



# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

4161 Cypress Road • St. Ann, Missouri 63074

314-739-3222 • www.sothstl.org

Pastor Kristen Koch

## Fifty-Sixth Annual Meeting and 2021 Annual Report

Call to Order: Sunday — January 31, 2022

Approval of Agenda (Table of Contents page) .....	1
Letter from the Bishop & Devotions .....	pages 2-3
Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting (not available at this time) .....	page 4-5
Minutes of the 2021 Annual Budget Meetings, Nov. 21, 2021 .....	page 6
Election - Slate of Candidates .....	page 7
Vote—Ratify Constitutional Changes .....	page 8
Reports	
Pastor Kristen .....	page 9
New Flooring Project Pictures .....	page 10
President .....	page 11
Statistical Report .....	page 12
God’s Work Our Hands Pictures .....	page 13
Treasurer’s Financial Report .....	pages 14-16
Account Balances and Description of Funds .....	pages 17-18
Committee Reports	
Care / Evangelism Committee .....	page 19
Education / Youth Committee .....	page 20
Social Concerns Committee .....	page 21
Policy Team .....	page 21
Special Events Committee .....	page 22
Mutual Ministry .....	page 22
Stewardship Committee .....	page 23
Facilities Committee .....	page 24
Technology & Communications Team .....	page 24
Worship Committee .....	page 25
Altar Guild .....	page 26
Organization Reports	
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America .....	page 26
Men’s Group .....	page 27
The Garden of Eatin’ .....	page 27
Shepherd of the Hills Endowment Fund .....	page 27
Little Free Pantry .....	page 28
Election Results	



## A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friends in Christ,

This last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may have never walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”. Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in this world through this church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”.*

James 1:17

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

**C: God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight in hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

**C: God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

**C: God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

**C: God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us forth as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

**C: You have called us for such a time as this.**

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.**

**Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love is supporting us;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**55<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING Minutes**  
**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, January 31, 2021 via Zoom**

**Church Council Attendees: Pastor Kristen, Daryl Hogbin, Margaret Keyes, George Marvin, Jim Sanderson, Mike Toohey, Sam Johnson**

Daryl Holdsworth counted those congregation members of Shepherd of the Hills who were present at this Annual Congregational Meeting. A Quorum of 20 members was needed. Over 36 members of Shepherd of the Hills attended this meeting, so a quorum was met.

**Call Meeting to order**

**Motion to approve January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting Agenda:**

- Moved by Rev. Karen Scherer and seconded by Pat Amick. Agenda Approved by all in attendance.
- The Annual Meeting Agenda for January 31, 2021 is passed.

**Letter from the Bishop and Devotions.**

**Motion to approve November 22, 2020 Annual Budget Meeting minutes:**

- Moved by Suah Gweama and seconded by Jeanne Keirle. Approved by all in attendance.
- The Minutes of the November 22, 2020 Annual Budget Meeting is passed.

**Election- Slate of Candidates for Church Council. The Newly Elected Church Council members will be installed during Worship on February 7, 2021.**

- Candy Travis January 2021 to January 2023.
- Joshua Koch-Holdsworth, youth rep, January 2021 to January 2022.
- A question regarding the Constitution of Shepherd of the Hills was raised about how many Church Council members are needed for the amount of the members of our Church.
- Julie Hutson, Kim Surratt and Sam Johnson will be the 2021 Nominating Committee. Margaret Keyes is the Church Council Representative to the Nominating Committee.
- Mike Toohey moved to approve the slate of 2021 Candidates and the members of the Nominating Committee and seconded by Bill Keyes. Approved by all in attendance. The election slate is passed.

**Reports:**

- Pastor's Report submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.
- Pandemic Pages with the year 2020 photos submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.
- President Report submitted by the President of Church Council, Sam Johnson.
- Membership Statistical Report submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.
- Financial Report submitted by treasurer Daryl Hogbin
- Account Balances and Description of Funds Report submitted by treasurer by Daryl Hogbin
- Education and Youth Committee Report was submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.
- Social Concerns Ministry Committee Report was submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.
- Policy Team Report was submitted by Martha Johnson. The team members include Lauri Anderson, Martha Johnson and Abbi Telander.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Special Events Committee Report was submitted by Ann Smith, the chairperson of the committee.
- Care and Evangelism Committee Report. The Care and Evangelism Committee is led by Jeanne Keirle. The committee members are Jeanne Keirle, Margaret Keyes, Barb Daab, Lisa Hogbin, Pat Amick, Ann Smith and Sydney Meyer. Jim Sanderson is the Church Council Representative to the Care and Evangelism Committee.
- Mutual Ministry Team Report was submitted by Mara Berry. The team members are Lisa Hogbin, Mike Toohey, Jim Urnes, Dave Elder and Mara Berry.
- Stewardship Committee Report was submitted by Pastor. The team members are Bill Johnson, Kim Surratt, Julie Hutson, Suah Geama, Pastor Kristen Koch and Pat Amick.
- Facilities Committee Report was submitted by Lauri Anderson.
- Technology and Communications Team Report was submitted by Lauri Anderson and Pastor Kristen Koch. The Team Members are Mike Toohey, Abbi Telander, Bill Keyes, Lauri Anderson and Pastor Kristen Koch.
- Worship Committee Report was submitted by Candy Travis. The team members are Pastor Kristen, Julie Hutson, Jim Urnes, Bill Keyes, Margaret Keyes, Rachel Helton and Candy Travis.
- Altar Guild Report was submitted by Barb Daab. The Altar Guild members are Nancy Ambacher, Rhonda Bird, Sharon Elder, Lisa, Hogbin, Julie Hutson, Carol Krull, Ann Smith, Lois Urnes and Barb Daab, the coordinator.
- Women's Group Report was submitted by Linda Ritter, WELCA President. Carol Krull handles the treasury aspect of ELCA.

