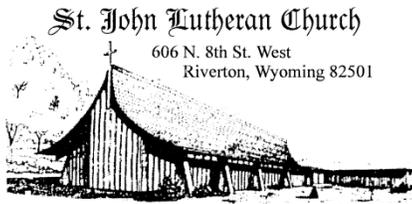


St John Annual Meeting



State-of-the-Church **REPORT**



St. John Lutheran Church
Riverton, Wyoming

VISION STATEMENT

St. John is a welcoming family growing in faith and love.

MISSION STATEMENT

At St. John we are sharing the news of God's salvation through
welcoming worship,
prayer, fellowship and community service.

CORE VALUES

People matter to God.

Unity reflects God's will.

Every person is gifted by God.

All are called to use individual gifts for the work of ministry.

We are created to worship God.

Worship happens in community/relationship with others.

Worship equips people for service.

Unconditional acceptance reflects God's love.

Faith requires steadfast commitment.

**St. John Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
January 24, 2016**

“ENTER TO WORSHIP, EXIT TO SERVE”

Welcome – Larry Bauman

Devotions – Pastor Scott Jorgenson

Additions/Deletion to the Agenda

Annual Meeting Minutes – Approval of January 25, 2015

New Business

- **Election of Council**
- **Election of Council President**
- **Election of Treasurer**
- **Approval of annual reports with comments**
- **Approval of 2012 Budget**
- **Pastor’s Report**

Closing Prayers

Adjournment

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CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU NEED FINANCIAL
INFORMATION NOT INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT

President's Annual Report for 2015

To the church family of St. John Lutheran Church,

I want to open this report by saying thank you to our Church Council. Their dedication of time and talent for the benefit of our church needs to be recognized. Without the Council, the church would lack purpose or direction. I encourage all of you to say "thank

you" to - Kim Briddle, Garry and Linda Burnette, Diana Hague, Darlene Jones, Kyle Jones, Mel Miller, Sharon Moldt, Dan and Kathy Moline, and Alan Ross.

The year 2015 was a good year for our operating budget. After severe cuts were made on many budget items, our Pledge and non-Pledge revenue met and slightly exceeded the budgetary requirements of our church. I admire and thank all of our congregation for this accomplishment. But as with many things, the issues are not resolved in the current fiscal environment. Pledges for 2016 fall short of our operating expenses (see budget sheets). While we are confident the non-Pledge amounts will cover this discrepancy, we cannot rely on it. We also have funds set aside that have become, like the State of Wyoming, our "rainy day fund". This fund is held out from our yearly budget in order that we can have funds available for those emergency situations that sooner or later show up - organ/piano repair, furnace replacement, etc, etc. We can draw from that fund to meet the budget shortfall but this becomes a quick fix and soon the rainy day fund is depleted. As stated earlier, our budget is cut to bare necessities. So we are counting on another strong year of giving to balance the budget.

Besides other activities noted in Committee Reports, we did follow up on the Synod Review of our church conducted in 2014 that suggested we become more community orientated. To that we have taken on hosting the Blood Drive in our community. We are now known for pies to all those people who donate blood. Our lower fellowship hall and Narthex serve the space requirements for the equipment and interview process. The only drawback to the summer blood drive is lack of air conditioning in the lower fellowship hall. For that particular month, we will host at the Reach building just north of our church.

On another note concerning being involved with our community, we are hosting the Wednesday Farmer's Market held during the summer and early Fall months. Our parking lot is turned into a plethora of vendors selling their fresh produce, kettle corn, and home-made products. The church is open to allow use of our restrooms and kids have a great time enjoying our playground. What a great exposure to the community for our church. This coming year, we are working on a revised plan for vendor location and parking. Plan on checking it out this year.

If you haven't noticed, we have an additional organist playing music. Dr. Adam Kluck, Choral Director at CWC, is now playing on a semi-regular basis. This is in addition to our two talented organists, Karyn Ervin and Melissa Crouch. What a musical team we have for our services. We should be very grateful and mindful to tell them "thank you" at every service.

As a reminder, the Council has decided that the third Sunday of every month is "Synod Sunday" where an offering is gathered for our Synod. And Council has also decided that the second Sunday of each quarter (Jan 10, April 10, July 10 and Oct 9) will be "Helping Hands" Sunday where we will collect an offering to be used by the Riverton Ministerial Association to help those people in our community who are in need of special assistance.

I thank Pastor Scott for his continued leadership and dry sense of humor. And I thank all those members of our congregation who devote their time and resources to our church for Care Team, Altar Guild, Kid's Church, Ushers, Offering Counters, Coffee Hosts, Good Samaritan meals, etc. The strength of our Church is dependent on the congregation. I will close by saying thank you to all who bought an animal for our Christmas Farm. With this project, we have reached out to help our international friends in faith. May God watch over you and bless you through this coming year.

