

# St. John's News

October, 2019



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St. John's Webpage:

[www.stjohnsaustincms.org](http://www.stjohnsaustincms.org)

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

Watch the service live on line by going to

[www.stjohnsaustincms.org](http://www.stjohnsaustincms.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

Here are some numbers that should trouble you:

- Only half of all children who are Baptized will be Confirmed.
- Only half of all Confirmed remain in the Church past the age of 21.
- Only half of those who remain after age 21 will pass that onto their children.  
(In the very successful congregations. Generally it is less.)

What are we to do?!

It's no secret that reaching out outside of our church walls is important. I thought I share some additional information on that subject. The first thing we need to know is: what are people looking for? What they seek might not be what we want to give, but knowing what they seek may help us better speak to them about that they need. People are often looking for a brief escape, an hour of peace on Sunday morning. What people need is the eternal peace found in Jesus but if we can't provide what they're looking for (an hour of peace and escape) we'll never get the opportunity to provide the eternal peace we know they need.

Understanding that, we then need to see people in two categories because they are really only two. The first is missionaries. The second is those who need missionaries. If you are a Mark 16:16 Christian you are a missionary. The number of

missionaries (true believers) in our culture often seems do be dropping. That means the people who need missionaries is growing.

I recently heard a gentleman explain the Christian Church in America as a place, in the past, where culturally nearly everyone went, and now is probably more likely a place where only believers go. His point was the Church is now populated by more truly faithful and less who are putting on a show. This shows us that Cultural Christianity is fading. Only the "real Christians" go to church. So the "Church" must leave the building.

People will not 'just show up' and get 'Christian-ized' any more. We must "evangelize them" not just "sacramental-ize them." What I mean by that is this. In the "good 'ol days" people just came to church. They got their kids baptized, confirmed and married. Evangelism was done primarily at the Baptism font and the constant hearing of God's Word taught each Sunday. The problem now is they don't, and won't, come every Sunday. Many won't have their children Baptized "unless grandma just won't let it go" so they'll put on the show, for grandma. People will not 'just show up' any more.

Evangelism is no longer done within the church walls. It must be getting out into the community. Evangelism is education. It is introducing people to a person. That person is Jesus. Evangelism is foster an environment of invitation, hospitality and listening. It is no longer simply Word and Sacrament.

(It probably never really was.) It is sharing the Gospel, the Good News.

So knowing what people want is the first step in giving them what we know they need. What do people say is the most important thing they want in church? “Don’t judge me.” The biggest fear people hold about going to church is being judged: “Where have you been so long?” “What kind of Christian do you think you are?” “You should...” “You better...” “You need to learn to follow the rules.” There are probably churches like that, but they are dying and it should be clear why.

(Now I need to interject here this does not mean doctrine does not matter. It does matter and it is absolutely important. We should believe what we say we believe. I am also not saying we should not teach it. But old: policies, procedures and regulations, old traditions and ‘we’ve always done it that way’ may be extra things we’ve added to the faith. Everything we do needs to be evaluated according to Scripture. If it’s not in the Bible, and it keeps people away from the church, it needs to endure some scrutiny to determine if it is truly helping do the work of the Church.)

When it come to outreach many people feel intimidated. There is a fear of failure. “What if I say the wrong thing?” “What if I offend someone?” “What if I offer to help and mess it all up because I don’t know how?” To overcome that fear of failure we need to overcome Satan’s lies. It is not our job to connive, scheme or plot with ‘bait & switch’ tactics and stunts to trick people into coming to church. We’re not selling a broken down used car.

We’re selling Jesus! (Of course ‘selling’ is not a good word here.)

We are offering the Best of the best. The King of kings. The Lord of lords. Eternal peace to replace a moment of peace. In that context all the pressure is off of you. Put it where it belongs, on God’s shoulders. It is the Holy Spirit who will call them by the Gospel out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Real success then is not measured in the number of people who come, because you and I cannot control how many people come. Real success should be measured by the number of conversations I have and relationship I build, because I can control that. In that light everything we do in church should be about conversations and relationships. Every function we have at church should be geared not to bring the community into the church. They should designed with the idea of bring the church into the community. If we are active in the community we have permission to speak. If we are not active in the community they will see us pontificating platitude that we don’t really believe.