### **Organization Reports.**

- Men's Group Report was submitted by Lauri Anderson. At this time, the Men's Group doesn't have a chairperson.
- The Garden of Eatin' Report was submitted by Martha Johnson. Sharon Elder is the Garden's Treasurer.
- Shepherd of the Hills Endowment Fund Report was submitted by the chairman George Marvin. The Endowment members are Jeanne Keirle, Sophia Koch-Holdsworth, Ann Smith and Daryl Hogbin treasurer. Margaret Keyes is the Church Council Representative.
- Little Free Pantry Report was submitted by Martha Johnson.

**Adjournment.** Bill Keyes made a motion to adjourn this meeting, and Sharon Elder seconded it. Adjournment approved by all in attendance. Meeting is adjourned.

**ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING Minutes**  
**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday + November 21, 2021**

Congregational Budget Meeting – Fiscal Year 2022

I. Call to Order

This meeting took place both in-person and online via Zoom. A quorum was present for this meeting.

II. Meeting Agenda was approved.

III. Prayer and Devotion - led by Sam Johnson

IV. Congregational Vote On Revised Congregational Constitution

The proposed changes to the SOTH Constitution were passed unanimously.

Presentation of 2022 Budget—3 versions of the 2022 budget were presented to the voters:

1. with pastoral leadership at 75% time
2. with pastoral leadership at 90% time
3. with pastoral leadership at full time

VI. Congregational Vote on Budget

After the budgets were presented the congregation asked questions and engaged in discussion.

After discussion the congregation voted by paper ballot for one of the three options.

On that first ballot there was no majority.

The second ballot included the top two vote getters: 75% and full time.

On the second ballot the full time proposed budget received the majority of votes, thus bringing pastoral leadership back to full time for 2022.

Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

## Election – Slate of 2022 Candidates



**S**pecial thanks to **Sam Johnson**—president, **Jim Sanderson**—vice president, **Margaret Keyes**—secretary, **Daryl Hogbin**—treasurer, **Candy Travis & Josh Koch-Holdsworth** for their dedicated service on 2021 church council.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to **George Marvin** who served in the role of financial secretary for the congregation and to **Daryl Hogbin** who continues as treasurer.

**Sam Johnson, Margaret Keyes, Kim Surratt and Julie Hutson** comprised this year's nominating committee.

*They are pleased to present the following candidates...*

### **Bill Keyes & Kim Surratt**

*Council term running from January 2022 to January 2025 (three year term)*

### **Suah Gweama**

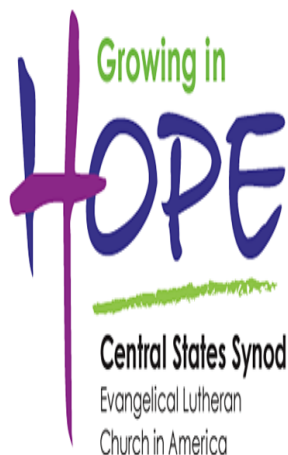
*Council term running from January 2022 to January 2024 (two year term)*

**Kylie Surratt**, *Youth representative (from January 2022 to January 2023)*

**The newly-elected Church Council for 2022 will be installed during worship on Feb. 6. The Church Council presents the following candidates for the 2022 nominating committee: Daryl Hogbin, Candy Travis, and two more to be nominated at this meeting or appointed by Council.**

### *Representative Positions...*

**Linda Ritter and Bill Keyes**, Community Helping Ministry Board



## **2022 Synod Assembly**

Central States Synod Assembly 2022 will be held on June 9-11

At Embassy Suites Kansas City in Olathe, Kansas.

Shepherd of the Hills is entitled to have one female, one male, and one youth/young adult representative, participating in this assembly, in addition to the pastor. The budget does not include any reimbursement for this year.

If you would like to attend please talk to Pastor Kristen as soon as possible. Thanks!

