



*Well done, my good and faithful servant.
You have been faithful in handling this
small amount, so now I will give you
many more responsibilities. Let's
celebrate together!*

Matthew 25:23 NLT

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Stovertown

January 28, 2024

St John's Lutheran Church Stovertown
Congregational Annual Meeting
January 22, 2023

Council Vice President Bill Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:09 P.M.

Council secretary Frank Dietz declared that the 19 members present were a quorum.

Bill Thomas jumped to the reports of the Produce Committee and the PRAYER CO.

Produce Give-away – Karen Showers reviewed page 13 of the 2022 Annual Report and thanked everyone for the fellowship, their service to the community, and their help in making the give away a success.

PRAYER CO – Steve Wolfe reviewed page 15 of the 2022 Annual Report. Steve also explained that monetary donations have been given to the Salvation Army and to Eastside Ministries as well as deserving individuals.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Al Laese referenced a quote from the National Bishop from over 40 years ago, "Would the community miss you if you weren't here?" Pastor praised Stovertown for the hard work and all that is given to our community. This is his longest tenure at a call at over 12 years. "I enjoy being here even with the age limitations. Thanks to all."

Frank Dietz presented the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. They were approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Gary Williams.

Jessica Fabiny discussed the church Treasurer's Report. She pointed out that no monies were transferred into the general fund from the Endowment Fund. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Robert Pletcher.

Jessica Fabiny discussed the Cemetery Fund on page 4 of the 2022 Annual Report. The Cemetery fund report was approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Nathan Atkins.

Jessica Fabiny discussed the Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins.

The Youth Camp/PRAYER COMPANY Fund report was approved on a motion from Robert Pletcher and Don Parmiter.

Kathy Jenkins discussed the Women of the ELCA Treasurer's Annual Report. She announced the upcoming meeting and extended an invitation to all to attend. Kathy Jenkins wanted to thank the treasurer Lynn Parmiter for all her hard work. The report was approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Frank Dietz.

Bill Thomas discussed the 2023 Proposed Budget for St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Stovertown. After a short discussion, Robert Pletcher and Dave Swingle motioned to accept the report. The motion passed 18 to 1.

The Envelope and Other Giving for 2022 report was reviewed. It was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins.

The 2022 Monthly Average Attendance and The Past 5 years average attendance was reviewed. It was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Steve Wolfe.

Karen Showers presented the Stovertown Worship Committee Report for 2022. She thanked everyone for their help ensuring that worship services run smoothly. The report was approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Joe Pletcher.

Karen Showers presented and discussed the Produce Market Report for 2022. It was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Robert Pletcher.

After reviewing the Social Ministry Committee report, it was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Robert Pletcher.

The Property Committee report was reviewed and approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Robert Pletcher.

Bill Thomas discussed the Endowment Fund Performance Report. The Fund lost 10%(\$30,677.74) during the 2022 reporting year. There were no withdrawals for the general fund during 2022. The report was approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Robert Pletcher.

There was no Old Business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS 1:09 P.M.

Linda Showers has started a weekly newsletter that is being emailed to subscribers.

Please forward information to Vince and Linda Showers that is to be included.

Information about monetary donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of a loved one is being passed to surviving family members.

Currently there is one vacant council member position. There has been no volunteers for this position but council will accept a volunteer at any time.

Bill Thomas pointed out how our small country church has embraced modern technology during recent times: online worship services during the COVID19 quarantine, weekly informational newsletter, security cameras, zoom Sunday School presentations, and a new lighted road sign. All of these activities and advancements, as well as Breakfast with Santa (with a new Mrs. Clause), and Christmas caroling have been helping to add new members to our small congregation. "Keep up the good works!"

Frank Dietz motioned adjourn at 1:23 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Frank Dietz – council secretary

STOVERTOWN ENDOWMENT FUND, 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023

No money was distributed to the Church general account in 2023.