We must also loose the panic that a shrinking church sometimes feels. We need to grow from “Please stay!” to “Please go!” What could I mean by that? Three words: **desperation, invitation, multiplication.**

“Please stay!” – Is an active of **desperation.** It means we’ll take anyone just to have good numbers. We won’t care what they believe or how they act. We just want to have a good head count so

we’ll tolerate anything as long as they’ll claim they are Christian.

“Please come!” – Is the next step. It is an **invitation** to come and share the peace that surpasses all understanding. (Philippians 4:7) It is to join the community around us and contribute to it as we share where we get our peace and what drives us to help. Here we loose the platitudes and share our peace, the Prince of Peace.

“Please go!” – This is our goal, but don’t misunderstand! We’re not kicking people out! This is **multiplication.** It is when we help grow a new congregation that can develop and prosper. Large churches have genuine struggles when it comes to offering personal care. The better model is a number of small gatherings, each one focused on a particular aspect of the greater community.

All of this all begins with prayer. Psalm 78 is a good one:

Open your ears to My teachings, My people. Turn your ears to the words from My mouth. I will open My mouth to illustrate points.

I will explain what has been hidden long ago, things that we have heard and known about, things that our parents have told us. We will not hide them from our children. We will tell the next generation about the LORD’s power and great deeds and the miraculous things He has done.

*Psalm 78:1-4*

Pastor James.

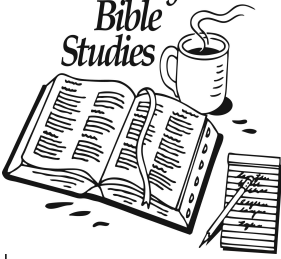
## Reading/Praying Challenge:

Prayer is so important and it is so often forgotten. I'd like to challenge you. I would challenge you to pray all 150 Psalms, one per day, beginning on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Some of them are long, particularly Psalm 119. I'd suggest breaking the long ones up into two or three little pauses throughout your day.

Beginning on September 30<sup>th</sup> will take you all the way to Ash Wednesday, when I'll have another challenge for you that will take you right into Easter.

	11/06	Psalm 38	12/14	Psalm 76	01/21	Psalm 114	
09/30	Psalm 1	11/07	Psalm 39	12/15	Psalm 77	01/22	Psalm 115
10/01	Psalm 2	11/08	Psalm 40	12/16	Psalm 78	01/23	Psalm 116
10/02	Psalm 3	11/09	Psalm 41	12/17	Psalm 79	01/24	Psalm 117
10/03	Psalm 4	11/10	Psalm 42	12/18	Psalm 80	01/25	Psalm 118
10/04	Psalm 5	11/11	Psalm 43	12/19	Psalm 81	01/26	Psalm 119
10/05	Psalm 6	11/12	Psalm 44	12/20	Psalm 82	01/27	Psalm 120
10/06	Psalm 7	11/13	Psalm 45	12/21	Psalm 83	01/28	Psalm 121
10/07	Psalm 8	11/14	Psalm 46	12/22	Psalm 84	01/29	Psalm 122
10/08	Psalm 9	11/15	Psalm 47	12/23	Psalm 85	01/30	Psalm 123
10/09	Psalm 10	11/16	Psalm 48	12/24	Psalm 86	01/31	Psalm 124
10/10	Psalm 11	11/17	Psalm 49	12/25	Psalm 87	02/01	Psalm 125
10/11	Psalm 12	11/18	Psalm 50	12/26	Psalm 88	02/02	Psalm 126
10/12	Psalm 13	11/19	Psalm 51	12/27	Psalm 89	02/03	Psalm 127
10/13	Psalm 14	11/20	Psalm 52	12/28	Psalm 90	02/04	Psalm 128
10/14	Psalm 15	11/21	Psalm 53	12/29	Psalm 91	02/05	Psalm 129
10/15	Psalm 16	11/22	Psalm 54	12/30	Psalm 92	02/06	Psalm 130
10/16	Psalm 17	11/23	Psalm 55	12/31	Psalm 93	02/07	Psalm 131
10/17	Psalm 18	11/24	Psalm 56	01/01	Psalm 94	02/08	Psalm 132
10/18	Psalm 19	11/25	Psalm 57	01/02	Psalm 95	02/09	Psalm 133
10/19	Psalm 20	11/26	Psalm 58	01/03	Psalm 96	02/10	Psalm 134
10/20	Psalm 21	11/27	Psalm 59	01/04	Psalm 97	02/11	Psalm 135
10/21	Psalm 22	11/28	Psalm 60	01/05	Psalm 98	02/12	Psalm 136
10/22	Psalm 23	11/29	Psalm 61	01/06	Psalm 99	02/13	Psalm 137
10/23	Psalm 24	11/30	Psalm 62	01/07	Psalm 100	02/14	Psalm 138
10/24	Psalm 25	12/01	Psalm 63	01/08	Psalm 101	02/15	Psalm 139
10/25	Psalm 26	12/02	Psalm 64	01/09	Psalm 102	02/16	Psalm 140
10/26	Psalm 27	12/03	Psalm 65	01/10	Psalm 103	02/17	Psalm 141
10/27	Psalm 28	12/04	Psalm 66	01/11	Psalm 104	02/18	Psalm 142
10/28	Psalm 29	12/05	Psalm 67	01/12	Psalm 105	02/19	Psalm 143
10/29	Psalm 30	12/06	Psalm 68	01/13	Psalm 106	02/20	Psalm 144
10/30	Psalm 31	12/07	Psalm 69	01/14	Psalm 107	02/21	Psalm 145
10/31	Psalm 32	12/08	Psalm 70	01/15	Psalm 108	02/22	Psalm 146
11/01	Psalm 33	12/09	Psalm 71	01/16	Psalm 109	02/23	Psalm 147
11/02	Psalm 34	12/10	Psalm 72	01/17	Psalm 110	02/24	Psalm 148
11/03	Psalm 35	12/11	Psalm 73	01/18	Psalm 111	02/25	Psalm 149
11/04	Psalm 36	12/12	Psalm 74	01/19	Psalm 112	02/26	Psalm 150
11/05	Psalm 37	12/13	Psalm 75	01/20	Psalm 113		<i>Ash Wednesday</i>