# SOTH Constitution Updates to be ratified

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) and not more than nine nor fewer than five members of the congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth or a young adult whenever possible.** Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances

**C12.02.** The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve **for three years** or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

C13.08.01. The following standing committees shall assist the Congregation Council in leading the congregation to fulfill its purpose as set forth in Chapter 4.

- a. Worship Committee
- b. Education Committee
- c. Stewardship Committee

**d. Care, Evangelism, and Social Concerns Committee**

- g. Facilities Committee

All committees will be responsible for electing a committee chair, conducting regular meetings, developing and maintaining an annual budget, and reporting regularly to the Congregation Council on committee activities.

**C13.08.01.D94. The Care, Evangelism and Social Concerns Committee shall be responsible for extending the love of God in tangible ways to friends and members of the congregation, and the support of ministries that reach out to people in need beyond this congregation. The committee, in consultation with the Stewardship Committee, will recommend the allocation of money and the enlisting of time and talent for mission and benevolence projects each year and secure congregational representation to the various Lutheran social service agencies in the Metro St. Louis area.**



## Pastor Kristen's Report...

“Courage to challenge people’s imagination”

From: Creating Space: A Prayer Book for Peace in Times of Crisis and Chaos

Isaiah 43:18-21

<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

**O God of the universe, give us the strength to believe what you say is true. Help us to believe you are with us, no matter what. Help us to live out of that belief so we can join you in the new thing. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to love like you, that we may be ready to find the**

***Help us to believe you are with us, no matter what.***

As we gather – online for the second year in a row – for the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting, my prayer is that we are able to rejoice as a congregation in the signs of God’s presence in our ministry in this past year. Rather than look back on what we “used to do” in other years, let’s give thanks for what God has done *this* year, in and through our congregation, in the midst of continued pandemic restrictions and various other challenges. Each report today gives witness to God’s presence in this community during 2021.

I give thanks for the council members who faithfully gathered and made decisions during this difficult time. Their leadership was invaluable to me. I give thanks for those who gathered online with us during Zoom worship, those who connected with members outside of worship, and those who gathered in person when we came back to in person worship this summer.

***Help us to live out of that belief so we can join you in the new thing.***

“A new thing” might not be something we’re actively seeking after two years of “new things”. However, there is no denying that we have entered into a new, post-pandemic reality. The last two years have reshaped so many parts of our life, including the church. I pray that we may be curious about what “new thing” God might be calling Shepherd of the Hills to in this changed world.

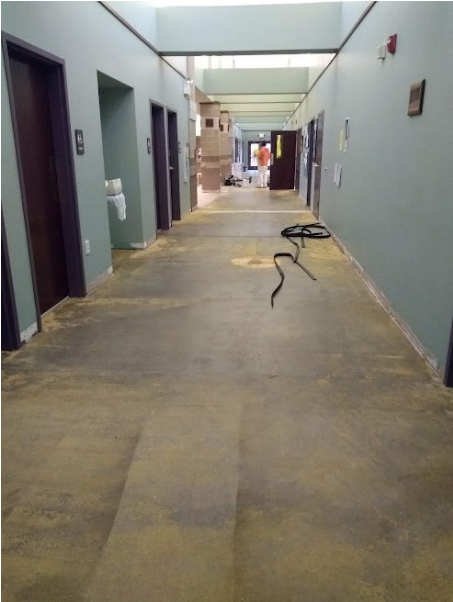
***Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to love like you, that we may be ready to find the way in the wilderness.***

And so, I pray that we may have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to love; so that we may see God’s way forward into a new reality. As I often pray before I preach, “Speak to our hearts, Holy Spirit. Give us the words that will bring new life; words on the wings of the morning, the dark night will fade away when you speak to our hearts.” Amen.

*-Pastor Kristen Koch*

**New Flooring Project:  
Before & After  
Pictures**

Sanctuary—  
No more center seam!



Main Hallway—  
No more “speed bumps”!

Fellowship Hall—  
Luxury Vinyl installed



## **President's Report:**

Dear Congregational Members of Shepherd of the Hills,

Welcome back!

This letter was originally a “welcome back to the sanctuary” letter. I’d sincerely hoped to be hosting this meeting in-person after meeting via Zoom last year. Alas, it was not meant to be. So instead I will say “welcome back to our virtual reminder of how strong we are”.

As things are not going quite as planned this week, I am reminded of the resilience of this congregation. We have navigated the technical challenges of meeting remotely, we tackled the emotional and logistical challenges of blending that remote worship experience with meeting in-person, and now have proven that we can pivot back and forth between the two models as dictated by circumstances.

Look how far we’ve come!

As we look forward into 2022, I see more signs of our resilience. We will be moving back to a model of full-time pastoral support. We are re-thinking old traditions like soup suppers and making them better fit our current wants, needs, and circumstances. And we have a strong group of future leaders stepping into new roles in our Church Council.

