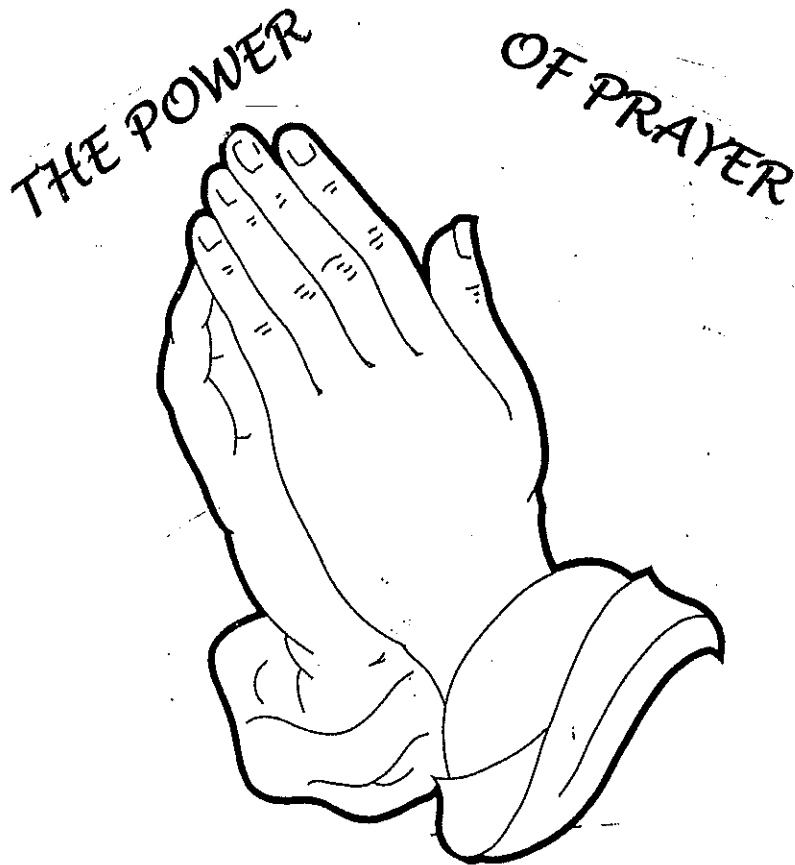


ANNUAL REPORT

2024

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Stovertown



Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances
for this is God's will for you in
Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Devote yourself to prayer,
Being watchful and thankful
-Colossians 4:2

St John's Lutheran Church Stovertown
Congregational Annual Meeting
January 28, 2024

Council Vice President Robert Pletcher called the meeting to order at 12: P.M. with 24 members present.

Pastor Al Laese led devotions giving thanks to the congregation and asking for guidance for the year to come.

Pastor Al Laese looked back on 2023. He claimed that it was a record year for him in trips to the ER via the emergency squad. He enjoyed the produce giveaways and the double rainbow at the Triple Nickel Country Cruise In. He encouraged the congregation to keep up the ideas for activities. Pastor's report was approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Gary Williams.

Council secretary Frank Dietz presented the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting. They were approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Gary Williams.

The Endowment Fund report was presented by Robert Deitrick. He pointed out that no disbursements were made to the general fund in 2023. The Endowment Fund report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins.

The WELCA financial report was presented and reviewed. It was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Gary Williams.

The 2024 proposed budget was presented and reviewed. Joe Pletcher explained that 2% was added to the 2023 actual expenses to arrive at the 2024 projections. The 2024 proposed budget was approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Frank Dietz.

The 2023 treasurer's report was reviewed. The church receipts, expenses, and different activities were listed over 5 pages of the report. Frank Dietz and Robert Deitrick motioned to accept the report. The motion was approved by the congregation.

The envelope giving and the average attendance reports were reviewed.

The Produce Market report was presented next. 152 different households were served with a 106 households monthly average. The majority of the households have been elderly consumers. The Produce Market is still growing after 2 years and 4 months. The Produce Market report was approved on a motion from Steve Wolfe and Jim Swingle.

The Social Ministry report for 2023 was reviewed. It was approved on a motion from Jim Swingle and Nathan Atkins.

The Worship and Music committee report was reviewed and approved on a motion from Jim Swingle and Gary Williams.

The PRAYER CO report was presented. Steve Wolfe highlighted the events of 2023. He also discussed plans for 2024, including a church campout (May 19), reviving the Stovertown Stomp, and possibly an excursion to Noah's Arc Encounters in Louisville KY. The PRAYER CO report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Shannon Davis.

