
SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMHERST

2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

6540 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221 | sjlcamherst.com | 716-632-6557

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AGENDA & PRESIDENT'S REPORT

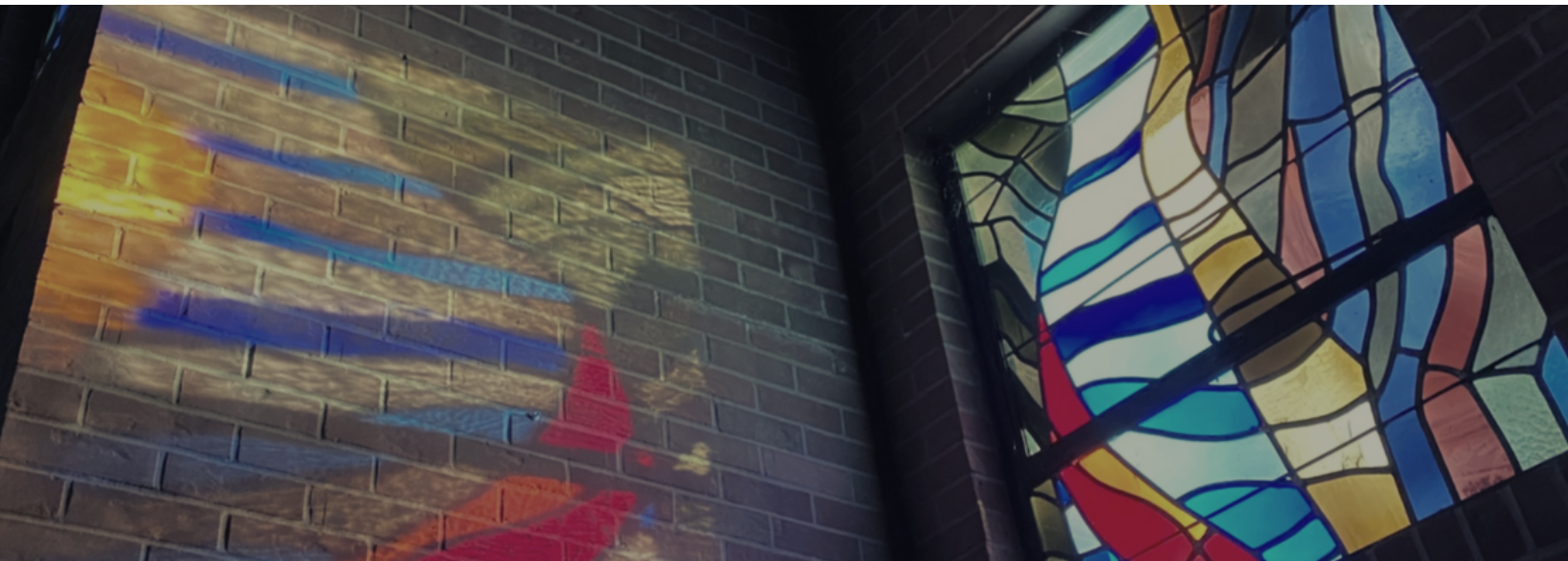
Agenda:
Call to Order & Prayer
Approval of Minutes (appendix A)
Acceptance of 2024 financials (appendix B)
Reports of the Congregation
2026 Budget Proposal
Election of Council Member(s)
Adjournment & Lord's Prayer

Many thanks to the dedicated Church Council who work on committees and meet monthly to address the needs of the congregation.

Thanks to the musicians and sound technicians who create the in-person worship experience and who livestream our worship.

In 2025 St. John Church embarked on Phase 1 of Mission 200: Our Faith, Our Legacy, Our Future. This effort aims to retire past obligations, fund capital improvements, improve the worship experience, and enhance youth ministry, among other projects. To date Mission 200 has been very successful.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Dryden



PASTORAL ACTS

We journey together as children of God, sealed by the cross.