I am looking forward to seeing even more signs of our strength in 2022 and beyond.

Respectfully,

Sam Johnson

Church Council President

# Membership Statistical Report for 2021

	Baptized	Confirmed
<b>Membership, end of 2020</b>	109	101
<i>Members received during 2021...</i>		
By Infant Baptism .....	0	
By Adult Baptism .....	0	0
By Affirmation of Baptism .....	0	0
By Transfer .....	0	0
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS RECEIVED.....</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Members removed during 2021...</i>		
By death .....	0	0
By transfer .....	5	5
By other .....	0	0
To inactive/responsibilities list .....	0	0
Statistical Adjustment.....	0	0
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED .....</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Members Confirmed .....</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP, END OF 2021.....</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>96</b>

**Average  
Sunday  
Worship  
Attendance  
in 2021 was  
  
54**

***Members Released by transfer...***

- Jim & Mara Berry
- Cindy & Gage Dixon
- Lady Kasperski

***Friend of SOTH who died:***

Ted Bronson



**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**



# Financial Report

	2021 Budget	2021 Year End Actual
<b>Church Offerings</b>		
Offering	135,500.00	132,521.17
Loose Offering	500.00	200.00
Other Offering (non-member)	450.00	2,142.23
Transfers/Gifts towards non-budgeted items	-	31,480.00
<b>Total-All Income Sources</b>	<b>136,450.00</b>	<b>166,343.40</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>2021 Year End Actual</b>
<b>Office and Administration</b>		
Background Checks (not funded)	-	-
Computer Hardware/Software	155.00	-
Copier	2,200.00	2,099.67
Council Retreat (not funded)	-	-
Employer Payroll Tax-SSN Match	1,425.00	1,422.92
Equipment Maintenance (not funded)	-	-
Fees & Licenses	50.00	793.62
Living Lutheran Magazine	100.00	44.85
Miscellaneous (not funded)	-	165.00
Office Supplies	175.00	86.87
Phone and Internet	1,900.00	1,999.64
Postage	100.00	110.00
Staff Salary - Net	14,027.24	14,027.16
Staff Salary - Withholding	4,572.76	4,484.76
<b>Total Office &amp; Administration</b>	<b>24,705.00</b>	<b>25,234.49</b>

<b>Care &amp; Evangelism</b>		
Cancer Companions (not funded)	-	-
Cards and Postage	25.00	-
New Member Outreach (not funded)	-	-
Special Gifts and Assistance (not funded)	-	152.38
<b>Total Care &amp; Evangelism</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>152.38</b>
<b>ELCA Central States Synod</b>		
<b>Total ELCA Central States Synod</b>	<b>2,040.00</b>	<b>1,960.00</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Bible Study (not funded)	-	148.78
Confirmation	50.00	-
Gift Bibles (not funded)	-	-
Special Events (not funded)	-	-
Sunday School	250.00	64.00
Vacation Bible School (not funded)	-	-
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>212.78</b>

<b>Facilities</b>		
Building Supplies	500.00	288.67
Insurance	4,750.00	5,081.76
Lawn Service	1,000.00	1,115.00
Maintenance	500.00	33,676.07
Mortgage Contribution	24,000.00	24,000.00
Security Monitoring	960.00	720.00
Technical Equipment Maint. (not funded)	-	-
Utilities (Electric, Gas, Trash, Water)	7,000.00	4,259.67
Workmans Compensation	615.00	643.15
<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>39,325.00</b>	<b>69,784.32</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>2021 Year End Actual</b>
<b>Pastoral Compensaton</b>		
Auto Allowance	500.00	-
Continuing Education	1,000.00	625.00
Housing Allowance	30,000.00	30,000.00
Portico Benefits	14,500.00	15,095.88
Professional Expenses	350.00	-
Salary	12,625.00	12,632.16
Social Security Offset	3,260.00	3,253.56
Synod Required Events	1,100.00	111.00
<b>Total Pastoral Compensaton</b>	<b>63,335.00</b>	<b>61,717.60</b>
<b>Worship</b>		
Accompanist Salary	3,120.00	2,880.00
Guest Musicians (not funded)	-	60.00
Licensing & Subscription Fees	750.00	619.70
Physical Worship Supplies	500.00	668.99
Piano Tuning	100.00	100.00
Pulpit Supply	2,250.00	1,150.00
Technology Updates (not funded)	-	-
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>6,720.00</b>	<b>5,478.69</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>136,450.00</b>	<b>164,540.26</b>