The property committee report was presented. It was approved on a motion from Don Parmiter and Bryan Cramer.

OLD BUSINESS 12:47 P.M.

With the question "What is our ten year plan for the church?" Heather Davis opened a discussion that included information and ideas about: low seminary enrollment numbers, seminary student to attend Stovertown once a month for children's activities, a church council planning committee, and an advertising committee.

NEW BUSINESS 1:14 P.M.

The weekly email newsletter was praised, "I am glad people are using this service," Robert Deltrick announced. Any and all items for the newsletter should be forwarded to Linda Showers.

Karen Showers asked if the church shelter house could be utilized for the monthly produce giveaways.

The participants of the Daffodil Hill planting project were thanked and the results are eagerly anticipated.

Frank Dietz and Heather Davis motioned to adjourn at 1:20 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer

Frank Dietz - council secretary

Stovertown 2024 Treasurer's Report

Community Bank Balance as of 1/1/2024 **\$30,907.50**

Receipts:

Church Offerings	\$56,752.01
Mission Support	\$8,106.00
World Hunger	\$1,137.00
Initial	\$149.00
Oesterlen	\$306.00
Church Rental	\$1,800.00
Social Ministry- Donations for Long Family	\$55.00
Thrivent	\$1,149.00
Produce Market	\$1,970.00
Christ Table	\$40.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$160.00
Miscellaneous	\$304.07
	\$71,928.08

Disbursements:

Special Offerings:

Mission Support	\$8,106.00
World Hunger	\$1,137.00
Oesterlen	\$306.00
Avondale Youth Center	\$306.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$160.00
Hurricane Relief	

Salaries:

Pastor Albert Laese	\$26,838.68
Portico Benefits Insurance	\$4,741.60
Vicky Thomas	\$5,171.52
Jamey Brassfield	\$1,551.48
Susan Dietz	\$2,327.22
Jessica Fabiny	\$2,216.40
Nathan Atkins	\$517.16
Supply Pastor/Organist	\$253.25
Social Security & Medicare	\$3,071.78

Utilities:

Muskingum Co. Utilites (Water)	\$420.00
Verizon	\$185.10
NGO Propane	\$1,739.77
Guernsey-Muskingum Electric	\$2,790.00

Office Supplies & Service:

Copier Service (Modern Office Methods)	\$470.72
Post Office	\$664.98
VanCo Transaction Charge	\$10.20
Checks	\$43.20
Misc Office Supplies	\$751.77

Property Improvemnets & Maintenance:

Sewer Inspection	\$30.00
Elevator Saftey Test and Servicing	\$691.64
Real Estate Taxes	\$42.00

Social Minstery:

Long Family	\$500.00
-------------	----------

Misc:

Insurance	\$3,318.00
Worker's Compensation	\$125.00
Upper Room	\$216.16
1517 Media	\$603.83
Concordia Publishing	\$276.41
American Church	\$239.38
Produce Market	\$1,658.74
Misc	\$983.78

\$72,464.77

Balance as of 12/31/2024

\$30,370.81

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

Cemetery Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2024 **\$10,608.14**

Receipts:

Donald & Claudette French- 2 Graves	\$1,500.00
James Epply & Debra Anderson-2 Graves	\$1,500.00
Matthew Evans- 1 Grave	\$750.00
Pam Taylor & Gerry Pulley- 2 Graves	\$1,500.00
Donation- Dianna Wright	\$1,500.00

\$6,750.00

Disbursements:

Walt Atkins- Mowing and Gas Reimbursment	\$2,730.00
Cemetery Permit	\$25.00
American Pride	\$435.00

\$3,190.00

Balance as of 12/31/2024 **\$14,168.14**

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

Memorial Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2024	\$7,715.69
Receipts:	
In Memory Judy Zieg	\$5,000.00
Interest	\$7.56
	\$5,007.56
Disbursements:	
	\$0.00
Balance as of 12/31/2024	\$12,723.25

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

Youth Camp/Prayer Company Fund

Balance as of 1/1/2024 **\$9,965.30**

Receipts:

Car Show	\$7,343.30
Interest	\$11.19
Donations	\$250.00
	\$7,604.49

Disbursements:

Car Show	\$2,750.00
Social Ministry	
Long Family	\$500.00
Eastside Ministeries	\$100.00
Brandon Wood	\$500.00
Trixie Ross	
Tammy	
Petitt Family	
Christmas	
	\$2,750.00

Balance as of 12/31/2024 **\$9,965.30**

Jessica Fabiny, Treasurer

STOVERTOWN ENDOWMENT FUND, 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024

No money was distributed to the Church general account in 2024.