The Endowment Fund is managed by J.P. Morgan in two accounts: (1) a cash deposit/sweep account; (2) the JPM Investor Conservative Growth fund (select shares), ticker ONCFX, which is a blended fund (mix of stocks and bonds) in the Conservative Allocation category (30%-50% equities). Dividends and Capital Gain distributions from the ONCFX fund have been reinvested in the cash/sweep account for several years, resulting in a relatively large cash position in our investments.

	<u>Begin 1/1/23</u>	<u>End 12/31/23</u>	<u>Gain (Loss), %</u>
Total:	\$268,581.04	\$290,738.21	\$22,157.17 / 8.25%
ONCFX:	\$220,857.30 (82%)	\$235,478.52 (81%)	
Cash acct:	\$ 47,723.74 (18%)	\$ 55,259.69 (19%)	

The ONCFX fund itself was up 10.23%. This number reflects dividends and capital gains being reinvested in the ONCFX fund. The fund Category (30-50% equity) was up 10.43%, and the fund Index was up 13.04%. For 2023, ONCFX is in the 58th percentile (top 58%) of funds in the category. In the broad indexes, the Vanguard S&P 500 Index Fund was up 26.32%, and the Vanguard Total Bond Index Fund was up 5.66%. (source: Morningstar).

Makeup of JPM Investor Conservative Growth Fund (Select Shares), ONCFX, Dec. 2023:

a. U.S. equity	20.76%	Index: 28.59%
b. Non U.S. equity	8.43	11.83
c. Fixed income	64.63	54.22
d. Other	0.07	5.33
e. Cash	5.89	0.00
f. Not classified	0.23	0.02

There is no attached spreadsheet this year.

For the Endowment Committee, Robert Deitrick

WELCA REPORT 2023

RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS
Regular offering- \$224.00	Synod offering- \$56.00
Bucket offering- \$252.27	Curran Hospital & Brothers Brother Foundation-\$252.27
Altar flower fund- \$50.00	Woman of ELCA Gift- \$56.00
Care kits- \$30.00	Craft supplies- \$30.00
Donations from families for funeral dinners- \$1800.00 Showers Thomas Stauffer Wheeler	Gift card for Lynne- \$50.00
	Donation to Lions Pediatric Cancer Fund- \$100.00
	Bible for Newborns- \$20.00
	Mums for new member reception- \$20.00
Sunrise Service-\$110.00	Shipping for Quilts & LWR kits- \$100.00
Basement sale- \$547.75	New coffee pot- \$100.00
Memorial donation- \$20.00	Shipping for packages to Raymond Pletcher & Troops- \$124.00
Donation for WELCA booklets- \$20.00	
Quilt Raffle- \$125.00	
Balances as of 12/31/2023	
Checking	277.47
Savings	3913.30
Cash	199.21

Leslie Williams, Treasurer

ST. JOHNS'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, STOVERTOWN

PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

	2023	2024
	Actual	Proposed
Receipts		
Church Offerings (Current)	\$63,750.25	\$65,025.26
Mission Support (Benevolence)	\$6,560.00	\$6,691.20
World Hunger	\$1,083.00	\$1,104.66
Initial	\$53.00	N/A
Oesterlen-Avondale	\$348.00	\$354.96
Adopt-A-Child		\$0.00
Hurricane/Earthquake Relief	\$100.00	\$102.00
Miscellaneous (Church Rent)	\$10,859.35	\$11,076.54
Total Receipts	\$82,753.60	\$84,354.61
Disbursements		
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		
Salaries	\$43,277.67	\$44,143.22
Church Expenses (General)	\$4,348.44	\$4,435.41
Utilities	\$5,260.75	\$5,365.97
Insurance	\$3,209.00	\$3,273.18
SPECIAL OFFERING		
Mission Support (Benevolence)	\$6,560.00	\$6,869.00
Oesterlen Avondale	\$348.00	\$354.96
Adopt-A-Child		\$0.00
World Hunger	\$1,065.00	\$1,086.30
Miscellaneous (Prayer Company 4,077; Outreach; Avondale)	\$10,938.74	\$11,157.51
Total Disbursements	\$75,007.60	\$76,685.55
Net	\$7,746.00	

We covered 100% of our expenses in 2023. Of our actual receipts, 9.8% went to special offerings.

