

St. John's News

January, 2019



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Pastor: Cell 320-336-8149

Church Office:

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Pastor James Groleau:

shepherd@jamesplace.net

St. John's Webpage:

www.stjohnsaustintlms.org

Live Radio Broadcasts of
Worship services every Sunday,
9:00 a.m. at KAUS AM 1480

Watch the service live on line by
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www.stjohnsaustintlms.org

THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Through Jesus Christ, we

proclaim God's Word,

encourage one another in faith,

witness to God's love and

serve all people.

Message from Pastor James

Greeting to you in the name of Jesus Christ the new born King! Another Christmas is past. We spent some time during the Advent season waiting. We waited for Christ's birth with prayer, anticipation and worship. Then we broke into song and celebration, with the angels of Heaven, when our Lord and Savior was born. Another Christmas is past and as the holidays pass there is at times a sense of sadness. Though the days are stating to get longer it's hard to tell, and the cold is still cold. Where can you go to find joy? Come to church where the holiday ("holy day") joys continue! At church we celebrate Christmas for 12 days. Then we get into the celebration of Epiphany where we enjoy six weeks looking into events like the arrival of the wise men, Jesus' baptism and His transfiguration among other things.

So what is this season of Epiphany? Epiphany is a Greek word that means understanding or discovery. The Epiphany season begins

with remembering those wise men who came from the East to worship, and give honor to, little Jesus.

Those wise men had an epiphany (an understanding or discovery) about who Jesus truly is. They gave Him three gifts which signify so much about what they knew about Jesus and why He had come. They gave: Gold which was the gift given to a King. The Wise Men knew Jesus was the King of kings. They gave Frankincense which was the incense burned at the installation of a new priest. The Wise Men knew Jesus was our High Priest and Mediator between us and the Father. They gave Myrrh which was the incense burned at a funeral of royalty or priests. A funeral gift to a new baby may seem strange, but the Wise Men knew Jesus came for the purpose of dying for the world.

My prayer for you is that you would have an epiphany about the importance of Christ in your life, and the importance of worship. I also pray that you would see clearly the opportunities God

places in your life to share the truths and promises we learn about every week with those around you to help them have that same epiphany that opens their hearts and minds to the salvation won for us, all through Jesus.

Pastor James.

From the ancient Church Father:

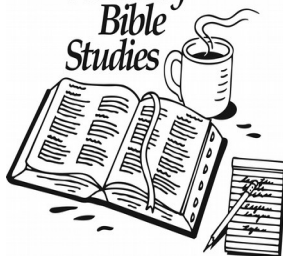
I feel there are especially necessary for me in this life two things without which its miseries would be unbearable. Confined here in this prison of the body I confess I need these two, food and light. Therefore, You O Jesus have given me in my weakness Your sacred Flesh to refresh my soul and body, and You have set Your Word as the guiding light for my feet. Without them I could not live aright, for the Word of God is the light of my soul and Your Sacrament is the Bread of Life. These also may be called the two tables, one here, one there, in the treasure house of holy Church. One is the table of the holy altar, having the holy Bread that is the precious Body of Christ. The other is the table of divine law, containing holy doctrine that teaches all the true faith and firmly leads them within the veil, the Holy of Holies. Thanks to You, Lord Jesus, Light of eternal light, for the table of Your holy teaching which You have prepared for us by Your servants, the prophets and apostles and other learned men. Thanks to You, Creator and Redeemer of men, who, to declare Your love to all the world, have prepared a great supper in which You have placed before us as food not a lamb, the example of Yourself, but Your own most precious Body and Blood, making all the faithful glad in Your sacred banquet, intoxicating them with the chalice of salvation in which are all the delights of paradise; and the holy angels feast with us but with more happiness and sweetness.

Thomas Kempis (1380 – 1471)

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for their kind token of appreciation, as well as all the gracious cards and notes we've received. I'd also like to express my respect and appreciation for pastors Bailey and Schleicher for their kindness and generosity in all that they contribute to the ministry here at St. John's. I pray this new year will bring many more blessings to each of us as we continue our journey of faith together.

Pastor James

Weekday Bible Studies



Together in the Word

Sunday: Adult Bible class at 10:25 a.m. led by Pastor James

Monday: 9:30 a.m. class led by Pastor James. They are studying the lessons that will be read in the services the following

weekend.

Tuesday: Women's Bible study at 1:00 p.m. Led by Sandy Groleau, LCMS Lay Minister. They will be studying a book of the Bible.

Thursday: *Crossways* at 10:00 a.m.. Study the entire Bible in two years. Led by Sandy Groleau, LCMS Lay Minister.

Thursday: Men's Bible study at 5:00 p.m. Led by Dave Ruhnke. Watch the bulletin for details.

Thursday: Gray Matters meets at Perkins Restaurant at 7:30 p.m. Join them for a free-flowing discussion.

To the Christmas Tea committee: Many thanks for all the preparation work plus time plus whatever else to have such a wonderful Christmas tea. We all enjoyed the evening very much. What fun it was to find out who our secret Christian sister was. Schleicher hall was decorated so beautifully. The food was awesome. Thanks again to all who helped make the evening so successful. From all the grateful participants.

January Birthdays

01 Berhane Bekele
02 Curt Anderson
02 James Flerlage
03 Pat Mulso
05 Rolland Brady
05 Terry Wradislavsky
07 Elizabeth Amaya
07 Ellen Petersen
10 Mary Green
11 Dereen Ernst
11 Wayne Wollenburg
13 Kretta Menuey
19 Isaac Bos
19 Patty Shatek
19 Kyla Lee Warner
21 Alanna Grant
23 Jennifer Augustine
23 Ruth Oelkers
23 Pam Waters
25 Tyler Bos
25 Adryan Leshner
31 Erik Barclay
31 Troy Watkins

Anniversaries

21 Dick Heuton & Gale Siegfied
22 Dave & Jane Ruhnke
24 Darrel & Dianne Bahn
Larry & Debbie Vorpahl
25 Dick & Kaaren Wuertz

Shoe Away Hunger

The shoes we collect will be donated to the Shoe Away Hunger Program. These shoes will earn money to provide meals for those in need. Please continue to donate shoes. If possible, please tie shoelaces together to ease correct pairing of the shoes. Thank you for your help!



January Birthdays for Shut-Ins

23 Jennifer Augustine

Our shut-ins would appreciate a card, phone call or visit during the month. A list of all the shut-ins is on the bulletin boards.

THANK YOU!

This is a good time to rejoice again for the loving generosity of St. John's congregation. Thank you for the special gift – money I received as part of the recent Pastor's Appreciation month. It is a unique privilege in giving some assistance to Pastor James and to continue with some pastoral visits and sharing.

(Semi-retired) Pastor John Schleicher

Journey to the Cross

We are bringing JttC back for 2019 and looking to build a team to make it possible. If you are interested in jumping on board this stellar team, or interested in more information, contact Nathan Wradislavsky (507-271-5745 nwardislavsky@gmail.com) soon.

Thank you so much for your pastor appreciation gift. It touched my heart very much. May each of you have a very blessed Christmas.

In Christ,

Pastor Bailey



LWML NEWS

God's Blessings to one and all for 2019. LWML will start off the new year with the congregational birthday party on Sunday, January 20. This year Christian Service Committee #2 will be in charge of the meal. They will put up a sign up sheet for table decorating and cakes. Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins.

Our quilter's will be working every Monday from now on until spring. Last month the quilter's took 20 adult quilts and 5 children quiltes to the Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester. They were thrilled to receive our donation. Then the girls went to the Olive Garden for lunch. We do have a wonderful friendship and fellowship. Hopefully, we will have extra help this coming year from the women of the Multi Cultural group. We always welcome anyone that wants to help for just an hour or the whole time we are working. More the merrier. We also will be taking adult quilts and fleece blankets that were donated to us by Robin and Barbara Orth to Rachel's Hope this month.

Last month we served lunch for the Lois Anderson and Marvin Moe funerals. Christian Service committee #3 will be the next committee to serve.

Mission donation this month is Rachel's Hope.

God's Blessings to all and Happy New Year, Fran Strouf

Stewardship Thought of the Month (TOM)

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35) and “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36). But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land: The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins,[a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9) Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for me.” Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey. God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God’s son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation. In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

A 40-DAY LIFE-CHANGING DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

THE RED LETTER CHALLENGE

The mission of Red Letter Challenge (RLC) is to help people live more like Jesus. Sadly, when people think of Jesus-followers it is a far cry from who Jesus actually is. After all that Jesus has done for us, we cannot be content with the picture and representation that we are sharing. We must change the story and perception of who Jesus is. So how do we change the story that we are telling?

We go back to Christ's words. You know, those red letters in your Bible. It turns out he had a lot to say to His followers about what we are called to do and how we are called to live.

The RLC is unique because it takes Christ's literal words and gives you practical daily challenges based on those words. The RLC will give you targets to shoot for to help you measure how you are practically following after Him. RLC believes that Jesus followers want to be the best Jesus followers that we can be not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us!

Do you have what it takes to really follow Jesus? To truly do what He said?
I believe you do!

Contact Nathan Wradislavsky (507-271-5745 or nwardislavsky@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up. We are looking at kicking this challenge off beginning Monday, January 7 2019. So please sign up soon!

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: December 11, 2018

The December 11, 2018, meeting was called to order by President Vance Oelkers at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Siegfried, Marsha Jensen, Pastor James Groleau, Lisa Flerlage, Darrel Bahn, Francine Strouf, Pam Reistad, Nathan Wradislavsky, Vance Oelkers, Dale Siegfried, Donna Bailey

OPENING DEVOTION: Pastor Groleau

SECRETARY'S REPORT: M/S/P to accept the secretary's report for November 13, 2018, as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Net Operating Loss: \$(5,327.20). Net Increase in Designated Assets: \$584.88. M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report, as written.

ELDERS' REPORT:

Pastor reported a new audio visual system is now in place and some operator training will be needed.
(continued on page 8)

Volunteer Schedule

***Thank you
to all of our
volunteers
who make
our worship
special.***

January Ushers

Head Usher: Randy Graff

Saturday evening: Clayton Petersen, Gene Pfeifer,
Rocky Schammel

Sunday morning: Wayne Strouf, Francine Strouf,
Albie Gilsrud

January Communion Assistants

06: Dick Heuton, Larry Waters, Nathan Wradislavsky
20:

January Lectors

06: Dick Heuton
13: Donna Bailey
20: Larry Waters
27: Carol Schleicher

(Council minuets continued)

He informed us he is now a member of the MN South District Missions Committee.

Levi Flerlage was accepted as a baptized member with the receipt of his baptismal certificate.

We recommend the purchase of clear plastic pew pockets for the Communion policy currently placed in the hymnals along with moving the attendance books to the pockets. The inside dimensions are 5" high, 12" wide and 1-7/8" deep. We would need 100 at the cost of \$11.50 each (\$1,150.00). We feel we need to make the communion policy or guideline more accessible than it is now. M/S/P to purchase the pockets and pay for them from the building fund.

Larry Waters will be contacting people to usher for the 2019 year.

We will be contacting members to fill in missing data such as addresses, e-mails, phone numbers, birth dates, wedding dates, confirmation and baptism dates for our official church records.

We are working on a recommendation regarding Pastor's purchase, or not purchase, of the parsonage. If Pastor decides to purchase, a housing allowance (tax exempt) would be added to

his salary along with some minor benefit changes. This amount would be about \$16,500 annually. This would be offset by the money from the parsonage sale which is estimated at \$195,000, utilities and property insurance, etc. that congregation presently pays, etc. The offset would last about 12 years without investment growth or loss figured in.

TRUSTEES' REPORT:

All bills are paid. All the final work on the furnace is done including the furnace flush which should be \$7,000-\$10,000.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

The board met Dec. 1st with the Sunday School teachers as an appreciation for all their work and effort so far this year, as well as to gain any insight on how the lessons are going so far. Teachers will continue to build on the supplemental activities and crafts and share ideas. They do request better supplies – such as bounty paper towels that are more absorbent. We are busy preparing for Jesus birthday party following the Christmas program on Sunday, December 16th. We will serve cake and ice cream and have small gift bags for the children. Following Sunday School will be a fun day. The teachers are planning to make ornaments. The board will take January off and reconvene in February. We are also in need of an additional person on our board as Gloria will have to resign since she is moving next month. We thank her for all her help over the past year.

STEWARDSHIP BOARD:

The 2019 offering envelopes are available for the congregation to pick up from the east side of the sanctuary.

YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD:

There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 6th, at 11:30 after the education hour, for youth and their families to start planning the pasta dinner which tentatively is Sunday, February 17th. We will also decide on a date in January for a youth activity which will be roller skating at the Rohler Rink in Brownsdale. Kerri will advertise this via the bulletin and text messages.

Kerri will check with the youth to make sure they are registered for the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July. Right now it sounds like two youth are planning to attend.

SOCIAL MINISTRY:

The backpack program is in progress. They are filling 111 backpacks and continue to supplement the backpacks with what is needed and not supplied.

In November we sponsored the St. John's food drive for the Salvation Army.

Social Ministry will serve the Ash Wednesday (March 6, 2019) Lenten supper.

EVANGELISM:

No report.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Classes Taught each week: Sunday Mornings – Everyone His Witness, Monday Mornings – Lectionary Readings, Wednesdays – CASE & Confirmation, Thursday Evenings – Grey Matters. Worship Services each Saturday & Sunday, Thanksgiving Day Eve Service 11/21. Funeral Services: Lois Anderson 11/19 and Marvin Moe 11/26. Trip to explore Mission opportunities in Panama 10/11-10/19. Exploring opportunities for a youth mission trip. Other: Continue to work on initiatives from Best Practices for Ministry. Planning to attend again in 02/2019. Updates to the streaming/radio completed. Special Worship Opportunities: Advent services will be Dec 5, 12, 19. Communion will be on the 9th of Dec. Children's Christmas Program on 12/16 We will also have communion on Dec 25 at 10 AM and Dec 31 at 6:30 PM.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

More information will be gotten from Kindred Family Focus, who asked permission to use a St. John's room for a meeting with 6-8 boys for 2-3 hours on Thursday afternoons.

Donna Bailey will set up a recycle can in Schleicher Hall for water bottles, pop cans, etc. Whomever wants to empty it, feel free.

Two new "treasurer helpers" will be Ruth Oelkers who will be in charge of payroll, and Jane Ruhnke who will enter and report to the treasurer on member contributions. M/S/P to approve that Ruth Oelkers will be able to sign US Bank checks and Gloria Dirksen's name be removed.

M/S/P to allow Karla Muller, with the 4-H, to have sewing and quilting classes in Schleicher Hall two times a month from February through June, assuming the church has not scheduled something.

M/S/P to purchase 200 LED candles for our Christmas Eve candle-light service.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P to adjourn @ 8:22 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Donna Bailey, Council Secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Recap

January 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018

Undesignated Assets	Balance 1/1/18	Activity	Balance 11/30/18
Cash	\$215,476.91	\$9,926.84	\$225,403.75
Prepays/Other Assets	15487.93	-7883.25	7604.68
Buildings & Land	3015781	0	3015781
Liabilities	-4640.42	-7370.79	-12011.21
Net Operating Loss		-\$5,327.20	
Designated Assets			
Building Fund	\$101,059.30	\$5,991.78	\$107,051.08
Needy Family Fund	2067.08	100	2167.08
Women's Ministry Fund	2060.87	0	2060.87
Rachel's Hope Fund	0	0	0
Musical Equipment Fund	283.68	-101.65	182.03
Library Books Fund	513.38	-100.49	412.89
Choir Robes Fund	3111	0	3111
Sunday School Fund	70	-70	0
Memorial Fund	15303.8	-1892.94	13410.86
Praise Band Fund	3135.4	0	3135.4
Youth Fund	11225.81	-929.86	10295.95
Multimedia Fund	700	0	700
Scrip Fund	10298.06	1317.66	11615.72
Sumner School Fund	12173.92	-2742.75	9431.17
Endowment Fund	43883.12	-986.87	42896.25
Increase in Designated Assets		\$584.88	

Notes

Undesignated Assets represent the funds available for general operating purposes.

Designated Assets represent all of the various funds that can be contributed to for the designated purpose.

St. John's Lutheran Church
1200 13th Avenue NW
Austin, MN 55912

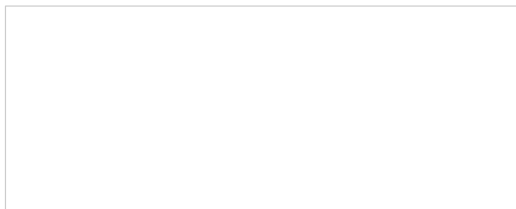
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January, 2019 NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN'S NEWS

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