

The Eagle

January
2022

**ST. JOHN
CHURCH COUNCIL
SERVANTS**

Matt Cote

Lee Dryden

Ginny Hohl

Rick Bosch

Marsha Irmer

Don Reidell

CJ Ullrich

Shirleen Besch

Brian Hirschey

COVID-19 WORSHIP UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since December 24, 2021, our congregation has ceased in-person worship because of growing concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we had hoped to resume in-person worship shortly after Christmas, it now seems prudent to delay a few more weeks to allow the current spike in infections to decline. **For the time being (presumably all of January at the least), we will continue to worship remotely utilizing online resources and technology.** Please check your emails and our website weekly for links to those opportunities. We believe that continuing the suspension of in-person worship is in the best interests of our physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

I hope you know that this decision was not reached lightly. It has been made from an abundance of caution. In short, we hope to keep our people safe and do what we can as a congregation to lower the numbers in our area. We understand that there will be some for whom this news is quite disappointing. In fact, we can say quite confidently that we are all disappointed in the slow progression of this pandemic. Nevertheless, we believe a relatively short hiatus from in-person worship is in the best interests of the congregation and our community. The council will discuss the resumption to in-person worship at the January council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

For nearly two years we have wandered the wilderness of this pandemic. We have sacrificed and practiced patience. We have been creative and resourceful. We have made hard decisions trusting that God's will and not our own would be done. As we navigate this particularly emotional and anxious chapter in that wilderness, we do so with the same hope that has brought us this far along the way.

I am not sure when we will reach the "promised land." Moreover, I don't really know what that might look like. However, this much I do know: God is with us now. We are not alone, though we may feel far apart. We are not forgotten, though the isolation has taken its toll. Grace is here. Light has come. God will bring us home.



Life Passages



Reece Silveri was baptized on December 5, 2021

John Levert IV was baptized on December 18, 2021

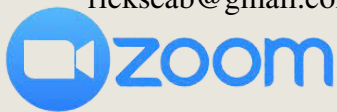
Ryan Gollegly was baptized on December 18, 2022

Mens Group

The Mens group will meet virtual on Zoom through January.

If you have any questions please contact Rick Bosch.

rickseab@gmail.com



Sunday School

Sunday School is being postponed until further notice.

Children's worship resources can be found on our website.

<https://sjlcamherst.com/school>

continued..

We give thanks to God for your ongoing patience and prayer. If you require pastoral care, please contact me on my cell (716)969-5187 or via email pastorscott@sjlcamherst.com. If you or someone you know has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and is in need, please contact our church office.

May God Bless You. May you have a happy and healthy New Year.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott D. Hannon, on behalf of the Executive Committee

Psalm 121:7-8

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.



Minutes of the 2021 Congregational Meeting
12.19.21 @ 9:30AM

The meeting was called to order by President Cote and a quorum was present. The agenda included two resolutions to be considered...

1. The proposed 2022 budget presented with the unanimous approval of the church council and
2. The nomination of Brian Hirschey and Shirleen Besch to the church council.

Both motions passed.

Pastor Hannon submitted pastoral acts for the year to the congregational secretary after the meeting.



**ARE YOU 72 YEARS OLD OR OLDER?
DO YOU HAVE A TRADITIONAL IRA?**

If you answered yes to those two questions, you may wish to consider donating some of your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) directly to St. John.

These Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are a direct transfer of funds from your IRA directly to St. John. The major benefit to you is that you do not have to pay taxes on those amounts. Otherwise your withdrawals are taxable. Since most people can no longer itemize, you save on your income tax as well as deductions for Social Security and Medicare. The only stipulation is that the money must come directly from your financial institution to St. John. (You cannot have your adviser mail you a check and then you send one to St. John.)

Several people at St. John are already taking advantage of this program. I then send them letters for tax purposes in January to verify their donations. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested and have questions.

Ginny Hohl, Financial Secretary

COUNCIL UPDATE

The December Council Meeting was held on the 14th at 7:00 PM. The meeting began with a devotion centered on a poem by the late Bishop Oscar Romero. After contemplation and reflection, the meeting continued with the approval of the previous month's minutes and the agenda.

The pastoral report noted a baptism and many ongoing ministries. In addition to "routine" ministry, this month also included Christmas preparation, Advent worship, and the Christmas pageant. Pastor thanked the council and congregation for the recent expression of encouragement, generosity, thoughtfulness, and support.

The committees offered the following reports:

Social Ministry/Fellowship – The Angel Tree Project was successful. The first monthly luncheon was well received. In December the recently collected bags of cheer will be delivered to our own shut-ins. (Thanks to Judy for diligent stewardship of these ministries!).

The Men's Ministry has been meeting in hybrid form (in-person & via Zoom). The Men's Breakfast is held on the first Monday of the month at Helen's Kitchen.

Worship & Music – It was determined to allow congregational singing while masked.

Christian Education – The second trimester will begin on January 9th. The Adult Study group has met via Zoom and will resume in the new year.