ENVELOPE AND OTHER GIVING FOR 2023

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
\$7200.00	\$5700.00	\$1450.00	\$50.00
5885.00	5885.00		
5700.00	5600.00		100.00
4262.00	3880.00	360.00	22.00
3902.00	3140.00	760.00	2.00
3712.00	1836.00	1026.00	850.00
3600.00	3600.00		
3282.00	2915.00	135.00	232.00
3050.00	2728.00	322.00	
3027.00	2825.00		202.00
2612.00	2522.00	90.00	
2604.00	2600.00		4.00
2302.00	1840.00	460.00	2.00
2245.00	1610.00	505.00	130.00
2090.00	1560.00	530.00	
1877.00	1565.00	305.00	7.00
1662.00	1660.00		2.00
1364.00	1205.00	155.00	4.00
1300.00	780.00	520.00	
1102.00	1100.00	2.00	
1027.00	905.00		122.00
1022.00	925.00	95.00	2.00
1002.00	1000.00		2.00
894.00	894.00		
780.00	650.00	130.00	
750.00	750.00		
600.00	300.00	300.00	
520.00	520.00		
500.00			500.00
264.00	264.00		
202.00	200.00		2.00
160.00	160.00		
120.00	120.00		
116.00	114.00		2.00
102.00	100.00		2.00
100.00	100.00		
100.00	100.00		
85.00	85.00		
80.00	80.00		
67.00	65.00		2.00
27.00	25.00		2.00
22.00	20.00		2.00
20.00	20.00		
20.00	20.00		
2.00			2.00

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR 2023

January 30

February 34

March 31

April 37

May 35

June 30

July 32

August 30

September 31

October 31

November 35

December 34

Yearly Average: 2023: 33

2022: 31

2021: 28

2020: 23

2019: 42

Easter Sunrise Service: 42

Christmas Eve Service: 59

Produce Market Report for 2023

The Mid-Ohio Food Collective & St. John's Lutheran Church, Stovertown, continue in a partnership, to distribute food to our local communities. We distribute food on the third Tuesday of each month from 9-11 am. We celebrated our second anniversary of this project on October 17, 2023.

152 different households were served in 2023 with an average of 106 households coming to pick up food each month & we average 16 1/2 volunteers to help distribute the food. (not sure who is the 1/2 volunteer)

Our volunteers are **AWESOME!** From setting up the tables & supplies & canopies when raining, to traffic control, registration, bagging the food, distributing the food safely, to clean -up, the job gets done! We have fun while we work & yes there are some jokesters among the group. Anyone is welcome to join us with this community service. **The pay rate fills your heart.**

This is a list of the food Mid-Ohio has provided to us:

Cantaloupe	Cauliflower	Pineapples	Potatoes
Onions	Lettuce	Green peppers	Oranges
Watermelon	Apples	Cucumbers	Grapes
Tomatoes	Honey Dew	Pears	Radishes
Brussel Sprouts	Cabbage	Sweet Potatoes	Eggplant
Green Beans	Zucchini	Squash	Bananas
Mangoes	Assorted bakery items	Assorted dairy items	Yogurt
Milk	Assorted Deli items		

This food that is brought to us each month from Mid-Ohio, is like that "box of Chocolates." You never know what you are going to get.

In 2023, the volunteers distributed 84,677 pounds of food, for an average of 7,056 pounds per month. That's a lot of food!!! Any leftover food we have has gone to the " Salvation Army, The Senior Center, & Eastside Community Ministry.