6 FUNERALS & MEMORIALS

William Westley, Jr.
Carole Reid
Karen Caton
Mary L. Gilbert
David Chmielewski
Charles Zippiroli

30 NEW MEMBERS

Eric & Kristen, Sloan, Rose Weidert
Angelo & Sandy Anna & Olivia Lorenzo
Bob & Kerrie, Robert, Michael Zehler
Richard & Eliabeth Galmarini
Luke Galmarini & Bailey George
Ken Manning
Robert & Amy Bucholtz
Mark & Melissa Cook
Austyn Galmarini
Douglas & Christine Garlapo
Tom & Liz Hadala & Hailey
Paula Charters
Nels Larson
Chris Pleban

13 BAPTISMS

Audie Anderson Webb
Bennett Styn
Griffin Joseph Muller
Weston Jon Bondi
Quinn Richard Cretacci
Javier Benjamin Schmitt
Kaelyn Ava Pidgeon
Everett Jackson Leach
Rhett Conrad Havas
Charlie Bulinski
Leo Assuntino Bordonaro
Hailey Constance Hadala
Austin Terence Slaper

2 CONFIRMATIONS

Asa Sameer Pawlowski
Carter Andrew Scorsone

3 WEDDINGS

Ronald J. Christopher and Theresa Spagna
Jeremy R. Reynolds and Katerine V. Jimenez Camacho
Timothy Hoyt and Julianna Zippiroli

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year we reached 15 years together. As I reflect on our time together, I am left with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I thank God for you. I thank God for this church, for our volunteers, our staff, and all who call Saint John their church home. I thank God for our partnership and friendship. I thank God for your ongoing love and support.

This year we continued to build on the pillars of our mission: Community Engagement, Meaningful Worship, Faith Formation, and Pastoral Care. This year we also launched a capital campaign titled *Mission 200: Our Faith, Our Legacy, & Our Future*. The initial response to this campaign has exceeded expectations and put us on a trajectory to accomplish all that we set out to do.

Below I have listed just some of the ways we have fulfilled our mission statement: *Discover Joy. Share Love. Grow Faith.* As you read through the rest of this report, a fuller picture of the meaningful impact our congregation has on the world will emerge. Thank you for your service in this place and thank you for the opportunity to serve here with you. We have something @SJLC that should not be lost on us.

It's time to keep on going... to venture forward with Christ and for Christ. This world needs congregation's like ours... centered, mindful, faithful, & focused on what matters.

In the Way,
Pastor Scott

DISCOVER JOY.	SHARE LOVE.	GROW FAITH.
unified worship experience	caring hearts & creative ministries	3 weeks of faith-based summer day camp
social groups (e.g. men's ministry, bills' game watch party)	year-round community outreach & engagement	adult Bible studies via Zoom and in-person
youth group	gathered in prayer	Sunday school, confirmation, et al.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH REPORT

and a little child shall lead them... Isaiah 11:6

In 2025 we were able to continue to build up our youth ministry. Alex Dominique has been an asset to our program as our Youth Director. The youth group (grades 5+) meets regularly throughout the year. In June we were able to host the WNY Lutheran Youth field day in the OMC. Three weeks of day camp this summer in the OMC provided little ones a chance to experience camp and gave high school students the chance to serve as Junior Counselors. In the fall, we hosted a regional Lutheran Youth flag football event (again, at the OMC).

In the summer, youth were encouraged to attend Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. This summer we had kids at camp every week of the season. In the spring, Pastor Hannon, Paul Swanson, Tom Brunner, and Rick Bosch spent 2 days at LCLC building adventure course elements for the camp.

Moving forward, Alex's hours will be increased in 2026 and we hope to continue to build on this important ministry.

Sunday School occurs after a children's sermon during worship. Attendance has increased. The current model seems to be working for this chapter of our congregation's life. A Christmas Pageant is held yearly led by the SS kids. Teachers are always needed. A signup is located across from the nursery.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2025

blessed to be a blessing.

- We send volunteers to Friends of Night People once a month. In addition to providing the labor we also purchase and provide the food that is distributed.
- We support the Tiger's Den food pantry. Items are collected year round. The last trip to deliver donated items took two full truck loads.
- In Advent we stuffed 100 stockings with items for people of all ages. Those were distributed to brighten the lives of people in need.
- We set a record in July with donations for gift cards for Veterans.
- We partnered again with Clarence High School and collected Bags of Cheer which were brought to nursing home residents in the area.
- We collected coats, hats, and gloves for the Depew Community Center.
- Cookies were decorated and packaged nicely and donated to the Main Transit Fire Department.
- The Creative Ministry group continues to make items which are donated to various people and places.
- At various points throughout the year donations are collected for Lutheran World Hunger and Disaster Relief.
- Bags of food and gift cards are available in the church office for those in need.
- In Lent our focus was on community organizations and the ways our congregation can help those around us. We heard presentations from Lutheran Charities, Buffalo Immigration Services, Hospice, and the Arc of Erie County.

