

2010 Annual Report of the Congregation



Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Rev. Bruce P. Nordeen, *Pastor*

Jeffrey H. Gray, *Director of Music and Liturgy*

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The Church Staff

The Rev. Bruce P. Nordeen
Jeffrey H. Gray
Bessie M. Kwasniewski
Donna Petrell
John B. Mikus

Pastor
Director of Music and Liturgy
Parish Secretary
Financial Secretary
Church Administrator

Congregational Council

Members are elected for two-year terms; Officers of the congregation are elected to 1-year terms

Officers

2010

Mark Martin
Donna Guido
Jeffrey Gray
Karen Galehan

Office

President
Vice President
Recording Secretary
Treasurer

2010

Mark Martin
Donna Guido
Jeffrey Gray
Karen Galehan

Council Members

Class of 2010

Jayne Gardner (*Cemetery*)
Lanie Hiles (*Hospitality*)
Lorraine Mlinarich (*Membership*)

Class of 2011

Buddy Galehan (*Property*)
Cami Himme (*At-Large*)
Vicki Rathbun (*Parish Education*)
Bill Reed (*Worship*)
Ruth Schreiber (*Evangelism*)

Class of 2012

Sam Balistreri (*Cemetery*)
Jerry Beatty (*Stewardship*)
Lanie Hiles (*Hospitality*)
Mikie Palmer (*Membership*)

Representing the SJWELCA: Joanne Henigman (President)

Statement of Our Mission

**Confident in the Good News of Jesus Christ, Son of God,
We of Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church:**

Proclaim this Gospel boldly in Word and Sacrament

according to the Confessions of the Lutheran Church and its traditions of Theology and Liturgy;

Model a community of love and stability

in which the Holy Spirit gives life to this gospel today, and within coming generations;

Invite and welcome our neighbors to join with us

in worship, learning, witness, and service as we joyously proclaim our Risen Savior;

Accept the challenge to be transformed into a new people of God

as we minister in the diverse and changing population in our community.

Report of the Pastor



“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” — Jeremiah 29:11

One of our members approached me a few months ago. They had heard a rumor that I was looking to leave Saint John for another parish. I assured them I had no intention of leaving. In all honesty, I love it here. The ministry is dynamic, the people are amazing, and God continues to bless us beyond all expectations.

Consider all the things we do in Jesus’ name — Meals On Wheels, the Quilters, and the Food Pantry. Think about all the homeless families we cared for this past year through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Or the people we helped protect and repair their homes through the Greater Chartiers Valley Community Outreach. Or the people we were able to get prescriptions filled, their water turned back on, or even prevent their eviction through the Good Samaritan Fund. We continue to *generously* support – the Lutheran World Hunger Appeal, Glade Run, Lutheran Senior Life, and the outreach ministries of our Synod. In fact, along with many other fellow Lutherans, we are sending five of our members to Camp Restore in New Orleans in February, where they will help the people there continue their recovery from Hurricane Ivan.

Consider how well we care for each other, and the people God sends into our lives. Just this past week, two people from our upcoming new member class remarked how warm and loving their welcome has been here. When people visit St. John for the first time, they inevitably remark how beautiful the sanctuary is. My standard answer is, “Yes, the sanctuary is beautiful, but just wait until you meet the people here – then you will appreciate the real beauty of St. John. And it’s true. You always make me proud, and in fact, I often brag about you to other pastor’s.

Consider how well God blesses us. Many of you don’t know this, but our candles in the sanctuary really aren’t candles. They are more like candle shaped lanterns that burn liquid paraffin. Each week, Sonja (another person God has blessed us with!) unscrews the top of each candle, lifts out the wick, and refills the paraffin. All except one candle – the Christ Candle. The Christ candle is a real candle, and it burns during the Easter season, and also at each wedding, funeral, and baptism – a symbol of Christ’s real presence throughout our lives. Jeff once told me that as the Christ candles burns down, it’s a measure of the life of our parish. That’s certainly been true this year – sixteen Baptisms, eight Weddings, and twelve funerals. And at each occasion, be it sad or happy, we commended it all to the power and love of our Lord Jesus Christ, who always has – and always will bless us beyond all expectations.