*Weekday  
Bible  
Studies*



**Together in the Word**

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

**Tuesday:** Women's Bible study at 1:00 p.m. led by Sandy Groleau, LCMS Lay Minister. All ladies are welcome.

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

**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.

**Volunteer Schedule**

**October Ushers**

**Head Usher:** Randy Graff

Thursday evening: Clayton Petersen, Gene Pfeifer,  
Rocky Schammel

Sunday morning: Arnie Mulso, Kim Downey, Thad Kusick

**October Communion Assistants**

Oct 6 - Tony Flerlage

Oct 20 - Richard Kiehne

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

**October Lectors**

06 Larry Waters

13 Donna Bailey

20 Sandy Groleau

27 Dick Heuton

**Fall Voters Meeting... Sunday, October 6, 2019**

**Lunch** will be at 11:30

Chicken from Pizza Ranch will be provided; you bring a dish to pass.

**Voters meeting** will be right after lunch, approximately 12:30

This is an important meeting; it will include information about the sale of the parsonage and St. John's budget for 2020. **All members are encouraged to come.**

## **GREAT NEWS!**

As in Twins' Baseball, it's time for a "TEAM-St. John's chalk-talk."

"Fall-Training" has begun for "TEAM-St. John's"! Early in September our Stewardship Board enjoyed the Holy Spirit's personal training of His Spiritual Gifts. We each checked boxes on an easy questionnaire. In Romans 12: 6-8, Paul lists seven Redemptive Gifts/ strengths for His people, of which ONE probably is dominant in each believer: Proclaiming (not prophesying--- foretelling the future); Serving; Teaching; Encouraging (exhorting); Sharing (giving); Managing (leading); Care-giving (mercy-giving.) One of these is your dominant God-given spiritual DNA! God intended you to use this gift!



FYI: I, Carol Schleicher, taught school, VBS, S.S., Bible Studies, and substitute-taught for 20+ years. Guess what? My God-given, spiritual DNA is NOT "teaching"! You, too, may surprise your family and church-friends, as you happily identify your true giftedness. God wants you to be able to rejoice in how He made YOU. Please plan ahead to attend Stewardship Sunday Worship and Bible Class on Nov. 17 to explore the easy questionnaire for yourself, and to celebrate our kids' "gifts" in the Children's Message. Prepare to be excited! As in Twins' Baseball, specific gifts and positions have been given to specific players on the team. There is ONE Luis Arraez, our rookie fielder, who is filled with energy and talent. There is ONE Mitch Garver, our record-breaking, homerun-hitting catcher. The Twins need ALL players, managers, trainers, owners, bat-boys and ball-girls to function well, to attempt to stay healthy, and to live out the many gifts given. "TEAM-St. John's," we do, too! God bless us all.