The 2026 calendar is already coming into view with many of our routine efforts and new additions as well. Community Outreach remains a top priority at St. John. Thank you for all that you do that is above and beyond. Because we care and because we share the world is a brighter and better place for many.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Ott



WORSHIP & MUSIC

come, let us sing for joy to the Lord... psalm 95

- We have completed one year of worshipping together with one service.
- There has been an increase in participation and attendance.
- The OMC was used numerous times throughout the year. Another Lutheran congregation rented it out for the second year in a row so their church could have “outdoor worship.”
- Thanks go out to our substitute accompanists for filling in over the summer.
- A tech operator was brought on to keep things running smoothly during the service and alleviate the stress on volunteers.
- New speakers were installed in the back of the church to help with acoustics.
- Repairs to the organ are part of the Mission 200 project.
- Sheet music is now provided for songs not available in ELW.

Respectfully Submitted,
Candy Scorsone



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. Heb. 3:4

MANY THANKS.

All the work that is done by volunteers to maintain our wonderful facility and campus is greatly appreciated!

Still, volunteers are ALWAYS needed. Men and women (especially younger) are welcome and encouraged to be part of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Swanson



PROJECTS

- Sanctuary lights updated to LED
 - Exterior lights updated to LED
 - Fence by playground washed and stained
 - Rear speakers added in the sanctuary
 - Additional parking spaces striped
 - Basement work area updated
 - Prayer boards replaced
 - Kitchen ventilation cleaned & inspected
 - Fire Alarm System inspected & tested
 - Boiler inspected
 - Fire extinguishers inspected
 - Routine HVAC maintenance performed
 - Lawns mowed and edged, shrubs and trees trimmed
 - Many other routine activities completed.
 - Washroom facilities for OMC purchased.
-

CEMETERY

the stones will cry out... Jesus

I became the chairman of the committee replacing our long-time chairman, Larry Schroeder. Also, four new members were added to cemetery committee to support our ongoing work and future endeavors. Breton Cemetery Services (BCS), who has performed our sales/interments of graves and has maintained the property, was sold to Nichols Cemetery Services. This was precipitated by the death of the long time owner of BSC, Bruce Breton. The company was purchase by Kyle Nichols who had been the long time foreman for BCS, so it was a very smooth transition.

Maintenance work includes the removal of several trees in danger of falling with a tree removal contractor, the patching of significant potholes in the paved roads, the filling of low areas of gravel roads. Nichols Cemetery Services continued their lawn mowing & the trimming of shrubs on the grounds. Repairs were made to the failing brickwork on the maintenance building office exterior, and a section of underground leaking water line was isolated and abandoned in place. Improvements made were the construction of a flagpole/flag on the grounds, the construction of trash can enclosures & the purchase on new trash receptacles, the planting of several new shrubs on the grounds, and the “staking out” of the area to become our Scattering Garden.

The cemetery investment funds that are managed by Courier Capital Co. performed very well, double digit ROI, during 2025. This performance is consistent with the performance of the major national economic indices. The committee met with our financial representative from Courier Capital during the fourth quarter of the year. Regarding our financial operations, revenues through grave sales and burials have been stable compared to the past several years. Expenses have also remained essentially fixed with no new major expenditures incurred.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Brunner, Cemetery Committee Chairman



PERSONNEL & MUTUAL MINISTRY

2025 was a year marked by continuity with the Saint John staff. We are pleased to have a full staff in place with our visitation pastor, administrative assistant, sexton, music director, and youth director. Grayson Snyder, Cassandra Girzone, and Dawn Schregel served as substitute accompanists for various services as needed. In 2026, Alex Dominique's hours will be increased by 2.5 hours/week.

We thank our staff for their faithful service.

Here are just a few ways our staff goes above and beyond:

Pastor Charlie continues his service even when he winters in Florida.

Brigid extends her ministry to advisor, counselor, and song leader.

Mike saves the congregation countless dollars with initiative and drive.

Cindy has volunteered at times to play violin outside of church for member's at home and in hospice care.

Full reviews will be conducted for the Saint John staff members in the first quarter of 2026.

The Mutual Ministry Committee met to make recommendations for Pastor's 2026 compensation.



FELLOWSHIP

*they devoted themselves to the apostles
teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread,
and prayer... acts 2:42*

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

Fellowship opportunities are always available at St. John – even as we endeavor to increase this important ministry of our congregation. The men's group meets weekly (in person and via zoom) as well as once a month for breakfast. A book club has also been meeting routinely. The youth group recently celebrated "Friendsgiving" and gathers for fellowship regularly.