Blessings,

Pastor Bruce

Statistical Report of the Pastor:
January 1, 2010 thru December 31, 2010



Meetings.....	36
Contacts.....	351
Classes Taught	94
Youth	59
Consultations.....	117
Counseling	
General	43
Occasional.....	43
Social Activities	56
Community.....	42
Synod.....	12
Errands	12
Pastoral Support.....	90
Continuing Education Hours.....	15
Vacation Days (Of 24 Total)	21
Sick Days.....	3
Worship Services	168
Weddings.....	8
Funerals.....	12
Baptisms.....	16
Official Acts	9
Calls	
Hospital.....	60
Shut-In.....	149
Private Communion	144
Prospects	1
Initial Calls.....	1
Other.....	11
Members (Total).....	426
Office Hours	850
Miles Driven	3,726

Report of the Worship and Music Committee



Saint John continued to be blessed with outstanding leadership for our liturgies in 2010; our Lectors, Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Acolytes, Crucifers and Torch Bearers always do a great job; our Adult Choir, Choristers, and Saint John Brass add much to our worship services leading us in song and offering praise to the Lord through their music; and Saint John's Ministers of Hospitality – our Greeters and Ushers – serve our Lord and this parish unselfishly. Repeating last year's Report: we can always use more help!

Some worship and music highlights for 2010:

- Mid-week prayer services in the form of *Taizé Prayers* and *Holden Evening Prayer* continued with one service per month from January to April, and them from October thru December.
- Lenten Mid-week programs were again held on Wednesday evenings. They included soup suppers and candlelight prayer services held in the nave.
- In April, Saint John hosted a concert by the Edinboro University Singers and University Chorale; the Adult Choir hosted a reception following the concert, and the Grays fed the choir members and staff prior to the concert. (*The Edinboro Choir enjoyed themselves so much that they will make a return trip to Saint John in March of 2011!*)
- Our Holy Week and Easter services were, as always, very moving and very beautiful, with special music by our choir and the Saint John Brass.
- The work of the Comforters was on display – as always – on Blanket Sunday in March.
- The Women of Saint John held their annual *ThankOffering* Services in November.
- Christmas at Saint John is always special, and this year was no different. The Choristers did a great job at the 7:30 PM service on Christmas Eve, and the Adult Choir provided the beautiful music at the 11:00 PM service.

Joanne Henigman and Charlotte Lange continued their service as schedulers for worship assistants and greeters respectively. And Sonja Leja continued to head up the Altar Guild – a very important part of our ministry that always can use a hand or two...or six or eight!

We continue to pray for the blessings of the Holy Spirit upon our congregation as we gather to pray, hear the Word, share in the Sacraments, and praise our ever faithful Lord.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Reed

Worship Committee Chairperson

Jeff Gray

Director of Music and Liturgy

Report of the Mid-Week Prayer Ministry



The Saint John Mid-Week Prayer Ministry continued in 2010, with one mid-week service held on the first Wednesday each month from January to April, and then October thru December. In the spring, services alternated between *Holden Evening Prayer* and *Taizé Prayers*, and each of the services included prayers for healing, as this is a source of great strength to those who come forward. Beginning in the fall, the services returned to primarily Taizé services, with Holden being reserved for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Attendance is small, but those who attend experience a time of peace and tranquility.

We take a break from our “monthly” services during Lent, when we gather weekly for prayer as part of our Lenten mid-week devotions. These Lenten services are held in the nave, which is lit by candles and soft lights. Attendance at the Lenten services is higher than our regular mid-week prayer services, and for this we are thankful.

For the sixth consecutive year, we were asked to lead the Tuesday evening prayer service at our synod’s annual Pastor’s Convocation, held in the beautiful and resonant chapel at the Bishop William G. Connare Center in Greensburg, PA. In 2010, they asked us to lead a service of Holden Evening Prayer with healing, so we gathered up our candles and again transformed the Chapel into a place of quiet peace.

As always, I conclude this report by thanking our “Candle Queen”, Nancy McBurney, who puts away the many candles and Icons after each of our mid-week services.

We hope many more people will take advantage of this prayer ministry in 2010.

Jeff Gray

Director of Music and Liturgy

Report of Saint John Fellowship



During 2010, several opportunities for fellowship among our members and friends took place.

- ✓ We attended a presentation of *Nunsence* at the CLO Cabaret Theater
- ✓ We also attended a presentation of *‘Swonderful* at the CLO Cabaret, followed by dinner at The Spaghetti Warehouse in the Strip District
- ✓ A large group got together for a Hay Ride and Bonfire, held in October at Hozak’s Farm in Beaver County

As the old saying goes, a good time was had by all. No, make that a GREAT time was had by all!

More similar events are planned for 2011. So Watch the Journal and the weekly bulletins and the church website for details.

Jeff and Carolyn Gray

Fellowship Activity Coordinators

Report of the Christian Education Committee



The Parish Education department had a great year in 2010. We had 14 Baptisms, 5 Fifth graders make their First Holy Communion, and 7 Eighth graders make their Confirmation.