Larry Bauman
Council President

The FEAR of the
LORD is the
beginning of
WISDOM.
Proverbs 9:10

Year End Pastor's Report 2015

“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth’ ” (Acts 13:47 NIV).

Dear Members of St. John Lutheran,

At the beginning of this New Year and in the midst of Epiphany, the season of light, let me share with you some information and some reflections about the state of our church.

Over the course of 2015 we welcomed 1 new family into our fellowship – Brittany Scadden and daughter Kaydence; on Reformation Sunday 2 young men made professions of faith after completing their confirmation instruction – Zachary Kellogg & Ezekial King; there were also 3 baptisms – Brittany Scadden, Kaydence Smith and Ryan Thompson; and 2 death – Bill Moon and Kay Thorson. VBS continues to be held in partnership with St. James Episcopal Church; our education volunteers – Melissa Crouch, Vern Pietron, Ronda Bock and Jennifer Jones continued to carry out the ministry of educating our young people; Helping Hands continued in its ministry to give financial assistance to those in need; the Good Samaritan meals prepared once a month were greatly appreciated; Lenten Soup Suppers provided great fellowship gatherings that led into worship; and your Food Basket contributions helped feed the hungry in our community over the course of the year. There were many other fellowship, education and ministry activities throughout the year.

Our participation during Advent/Christmas in the ELCA Good Gifts “Buy a Farm” project for the third straight year met the goal of \$715 which purchased a cow, 2 goats, a dozen chickens, 2 pigs, farming tools, agricultural training and marketing support to help a family achieve a fresh start.

The Church Council exhibited “outside-the-box” thinking and made St. John the location for the Farmers Market and Blood Drive here in Riverton. One person came up to me during the Farmers Market and commented that St. John is certainly involved in the Riverton community. That is precisely the message we want out in the community. We are doing something right.

Then in September we participated the ELCA sponsored “God’s Work – Our Hand’s” program. Volunteers came together to produce flower arrangements for Kindred Health Care residents dining room, painted trim at the Good Samaritan Center, did yard work for one of our disabled members and gave free car windshield washes.

2015 was a great year thanks to your prayers and work. As in each year before it this year will bring its own challenges. As our society changes and its expectations about the role of religion in society changes how will we respond? In a recent article in the Lutheran Magazine it talked about changing attitudes and said that “regular worship for many is ‘When I can.’” We see this played out right here at St. John. I believe finding our way in the midst of these changes will be our greatest challenge yet. We must always remember when thinking about these issues that God reigns and that if we trust God to guide us He will.

Our church staff changed in 2015. Linda Burnett took over in the office as Secretary replacing Gloria Leadbetter who served in that capacity for years. Linda also has taken on the responsibility of Financial Secretary for our congregation. We are also blessed to

have a great Council and a solid core of volunteers who make our ministry here possible. Thank you one and all.

As for me, I still consider it a privilege to serve as your Pastor. Your support, encouragement and prayers have meant more to me than you can ever know. Cindy and I wish to thank you again for your Christmas gift to us. It was very generous of you. May we continue to pray for our Lord's guidance and wisdom, that our service will be faithful, and ministry vital. And may this congregation continue to be a warm and friendly congregation, and a place where God's people can be recharged for the work we are called to do. It cannot fail to continue as such if we will always keep in mind who we are – the children of a forgiving God who loves us. We know why we are here and in this place. We are here to tell all who will listen how wonderful our heavenly Father is to everyone who will come to him. Let's have a great 2016!

Your partner in ministry,

Pastor Scott Jorgenson



**St. John Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
January 25, 2015**

The annual meeting of St. John Lutheran Church was called to order by Council President, Larry Bauman on January 25, 2015. Pastor Scott Jorgenson offered an opening prayer. The minutes of the 2014 meeting were approved with a motion by Dan Moline and seconded by Gloria Leadbetter, the motion was approved and the minutes were accepted.

Garry Burnette, Linda Burnette, Sharon Moldt and Dan Moline were elected to a second term. Darlene Jones was elected to her first 3 year term. Marty Frost moved we approve unanimously and Carol Blomquist seconded, motion carried. Larry Bauman was approved for a second term as President. Steve Moldt moved he be unanimously elected and Garry Burnette seconded, motion carried. Gloria Leadbetter was approved for another term as Treasurer, Jim Crouch moved she be unanimously elected and Joan Armstrong seconded, motion carried.

The annual reports of the committees were approved with a motion by Gloria Leadbetter to approve and Kim Briddle seconded.

Pastor Scott discussed the constitution update. They were approved last week with Synod. He will check on where we need to go from here. The revised Constitution will not take effect until we vote again at the next annual meeting.