Coffee hours were held throughout the year. The OMC was utilized as a space for gathering and fun. In Lent we gathered for dinner and growth in discipleship. In July, we once again partnered with the Main Transit Fire Department for a car show. In October many shared in fellowship and fun as we watched the Buffalo Bills on the big screen in our outdoor space. In November we held a brunch celebration for Pastor Scott's 15-year anniversary and recognized our newest members. Several fellowship gatherings were held as we launched our capital campaign *Mission 200: Our Faith, Our Legacy, Our Future.*

Fellowship is something that occurs naturally at St. John – before and after worship, at Creative Ministries, Prayer Group, with parents watching children practice Christmas songs, etc. Still, it is something that we hope will continue to strengthen, especially as we continue to navigate a world that wants to drive us apart. If you have any ideas or suggestions for increased fellowship, please share them with us.

CARING HEARTS

Caring Hearts is a group of approximately 30 volunteers who reach out and care for our fellow congregants.

Some of the things we do are: send cards (thinking of you, sympathy, baby)/make or purchase meals and deliver to shut ins or those grieving/coordinate and host funeral luncheons/ deliver altar flowers/ visit shut ins or those in rehab or hospitals. If you have a "caring heart" and would like to get involved, please join us. We could definitely use more help with delivering the altar flowers.

Barb King/ Laura Kachelmeyer



SHARE LOVE.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. ~Jesus

CREATIVE MINISTRIES

Creative Ministry is a group that meets monthly (September through May) to complete projects that are donated locally. Most of the cost of the projects is covered by grants from Thrivent. The group has been meeting for about 8 years. This past year we have donated many items to nursing homes, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Compass House, Family Promise, Wings Flights of Hope and 4 local food pantries. We have also made lap robes and blankets for individuals on the prayer list as well as making cards to be used by our Caring Hearts group. An amazing number of little items that mean so much to recipients go out our doors every month on behalf of St. John.

Respectfully,
Pam Figel

CRADLE ROLL

The Cradle Roll, which includes the children of our congregation from birth to age 3, has an enrollment of 39 currently. We are using a Concordia Publication entitled: *Enduring Faith ~ Beginnings*.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Tiffany

GATHERED IN PRAYER

2025 has been another year of exercising our biweekly, Thursday morning prayer meetings. We have had ten members throughout the year. During the winter months we meet via Zoom. GIP is committed to praying each day for everyone and every issue named on St. John's prayer list, and beyond. We are discreet when asked to keep names private.

In June I addressed the congregation for the purpose of shedding awareness about our group, especially for the sake of our newer members. It is our intention to continue this practice to refresh awareness annually. In this talk it was pointed out that Gathered In Prayer is closely tied to the Caring Hearts program, as we can pass along the names of those who may need some particular help for a period of time, such as having meals delivered. This cooperative approach between our groups has shown to be very successful.

Keeping you in our prayers,
Deb Francis

FINANCIAL MATTERS

It is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

- As of 12/02/2025 the fund had a value of \$507,776.37.
- \$18,580 was withdrawn in 2025 as we anticipated.
- Net return for the fund was 13.69% YTD.

STEWARDSHIP

In December a stewardship letter and pledge card were emailed to the congregation. Pledges can be returned to the church office, worship plate, or made online @ www.sjlcamherst.com/pledge.

A more modest stewardship appeal was introduced this year in light of the ongoing capital campaign, Mission 200.

We anticipate \$275,000 in weekly giving in 2026. Up \$15,000 from 2025.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- In the fall of 2025 we launched a three-year campaign to raise \$500,000.
- To date approximately \$320,000 has been pledged with gifts of over \$100,000 received.
- In 2026 three fundraisers will be held to help us achieve our goal.
 - Meat Raffle
 - Rummage Sale
 - Car Show/Chix BBQ
- The intent of this campaign is to reduce debt and tackle capital projects outside the scope of our budget.



PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Proposed Income Budget for 2026						
Income Description	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Estimate Actual	2026 Proposed Budget
Weekly	\$ 248,743.16	\$263,686.03	\$258,162.03	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 275,000.00
Congregational Challenge		\$ 420.00				
Previous year's surplus	\$ 13,629.91	\$ 25,125.34	\$ 25,125.34	\$ 21,574.07	\$ 21,574.07	\$ 19,783.88
Lent	\$ 1,230.00	\$ 2,840.40	\$ 1,803.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,874.45	\$ 2,000.00
Easter	\$ 1,996.60	\$ 1,885.14	\$ 2,984.40	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,232.12	\$ 2,500.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 330.00	\$ 666.45	\$ 735.99	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Christmas	\$ 2,947.65	\$ 3,025.85	\$ 3,710.38	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Initial	\$ 252.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 347.20	\$ 300.00	\$ 327.00	\$ 300.00
Other Income						
Loose Plate	\$ 4,302.79	\$ 8,943.00	\$ 6,976.31	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,000.00
Altar Flowers & Plants	\$ 911.18	\$ 2,330.90	\$ 2,319.21	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,500.00
Permanent Endowment	\$ 23,140.00	\$ 14,890.00	\$ 16,960.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 18,580.00	\$ 20,110.00
Building Use	\$ 13,679.00	\$ 25,370.97	\$ 24,191.61	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Boy Scout Breakfast	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,684.00	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00	\$ 115.00				
Sabbatical in Savings			\$ 11,337.02			
Sub-Total Unrestricted	\$ 315,202.29	\$354,368.08	\$358,952.49	\$ 335,774.07	\$ 358,487.64	\$ 356,593.88

PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Proposed Expense Budget for 2026						
Expense Description	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Proposed Actual	2026 Propised Budget
SALARIES AND ALL						
Pastor Sal & House	\$ 80,036.00	\$ 84,136.00	\$ 86,478.00	\$ 85,728.00	\$ 86,728.00	\$ 89,160.00
Staff Salaries						
Contemporary Music Director	\$ 16,594.27	\$ 4,182.00				
Music Director	\$ 16,602.27	\$ 22,744.13	\$ 27,558.82	\$ 29,208.00	\$ 27,268.61	\$ 29,208.00
Administrative Assist	\$ 13,517.00	\$ 21,620.13	\$ 22,189.42	\$ 22,512.00	\$ 23,053.42	\$ 23,208.00
Sexton	\$ 12,526.27	\$ 15,983.13	\$ 22,189.42	\$ 22,512.00	\$ 23,053.42	\$ 23,208.00
Youth Director	\$ -		\$ 2,550.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,741.42	\$ 7,000.00
Fringe Benefits						
FICA for Pastor	\$ 6,084.52	\$ 6,359.92	\$ 6,558.20	\$ 6,558.20	\$ 6,558.20	\$ 6,820.74
Health Insurance	\$ 3,030.05	\$ 3,014.22	\$ 2,804.04	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,958.69	\$ 3,300.00
ELCA Pension/Health	\$ 12,158.28	\$ 12,260.88	\$ 11,997.12	\$ 11,997.12	\$ 11,997.12	\$ 12,482.40
Dental Insurance				\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Staff FICA	\$ 4,538.19	\$ 4,842.29	\$ 5,547.31	\$ 5,678.75	\$ 5,975.94	\$ 6,320.74
Ministerial						
Auto Allowance	\$ 4,749.36	\$ 2,714.68	\$ 1,894.76	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,500.00
Continuing Educ.	\$ 182.07	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 45.83	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Professional Exp	\$ 1,649.02	\$ 1,735.22	\$ 1,319.10	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,851.41	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor Disc Benev	\$ 2,034.80	\$ 1,420.03	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Guest Pastors	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 712.98	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 912.98	\$ 1,300.00
Guest Organists			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
Pastor Sabbatical		\$ 11,550.00	\$ 11,887.02			
PROGRAMS						
Worship and Music						
Altar Flowers	\$ 60.00	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 3,120.00
Lilies, Poinsettias	\$ 1,047.98	\$ 1,382.98	\$ 1,715.49	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,800.00
Worship/Altar Sup	\$ 5,918.91	\$ 4,875.80	\$ 4,367.50	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Organ/Piano tune	\$ 1,002.42	\$ 293.06	\$ 2,329.15	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 290.00	\$ 1,000.00
Guest Musicians	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00
Camera for Online Services		\$ 2,060.81				