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 1/1/24</u>	<u>End 12/31/24</u>	<u>Gain (Loss), %</u>
Total:	\$290,738.21	\$307,160.19	\$16,421.98 / 5.65%
ONCFX:	\$235,478.52 (81%)	\$239,710.97 (78%)	
Cash acct:	\$ 55,259.69 (19%)	\$ 67,449.22 (22%)	

The ONCFX fund itself was up 7.20%. This number reflects dividends and capital gains being reinvested in the ONCFX fund. The fund Category (30-50% equity) was up 7.88%, and the fund Index was up 9.11%. For 2024, ONCFX is in the 58th percentile (below average) of funds in the category. In the broad indexes, the Vanguard S&P 500 Index Fund was up 24.98%, and the Vanguard Total Bond Index Fund was up 1.38%. (source: Morningstar).

Makeup of JPM Investor Conservative Growth Fund (Select Shares), ONCFX, Dec. 2024:

a. U.S. equity	21.56%	Index: 28.46%
b. Non U.S. equity	8.02	11.11
c. Fixed income	63.62	55.28
d. Other	0.08	5.14
e. Cash	6.55	0.00
f. Not classified	0.18	0.02

There is no attached spreadsheet this year.

For the Endowment Committee, Robert Deitrick

WELCA REPORT 2024

RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS
Regular offering-\$212.00	3/31- Payment on sunrise breakfast ham- \$30.00
Bucket money Offerings-278.13	4/10-Woman of ELCA-\$46.00
Sunrise breakfast offering-\$68.00	4/10- Donation to Philo High Pantry-Bucket money-\$139.43 + \$60.57 from WELCA to = \$200.00
Basement sale- \$612.53	5/13- Payment for items for the M/D/F Banquet- \$60.00
Thank offering service-\$200.00	7/9- Donation to Lion Club Pediatric Cancer Walk-\$100.00
Donations From church member to add to account- \$8.50 From church member for altar flowers- \$30.00 From WELCA member for shipping quilts- \$30.00	10/2-Payment for shipping of quilts- \$100.00
	10/9- Women of ELCA-\$60.00
	10/29- Payment on quilting material \$107.00
Balances as of 12/31/2024 Checking- \$78.46 Savings- \$4116.27 Cash-\$284.06	11/16- Donation to Produce Market for hams Bucket money \$181.53 +\$18.47 from WELCA to = \$200.00
	11/25- Donation to Honor Flight Columbus \$200.00
	11/25- Donation to Christ Table- \$200.00

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, STOVERTOWN

PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed
Receipts		
Church Offerings (Current)	\$56,753.01	\$57,000.00
Mission Support (Benevolence)	\$8,106.00	\$7,900.00
World Hunger	\$1,137.00	\$1,150.00
Initial	\$149.00	\$150.00
Oesterlen-Avondale	\$306.00	\$310.00
Adopt-A-Child	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hurricane/Earthquake Relief	\$200.00	\$200.00
Miscellaneous	\$5,171.07	\$5,200.00
Total Receipts	\$71,822.08	\$71,910.00
Disbursements		
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		
Salaries	\$50,814.90	\$52,000.00
Church Expenses (General)	\$4,867.75	\$5,000.00
Utilities	\$5,134.27	\$5,300.00
Insurance	\$3,318.00	\$3,384.36
SPECIAL OFFERING		
Mission Support (Benevolence)	\$8,106.00	\$7,900.00
Oesterlen Avondale	\$306.00	\$312.12
Adopt-A-Child	\$0.00	\$0.00
World Hunger	\$1,137.00	\$1,159.74
Miscellaneous (Prayer Company, Outreach, Avondale)	\$11,620.88	\$11,853.30
Total Disbursements	\$85,304.80	\$86,909.52
Net	(\$13,482.72)	--

We covered 84.2% of our expenses in 2024. Of our actual receipts, 13.8% went to special offerings.