<b>Designated Giving for Benevolences and Special Initiatives</b>	
<b>2021 Actuals</b>	
Bridge Bread (Endowment Fund Dispersement)	500.00
Butterfly Haven (Endowment Fund Dispersement)	250.00
Community Helping Ministry (Endowment Fund Dispersement)	1,000.00
Community Pantry	255.00
ELCA Synod Assembly	124.88
ELCA World Hunger	455.02
Feed My Starving Children	65.81
Lumin (Lutheran Campus Ministries)	124.33
Lutheran Disaster Relief	2,270.00
Lydia's House	250.00
Oaks Indian Mission (Endowment Fund Dispersement)	1,000.00
Older Age Ministry Symphony Outing (Endowment Fund Dispersement)	400.00
Youth Room Updates (Endowment Fund Dispersement)	1,200.00
<b>Total Benevolences and Special Initiatives</b>	<b>7,895.04</b>

<b>Account Balances as of 31 December 2021</b>	
St. John's Bank Regular Checking (General Operating Fund)	29,652.14
St. John's Bank Money Market (Dedicated Funds)	16,226.57
Thrivent Annuity Account (Dedicated Funds)	17,193.49
ELCA MIF Building Fund (Mortgage Reserve)	7,687.19
Thrivent Endowment Fund	122,874.18
<b>Account Totals</b>	<b>193,633.57</b>

<b>Mortgage Balance as of 12/31/21</b>	<b>334,194.65</b>
--	-------------------

**Dedicated Funds Balances as of 12/31/2021**

<b>Fund Name / Institution Held At</b>	<b>Administered by</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Alter Enhancements Fund</b> (Thrivent Financial)	Alter Guild	For funding the improvement and addition of worship banners, altar cloths, paraments and worship enhancements not in the annual operating budget.	1,192.93
<b>Ambacher Memorial</b> (St. Johns Bank)	Ambacher Family	Memoriam in honor of Robert Ambacher	50.00
<b>Building Fund - Mortgage Reserve</b> (ELCA Mission Investment Fund)	Church Council	Dedicated account established to deposit funds used to make monthly mortgage payments.	7,687.19
<b>Building Maintenance Fund</b> (Thrivent Financial and St. Johns Bank)	Church Council & Facilities Committee	To assist in the funding of building maintenance needs not provided for in the regular budget.	10,024.57
<b>Care Giving Ministry Fund</b> (Thrivent Financial)	Care and Evangelism Committee	Memorial fund given in honor of Dennis Fiske for leadership training and opportunities in care giving.	888.43
<b>Community Pantry</b> (Thrivent Financial and St. Johns Bank)	Various	An ELCA grant to be used for the maintenance and purchase of supplies for the community pantry	1,793.81
<b>Endowment Fund</b> (Thrivent Financial)	Endowment Fund Committee	Endowment fund with proceeds dedicated to support Children and Youth, Community and Older Age Ministries	122,874.18
<b>Endowment Holding Fund - Older Age Ministry</b> (St. Johns Bank)	Endowment Fund Committee	Unspent funds from 2021 Endowment fund dispersement	1,404.41
<b>James M Urnes Jr. Memorial</b> (St. Johns Bank)	Urnes Family	Memorial fund to be used for a project to be dedicated in memory of James Urnes Jr.	540.22
<b>Member Assistance Fund</b> (St. Johns Bank)	Care and Evangelism Committee	Funded by an anonymous donation to provide financial assistance for members in times of extreme need.	9,655.41
<b>Men's Group Fund</b> (Thrivent Financial)	Men's Group	To assist in funding of items not in the annual operating budget.	1,462.14
<b>Technology Updates</b> (St. Johns Bank)	Church Council	ELCA Grant money for Technology Updates	300.00
<b>Youth Arts Fund</b> (Thrivent Financial)	Youth Leader	Purpose is to supplement private lessons and/or purchase materials needs for the youth of the congregations.	261.31
<b>Youth Fund</b> (Thrivent Financial)	Youth Leader	Established to provided additional funding for Youth programs and activities not in the annual operating budget.	5,198.76
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>			<b>163,333.36</b>

## Care / Evangelism

---

Care/ Evangelism members : Jeanne Keirle, Barb Daab, Lisa Hogbin, Pat Amick, Sydney Meyer, and Margaret Keyes. Council Representative: Jim Sanderson



Things we were able to accomplish in 2021:

- Established Special Assistance Fund guidelines
- Sent out cards to absent/shut-in members during God's Work Our Hands Sunday
- Gave rides to church for members in need
- Margaret Keyes, in her card ministry, sent out 982 cards. She also mailed out 1,243 sermons to members unable to attend services.

We will continue to support the Little Free Pantry and CHM food drives.

# Education and Youth Committee

---

## Faith Formation:

During most of 2021 vaccines were not available to children under 12. This limited what we were able to provide for the youngest of our members. The older members and Confirmands were able to meet via Zoom and in person beginning in the fall.

### Spring 2021     Lord's Prayer Virtual Sunday School

A collaboration between 6 congregations in the synod (5 in St. Louis, one in Wichita) to provide daily videos for fun and instruction on the Lord's Prayer. Seminary intern, Rachel Helton created the videos for this collaboration.