Building and Grounds							
Utilities	\$ 16,011.39	\$ 13,392.89	\$ 12,334.17	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	
Water & Sewer	\$ 2,183.86	\$ 2,615.29	\$ 2,394.96	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,950.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Security System		\$ 380.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 285.70	\$ 300.00	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 12,065.49	\$ 19,108.37	\$ 19,838.88	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 25,500.00	
Maintenance	\$ 16,224.64	\$ 15,303.50	\$ 16,390.21	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Cleaning Service	\$ 14,640.00	\$ 14,640.00	\$ 13,783.20	\$ 18,834.00	\$ 11,771.49	\$ 12,000.00	
Snow Removal	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	
Technology Support					\$ 720.00	\$ 2,080.00	
Cemetery Support	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Website	\$ 2,185.40	\$ 1,977.12	\$ 2,109.25	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,689.00	\$ 2,200.00	
Youth Ministry	\$ 764.68	\$ 1,221.01	\$ 373.62	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Community Outreach	\$ 15.55	\$ 127.25	\$ 58.49	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00	
Caring Hearts					\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00	
Stewardship/Envel	\$ 652.76	\$ 730.30	\$ 786.57	\$ 800.00	\$ 720.94	\$ 800.00	
Online Giving	\$ 710.14	\$ 683.60	\$ 648.24	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	
Christian Education							
Sunday School	\$ 423.96	\$ 567.49	\$ 689.75	\$ 600.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	
Cradle Roll	\$ 355.46	\$ 359.70	\$ 647.42	\$ 350.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	
Confirmation Prog		\$ -					
VBS		\$ -					
Fellowship	\$ 3,581.98	\$ 3,536.46	\$ 2,140.24	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	
Office Operations							
Supplies	\$ 4,925.44	\$ 4,670.21	\$ 5,862.91	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
Service Contracts	\$ 7,612.02	\$ 9,385.37	\$ 8,575.46	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 9,300.00	\$ 9,500.00	
Telephones	\$ 2,705.52	\$ 2,794.47	\$ 2,529.00	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 2,750.00	
Postage	\$ 298.48	\$ 167.26	\$ 347.70	\$ 250.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	
Other	\$ 24.01	\$ 51.02	\$ 39.97	\$ 36.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 36.00	
Transfer to Savings		\$ 7,569.16					
Delegates fo UNYS	\$ -	\$ 209.85		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	
BENEVOLENCES							
Upstate NY Synod	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	
Community Benev	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Total Unrestricted Exp	\$ 289,312.19	\$ 329,110.60	\$ 331,534.20	\$ 335,274.07	\$ 333,433.34	\$ 356,593.88	

2025 AUDIT LETTER

April 21, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church of Amherst
6540 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear Sir or Madam:

On March 22, 2025, I examined the December 31, 2024, balance sheet and related revenue and expense statements of St. John Lutheran Church of Amherst. The examination was made in accordance with generally accepted reviewing standards to determine if the financial statements are reasonable from misstatements.

The review was conducted on a compliance testing basis, including several tests of payment transactions and randomly selected bank statements, payroll records, fund transfers, and income sheets prepared by the counters.

I also reviewed the permanent endowment fund and the cemetery paperwork and found no discrepancies.

Based on this review, the accounting system is functioning as designed, that control procedures are being adhered to, and the financial statements are to the best of my information, free from material misstatement.

Sincerely,

Julie Johnson

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMHERST

Balance Sheet

November 30, 2025

	Assets	Year 2024	2024 through November (some thru 9/30/25)
OPERATING FUND			
Petty Cash	\$	200.00	\$ 200.00
Checking Account	\$	37,535.78	\$ 54,451.21
SAVINGS AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS			
Hoemke Fund	\$	17,330.71	\$ 19,824.85
Kaushagen Education Fund	\$	78,075.06	\$ 86,804.92
Steven Crawford Youth Fund	\$	9,448.88	\$ 10,292.44
Memorial Fund	\$	12,909.21	\$ 13,368.49
Youth Fund	\$	4,112.68	\$ 3,572.05
Savings in Scheff Investments	\$	50,005.61	\$ 62,958.14
Savings in Capital One 360	\$	7,881.12	\$ 7,999.36
Parking Lot	\$	0.43	\$ 3.58
Mission 200	\$	3,673.09	\$ 20,928.25
Weekly in Capital One 360	\$	19,296.80	\$ 7,785.89
2016 - 2018 Balance in Capital One 360	\$	5,960.96	\$ 5,749.81
Erickson/Crooks Bequest	\$	194.22	\$ 197.12
Youth to LCLC	\$	1,128.07	\$ 1,128.23
Savings in M&T	\$	210,016.84	\$ 240,613.13
Total			
FACILITIES			
Land		\$ 575,000.00	\$ 575,000.00
Buildings		\$ 5,312,700.00	\$ 5,312,700.00
Contents		\$ 625,000.00	\$ 625,000.00
		6,512,700.00	\$ 6,512,700.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Net Assets	\$	6,512,700.00	\$ 6,512,700.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		<u>\$6,512,700</u>	<u>\$ 6,512,700.00</u>

APPENDIX A

Annual Congregational Meeting December 15, 2024

Call to order: 9:35
Quorum Present: 55 members
Prayer led by Pastor Hannon
Agenda: Council Reports
Budget for 2025: Approved
Election of Council Members: Approved
Meeting Concluded: 10:25

Respectfully Submitted,
Candy Scorsone

Below are in addition to what was printed in the 2024 annual report:

Council President's Report: Lee Dryden is happy to continue as president for an additional year or two. Looking into adding an altar to the OMC. Capital fund drive happening in 2025.