ENVELOPE AND OTHER GIVING FOR 2024

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
\$8650.00	\$5700.00	\$2700.00	\$250.00
5900.00	5700.00	~	200.00
5294.00	3940.00	800.00	554.00
4202.00	3635.00	475.00	92.00
4000.00	3700.00	~	300.00
3652.00	1800.00	1008.00	844.00
3630.00	3600.00	~	30.00
3132.00	2860.00	140.00	132.00
3120.00	3000.00	~	120.00
2580.00	1975.00	450.00	155.00
2428.00	2326.00	100.00	2.00
2342.00	1880.00	435.00	27.00
2250.00	1870.00	325.00	55.00
2200.00	2200.00	~	~
2122.00	1840.00	270.00	12.00
1920.00	1440.00	480.00	~
1177.00	1125.00	~	52.00
1060.00	720.00	240.00	100.00
1050.00	835.00	190.00	25.00
989.00	802.00	108.00	79.00
987.00	835.00	~	152.00
837.00	835.00	~	2.00
828.00	828.00	~	~
727.00	725.00	~	2.00
665.00	565.00	~	100.00
600.00	300.00	300.00	~
520.00	520.00	~	~
500.00	500.00	~	~
345.00	345.00	~	~
140.00	140.00	~	~
122.00	120.00	~	2.00
100.00	100.00	~	~
78.00	76.00	~	2.00
15.00	15.00	~	~
10.00	10.00	~	~
2.00	~	~	2.00
2.00	~	~	2.00
2.00	~	~	2.00
2.00	~	~	2.00

Financial Sec'y,
Janet Novaria

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR 2024

January 28

February 32

March 40

April 33

May 33

June 34

July 28

August 30

September 29

October 32

November 37

December 34

Easter Sunrise: 49

Christmas Eve: 50

Yearly Average: 2024: 33

2023: 33

2022: 31

2021: 28

2020: 23

Produce Market Report for 2024

The Mid-Ohio Food Collective & St. John's Lutheran Church, Stovertown, continue in a partnership to distribute food to our local communities. We distribute the food on the third Tuesday of each month from 9-11 am. On October 15, 2024, we celebrated our third anniversary in participating in this project..

218 different households were served in 2024 with an average of 99 households coming to pick up food each month.

Our volunteers are AWESOME & we average 16 volunteers coming each month to give their time to help with the setting up of tables & supplies, traffic control, registration, bagging the food, distributing the food safely, to clean up. The job gets done! We have fun while we work & enjoy the fellowship. The pay rate is heartwarming!

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

Apples	Bananas	Blackberries	Blueberries	Cabbage	Cantaloupe
Carrots	Cauliflower	Celery	Corn	Cucumbers	Grapefruit
Grapes	Kale	Lettuce/Greens	Lemons	Nectarines	Oranges
Peppers	Potatoes	Sweet potatoes	Watermelon	Squash	Zucchini

Other food products provided include: Cookies, Tea, Juice, Milk, Mayonnaise, Sour Cream, & assorted Bakery items.

The 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 2024, the volunteers distributed 83,358 pounds of food for an average of 6,946 pounds per month. Any leftover food that we had went to the Salvation Army or The Senior Center.

With the help from Thrivent Financial, & donations from members of the congregation, we were able to give out jars of peanut butter, and boxes of macaroni & cheese in June. In December, each household received a 4-5-pound ham for a holiday meal. Thank you to the congregation for your generous donations!

Thank you to Gary & Leslie Williams & Vince & Linda Showers for applying for grants through Thrivent. Each grant awarded us \$250.00. Thrivent Choice Dollars were also donated for the purchase of the hams.

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

These markets are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month & our serving time is approximately 9-11 am. We do start the distribution earlier if the food truck arrives on time & the food is bagged.

Volunteers are always welcome & should arrive around 8am to assist with the bagging of the produce. Dress appropriately for the weather. We have held the give-away when we had 9 inches of snow on the ground & from temperatures ranging from single digits to close to 90 degrees.

Our dedicated volunteers make this project a success & we are truly thankful & blessed to have them.

Remember this is God's work thru our hands.

Karen Showers, Produce Market Coordinator.

St John's Lutheran Church – Stovertown Evangelism Team Report - 2024

St. John's Lutheran - Stovertown Weekly Email

A weekly email was established to share information, including prayer requests and weekly announcements/reminders.

Evangelism/Witness/Outreach Audit

In June 2024 an audit was conducted to review all of the many outreach efforts by members of St. John's Lutheran Church – Stovertown. Any effort that is visible/inviting to the community or directly involves the community was included. The list of current evangelism/witness/outreach vehicles or events at St. John's Lutheran – Stovertown includes:

- Breakfast with Santa
- Campouts/Canoe Trip
- Car Show
- Cemetery Services
- Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins
- Community Garage Sale
- Funeral Luncheons
- Prayer Company
- Prayer Shawls
- Produce Market – 3rd Tuesday of the month
- Quilting
- St. John's Christmas Eve, Christmas, Holy Week & Easter Services
- St John's E Sign
- St. John's FB page
- St. John's Monthly Newsletter
- St. John's Web page
- WELCA meetings & activities

This list involves many members of St. John's Stovertown who welcome, witness to, serve and encourage others in the community and we thank the Lord for such a loving, gracious congregation – *Preach the Gospel always; if necessary, use words.*

St. John's Lutheran - Stovertown Community Directory

A community directory was compiled from old directories, and weekly email & monthly newsletter invitations for participation. Drafts for proofing for corrections were sent several times. A final PDF of the directory was emailed to all listed in December 2024. Hard copies were also made available at St. John's - Stovertown.