GO TEAM!

Matthew 7:7---"Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you."

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### **October Birthdays for Shut-Ins**

04	Brian King
04	Lois Schmidt
15	Diane Joseph
17	Gerhard Wollenburg



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

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Just because you can't see the air, doesn't mean you stop breathing.  
And just because you can't see God, doesn't mean you stop believing

## Ruby's Pantry coming to Austin

Ruby's Pantry could not exist without the hard work of dedicated volunteers at each of the Pop-Up Pantry sites. These volunteers work to ensure that families have the broadest selection of foods and good possible.

They hope to be open in Austin every third Thursday of the month beginning in September.

If you are interested in learning more about Ruby's Pantry or volunteering at a Pantry, please contact them.

651-674-0009

[goodnews@rubyspantry.org](mailto:goodnews@rubyspantry.org)

[www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org)

### October Birthdays

02 David Kramer  
02 Javante Pineda  
03 Emily McAlister  
03 Lindsey Wylde  
04 Brian King  
04 Lois Schmidt  
04 Amy Steinbrink  
05 Gale Siegfried  
06 Tim Carlson  
06 Butch Garbau  
08 Karen Jacobs  
08 Brian Stough  
12 Kristen Maas  
13 Judy DeYoung  
13 Meri Jo Lonergan  
14 Myla Anderson  
14 Matt Auringer  
14 Kylea Rupe  
15 Diane Joseph  
15 Asher Kramer  
17 Clayton Petersen  
17 Gerhard Wollenburg  
19 Wendy Kusick  
20 Kathy Carlson  
21 Sara Wradislavsky  
22 Doraine Graff  
22 Hapickaw Ogilla  
23 Walt Wollenburg  
24 Lori Siegfried  
25 Annette Kiehne  
27 Harold Rohne  
27 Stacey Rupe  
29 Albie Gilsrud

### Anniversaries

04 Thad & Wendy Kusick  
08 Kim & Sue Downey  
20 Robert & Katy Hodge  
22 Rachel Sippel

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**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.

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**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](mailto:MIRIAM.LUEHMANN@ICLOUD.COM).

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## 2019 Christmas Tea



**Thursday Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m.!** This year's Christmas tea will be held at St. John's in Schleicher Hall. We will have Tea and Tea time treats and an inspiring program, in a specially decorated Schleicher Hall. So mark the date on your calendar and invite a friend to share in the fun. Watch for more information in the upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

THE CHRISTMAS TEA COMMITTEE

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**St. John's Men's Breakfast Club** – Despite the formal sounding name we are all about casual and informal. No commitment, no attendance, no oath of silence. Just come when you can for breakfast and fellowship on the third Saturday of each month at 7:30 am, at Barley's Family Restaurant.

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### **FROGs (Faithful Retired Old Guys)**

CALLING ALL RETIRED GUYS! JOINS US AT THE CHURCH ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH (**Oct. 1**). 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!

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### **Need for Winter Coats**

Imagine what it might be like if you had recently moved to Austin and were not prepared for the cold Minnesota weather. Those first blasts of cold air could be a very unpleasant surprise!

We would like to be of help to those in our community who may have need of a winter coat.

Do you have unused winter apparel that is hanging in your closet? Please consider donating these items to St Johns and we will see that they are distributed to those who may have a need. We are happy to take men's, women's and children's coats that are in good condition.

Monetary donations would also be welcome to help us to purchase children's coats. We will be applying for Thrivent Funds to purchase children's coats also.

With thanks,

Board of Evangelism

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### **LWML NEWS**



October is here -are you ready for fall? We are back into quilting and hope to have you join us. Come try us out on Mondays. What a great way to give time to mission work.

We will be celebrating LWML Sunday on October 6. We will be taking a special mite collection at the door for missions.

Our next meeting will be in November when we will be putting together packages for our college-aged members. Donation boxes will be out before then.

Be sure to pick up your LWML booklets at church. We thank Donna Bailey for all her work at putting them together.

Have a blessed fall enjoying the beauty of the season. Sandy Grant

To the ladies of the congregation if you would like to support the LWML by paying the yearly dues the dues are \$8.00 and can be given to Ellen Petersen as she is the treasurer of the LWML. Thank you!