All of the Sunday school students and teachers enjoyed a fun filled Easter party and a Happy Birthday Jesus party this year, both filled with games, crafts and treats. Each party had approximately 30 children in attendance. Thanks to the higher grade students, who made Easter baskets for the shut-in's. We had 7 children participate in the Children's Choristers, and 11 participate in the Christmas Pageant. We would like to thank them and their parents for allowing them to participate and bringing them to practice/rehearsals, along with Katie and Becky for organizing the Pageant.

This year's Vacation Bible School, Baobab Blast, had approximately 50 children and 40 volunteers. Many thanks go out to the volunteers who take time out of their busy schedule to make sure these kids have a wonderful week. All of the children and volunteers would like to thank the Henigman family and Sami's Screen House for their generous donation of the VBS T-shirts again.

This year's mission project for both VBS and Sunday school was Hekima Place in Kenya, Africa. Hekima Place is a home for children who lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. We were visited during Sunday school this fall by Jackie Bell, who volunteered there for a month over the summer. She was able to give us a better understanding of where our donations went and why they are so important to these children and those who work with them.

Our Sunday school was blessed with many dedicated teachers and assistants again this year. Unfortunately, weekly attendance continues to be low as in the past years. We usually average a 30-50% attendance rate of the approximately 100 students enrolled. Although we realize a lot of it is due to scheduling conflicts with sports and school activities, it is still important that all parents, grandparents and guardians remember the Baptismal Promise.

In addition to the Sunday school and Vacation Bible School, we also offer Youth groups and Adult Bible Study. The youth groups have also had a decrease in attendance and are in need of help. If you would like to help the Parish Education department out in any way, please put a message in my mailbox or come and see me on a Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45 AM in the Library.

Thanks again to everyone who made this year special!

Vicki Rathbun

Christian Education Committee Chairperson

Report of the Vice President of the Congregation



The Saint John Food Pantry

In 2010, the Saint John Food Pantry distributed food to 55 families, consisting of 81 adults and 92 children.

In 2010 we again distributed Thanksgiving Food to our friends from the Food Pantry. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to distribute Thanksgiving bags to 20 families. Our thanks to Tim & Liz Krasousky and their family for coordinating this year's Thanksgiving drive and for distributing the food.

Good Samaritan Fund

Over the course of the year, requests come into the church from people within the congregation and community who have fallen on hard times. It could be a request for supporting funds to have their water restored or rent paid. Often these individuals have done what they could to save the money needed but sometimes come up a bit short. When this happens, their request is reviewed by the Pastor and a decision is made on whether to provide the financial assistance they are requesting.

In 2010, 22 requests were approved and \$6,096.84 was paid out from the Good Sam Fund. Donations to this fund in 2010 totaled \$9,475.00

Submitted by

Donna Guido

Vice President of The Congregation

Report of the Saint John Book Club



The only scheduled 2010 meeting of the Book Club was cancelled due to "Snowmageddon" in February. We hope to begin to meeting again in the coming months of 2011.

Lani Hiles

Book Club Coordinator

Report of the Hospitality Committee



Hospitality events for this year included:

- Spring and Fall New Member Receptions
- First Communion Reception
- Farewell reception for Peter Suwak
- Confirmation Family Dinner with Church Council
- Confirmation Reception
- Annual Church Picnic

The Annual Church Picnic was held at Webb Park in Rennerdale on September 13th. What a perfect day for a picnic. Not too hot, not too cool. And wonderfully cooked burgers, dogs and oh the delicious food. M&M guessing-Bible Word Games-Timed Fitness Style Relay for the kids (no grown ups wanted to give it a try), and plenty of time for visiting. Thanks to all of those who attended. We figured over 60 of us were there. I had fun...I hope you did too.

Special thanks to Jeff Gray for a bang up job on the burgers and dogs, to the O'Brien's for getting the permit and to all who helped with the set up and clean up.

I look forward to another year of service to Saint John Lutheran Church!

Lanie Hiles

Hospitality Committee Chairperson

Report of the Membership Committee



During the year 2010, the Membership Committee contacted 26 households where members have not attended church services for two consecutive months. This program has been in place for several years, and the purpose is to let you know that you are missed, make sure you are doing well, and to inquire if you would like the Pastor to visit you.

It is very important to sign the red attendance pad located in each pew every time you attend a worship service. This will help us keep our records current.

We are please to announce that during 2010, we have received 4 new members into the congregation of Saint John. Our Pastor and the Evangelism Committee have done an excellent job.

In the month of December, 10 termination letters were sent to 14 members who have not attended church services for made a contribution for two consecutive years.