With the help from Thrivent Financial & donations from the congregation, we were able to give out approximately \$850.00 dollars' worth of Peanut Butter, Mac & Cheese & SpaghettiOs's, that was given out in May to each household. In September, Colgate

Palmolive donated 130 bottles of Palmolive dish soap & Fabulosa Cleaner, & the congregation once again stepped up & purchased tissues & paper towels. We gave out 210 boxes of tissues & 280 rolls of paper towels. In December, we were able to purchase hams for a holiday meal, so each family received half a ham. This was made possible again through Thrivent Financial & donations from the congregation. This was \$1750.00 worth of hams.

The purpose of this market is to provide healthy & wholesome foods to anyone that needs it out in our rural communities. Each head of a household has to sign a form stating they are within the federal guidelines financially.

The recipients of the market have been very appreciative of the food provided to them. The majority of our clients are the elderly.

Our serving time is set from 9-11 but if the food truck arrives on time & there isn't much food to bag, we start serving around 8:30. Our first car usually arrives by 7:30 am.

If you would like to volunteer, please arrive by 8:00 am & bring a cheerful & loving heart.

Help us spread the word that the food will be available on the third Tuesday of every month from 9-11am. Anyone is welcome if they meet the guidelines.

I would like to thank those who took the time & applied for grants from Thrivent Financial. Thanks you to Gary & Leslie Williams, Brian & Susan Miller, Linda & Vince Showers & Karen Showers. Each grant equals \$250.00, so thank you to Thrivent too!!!

A BIG thank you to each of the volunteers that make this project a success.

Remember, we couldn't do this without YOU. It is a very helpful service to our community.

Remember this is God's work thru our Hands!

Karen Showers, Produce Market Coordinator

Social Ministry -2023

January 8th- Support for Starlight family- Sunday school- \$230, Council approved \$500 and Prayer Committee gave \$500 for a total of \$1230.

The Special Peoples' Luncheon continues to be on hold.

Once again the committee would like to thank Karen and all the volunteers for the continued support of the Produce Market and service to our community.

Gary Williams, Chair

2023 WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The Worship and Music committee would like to thank everyone who helps to make each service a special experience. Pastor Al is especially appreciated for his patient leadership and for all that he does to teach us. Members participate in the preparation, distribution, and clean-up of each Communion service. The altar flowers and candelabras are diligently tended to each week, and the altar cloths are faithfully changed according to the season or festival being celebrated during the church year. We appreciate everyone who steps up to complete these important jobs that are often taken for granted. Thank you to Vicky Thomas who provides each service's bulletin and to Robert Deitrick for assisting the Pastor during worship. Special music adds to each service, and a heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone involved in this, especially Robert Pletcher and Shirley Kessler. Hymn and anthem suggestions are always welcomed and encouraged.

Frank Dietz – Worship and Music Committee Chair

PRAYER COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

In 2023, because of everyone's hard work and dedication, community support, and our Good Lord's Blessings, The PRAYER Company was able to provide the most assistance back to our surrounding community than ever before. In addition to providing our usual assistance to Christ Table, Eastside Ministry, Salvation Army and Avondale Children's Home (money was again specific to buy children's Christmas gifts) assistance was also provided to 2 different families with children to help with Christmas expenses (one received cash and one received a Walmart gift card), and we also provided assistance with food (Kentucky Fried Chicken) on 2 separate occasions following funerals here at Stovertown. We also provided 30 pairs of men's gloves to Eastside Ministry late last month, after we were informed they had a need for them, and we provided groceries to a family with 3 young children, who had spent their money on unexpected medical bills and had no food in their home, In addition to that, we helped 3 different families who were dealing with cancer diagnosis, and were traveling to Columbus for their cancer treatments. One was Netti (who we sold 50-50 tickets at the 2022 Cruise -in) who lives alone and was getting chemo and radiation at OSU, and the other 2 cases both involved children who were getting their cancer treatments at Children's hospital

In 2023, because of everyone's hard work, \$4,007.00 was given back to our community, which is \$1,077.00 more than last year. In the 13 years since its beginning, our Prayer Company has provided over \$29,000.00 back to our community.

