give-away will be held July 27, 2019. These dates were approved by the congregation on a motion from Lynn Parmiter and Jamie Brassfield.

Pastor Al Laese announced that Stovertown will be hosting a clergy cluster meeting on February 27, 2019.

Heather Sands announced that Thrivent monies helped with Christmas caroling and the purchase of youth Bibles. For more information on available Thrivent monies please see Heather Sands.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS and THANKS

The Christmas carolers went to many inactive and non-members.

A Mother's Day Weekend Camp-In and Boat Show is being planned.

A good working public address system is very much appreciated.

The messages on the new lighted sign in front of the church are enjoyed by all.

The addition of WI-FI to Stovertown is appreciated and easy to use.

Thanks to Heather Sands for the Sunday web broadcasts.

The prayer chain has developed and email group.

Watch for more info on lay worship leader training.

Pastor Al thanked the congregation for a good eventful year and eagerly looks to the future and welcomes new ideas.

Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins motioned to adjourn at 12:56 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Frank Dietz

Stovertown council secretary

## Stovertown 2019 Treasurer's Report

Community Bank Balance as of 1/1/2019 \$269.70

### Receipts:

Church Offerings	\$45,232.46
Mission Support	\$6,253.00
World Hunger	\$1,107.00
Initial	\$46.00
Adopt a Child	\$286.00
Oesterlen	\$355.00
Church Rental	\$2,030.00
Worker's Compensation Refund	\$31.05
Hastings Ins Refund	\$590.50
Transfer from Investment Fund	\$15,000.00
Tax Reimbursement	\$266.72
Apple Give a way Donations	\$137.00
Donations for Jax	\$113.00
Thrivent	\$1,615.03
Transfer from Memorial Fund	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,082.56
	<b>\$77,145.32</b>

### Disbursements:

#### *Special Offerings:*

Mission Support	\$6,253.00
World Hunger	\$1,107.00
Adopt a Child	\$286.00
Oesterlen	\$355.00

*Salaries:*

Pastor Albert Laese	\$24,717.60
Vicky Thomas	\$5,171.64
Jamey Brassfield	\$1,957.82
Susan Dietz	\$2,202.53
Jessica Fabiny	\$2,216.40
Musician & Organists	\$45.00
Supply Pastors	\$463.09
Social Security & Medicare	\$1,028.84

*Utilities:*

Muskingum Co. Utilites (Water)	\$300.00
Verizon	\$155.48
NGO Propane	\$1,662.23
Guernsey-Muskingum Electric	\$1,768.38

*Office Supplies & Service:*

Copier Service	\$1,971.73
Post Office	\$53.68
New Checks & Deposit Slips	\$12.00
VanCo Transaction Charge	\$10.20
Misc Office Supplies	\$772.02

*Property Improvemnets & Maintenance:*

Sewer Inspection	\$85.00
Elevator Saftey Test	\$51.25

*Social Minstery:*

Gift Cards	\$225.00
Misc.	\$750.00

*Misc:*

Insurance	\$3,379.80
Worker's Compensation	\$213.45
Upper Room	\$165.00
1517 Media	\$576.80
Concordia Publishing	\$74.96
Misc.	\$5,371.46
Real Estate Taxes	\$67.00
	<b>\$63,469.36</b>

Balance as of 12/31/2019: **\$13,945.66**

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

## Cemetery Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2019	<b>\$5,693.49</b>
Receipts:	
Ron & Doris Welch- 2 Graves	\$1,500.00
	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Disbursements:	
Robert Pletcher- Mowing and Gas Reimbursment	-\$1,092.88
Nate Atkins- Mowing and Gas Reimbursment	-\$301.00
American Pride	-\$74.73
	<b>-\$1,468.61</b>
Balance as of 12/31/2019	<b>\$5,724.88</b>

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer



## Memorial Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2019	<b>\$6,387.56</b>
Receipts:	
Interest	\$4.12
	<b>\$4.12</b>
Disbursements:	
Transfer to Primary	\$3,000.00
Balance as of 12/31/2019	<b>\$3,391.68</b>

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

## Youth Camp/Prayer Company Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2019	<b>\$10,248.30</b>
Christmas Post Office	\$5.00
Cruise-In	\$3,965.22
Interest	\$3.67
	<b>\$3,973.89</b>
Disbursements:	
Cruise-In Misc.	\$1,453.00
Website/Domain Renewal	\$131.40
Christmas for Multiple Families	\$1,250.00
Miscellaneous	\$200.00
	<b>\$3,034.40</b>
Balance as of 12/31/2019	<b>\$11,187.79</b>

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2019

Balance as of 1-1-2019	121.20
Receipts:	
Regular Offering	182.64
Thankoffering	195.36
Christ's Table	104.00
Curran Hospital Solar System	617.00
Topic Books	133.00
Transferred from Project Fund	<u>689.03</u>
	1,921.03
Disbursements:	
Regular Offering	-91.32
Thankoffering	-195.36
Christ's Table	-104.00
Curran Hospital Solar System	-617.00
Gift Card for Sandy Kent	-50.00
Muskingum Conference WELCA	-15.00
Material for Quilts	-116.70
Gas Money for Mandy Fisher	-50.00
LWR Shipping	-100.00
Childrens Bibles	-21.94
Muskingum County Animal Shelter - M.D & F Banquet	-50.00
Topic Books	-131.00
Heath Kits & School Kits for Giveaway	<u>-384.24</u>
	-1,926.56
Balance as of 12-31-2019	115.67