Once again, **please remember to sign the red attendance pad located in each pew.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Lorraine Mlinarich

Membership Committee Chairperson

Report of the Cemetery Committee



It was evident from a number of inquiries over the past few years that we lacked an area in our cemetery for the burial of cremation remains. To answer this need we established such a section just above the Prayer Garden next to the trees. In 2010 we had four cremation burials and have sold several pre-need plots. For a cemetery as small as ours the interest shown in this new section justifies its establishment.

In 2010, we had three regular internments.

Last year, the cemetery garage was again damaged by falling limbs from four very large pine trees. Recent repairs cost us in excess of \$600.00 It was decided that it would be prudent to remove the trees before there was even more damage. Classic Landscape was contracted and removed all four trees for \$1,300.00.

The Cemetery Committee is planning more improvements in 2011. Watch *The Journal* for announcements and opportunities for you have a part in the enrichment of our beautiful resting place.

Sam Balistreri

Cemetery Committee Chairperson

Report of the Evangelism Committee



In this past year, the Evangelism Committee worked hard to offer opportunities for the members of Saint John to reach out and share their faith. Some were quiet ways such as encouraging the use of our name badges, sharing church activities with the "Life at Saint John" bulletin board in the side narthex and participating in the Coffee Hour held between the services on Sunday morning.

Other opportunities required us to step out of our comfort zone and dare to enter everyday living with the good news of the gospel. These ways are familiar to you as we have done them for a number of years:

1. The annual Free Community Car Wash took place Saturday, April 3. At the beginning of a day that was chilly enough to turn us into popsicles, 34 volunteers warmed to the task and washed 72 vehicles, gave out great home made cookies and hot coffee and shared the gospel of Jesus' life-giving sacrifice for us. Too good to be true--a free car wash? The free gift of life eternal?
2. On September 18th we held our annual "Feeding of the 5,000." We invited passersby to come in to our parking lot and enjoy a dish of ice cream with us, free of charge. As usual most people were very skeptical of something for nothing but for the 45 people who did accept our invitation it was a very rewarding experience for them and for us.
3. And finally, our NARF Weekend was held October 8th and 9th. This is the special time when we are asked to invite a nighbor, acquaintance, relative or friend to worship with us. We enjoyed having 22 visitors worshipping with us.

We hope to sponsor these outreach events again in 2011 and that you will all want to take part.

"Friendly Visitors" continue to welcome first-time worshippers by "pretzeling" them. We drop off a packet of information about Saint John and a pretzel to let them know we were happy to have them worship with us and to invite them to return.

The Evangelism Committee also hosts the lunch at Pastor's New Members' Workshops.

There are two ties that bind all these efforts. One of them is YOU. Without willing people ready to share the gospel in word and deed, evangelism would be non-existent. And most of all, without the Lord Jesus Christ, WE would be non-existent. May He be glorified in our efforts!

My thanks to these committee members who have faithfully served this past year: Nancy McBurney, Mikie Palmer, Bessie Kwasniewski, Pastor Bruce, Dave Hiles, Charlotte Lange

Ruth Schreiber

Evangelism Committee Chairperson

Report of the Saint John Women of the ELCA



MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SAINT JOHN WOMEN:

To Mobilize Women to ACT BOLDLY on their Faith in Jesus Christ.

All women of Saint John are automatically members of the Women's group, which provides many opportunities to engage in ministry and action. Our focus of Bible Study remains available twice each month based on the *Lutheran Woman Today* periodical. Bible Study groups not only provide for growth and reflection, but for lifelong fellowship.

We continue responsibility for set up and clean up of the altar before and after communion, providing the altar flowers, nursery during the service, the prayer chain and delivery of the altar flowers to shut ins and those in need. "Comforters" continue to sew quilts twice a month which are then donated to LWR. Each year we fund and provide services to those groups in need. We strive to involve all Saint John women in educational gatherings and to unite our entire congregation for social events.