Finance – The financial position of the church remains strong. We anticipate a surplus due to a second PPP loan and decreased personnel costs. A motion was made to distribute the remaining benevolence dollars as such: \$1,000 to Hospice, \$800 to Heritage Christian Services, \$800 to Rejuvenation. \$1,500 will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response from 2022 benevolence. The motion was approved.

Mutual Ministry and Personnel provided recommendations to the council regarding staff salaries and Christmas gifts which are reflected in the budget.

In the business portion of the meeting a proposed budget for 2022 was presented for approval. After a detailed presentation and discussion, the budget was passed unanimously for congregational approval. The nomination committee recommended Brian Hirshey and Shirleen Besch for 3-year terms on the church council. The candidates were approved unanimously pending congregational approval.

The council voted to approve acquiring Cyber Security Insurance at the cost of \$1,273 per year. The final word of the meeting was an emphasis that masks must be worn inside the facility. Signs will be posted notifying all users of the facility of this mandate.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

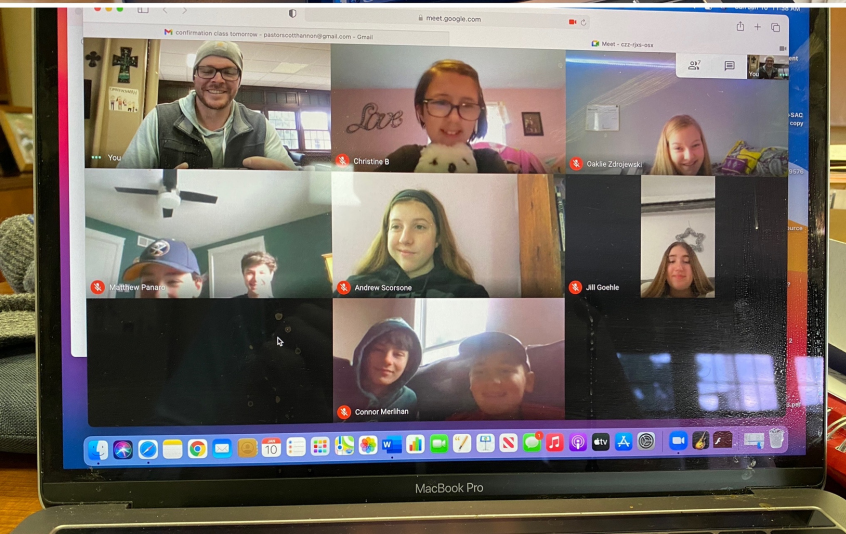
THANK YOU JENN GOEHLE &
JUDY NITCKE FOR YOUR YEARS
OF DEVOTED AND FAITHFUL
SERVICE. WELL DONE GOOD AND
FAITHFUL SERVANTS.

THANK YOU BRIAN HIRSHEY & SHIRLEEN
BESCH FOR STEPPING UP TO SERVE ON
THE CHURCH COUNCIL. WE LOOK
FORWARD TO YOUR LEADERSHIP AND
PUBLIC WITNESS.



A look back at
St. John in 2021





Dear St. John,

Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts to all those involved with helping to make Reece's baptism so incredible. The blanket is beautiful- Reece will have it forever! The engraved token, bear, banner and kind words will all be special mementos Reece will keep. Thank you again.

Love,
The Silveri Family

Dear St. John,

Thank you for thinking of our residents and bringing us so many bags of cheer! We were able to use them as prizes for activities and to share with residents in need. The handmade ornaments are on our tree in our Memory Care Unit- so lovely.

Thank you!
Heathwood Assisting Living.