Linda Showers
Evangelism Chr.

***May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon the earth, your saving power among the nations. Ps 67:1-2***

PRAYER COMPANY 2024 REPORT

I would like to start by giving Praise and Glory to God who guides us, and a heart felt thank you to every member of our Congregation for their support, dedication, and hard work, that made 2024 the PRAYER COMPANY's most memorable year yet, since its beginning in 2010.

The 2024 Cruise-In set a new record, and was the largest attended yet, with 177 cars registered. Not only did we have our usual bounce house for the kids, but new this year was artist Kurt Dreier, who did caricatures of both young and old alike, and was enjoyed by many! He was sponsored by Freedom Tactical/Lumbertown, and we hope to have him back in 2025. We had over 150 door prizes that was donated and given away, and we did our traditional, two separate 50-50 drawings. We also had the largest inventory of Tee shirts and sweat shirt ever, and sales was strong, with a few left over. We also had request for hats and children's sizes for next year, and we are going to explore that possibility. For all practical purposes, all food was sold this year. The larger dash Plaques were a big hit, and they were sponsored by, "The Pump Guy", a concrete pumping company in McConnelsville, and we hope to have them again next year. We also had new signs to help direct the cars and spectators, which Brian and Susan Miller provided, and a big thank you goes out to them!

The 2024 annual camp out/canoe trip adventure was at Campbell Cove Campground in Logan again this year, and despite being unable to canoe because of the Hocking river experiencing very low water levels, a good time was still had by all! This year saw more hiking, exploring the area, fishing and pontoon boat rental on Lake Logan, and of course plenty of fun, fellowship, eating, socializing, and laughter. This year's adventure will be the 2nd weekend in September, and many of us have already made our reservations. Come join in the fun!

Thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication, we were able to give 4,500\$ back to the community this year. Monetary donations were provided to Christ Table, Homeless Hands of Zanesville, and to the Children's Home specifically for Christmas gifts. Monetary donations were also provided to several families or persons in need, including 2 Families to help with funeral expenses, a cancer patient who was getting chemo and radiation treatments and furnace had to be replaced, an older woman who lived alone and lost her home to a house fire, and 3 different families for medical expenses, who either were, or had been, hospitalized in Columbus, and continued to have to travel to Columbus for follow appointments.

Instead of donating money to East Side Ministry or the Salvation Army this year, they informed us of items and goods that they badly needed, and we did the physical leg work to provide them. Among East Side Ministries requests, was men's winter clothing, coats, toboggans, socks, gloves, hoodies, and sweat shirts. We also provided 2 boxes of hand warmers, several candles, flashlights, batteries, lighters, and several small tarps with ropes that the homeless use to make shelters. They also requested and was provided with household cleaning supplies, beach, soap, shampoo/conditioner, tooth paste/ tooth brushes, band aids, and female hygiene supplies.

The Salvation Army informed us that 150 children missed the Angel Tree deadline this year, and they needed Christmas gifts for them, especially for boys in the 10 to 12-year-old range. We provided them

with 15 fishing rods and reels, 15 tackle boxes fully stocked with supplies needed to go fishing, and 5 footballs, 5 soccer balls, and 5 basket balls.

With the Good Lord's Guidance, the St. John's Stovertown PRAYER COMPANY has now given back over 33,500\$ to our community.

Again, a huge heart felt thank you goes out to all Church members and Brandon Wood, but also to all our friends and family who jump in and volunteer the day of the event, to all the business who donate, to everyone who provides the great "Church Lady food" and drinks, those who donate cash and Thrivent charge cards to help with expenses, to everyone who goes out gathering donations, and to all the participants (many which call The Triple Nickel their favorite show) and spectators, and everyone who makes this happen, Thank you! You are all totally awesome!!

Submitted with much gratitude and respect, and may God Bless,

Steve Wolfe

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT- 2024

Through out the year many things have been replaced as they age. Lighting, a sink in the back room to made some things easier, etc. The elevator passed it's yearly inspection. The building has been power washed , what could be reached with the equipment we had. Thanks to the many hands that have helped with all the updates and upkeep . It takes a village.

Nate Atkins, Property Chair