Highlights in 2010 for the Saint John Women:

- ❖ **JANUARY:** Winter Gathering held on 1/16 - "Prayer in 2010".
- ❖ **FEBRUARY:** On 2/1 we held a Combined Bible Study with a Memorial Service for our dearly departed sisters Josephine Walsh, Katherine Choma, and June Bailey. A budget of \$2012.86 was approved.
- ❖ **MARCH:** Lenten Dinner on 3/3. Blanket Weekend Service on 3/14-15. DVD shown on blanket disbursement. \$773.00 in donations collected and sent to LWR.
- ❖ **MAY:** Spring Gathering on "Joy" presented by Trudy Taylor on 5/2.
- ❖ **JULY:** Family Game Night/Spaghetti Dinner held on 7/25 hosted by Cindy Sutton.
- ❖ **AUGUST:** Combined Bible Study meeting held at home of Susan Holzer on 8/3
- ❖ **SEPTEMBER:** Six woman attended the annual Retreat at Lutherlyn on 9/17-19. Elaine Schneider delivered 145 health kits and 127 quilts to LWR Drop Off site in Zelenople.
- ❖ **OCTOBER:** Harvest Festival Breakfast was held on 10/3 with contributions of \$1,791.00, which remains in the women's budget.
- ❖ **NOVEMBER:** Thankoffering Weekend Services held on 11/14-15 with Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner delivering the message. A donation of \$1,030.00 was sent to the National Women of the ELCA. Combined Bible study and election of 2011 officers: President: Joanne Henigman, Vice President: Bessie Kwasniewski, Treasurer: Edie Berg, Secretary: Jenny Shuster, Mission Action: Susan Holzer, and Mission Growth: Sonja Leja
- ❖ **DECEMBER:** Christmas Luncheon held at Peter's Place on 12/4. Christmas Cards created by Kayla Lawrence displayed with a contribution of \$532.00 for the New Orleans Mission Trip. Thirty Christmas gifts donated by St. John members delivered by Ruth Schreiber to Glade Run.

Joanne Henigman

President

Saint John Women of the ELCA

Report of the Church Administrator



Highlights of 2010:

- **Memorial Tree** —As memorials were received by Saint John, new leaves were added to the Memorial Tree located in the side Narthex. This year, leaves were added for: Marian Visnikar, Katherine Klein, Dorothy Mikus, Dorothy Tarbert, Joyce Marinacci, Alex Kwasniewski, Helen Uriah, Mary Keil, Betty Covi, Ethel Williamson, Don Schofler, Anne Bokulich, and Pauline Halley. Over \$11,000.00 was donated to the Memorial Fund during the year
- **Property** — The winter storm of last February caused significant damage in the furnace room, shorting out the phone system and the fire alarm system. The phones were repaired and the fire alarm replaced with a digital system and continuous monitoring by Simplex Grinnell. Cincinnati Insurance paid the claim of almost \$3,000.00.
- **General** —
 - Sent Carnegie Boro our records on the Sump Pump installation since they could not find the records we sent them previously.
 - The new fire alarm system required the installation of a new dedicated phone line which was done by Davis Communication.
 - A Carbon Monoxide sensor was installed in the furnace room and connected to the fire alarm system. In addition to the CO sensor, there are now heat detectors in the kitchens and furnace room and smoke detectors in the stairwells.
 - The Cemetery garage roof was replaced with a new roof by Holzer/Jesko for \$1,600.00
 - Electrical outlets were installed in the Burry Chapel by West Hills Electric for \$1,139.00 Three air conditioners were installed by John Bello.
 - Signed a 2 year contract with Equitable Energy to supply gas at a rate of \$3.95+_NYNEX Rate.
 - Signed a contract with PAWC to cover cost of water/sewer repair.
 - Replaced the Kitchen Exhaust fan and the Hood Fan was replaced by Chemtech. Cost for both fan replacement was \$2,100.00
 - Carbon monoxide alarm in furnace room started going off randomly. Started tracking cause of problem. John Bello and I cleaned filters in door, Called in Simplex technician to check alarm.Stahl to check furnace for leaks. Contacted TUDI Mechanical system to check Burner. Burner cleaned and adjusted. Found gas leak in the fire box which was sealed with cement.
- **Financial** —
 - A Cemetery Equipment Fund CD of \$26091.26 will mature on 2/28/2011.
 - The Memorial Fund had a balance of \$ 18567.97 December 31,2010.
 - The Good Samaritan Fund balance is \$7,889.01 as of December 31,2010
 - The 2009 and 2010 Financial Accounts of St. John were audited in December. The audit committee, approved by council, was Jan Schade, Ann Fischer, and Cindy Black.

John B. Mikus

Saint John Administrator

Parochial Report
As of December 31, 2010



	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership as of December 31, 2009	579	387
Members received during 2010:		
<i>By Baptism</i>	14	n/a
<i>By Affirmation of Faith</i>	4	4
<i>By ELCA Transfer</i>	0	0
<i>By Other</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Members Received	18	4
Baptized Members Confirmed	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>
Subtotal	18	11
Members Removed during 2010:		
<i>By Death</i>	12	12
<i>By Other</i>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>
Total Members Removed	37	37
Net Change in Membership	-19	-26
Membership as of December 31, 2010	560	361