## Library Reading Incentive Program

Our Library is sponsoring a reading program entitled "Let Your Light Shine" based on John 8:12 – "Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." This is to promote our church library & encourage everyone to read Christian material. To visually carry out the theme, we have a lighthouse on the bulletin board across from the library.

The program is for children ages preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, youth, **AND** adults. Youth and adults may check out our materials at any time. The program will begin on Sunday, Sept. 22 with an explanation to the Sunday school children by Lori Siegfroid during the opening. Children will begin checking out books or DVDs on the following Sunday, Sept. 29 during the Sunday school hour & will continue through Nov. 3 (six weeks). All materials are due back Nov. 10. Winners in each age group will be announced and the prizes given out on Nov. 17.

For each item checked out, everyone will sign a star (their light to go along with the theme) which will be added to our Lighthouse Wall by the library. A prize will be given for the most books read in each age group. Only materials from the church library count, & they must be age appropriate.

All materials may be kept for two weeks. Three items may be checked out at a time, & at least one has to be returned in order to check out another item. Parents are encouraged to read to those too young to read themselves. All materials must be returned by Nov. 10 to be counted for prizes, which will be given on Nov. 17. Remember, youth and adults are also part of this program. **Please help your child remember to return books, especially on Nov. 10, so that no one will be disappointed.**

This will be a fun activity to promote reading. Watch our progress every week on the Lighthouse Wall, & see how many books we are reading!

Church Library Committee  
Sue Downey, Nicole Kramer, Doraine Graff, Sandy Grant,  
Lori Siegfroid, Ellen Petersen

## YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

Help support the Youth and join in the spirit of the holidays by purchasing Christmas wreaths provided by Mickman Brothers. The Youth will be selling wreaths following the church services the month of October. The orders must be in by November 1st and then we will distribute them on Sunday November 24th after church. We are raising money to be able to send our youth to the National Youth Gathering in Houston Texas in three years. You may order wreaths at anytime or call with questions to Kerri Groleau at 320-280-0043.





## **Coming Soon the Hallelujah Harvest Festival!**

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual **Hallelujah Harvest Festival** will be at St. John's **Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** We will provide a safe, warm, family-oriented environment where children can play games for prizes and treats and win some great door prizes too. Invite your friends and neighbors to share a light meal and have a fun time with your family and friends!

**Donations of bags of mini candy bars** such as Snickers, Kit Kat, etc... are needed for the Hallelujah Harvest Festival. Last year we used 100 lbs. of candy. Please place your candy donations in the specially marked totes at either entry way of the church.

**You could be the one we are looking for!** If you would like to be part of the fun-filled evening, why not staff one of the games, the registration table, or work in the kitchen for the Hallelujah Harvest Festival. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Game signup sheets are in the east entryway of the church.

### **Volunteers needed!!**

**Food donation** sheets for the meal we will serve are in both entryways of the church.

**SET-UP** WILL BE AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS SUNDAY OCT. 27<sup>TH</sup>. WE WILL SET UP ALL THE GAMES DO THE DECORATING AND BUILD THE MAZE. WE WILL SERVE PIZZA FOR LUNCH SO PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN TO MAKE THE HALLELUJAH HARVEST FESTIVAL A GREAT SUCCESS!!

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Dear St. John's Members,

In July, we left Austin and moved to Tallahassee, Florida to live with our daughter, Lynn and her family. Everything is so different here. We are trying to adjust.

We miss everyone in our church family at St. Johns' very much, and wish we had told you how much we appreciated you when we were there.

Our new address is: Eugene & Lois Auringer  
10195 Journeys End  
Tallahassee, FL 32312-3715

Lois' cell phone number is 507-438-5970. It is a local Austin number.

Cards & notes would be appreciated. We love mail and news about Austin.

May God bless you all,

Lois & Gene Auringer

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**“The Gospel we are called to share is simple, but our world is complex.”**

Ain't that the truth?

The Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry, quoted above, knows that it “takes effort to learn how to share the simple Gospel in the various contexts of our complex world.”

Thankfully, a new program in the LCMS called *Every One His Witness*™ (E1HW) aims to guide that effort and pave the way for faithful Lutherans to bring the message of Christ to their neighbors naturally, through their various vocations. According to Wood, “E1HW seeks to restore evangelism to its proper place as the most important — and the most joyful — work that we do in service to Christ and to our neighbors.”