### Lenten Micropractices

For the whole congregation, we posted daily Micropractices on our Facebook page throughout the season of Lent.

### Fall 2021     Words to Build On

In the fall we provided, on Facebook as well as in print, a devotion called "Words to Build On" which guided individuals through reflections on some of the most famous Bible verses.

### Back to School packets

Stickers and a blessing were sent to our school aged students.

## Confirmation

In person Confirmation began the fall of 2021 for our two second-year students: Nowah Tokpa and Sam Martin. The class meets once a month. This year's focus in Lutheran Living.

## Small Group Bible Study

This engaging group of students took on the challenge of learning and talking about race, using the Sparkhouse curriculum, Dialogues on Race, in February. In response to what they experienced in the Dialogues class, in April they read through and studied the book of the prophet Amos. In June they worked their way through the book of James. And they convened again in October to go through the gospel of Luke, which they continued beyond the end of the year.

Many thanks to Rev. Karen Scherer (and occasionally Rachel Helton) for leading this group.

*Submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch*

# Social Concerns Ministry

---



## Ministries and organizations supported/partnered with in 2021

Souper Bowl of Caring collected 36 food items, 218 hygiene items and \$330 for ELCA World Hunger Synod Challenge.

### God's Work Our Hands

- φ Wrote "thinking of you" cards for members we had not seen recently
- φ Packed 30 Blessing Bags
- φ Moved furniture in preparation of the new flooring
- φ Did yardwork on the church grounds

### Eastern Missouri Conference of the Central States Synod

- φ Collaborated on a virtual Sunday School event on the Lord's Prayer

In 2021 we also honored benevolences to:

Bridge Bread, Butterfly Haven, CHM, Little Free Pantries, ELCA Synod Assembly offering, ELCA World Hunger, Feed My Starving Children, LuMin (campus ministry), Lutheran Disaster Relief, Lydia's House and Oaks Indian Mission

It is good to see that even during such a time of separation we were able to keep connections we'd already established, as well as make some new connections. We do not do this ministry alone!

Respectfully submitted,

*-Pastor Kristen Koch*



## Policy Team

The Policy Team is a committee who's purpose is to create and revise policies related to the many activities that go on at Shepherd of the Hills.

In 2021, the Policy Team did not meet or create any new policies.

The Shepherd of the Hills 2021 Policy Team members include Lauri Anderson, Martha Johnson, and Abbi Telander.

## Special Events Committee

---



This committee is setup to facilitate with special gatherings of the congregation which include food, table service, set-up, and clean-up. This is not a budgeted item and therefore is dependent on you, the generous congregation. You always respond with willingness and enthusiasm making this an easy task!

This year, because of the pandemic, we did not host any events.

Respectfully submitted by, Ann Smith, *chair*

---

## Mutual Ministry Team

---



The Mutual Ministry team for 2021 consisted of Lisa Hogbin, Dave Elder, Mike Toohey, and Jim Urnes with the following goals:

- ◆ a confidential “listening post” for the pastor, lay professional and congregation members when there are concerns, constructive ideas to share, or appreciation for positive ministry practices
- ◆ a place where the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the pastor and lay professional are tended to

Equally important is our role in encouraging and recognizing the positive impact their work and ministry has on our congregation. We are grateful when concerns are brought to us in the spirit of Christian love and care for all members of SOTH. While the Mutual Ministry Team is unable to solve every problem, we always seek God’s guidance in helping us respond with Christian wisdom and love as we seek to mutually minister to each other.

In 2021, the team did not meet with either Pastor Kristen or Lauri Anderson due to the pandemic.

## Stewardship Committee

---



The Stewardship Committee mission is as follows: “To be good stewards of God’s given gifts of time, talent and treasures. We center our congregation on the awareness of those gifts God continues to provide each of us.” With this mission statement in place, our goal is to have the congregation identify a new model of stewardship: God’s gifts coming down to us, looking in at our gifts of time, talent and treasure, and looking out into the community for stewardship/service needs.

2021’s stewardship theme was Stewarding God’s Good News. During this time we used the Sunday Lectionary texts to reflect on how God calls us to steward our relationships, our wealth, our power, and our courage to share the Good News with those around us. In addition, we sent out pledge cards for members to estimate their giving for 2022.

In 2021 we honored benevolences to:

Bridge Bread, Butterfly Haven, CHM, Little Free Pantries, ELCA Synod Assembly offering, ELCA World Hunger, Feed My Starving Children, LuMin (campus ministry), Lutheran Disaster Relief, Lydia’s House and Oaks Indian Mission

The Stewardship committee would like to recognize the people of Shepherd of the Hills for the ways you utilize your time, talents, and treasure. We also encourage you to continue to look out into the community for ways to do Gods work.

Members serving on the Stewardship committee this year were: Bill Johnson, Kim Surratt, Julie Hutson, Suah Gweama, and Patricia Amick.