Lynne Parmiter - Treasurer

CONTINUATION OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA ANNUAL REPORT 2019

PROJECT FUND

Balance as of 1-1-2019	930.59
Receipts:	
Offerings	27.00
Basement Sale	568.00
Quilt Raffle	
132.00	
Interest	<u>.64</u>
	727.64
Disbursements:	
Transferred to Checking	-689.03
Service Charge	<u>-2.00</u>
	-691.03
Balance as of 12-31-2019	967.20

MEMORIAL FUND

Balance as of 1-1-2019	264.42
Receipts:	
Birthday Offerings	8.00
Balance as of 12-31-2019	272.42

Lynne Parmiter - Treasurer

STOVERTOWN ENDOWMENT FUND, October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

All in JP Morgan accounts:

(1) Cash deposit/sweep account (\$26,564.90)

(2) Investor Conservative Growth Fund (Select Shares), ONCFX:

a. Bond funds	62.69 %
b. Stock funds, U.S.	21.28 %
c. Stock funds, International	8.41 %
d. Cash	6.77 %
e. Other/Not classified	0.85 %

<u>10-01-2018</u>	<u>09-30-2019</u>	<u>Increase (or Decrease)</u>
\$263,956.25	\$272,047.41	\$8,091.16

A total of \$5,000.00 was distributed to the Church general account, \$5,000 in September 2019.

The rate of return, indicating income and change in market value, and with the withdrawal/distribution of \$5,000 netted out (i.e. added back in) to get an increase of \$13,091.16 in the account value, is 4.96 %.

The attached spreadsheet is a summary of the monthly statements and shows income, changes in market value, and the totals for the year.

For the Endowment Committee, Robert Deitrick



**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, STOVERTOWN  
PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET**

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>2019 Proposed</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Proposed</b>
Church offerings (Current)	\$49,870.26	48,107.46	49,870.26
Mission (Benevolence)	5,800.00	6,253.00	6,250.00
World Hunger	1,200.00	1,107.00	1,200.00
Oesterlen	300.00	355.00	350.00
Adopt-A-Child	150.00	286.00	175.00
Miscellaneous (Church Rent)	1,390.00	5,875.86	5,000.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$58,710.26</b>	<b>\$61,984.32</b>	<b>\$62,845.26</b>

**Disbursements:**  
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Salaries	\$40,580.89	37,802.83	38,500.00
Utilities	3,850.00	3,886.09	3,900.00
General Church Expenses			
Miscellaneous	3,684.98	7,505.00	4,500.00
Insurance	4,200.00	3,379.80	3,500.00
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$53,955.89</b>	<b>\$52,573.72</b>	<b>\$50,400.00</b>

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Mission Support (Benevolence)	\$ 5,800.00	6,253.00	6,250.00
Oesterlen	300.00	355.00	350.00
Adopt-A-Child	150.00	286.00	175.00
World Hunger	1,200.00	1,107.00	1,200.00
<b>Total Special Offerings</b>	<b>7,450.00</b>	<b>7,870.00</b>	<b>7,975.00</b>

<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$61,405.89</b>	<b>\$60,443.72</b>	<b>\$58,375.00</b>
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We covered 91.5% of our expenses in 2019  
 We covered 87.4% of our expenses in 2018  
 We covered 81.4% of our expenses in 2017.

14% of our actual receipts was given to special offerings.

ENVELOPE AND OTHER GIVING FOR 2019

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
\$5270.00	\$4435.00	\$765.00	\$70.00
3792.00	3545.00	205.00	42.00
3605.00	3600.00		5.00
3224.00	1656.00	828.00	740.00
3207.00	2575.00	610.00	22.00
3162.00	2080.00	1040.00	42.00
3140.00	2803.00	317.00	20.00
2742.00	1800.00	880.00	62.00
2687.00	2290.00	135.00	262.00
1960.00	1490.00	470.00	
1872.00	1850.00		22.00
1635.00	1421.00	188.00	26.00
1542.00	1470.00	10.00	62.00
1479.00	1115.00	65.00	299.00
1343.00	1131.00	194.00	18.00
1270.00	1200.00	50.00	20.00
1200.00	1200.00		
1122.00	1085.00	35.00	2.00
993.00	990.00		3.00
922.00	680.00	235.00	7.00
680.00	675.00	5.00	
667.00	665.00		2.00
615.00	615.00		
612.00	610.00		2.00
604.00	600.00		4.00
527.00	527.00		
515.00	515.00		
477.00	455.00		22.00
202.00	200.00		2.00
195.00	195.00		
152.00	152.00		
140.00	140.00		
130.00	115.00	15.00	
100.00	100.00		
82.00	70.00	10.00	2.00
77.00	75.00		2.00
52.00	50.00		2.00
50.00	50.00		
37.00	31.00	4.00	2.00
20.00			20.00
15.00	15.00		
15.00	15.00		
10.00	10.00		
10.00	10.00		
3.00			3.00
2.00			2.00