Stewardship: Budgeting \$260,000 for 2025

Buildings and Grounds: Always looking for more volunteers.

Cemetery: Kyle Nichols taking over at the cemetery after the passing of Mr. Breton. Always looking for additional volunteers.

Finance: Income exceeded budget by approximately \$20,000. ARC provides cleaning services. Changed from Spectrum to Verizon. Members and friends can rent the building, but outside parties are no longer permitted to do so. Members can check online to see how much they have contributed at any point during the year. Ginny Holh has the login information.

Committees

- CJ, Bryan and Shirleen will remain in their current positions for an additional two-year term.

APPENDIX B

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMHERST

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR YEARS 2024 AND 2023

Income Description	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Envelope Income		
Weekly	\$ 258,162.03	\$ 263,686.03
Congregational Challenge		\$ 420.00
Surplus from 2024 and 2023	\$ 25,125.34	\$ 25,125.34
Lent	\$ 1,803.00	\$ 2,840.40
Easter	\$ 2,984.40	\$ 1,885.14
Thanksgiving	\$ 735.99	\$ 666.45
Christmas	\$ 3,710.38	\$ 3,025.85
Initial	\$ 347.20	\$ 385.00
Total Envelopes	\$ 292,868.34	\$ 298,034.21
Other Income		
Loose Plate	\$ 6,976.31	\$ 8,943.00
Altar Flowers and Plants	\$ 2,319.21	\$ 2,330.90
Permanent Endowment Fund Distribution	\$ 16,960.00	\$ 14,890.00
Building Use	\$ 24,191.61	\$ 25,370.97
Boy Scout Breakfast	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 4,684.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 115.00
Sabbatical in Savings	\$ 11,337.02	
Total Other Income	\$ 66,084.15	\$ 56,333.87
Total Unrestricted Income	\$ 358,952.49	\$ 354,368.08
Pass Through Items		
Birthday	\$ 433.20	\$ 654.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 1,360.25	\$ 1,495.00
Community Benevolence received	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00
Lutheran Charities		\$ 75.00
Cemetery	\$ 629.98	
United Way		\$ 98.80
Disaster Relief	\$ 75.00	\$ 4,582.09
Total Restricted Income	\$ 2,698.43	\$ 7,054.89
Total Income	\$ 361,650.92	\$ 361,422.97

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMHERST

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR YEARS 2024 AND 2023

Expense Description	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES		
Pastor Salary and Housing	\$ 86,478.00	\$ 84,136.00
Staff Salaries		\$ 4,182.00
Contemporary Music Director		\$ 22,744.13
Music Director	\$ 27,558.92	\$ 21,620.13
Administrative Assistant	\$ 22,189.42	\$ 15,983.13
Sexton	\$ 22,189.42	
Youth Director	\$ 2,550.00	
Fringe Benefits/FICA, etc.	\$ 6,558.20	
FICA/Pastor	\$ 11,997.12	\$ 6,359.92
ELCA Pension	\$ 2,804.04	\$ 12,260.88
Health Insurance	\$ 5,547.31	\$ 3,014.22
Staff FICA	\$ 1,894.76	\$ 4,842.29
Ministerial	\$ 45.83	\$ 2,714.68
Auto Allowance	\$ 1,319.10	\$ 1,000.00
Continuing Education	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,735.22
Professional Expenses	\$ 712.98	\$ 1,420.03
Pastor Discretionary Benevolence	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,175.00
Guest Pastors	\$ 11,887.02	\$ 11,550.00
Guest Organists		
Sabbatical Pastor		
PROGRAMS		
Worship and Music		
Altar Flowers	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 3,120.00
Lilies, Poinsettias	\$ 1,715.49	\$ 1,382.98
Altar Supplies/Bulletins/Worship	\$ 4,367.50	\$ 4,875.80
Organ and Piano tuning	\$ 2,329.15	\$ 293.06
Guest Musicians	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,150.00
Camera for Online Services		\$ 2,060.81
Building and Grounds		
Utilities	\$ 12,334.17	\$ 13,392.89
Water and Sewer Taxes	\$ 2,394.96	\$ 2,615.29
Security System	\$ 220.00	\$ 380.00
Insurance Premiums	\$ 19,838.88	\$ 19,108.37
Maintenance and Repair	\$ 16,390.21	\$ 15,303.50
Cleaning Service	\$ 13,783.20	\$ 14,640.00
Snow Removal	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Cemetery Support	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00