The 2021 Stewardship Theme:  
“Sharing the Good News”.





## Facilities Committee

- ◆ New flooring was installed in the main hallway, fellowship area and sanctuary! Thanks to all who made this project possible and special thanks to Jeremy Tucker of Floor Coverings International and his crew.
- ◆ A lot of cleaning out and reorganizing was accomplished before and after the new flooring install. Classrooms and offices will be handled soon.
- ◆ After nearly three months of non-service Meridian Waste terminated their contract with us in November. Since we are not generating much trash right now, and to save a little money, staff will be taking any trash home with them for the foreseeable future.
- ◆ We will also be looking into replacing our existing landline phones in the building with cell phones.

Special thanks to all who faithfully pitch in as needed with various tasks that are needed to keep the building running. It is all greatly appreciated!

---

## Technology & Communications Team

The Technology and Communications Team provides expertise for using and maintaining technology resources at SOTH, and supports channels of communication between ministry teams, administration, and the congregation.



### In 2021:

- φ Updated sanctuary laptop to better support online worship
- φ Published the e-newsletter, "This Week at SOTH", on a weekly basis
- φ Assisted with writing and revising letters and advertisements as needed
- φ Continued using the YouTube channel for posting worship recordings
- φ Mailed printouts of weekly worship service to those unable to join online or in-person

### In 2022:

- φ Replace projector in sanctuary
- φ We will look into updating the office laptop
- φ We will continue to publish "This Week at SOTH" and to consider additional opportunities to widen our social media presence.

You can reach us at [communications@sothstl.org](mailto:communications@sothstl.org)

Special thanks to team members for their weekly efforts:  
Pastor Kristen, Lauri Anderson, Bill Keyes, Margaret Keyes,  
Abbi Telander, Mike Toohey  
and to those who serve in other ways.







## Worship Committee

---

For the first half of 2021 we continued with online only Zoom worship with “coffee hour” following. Our thanks to the many people who shared their time and talents to make such meaningful worship in a challenging time. Thanks to Pastor Kristen Koch and Daryn Holdsworth, Bill Keyes, and Bill and Martha Johnson, online technical assistants who worked to bring us online Zoom services, especially each Second Sunday when Pastor was off.

Thank you to those who have brought us the gift of music this year Alphie Kiu, the Men’s Quartet, the SOTH singers and everyone who has offered special music this year. And to all of the Assistant Ministers and Lay Readers who contributed to our six months of online worship in 2021.

In June of 2021 we came back to the sanctuary for both in-person and online worship (aka: “hybrid” worship). This shift involved a new “livestream” process that required learning new programs and processes. Many thanks to Joshua Koch-Holdsworth for leading us all through that transition to YouTube livestreaming – and to all the new and returning “techs” who adapted to the new technology.

Here are some of the highlights from worship in 2021:

### Jan-May

- ◆ Created for Community online mid-week Lenten services, led by Pastor Kristen and Rachel Helton.
- ◆ Stations of the Cross Good Friday online worship.
- ◆ Lutherans Restoring Creation “Earth Day” worship service

### June-Dec.

- ◆ Resumed in-person/online “hybrid” worship
- ◆ Enjoyed special music by Men’s Quartet, Mixed Quartet, and others (No Choir because of COVID 19).
- ◆ All Saints worship service including special lament for pandemic losses.
- ◆ Advent online Mid-Week services – Holy Darkness

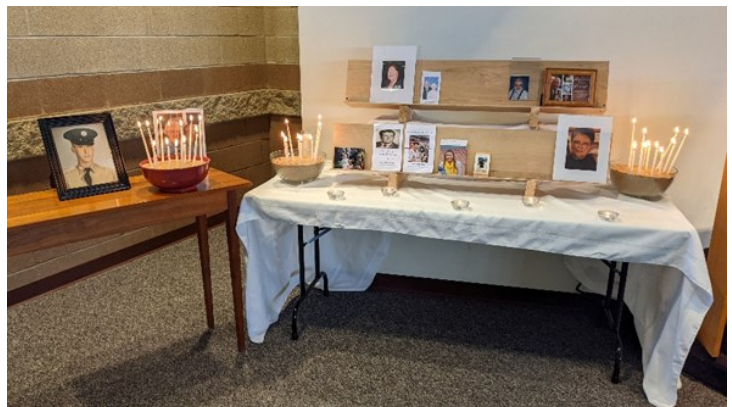
We are so grateful for the support and understanding of the congregation throughout all the changes and pivots in the second half of this year. The Altar Guild was especially responsive to the shifts in the ways we’ve done Holy Communion! And finally, we rejoice that we were able to come back together as a congregation, in person, to worship – even with masks and physically distanced!