Financial Sec'y,  
Janet Novaria



## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR 2019

January	34	
February	43	
March	41	
April	61	
May	44	Palm Sunday 79 Easter Sunday 79 Christmas Eve 96
June	39	
July	38	
August	43	
September	36	
October	34	
November	44	
December	42	
Yearly average 2019:	42	
	2018:	44
	2017:	37
	2016:	37
	2015:	37

## 2019 Evangelism Committee Report

### St. John's Lutheran Church - Stovertown

During 2019 we focused on direct mailings for Easter and Christmas services. For each mailing, 500 postcards were ordered and 300-400 were mailed out to the surrounding community. 100-200 were distributed by parishioners. For 2020 we will be continuing these mailings.

In the spring the Stovertown Camp-Out took place. This has become an annual tradition that our family looks forward to each year. Thank you to Nate Atkins and Beth Shook for coordinating this family weekend and event. Campers moved in on Friday evening and continued fellowship through Sunday afternoon. Hiking, creek walking, games, and fellowship were the highlights.

Christmas caroling continued as a tradition the Sunday before Christmas. A group traveled over 50 miles to 9 locations, round trip, from the church to the southern part of the county to the northern part of the county. Seven care packages were also delivered. Thank you to the Thomas Family Orchard for apple donations and to Thrivent for the funds for the packages.

2019 brought on a new event for the Evangelism committee. The Saturday before Christmas volunteers put together a Breakfast with Santa event. It was a success with 59 attendees and volunteers. Breakfast was served with youth making crafts, coloring, and visiting with Santa. Santa also read the Christmas story in addition to handing out gifts for each child. Thank you to the volunteers and Santa for helping put together a fun event for our community! We hope to make this a new tradition.

Thank you to everyone that helps with keeping the digital sign, social media, and website updated. In 2019 we began streaming church services live and we hope to continue to expand these Evangelistic avenues with everyone's help.

The events in 2019 in conjunction with the PRAYER Company, WELCA, and so many other wonderful volunteers help to spread God's love through our community. By spreading the word of God we are trying to bring more people to see and feel the love of Christ in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Davis

## **Stovertown Worship & Music Committee Report 2019**

Worship services at Stovertown included holidays and seasons throughout the year, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Reformation. The sacrament of communion was celebrated monthly and for special festivals. Our worship leader, Pastor Laese, has given us consistency and great leadership throughout the year. The Christmas Story was brought to life during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service by the children and directed by Karen Showers. Thank you Karen, for sharing your time and talents in the preparation and performance of this amazing story.

Music committee, Susan Dietz, Robert Deitrick and myself met approximately five times to choose hymns for weekly and holiday services. It was suggested to the committee to have only one or two communion hymns that are familiar in order to allow people to continue singing throughout the distribution. The hymn Amazing Grace was chosen and has been in place as the communion hymn for several months. Special music was provided at various times during the year by soloists and the Stovertown Choir. Thank you to all who have participated for the beautiful additions to the worship service music.

Carol Cramer  
Committee Chair

## P.R.A.Y.E.R. Company Annual Report

With the Good Lord's Blessing, and everyone's hard work, dedication, and effort, your PRAYER Company was able to donate 3,000 dollars to our community this past year. Assistance went to help a family with medical expenses, a family who took in a new born foster baby with special needs, women's health supplies, Christ Table, The Salvation Army, and East Side Ministry. We also provided Christmas gifts, clothes, laundry baskets with house hold goods, Walmart gift cards, and Pick and Save grocery gift cards, to 5 families, and a total 6 children this past Christmas season. This is a 500 dollar increase over the past 2 previous years. Events this past year included our 9th Annual Cruise In, our 3rd annual Hocking River canoe trip and cook out, and working with the Women's Group on the Fall wiener roast and hay wagon ride. The Stovertown Stomp was not done this past year due to family responsibilities and the Wayfers scheduling conflicts. It has been an event that has been well attended by the community, and one that we definitely want to continue, and are trying to work out a possible early Spring date for it this year. The 10th annual Triple Nickel Country Cruise In will be on June 20 this year. A very big thank you to all members of this Church and our community, that has allowed the PRAYER Company to do the work it has done the past 9 years. Also, a thank you to Bryan and Susan Miller for their Thrivent gift, to David Thomas for his information on a family who was in need, and to Tammy and Evert Bowers to for their assistance in providing names, and wrapping and distributing the gifts in our immediate community. Brenda and I would personally like to thank all involved for their team work, and for the blending of all our various talents, which has made this all possible.

With much respect and may God Bless,

Steve Wolfe

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

Thanks to the Bob Pletcher Family for all their years of service and hard work.

Nate, Walt Atkins and friends have taken over the mowing of the church yard.

The elevator was inspected and a hose needs to be replaced every 6 years. Changing the hose to hard metal piping is in the works, then we will never have to deal with hose changing again.

Nate Atkins, Property Chairman