The date for the 2024 Cruise-In will be the first part of October, depending on what other cruise -ins happen to be going on at that time.

The annual campout at Campbell's Cove and canoe trip continues to grow, and this year was the largest yet, with 30 plus participating in camping and 20 plus canoeing. A great time was had by all, on and off the water!. The 2024 event will be the weekend of September 14 and they are taking reservations for it now. Come join in on all the fun and fellowship!

A BIG "thank you"! goes out to everyone involved who makes this all happen, and our events such a success. I can't express my appreciation enough, and I am truly Blessed to be a part of the St. John's Stovertown Family.

Submitted with sincere respect and appreciation
Steve Wolfe

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

- Elevator frame base has been repaired
- Yellow lines have been repainted on the parking lot
- Big Tree has been cleaned up in the cemetery after it fell
- Trees have been trimmed between church and parking lot

Thanks for everyone's help

Chairman, Nate Atkins

Stovertown 2023 Treasurer's Report

Community Bank Balance as of 1/1/2023 **\$25,269.03**

Receipts:

Church Offerings	\$63,750.25
Mission Support	\$6,560.00
World Hunger	\$1,065.00
Initial	\$53.00
Oesterlen	\$348.00
Church Rental	\$1,830.00
Social Ministry- Donations for Lisa Smith	\$230.00
Thrivent	\$560.00
Produce Market	\$870.00
Miscellaneous	\$254.80
	\$75,521.05

Disbursements:

Special Offerings:

Mission Support	\$6,560.00
World Hunger	\$1,065.00
Oesterlen	\$348.00
Avondale Youth Center	\$348.00

Salaries:

Pastor Albert Laese & Portico Ins	\$32,090.87
Vicky Thomas	\$5,171.52
Jamey Brassfield	\$2,142.52
Susan Dietz	\$2,327.22
Jessica Fabiny	\$2,216.40
Social Security & Medicare	\$981.46

Utilities:

Muskingum Co. Utilites (Water)	\$367.95
Verizon	\$181.16
NGO Propane	\$2,206.15
Guernsey-Muskingum Electric	\$2,502.49

Office Supplies & Service:

Copier Service	\$511.65
Post Office	\$623.62
VanCo Transaction Charge	\$10.20
Staples	\$329.43

Property Improvemnets & Maintenance:

Sewer Inspection	\$30.00
Elevator Saftey Test and Servicing	\$544.71
Real Estate Taxes	\$42.00

Social Minstery:

Lisa Smith	\$1,230.00
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Misc:

Insurance	\$3,209.00
Worker's Compensation	\$151.00
Upper Room	\$189.86
1517 Media	\$472.06
Concordia Publishing	\$128.04
CM Almy	\$410.34
Produce Market	\$350.70
Misc	\$3,141.23

\$69,882.58

Balance as of 12/31/2023

\$30,907.50

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

Cemetery Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2023	\$12,199.14
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Receipts:

Samantha Smeltzer- 1 Grave	\$730.00
	\$730.00

Disbursements:

Walt Atkins- Mowing and Gas Reimbursment	\$2,296.00
Cemetery Permit	-\$25.00

\$2,271.00

Balance as of 12/31/2023	\$10,608.14
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Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

Memorial Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2023 **\$5,475.09**

Receipts:

In Memory Linda Pletcher \$50.00

In Memory Jeff Showers \$2,185.00

Interest \$5.60

\$2,240.60

Disbursements:

\$0.00

Balance as of 12/31/2023 **\$7,715.69**

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

Youth Camp/Prayer Company Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2023 **\$10,643.21**

Receipts:

Car Show	\$5,189.35
Interest	\$10.21
Donations	\$150.00
	\$5,349.56

Disbursements:

Car Show	\$2,077.50
Social Ministry	\$3,950.00
	\$6,027.50

Balance as of 12/31/2023 **\$9,965.30**

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer