

St. John's News

July, 2019



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St. John's Webpage:

www.stjohnsaustincms.org

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Worship services every Sunday,
9:00 a.m. at KAUS AM 1480

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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

The Church Year is divided into two major season. The Festival half which runs from December to April/May or from Advent to Pentecost. The other half is called regular time, common time, or the Season after Pentecost. With the Festival Season of the Church Year coming to an end our focus is going to return to engaging the community around us.

The truth is the days of knocking on doors to do outreach have all but passed. The problem lies in a number of things that have caused the Church to lose some of its credibility. The Church is no longer seen as the disseminator of ultimate truth. Controversies, and a general cultural bias against faith, have cast a shadow of doubt on what we have to say. The current world around us

sees the Church as:
Hypocritical, Too focused on converts not on faith, Hateful to homosexuals, Sheltered, Too political, and Too Judgmental.

With all of that looming over us how do we overcome the false presuppositions of the outside world? We as a church need to be engaged in and part of the community around us. Through the relationships we build we gain:
Credibility, Visibility, Accessibility, Speak-ability.

Credibility: People in general will not listen to what you have to say until you've proven to them that you are credible, normal, and rational. Not just spouting Scriptural platitudes but rather dealing with real life. Helping you toward that end is the primary focus of our Sunday morning Bible study. We are taking those

old Sunday School lessons and using them to answer real world questions.

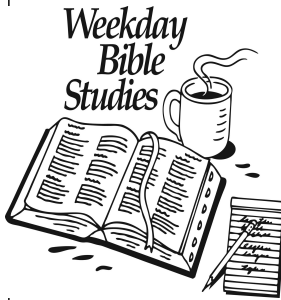
Visibility: Expanding the purpose our various youth events to better connect with families and more and the truth is these won't generate a lot of new members quickly. The purpose is to build relationships that give us the privilege to speak frankly and honestly about saving faith.

Accessibility: When our congregation is part of the community not just present in the community, and our church is seen as something more than a parking lot on Sunday, we gain access to people. When we show that we are honestly and genuinely trustworthy and reliable it

gives us access to conversations that you just can't have with stranger at their door.

Speakability: When we prove, by our actions, that we have a real heart for real people and we show them that our goal and purpose is not to judge them or to force changes on them, but rather to share with them the peace and joy we find in knowing a Savior has come, we earn the right to speak about matters like faith. That is where you come in. Most people in our culture will view me the pastor as the "hired gun" or "commission-paid salesman." The perception of the outside world is to see pastors as having an agenda. Nearly every study

I've read over the last several years shows that when it come to outreach the pastor is nearly irrelevant in bringing first-time visitors to church. It's individuals in the congregation being excited about their church, that brings in visitors. It is a congregation that is eager to welcome people no matter where they come from or where they are, welcoming them just a they are.



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. We will meet again in the fall.

Thursday: *Crossways* at 10:00 a.m. Study the entire Bible in two years. Led by Sandy Groleau, LCMS Lay Minister. On summer break. New members always welcome.

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

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



July Birthdays for Shut-Ins

04 Eugene Pfeifer

31 Roxanne Nelson

**A Special
Birthday**

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

Volunteer Schedule

July Ushers

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

Head Usher: Randy Graff

Thursday evening: Clayton Petersen, Gene Pfeifer,
Rocky Schammel

Sunday morning: Lori Siegfried, Donna Peterson
Richard Kiehne

July Communion Assistants

07: Dick Heuton, Larry Waters, Richard Kiehne

21: Dave Watkins, Nathan Wradislavsky, Larry Waters

July Lectors

07 Carol Schleicher

14 Donna Bailey

21 Dick Heuton

28 Larry Waters

Social Ministry



Social Ministry is planning a reception for Pastor and Donna Bailey celebrating 50 years in the ministry. We will be having the reception right after the service on July 14, 2019. Please come and join us for this festive occasion.

We are still in need of two more people to make our board complete, if you are called please consider saying yes. Also, keep the pasta and rice coming. Thank you so much.

Stewardship Thought of the Month (TOM)

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions also vary.



Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though, as Lutherans, we know we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement, the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take, for example, the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all he has and give it to the poor and then follow Him.

This rich young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions. Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know their duty as Christians in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe – 10 percent – of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deut. 14:22, 29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth the following:

We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This is our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we have also been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us, like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame, likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us.

And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us – with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love – to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

St. John's Men's Breakfast Club meets the 3rd Saturday of each month (**July 20th**) at **7:30 a.m.** They meet at Barley's Family restaurant, 1207 Main St. N in Austin. Enjoy food and fellowship as you connect with other men from St. John's.

I wish to thank everyone that came to visit me, sent cards & flowers while I was at St. Marks Nursing Home. A special thank you to Pastor James for his visits. It was so much appreciated. Being there for 3 months was a long time and I'm so happy to be home. I was so glad we had "on line streaming" of the services so I was able to watch church services. Thank you to all again. May God bless you all. Dianne Brandt

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: June 11, 2019

The June 11, 2019, meeting was called to order by President Vance Oelkers at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marsha Jensen, Francine Strouf, Sandy Grant, Lisa Flerlage, Pam Reistad, Nathan Wradislavsky, Kathy Carlson, Darrel Bahn, Pastor James Groleau, Vance Oelkers, Donna Bailey.

OPENING DEVOTION: Pastor Groleau

SECRETARY'S REPORT: M/S/P to accept the secretary's report for May 14, 2019, as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Net Operating Loss: \$(1,165.83). Net Increase in Designated Assets: \$3,190.42. M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report, as written.

ELDERS' REPORT:

Pastor is working on details for the possible purchase of the parsonage.

We moved to accept the membership of Cindy Hovey into St. Johns, Austin.

The pew pocket project is progressing.

The One Word, or a couple more, prayer request initiation was discussed.

Tim Carlson was elected as chairman of the Elders for the coming year.

We changed our meeting time to the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m., beginning August 12.

TRUSTEES' REPORT:

We do not have final estimates yet on the installation of vents in areas of the church roof.

We're getting ideas and estimates on new shrubs in areas around the church building that need redone.

Betty Hinks has retired from taking care of the court yard. Thanks Betty... a job well done!! The boy scouts, as a project, will start caring for it.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

We discussed the upcoming Vacation Bible School on June 24-28. The theme is "*Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World.*"

The board discussed the upcoming new term year.

Mary Clasby has decided to step down and we are grateful for her years of service. With that we are looking to fill another position on our board.

The board also started discussing Rally Day in September. Next meeting will be July 23rd at 4:15.

STEWARDSHIP BOARD:

We're now up to "full staff." We plan to meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD:

No report.

SOCIAL MINISTRY:

We've been busy. We've hosted the new member reception, the confirmation reception, and we are planning for the Heritage, Happiness and Hope worship service for our shut-ins.

We have taken 26 lbs. of rice and pasta to the Salvation Army. Thank you to all who have donated. Please keep the donations coming especially this summer.

We are planning a reception for Pastor and Donna Bailey, celebrating 50 years in the ministry. The reception will be right after the service on July 14, 2019. Please come and join us for this festive occasion.

Thank you to Sherry Watkins and Kara Grant for agreeing to be on the Social Ministry board.

EVANGELISM:

We have VBS posters that we will be hanging at various community locations and invitation postcards to hand out. There will also be an ad in the Herald.

We have an updated church brochure and new church magnets. They can be used by members to give to neighbors and friends along with an invitation to church. They may be given to those who visit our church as part of a small packet of information.

The tract ministry board has been completed and is hanging in Schleicher Hall. We will be filling it with “tracts” on various topics. There will also be slots for copies of sermons, LWML material and newsletters. This is all available for anyone to “please take one.” We are intending this tract ministry to be a resource that encourages booklet readers to seek God’s help for the many issues that life brings. It is for both congregation members and those groups who may use the fellowship hall.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Classes Taught each week: Sunday Mornings – Stuff They Didn’t Teach You in Sunday School; Monday Mornings – Lectionary Readings Wednesdays – CASE & Confirmation Thursday Evenings – Grey Matters Worship Services: Each Saturday/Thursday & Sunday. Catching up on items that were paused for Easter. Confirmation Sunday. (3 students confirmed) Preparing for Heritage Happiness and Hope Services. Preparing for VBS

Since people want to know who their elder is, a list is posted on the bulletin board by the office.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor will be scheduling Dave Anderson for a concert on Wednesday, July 31.

M/S/P to welcome Cindy Howey as a member of St. Johns.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Donna Bailey, Council Secretary

July Birthdays

03 Dylan Caron
03 Doug Peterson
04 Gene Pfeifer
04 Connie Prantner
05 Adyson Wradislavsky
06 Caleb Augustine
06 Allen McAlister
07 Courtney Kusick
08 James Thorson
09 Kenneth Greenlee
09 Thad Kusick
10 Bryer Kruse
11 Roger Anderson
13 Ashton Wasko
13 Landon Wasko
15 Joyce Bakke
17 Joel Jensen
18 Nathan Augustine
20 Abby VanPelt
20 Blake VanPelt
20 Katie VanPelt
21 Cindi Marquardt
21 Adam Wradislavsky
22 Robert Schammel
24 Ron Shatek
27 Bonnie Brady
28 Tara Watkins
29 Kim Downey
31 Dianne Brandt
31 Nathan Downey
31 Roxanne Nelson
 Anniversary
24 David & Nicole Kramer

Prayer Ministry. . . will be right after worship service by the organ. We pray for others... we pray for you. All remains confidential. Bring your special needs or hurts and we will petition the Lord with you. Questions? Feel free to call Carol Schleicher at 396-8420.

TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER. DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER CONCERN OR THANKSGIVING? COMMEND IT TO THE LORD THROUGH YOUR OWN PRAYERS, BUT ALSO THROUGH THE LOVING SERVICE OF OUR PRAYER CHAIN. IF YOU HAVE AN ITEM YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED ON THE PRAYER CHAIN, PLEASE CONTACT MIRIAM LUEHMANN AT 437-7619 OR MIRIAM.LUEHMANN@ICLOUD.COM.

FROGs (Faithful Retired Old Guys)

CALLING ALL RETIRED GUYS! JOINS US AT THE CHURCH ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH (**JULY 2**). FROGS OFFERS BOTH A SOCIAL COMPONENT AND A VOLUNTEER COMPONENT. COME THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP. WE WILL ALSO BE LOOKING FOR IDEAS TO SERVE, DOING GENERAL MAINTENANCE OR UPKEEP ACTIVITIES OR OTHER CREATIVE WAYS TO SERVE THE LORD HERE AT ST. JOHN'S. VOLUNTEER TO SERVE IF YOU WANT. IF NOT, JUST COME FOR THE FELLOWSHIP. ALL ARE WELCOME...JUST SHOW UP!

**St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Recap
January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018**

Undesignated Assets	Balance 1/1/18	Activity	Balance 12/31/18	Notes
Cash	\$215,476.91	(\$2,182.63)	\$213,294.28	Undesignated Assets represent the funds available for general operating purposes.
Prepays/Other Assets	15,487.93	467.77	15,955.70	
Buildings & Land	3,015,781.00	0.00	3,096,411.00	
Liabilities	(4,640.42)	<u>(8,159.28)</u>	(12,799.70)	
Net Operating Income (Loss)		<u>(\$9,874.14)</u>		
Designated Assets				
Building Fund	101,059.30	5,647.38	106,706.68	Designated Assets represent all of the various funds that can be contributed to for the designated purpose.
Needy Family Fund	2,067.08	100.00	2,167.08	
Women's Ministry Fund	2,060.87	(58.92)	2,001.95	
Rachel's Hope Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Musical Equipment Fund	283.68	(101.65)	182.03	
Library Books Fund	513.38	(100.49)	412.89	
Choir Robes Fund	3,111.00	0.00	3,111.00	
Sunday School Fund	70.00	(70.00)	0.00	
Memorial Fund	15,303.80	(2,909.76)	12,394.04	
Praise Band Fund	3,135.40	0.00	3,135.40	
Youth Fund	11,225.81	(927.76)	10,298.05	
Multimedia Fund	700.00	(700.00)	0.00	
Scrip Fund	10,298.06	2,087.77	12,385.83	
Sumner School Fund	12,173.92	(3,279.69)	8,894.23	
Endowment Fund	43,883.12	<u>(986.87)</u>	42,896.25	
Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets		<u>(\$1,299.99)</u>		

St. John's Lutheran Church
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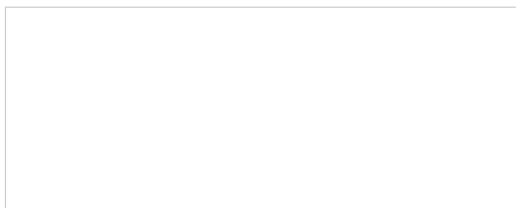
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July, 2019
NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN'S NEWS

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