Expense Description	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
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Evangelism		\$	89.02
Website	\$ 2,109.25	\$	1,977.12
	\$ 786.57	\$	730.30
Stewardship/Envelopes	\$ 602.84	\$	683.60
Online Giving	\$ 373.62	\$	1,221.01
Youth Ministry	\$ 58.49	\$	127.25
Social Ministry			
Christian Education			
Sunday School	\$ 680.76	\$	567.49
Cradle Roll	\$ 595.76	\$	359.70
Confirmation Program		\$	43.12
<i>Living Lutheran Magazine</i>			
Fellowship	\$ 2,310.24	\$	3,536.46
Office Operations			
Supplies	\$ 4,916.88	\$	4,670.21
Service Contracts	\$ 8,023.61	\$	9,385.37
Telephones	\$ 2,314.58	\$	2,794.47
Postage	\$ 172.50	\$	167.26
Other	\$ 28.97	\$	51.02
	\$ 5,894.22	\$	7,569.16
Transfer to Savings		\$	209.85
Delegates to UNYS Assembly			
BENEVOLENCES			
Upstate New York Synod	\$ 2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Community Benevolence	12,000.00	\$	12,000.00
	329,699.75		
Total Unrestricted Expenses		\$	321,463.73
		\$	307,463.73
Pass Through Items		\$	1,495.00
ELCA Received	\$ 1,360.25	\$	654.00
Birthday Offering	\$ 433.20	\$	4,582.09
Disaster Relief		\$	75.00
Lutheran Charities	\$ 25.00	\$	98.80
United Way			
Cemetery	\$ 629.98	\$	150.00
Community Benevolence Contributed			
Total Pass Through	\$ 2,448.43	\$	7,054.89
	\$ 332,148.18	\$	328,518.62
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			

ADDITIONAL GIFTS NOT INCLUDED ON INCOME SHEET IN 2024

Chickens for FONP	\$ 1,539.00
Pastor's Discretionary	\$ 470.00
Outdoor Ministry Center	\$ 17,095.26
Mortgage	\$ 18,192.61
Car Show and BBQ	\$ 4,606.25
Tops Cards for Veterans	\$ 125.00
Courtyard	\$ 250.00
Fellowship	\$ 170.00
Rummage Sale	\$ 5,278.10
Sportsman's Noght	\$ 704.00
Little Library	\$ 317.02
Erickson/Crooks Fund	\$ 250.00
Building & Grounds	\$ 900.98
Creative Ministries	\$ 40.00

APPENDIX C

April 21 , 2025

Audit Report for 2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

On March 22, 2025, I examined the December 31, 2024 balance sheet and related revenue and expense statements of St. John Lutheran Church of Amherst. The examination was made in accordance with generally accepted reviewing standards to determine if the financial statements are reasonable from misstatements.

The review was conducted on a compliance testing basis, including several tests of payment transactions and randomly selected bank statements, payroll records, fund transfers, and income sheets prepared by the counters.

I also reviewed the permanent endowment fund and the cemetery paperwork and found no discrepancies.

Based on this review, the accounting system is functioning as designed, that control procedures are being adhered to, and the financial statements are to the best of my information, free from material misstatement.

Sincerely,
Julie Johnson

STAFF & COUNCIL

2025 Church Council

Lee Dryden, President
CJ Ullrich, Vice President
Lisa Leach, Secretary
Ellen Pancoe, Treasurer
Ginny Hohl, Financial Secretary
Ken Figel, Cemetery & Finance
Susan Ott, Community Outreach
Klansee Reynolds-Bulmer, Christian Education
Candy Scorsone, Worship & Music
Paul Swanson, Buildings & Grounds

The Staff at Saint John

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, Pastor
Rev. Charlie Greene, Visitation Pastor
Cindy Lin, Music Director
Brigid Monica, Administrative Assistant
Michael Dempsey, Sexton
Alex Dominique, Youth Director