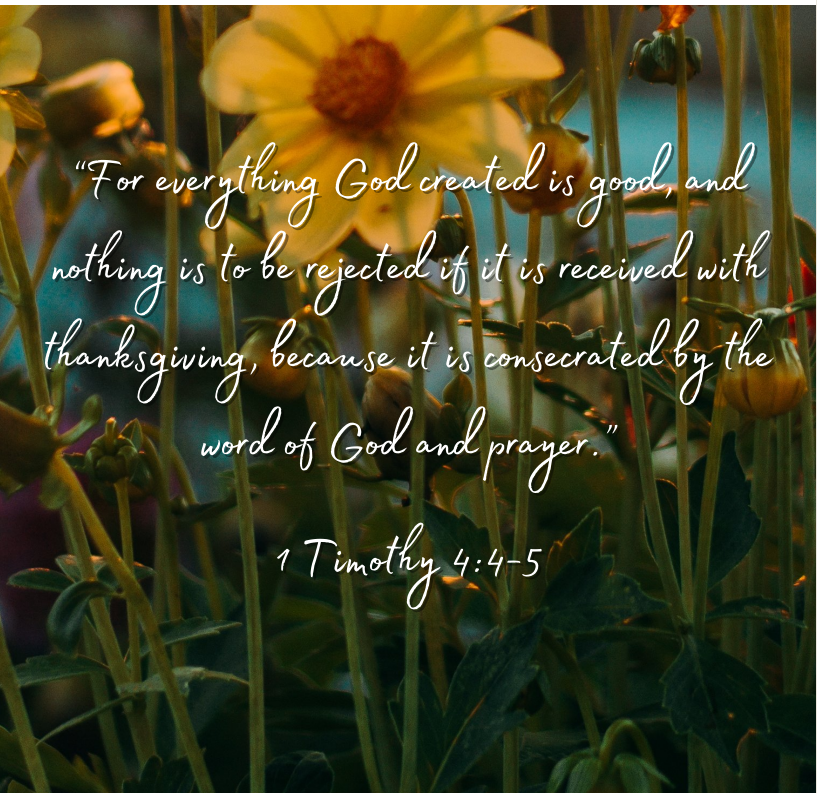
Dear St. John,

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center is truly blessed by friends like you who give to our ministry. Through gifts such as yours, we are able to provide programs that encourage and nurture the spirit of our guests and campers.

Your donation will help to continue to reach out and connect with many individuals. Thank you for sharing in LCLC outdoor ministries.

Your generous support makes a big difference.

In Christ,
Lee M. Linderman



"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer."

1 Timothy 4:4-5



THANKS

St. John church,

Although we have only met a limited number of times this year, we were happy to have had the opportunity to gather in your facility for friendship and to continue our mission to the community.

We would like to continue our relationship- everyone is looking forward to this. You have always provided a comfortable place for us. Your staff, in particular Sara Accardi, your Administrative Assistant, has been most accommodating in handling our many requests and changes to our schedule. When possible, every need has been met.

It has been a difficult year in many ways, heart breaking for some. Most everyone has been affected in one way or another. We hope everyone at St. John has their health and is doing well.

Christmas Blessings to all-- peace, happiness and good health to everyone now and in 2022.

Judith Dudkiewicz

ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

Hospitalized and Homebound
Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss and Bereavement

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

Grace Bosch, Bob Tiffany, Theo Slaper, Wayne Yendall, Helen Smith, Gayle Bosch, Merv Moore, Ellen Manthey, Gordon Steinhilber, Jerry Szykowny, Ed Utz, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Ruth Bertini, Ethel

Semrau,

Ann Harden and husband, friends of Marsha Irmer

Smith Family, Brother of Deb Francis

Jodi, friend of Mridul Pawlowski

Carol Hillman, friend of Laura Kachelmeyer

Seth, website request

Eugenia Smith, friend of Marie Palermo

Elyssa DeNapoli, friend of Pastor Marsha Irmer

Kathy Borcik, friend of Ellen Lothead

Bill Tambacas, brother-in-law of Judy Nitchke

Bob & Joyce Hewitt, cousin of Ray Hohll

Jennifer Volhozer, daughter of Karen Caton

Linda Nichols & family, friends of Pat McCarty

Kurt Yeager, son in-law of Marie Palermo

Amy Deboth, friend of Iris Reece

David .McCarty, son of Pat McCarty

Sandy Williams, sister of Bobby Traina

Ann Giuseppetti, sister in-law of Brenda and Dave Burow

Sharon Donahue, daughter of Pat McCarty

Carol Traina, Rich and Bobbie Traina's Daughter-in Law

Christie Guadagno, sister of Bobbie Traina

Vicki Altenoeder, sister of Bobbie Traina

Karen Sunick, Sister Bobbie Traina

For unity, peace, and the healing of our nation.

Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from world events and natural disasters..

The homeless, hungry, cold and lonely.

Those victimized by any form of violence, abuse, coercion, and addiction.

Victims and survivors of the recent tornadoes.

Military: Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, John Wendelin, Nicholas Ford, Ben Hoyt

Names will be kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks, if you need your loved one on for longer please let the office know and we will be glad to keep them on.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Candice Pankow	1/2	Zachary Slaper	1/14
Jim Pankow	1/2	Jillian Gohle	1/15
Rob Zdrojewski	1/2	Olivia Suszynski	1/15
Andrew Goubksi	1/3	Timothy Mayer	1/15
Bobbie Traina	1/5	Ellen Manthey	1/17
Debbie Schugardt	1/6	Debbie Steinhilber	1/18
Grace Manning	1/7	Molly Hannon	1/18
Laura Maraschiello	1/7	Charlotte Carnes	1/22
Josiah Kachelmeyer	1/8	Lori Ostwald	1/25
Roy Lewis	1/8	Marcellina Mullins	1/25
Donnette Hong	1/11	Mark Cox	1/26
Natalie Goubksi	1/12	Lisa Markarian	1/27
Mark Schlewitt	1/13	Patricia McCarty	1/27
Iris Reese	1/14	Marilyn Sirface	1/28
Pamela Figel	1/14		



STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, *Pastor* | Rev. Charlie Greene, *Visitation Pastor*
Cindy Lin, *Traditional Music Leader* | Elena Erokhina, *Contemporary Music Leader*
Sara Accardi, *Administrative Assistant* | Jared Bulinski, *Sexton*



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