2021 Worship Team members: Pastor Kristen Koch, Julie Hutson, Jim Urnes, Bill Keyes, Margaret Keyes, Rachel Helton and Candy Travis

Respectfully submitted by,

Pastor Kristen, on behalf of the Worship Team

*Photo: from All Saints Sunday*





---

With the pandemic, the Altar Guild was only needed during the last six months of the year. I would like to extend a special thank you to the wonderful ladies who were willing to serve: Nancy Ambacher, Rhonda Bird, Lisa Hogbin, Julie Hutson, Jeanne Keirle, Carol Krull, Sydney Meyer, Ann Smith and Lois Urnes, along with myself.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested, speak to any of these ladies or myself to find out how easy and rewarding it is to serve. We would love to have you.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Barb Daab*, coordinator

---

## **Women's Group**

WELCA had a very quiet year in 2021 because of the pandemic. We were once again unable to host our annual craft and bake sale in the fall.



Special thanks to Margaret Keyes for her faithful service of receiving and sending information out on the prayer chain. This is such a blessing. Special thanks to the Keyes Family for their wonderful, caring card ministry they continue to support.

Special thanks to all of the women who so willingly help throughout normal times preparing meals and assisting with special events. We all continue to do God's work with all of our hands.

Special thanks to Carol Krull for handling the treasury aspect of WELCA,

WELCA is very blessed to have such wonderful support from all of the members.

Hopefully 2022 will be a better year.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Linda Ritter*, WELCA President

## Men's Group

---

The men's group in 2021 was unable to host the Shrove Tuesday pancake or the annual Easter egg hunt due to the COVID restrictions.



The Men's Group was able to cover the difference for the new flooring project out of our collected funds.

## The Garden of Eatin'



It was a successful garden season, with the participating members enjoying the privilege which the church has offered to us.

It was still not a normal season, however, as we had fewer members participating in our garden meetings. We believe part of the problem relates to COVID-19, and health issues with some of our members.

Here are some of the highlights of 2021:

- We installed one additional garden bed which is elevated higher than the normal raised beds.
- We decided we no longer wanted to maintain the composting bins and have dismantled them.
- We have participated in maintaining the grassy area around the garden beds.

Plans for the 2022 Garden Season:

- Continue to recruit for new gardeners. We will advertise earlier in the year in the Localite. Please let the church members know there are garden beds available.
- Add PVC fencing to the two remaining garden beds without that type of fencing, so that the appearance of all the beds is similar.

Gateway Greening is now known as Seed St. Louis, website is [www.seedstl.org](http://www.seedstl.org).

Respectfully submitted, *Bob and Marilyn Nenninger*, Garden of Eatin' leaders

## Endowment Fund

---

The Endowment Fund has been successful during 2021. It has grown from \$121,595 on January 1, 2021 to \$122,874. The Committee spent \$3,000 for local charities, \$1,200 for youth room furniture, \$400 for Older age ministries (holiday concert) and \$1400 to enhance SOTH technical support.

The Fund will allow another \$6,000 for the Committee's use. Each purpose will receive at least 10% of the distribution.

Respectfully submitted,

*George Marvin*

Endowment Team members: George Marvin (chair), Jeanne Keirle, Sophia Koch-Holdsworth, Ann Smith, Margaret Keyes, Kristen Koch-Pastor ex-officio and Daryl Hogbin-treasurer ex-officio.

## Little Free Pantry

Inspired by an article in The Lutheran Magazine and patterned after Little Free Libraries, in 2017 Shepherd of the Hills installed a Little Free Pantry on our property.



In the Spring of 2020, at the request of a community supporter, a grant was obtained to install a second pantry for hygiene items. Thanks to Pastor Kristen for locating and ordering, Martha Johnson for painting, Jim Sanderson, Bill & Martha Johnson, Sam Johnson and Mike Surratt for installing, and everyone who dropped off supplies. The new pantry has held up well and provides additional help to those in need.

In 2021, both pantries continued to be used and stocked by members of the community as well as supported by members of Shepherd of the Hills.

We are looking into other options for the doors on the original pantry as they are showing wear, to be funded by grant money from the Central States Synod. Please contact the church office if you have any ideas or are willing to provide labor/help.

Many thanks to everyone at Shepherd of the Hills for supporting our Little Free Pantry and showing our community the God calls us to love one another.

---

### *In recognition of Faithful Service:*

- To Sam Johnson, Margaret Keyes and Joshua Koch-Holdsworth, “retiring” Council members
- To Daryl Hogbin for continuing as treasurer and his great attention to detail, and to George Marvin for continuing as financial secretary during yet another difficult year
- To Mike Toohey, Abbi Telander & Bill Keyes for editing and publishing our new weekly e-newsletter
- And to those of you who help out “behind the scenes” on a regular basis to help keep things running smoothly, inside and outside of the building

***Special thanks: to Lauri Anderson for the extra work preparing this document. We are also grateful to all the team /committee members for submitting their reports in a timely manner.***