The 2015 Budget was presented. We have an \$8,000 budget shortfall from projected revenues to projected expenses. When the budget is planned, we use 96% of the projected pledges. There was 20% of our congregation that did not pledge. Larry encourages everyone to pledge, it would make the budget planning easier, Larry would really appreciate if these members would pledge. Bev Horyza brought up that we haven't had any donations to the church in their wills or memorials. Larry reported that the council is working on changing that. Last year with special contributions, the church gave \$3,061 to the Rocky Mountain Synod. We had a good month of December, so we now have \$18,000 in a contingency fund. Jim Crouch moved we approve the budget, Linda Burnette seconded and the budget was passed.

It was discussed having a potluck evening bible study. A consensus from members was taken, and most thought it was a good idea. It would be held in the upstairs fellowship hall, possibly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. More details to follow.

It was discussed the possibility of adding a church service to Sunday. An extra service was discussed, following are the comments: Different times split the church members and you may not know the people that go to the other service, a later service is good for younger members with small children, big impact on helpers, readers, ushers etc, maybe do a different type of service. Pastor would support the idea. More details to follow.

It was discussed the idea of changing the printing of the liturgy. We are looking at projecting the liturgy on a screen. We would still print notes and schedules. More details to follow.

Pastor Scott presented his yearly report. We did complete a Synod review. The church had 5 baptisms this past year, no deaths, weddings or confirmations.

Pastor Scott gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Moldt
Council Secretary



**Care Team ministry
2015**

In John 15:12 Christ has commanded us to love one another as he has loved us. This is the heart, calling and opportunity of this ministry. Members have graciously and willingly responded to being part of this ministry. We have truly experienced how we are “blessed to be blessing”!

Expressions of this love includes providing a meal for individuals in need, sending cards to our “shut-ins” each month, serving as greeters on Sunday morning, welcoming visiting guests with a ‘St John coffee mug, visiting patients in the hospitals and nursing homes and delivering the groceries from the food cart each month. A special thanks to Sally Caballero who sends notes each week to visitors who have registered in our guest book. We are also available for other assistance as the need arises.

Two people serve as a team on a monthly basis. Members who served on this committee this past year were: Janet Snyder, Judy Bauman, Bev Horyza, Christie Coughanahour, Roxy Samuelson, Carole Weber, Darlene Jones, Jana Meyer, Vern Pietron, Sharon Moldt, Kim Briddle, Helen Knapp, Sally Caballero, Margaret Reynolds, Kathy Moline, Karyn Ervin, Cindy Young, Linda Burnette, Joyce Long, and Marty Frost. We reorganize annually each year in March and we encourage you to prayerfully consider serving in this ministry of our congregation. It is truly one of the more meaningful and rewarding opportunities of expressing love for our members.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Kay Frost

Altar Guild 2015

Altar guild member’s duties include preparing the elements for communion each Sunday and at other designated times, presenting the elements at worship, putting the communion away after worship and changing the peraments for the seasons of the church. Each member serves for one month a year. Carol Blomquist and Marty Frost launder the altar linens. Carole Weber attends to filling the altar candles. Eleanor Cantrell, Dawn Lymburner, Judy Bauman, Diana Hague, Carol Blomquist, Bev Horyza, Vern Pietron, Vera Rowell, Linda Burnette, Penny Hanson, Darlene Jones and Janet Snyder each served this past year. It is a joy to be a part of this ministry! Everyone is so willing to serve and very faithful in their responsibilities. Thanks be to God!

A welcome is extended to anyone who would like to be a part of this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Kay Frost

Worship Team Annual Report 2015

Council members on the worship team are Kathy Moline and Linda Burnette with the assistance of other congregation members. A key event of this year was the transition to

the use of the projector for the liturgy and hymns during the Sunday services. The technology assistance from Kyle Jones has made this successful. We are using less paper for bulletins and the congregational singing is stronger. Our worship services flow with the willingness of volunteer worship assistants, lectors, ushers, and communion assistants. Larry Bauman and other council members assist on Pastor Scott's vacation Sundays so we have not needed to hire supply pastors. Midweek services were again held during Lent and Advent. We appreciate our volunteer organists Karyn Ervin, Melissa Crouch and Adam Kluck. Carole Weber continues to monitor the worship supplies, order Easter and Christmas greens and flowers and schedule lectors. Linda Burnette has coordinated the volunteers for Sunday worship duties. Eleanor Cantrell contributes her time to fold bulletins and assist with newsletters. Marty Frost heads the Altar Guild for communion preparation and changing of altar cloths. The worship team oversees decorating of the church for the Christmas season. We appreciate the donation of the tree from the St. Margaret's tree lot. Dan Moline continues to pick up and set up the tree. Thanks to all who contribute to the worship services.

Kathy Moline
Worship Team

Outreach Committee – 2015

Kim Briddle and Mel Miller

The Outreach Committee met several times during the year. We discussed many ideas for outreach into the community. We planned several projects, but unfortunately, they were cancelled due to lack of participation.

Our committee members were active in many of the ongoing outreach projects of St. John:

- Pie in July blood draw
- Good Sam meals
- Farmers Market
- Food pantry
- Helping Hands support
- Gods work. Our hands

The Fremont Local Farmers Market moved their location to the parking lot of St. John in April, 2015. They met here every Wednesday until October, 2015. The location was perfect, as the public enjoyed the grass, availability of rest rooms, sound system for Music, and plenty of room for vendors. The managers of the Market are very appreciative of the congregation of St. John to allow them to use their facility.

Congregational Life

We had a wonderful Easter Day breakfast with eggs, sausage and pancakes. The kids enjoyed the Easter egg hunt. We had church on our



beautiful lawn in September followed by a potluck. It was a beautiful day. We had our third annual Chili Cook-off the last weekend in October, we had gifts for 3 places and everyone liked the gifts and enjoyed the chili. The Chili Cook-off was held in conjunction with Consecration Sunday.

Submitted by Sharon Moldt



2015 Annual Report

St. John Unit of the Women of the Evangelical Church in America (WELCA)

ELCA Youth Gathering participants have historically left an in-kind donation in each of the host cities. When the youth gathering planning team charged with identifying the 2015 in-kind offering began its research in Detroit, diapers consistently emerged as a need. Non-profits that work with families and individuals living in poverty listed diapers as a top concern. The youth asked Women of the ELCA to partner with them in the diaper collection.

Women of St. John voted to make a \$50 contribution to help with this project. Our contribution was funneled through Melisa Crouch's grandson, Joe La'Ve, who attended the gathering with the youth group from Atonement Lutheran Church in Billings, Montana.

In November a \$100 donation was made to our yearly Thank offering. Combined with the \$345 generously donated by members of St. John, our 2015 Thank offering totaled \$445.

We continue to meet the first Saturday of each month at 9 am at the Claim Stake Restaurant in the Sundowner Motel. Please join us for breakfast whenever you can.

Carol Blomquist, WELCA President

Property Committee

Annual Report 12-31-2015

Following is what was accomplished in 2015:

LOWER FELLOWSHIP HALL

1. Cover copper pipes (thanks to Mike Caffrey)
2. Knobs on bathroom cabinet
3. New ballasts for back of the room ceiling lights
4. Brighter lights in women's bathroom

UPSTAIRS

1. New light bulb in hanging hallway light fixture
2. Glued formica edges down on center island
3. Re-arranged light bulbs boxes, height chairs, etc stored in the upstairs bathroom

DOWNSTAIRS

1. New paper towel dispenser in men's bathroom(Thanks to Jim Blomquist and Pastor)
2. New fan in men's bathroom(Thanks Larry Bauman)
3. Fixed ceiling light fixture in the women's bathroom.

SANCTUARY

1. Replaced burnt out light bulbs
2. New Organ Platform (Thanks to Lee Hanson) (Also thank Bob Hussa for supervising the crew to move and lift the organ)
3. Large Projector Screen and projector were installed(Thanks Garry Burnette, Kyle Jones, and Pastor)

THROUGHOUT

1. Updated fire extinguishers throughout the church x 5
2. 2 drawer Fire Proof cabinet in the office (Thanks for the donation from Ingberg Miller)
3. New facial scenes on the Nativity display. (Thanks Garry and Linda Burnette, Sharon Moldt, and Kathy Moline for helping glue on the new scenes)

Thanks to the anonymous donor who donated funds for the organ platform, and the projector. Thanks to Garry Burnette, Jim Blomquist, Allen Ross, and Kyle Jones for all of your help on the rest of the items.

Sincerely

Daniel A. Moline
Property Committee Chairman
December 31, 2015

St. John Education Endowment Fund Meeting

Present: Dan Moline, Linda Burnette, Gloria Leadbetter

The meeting was held on July 14, 2015 after the Church Council meeting was completed. Dan indicated there are two reimbursement requests:

1. Synod Assembly expense for registration and vacation bible school expense for a total of \$582.55
2. Bible Study expense for Lifeway – Breathe Study Journal materials and video bundle for \$112.81

With these items being eligible for reimbursement, Dan made a motion to withdraw \$695.36 from the Thrivent Education Endowment account. Linda Burnette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Beginning value on 1-1-2015 was \$48,422.33. Ending value on 12-31-2015 is \$47,284.28.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Moline
Endowment Committee Chairman