As part of the development of E1HW, several LCMS churches had the chance to test-drive the program while learning how to reach out organically to those God has placed around them. Hope Lutheran Church in St. Louis was among those churches. The congregation hosted a daylong training seminar for E1HW in April 2017.

“The program ... is based squarely on the Scriptures and consistent with our Lutheran focus on salvation by God’s grace alone and witnessing based on our vocations in all of life,” said the Rev. Randy Asbury, pastor of Hope. “The stories told in E1HW help people to see that bearing witness to Jesus is not a science or a proven methodology. Rather, we get to see how the Holy Spirit works through His Word in the real lives of people.”

Bringing Christ into the conversation, into the “real lives of people,” is exactly what E1HW zeroes in on, mainly through what the program calls the LASSIE approach: “Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage.”

“The LASSIE approach is so helpful because it does not present a canned script of what to say to people. [It] educate[s] and remind[s] us that God’s good gifts — His Word, my reason and all my senses — equip us to speak of Jesus to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers in an engaging and winsome manner,” said Bob Myers, a member at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pensacola, Fla., which also piloted the program. “E1HW reminded me that listening is an important skill to develop, and that every individual has a different and compelling story for us to listen to, and that every individual is one for whom Christ died and is one who needs to hear the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ alone.”

## Tract Ministry

Please take note of the new tract ministry board that has been installed in the fellowship hall. The rack holds sermon copies, LWML publications, extra Portals of Prayer as well as pamphlets on various topics. All of these materials are available for anyone to "please take."

The Evangelism board is intending this tract ministry to be a resource that encourages people to seek God's help for the many issues that life brings. It will be a Christ-centered asset to give hope and comfort to those in need. It is both for congregation members and any and all groups that use the fellowship hall.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE: September 10, 2019**

The September 10, 2019, meeting was called to order by President Vance Oelkers at 7:05 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Beth Saurer, Lisa Flerlage, Kathy Carlson, Lori Siegfleid, Darrel Bahn, Pastor James, Tim Carlson, Pam Reistad, David Ruhnke, Vance Oelkers, Donna Bailey.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Pastor Groleau

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** M/S/P to accept the secretary's report for October 9, 2019, as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Net Operating Loss: \$(8,686.94). Net Increase in Designated Assets: \$3,414.12. M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report, as written.

### **ELDERS' REPORT:**

Pastor reported the Fall Schedule has started. He is working with Pastor Olana for a combined Confirmation program. Pastor will be attending a Missions Conference in Minneapolis the week of September 23-27.

Communion Setup, Communion Assistants and Prayer Elder schedules were set.

Old Business - the Elders will continue with a single Communion Assistant.

New Business -

Discussed moving the Saturday Service to Thursday or Wednesday. Will continue on Saturday until additional congregation input can be gathered.

Personnel committee to be established to conduct a Pastors review. Elders: Nathan Wradislavsky, Tim Carlson and Dave Watkins will review the district pastor job description and meet with Pastor James in October.

Clergy appreciation month is October.

Release of Membership from the Nathan and Jennifer Augustine family to St John, Lewiston MN (WELS)

October Elders Meeting to be held on Monday, October 7 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is moving to the first Monday for October only to meet ahead of the October Council meeting on Tuesday, October 8.

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT:**

Preparations are being made in advance of insulating the attics over the offices, choir room, library, youth room and class rooms. Upon inspection of conduit in the attic a serious deficiency has been discovered. The conduit connecting each of the lights in the three corridors was insufficiently supported when originally installed and as a result most conduit connectors have been broken which exposes the electric wires to potential damage. This

situation has come about from inadvertently stepping on the conduit hidden under the insulation over the years and was discovered when one of the wires shorted out. This needs to be corrected before more insulation is blown into the attic. Vance Oelkers is securing pricing from licensed electricians to correct this unsafe condition. The lower of two bids for insulation is from Unruh Insulation from Stacyville, IA. Their price of \$9,440 was approved by the Trustees to recommend to the Council. Installing the insulation would be scheduled after the conduit situation has been corrected and necessary communication wires have been installed in the attic for the Chapel.

The dormer over the East door will likely be constructed and ceiling repair made in September as well as installation of a second attic access on the west side.

In light of Pastor pursuing the purchase of another home, Trustees recommend to Council that, if that occurs, the parsonage be sold once it is empty.

David and Parker Bracken were hired to trim the bushes around the church and the two signs.

Required annual inspection of our water backflow preventer was performed and a report to the city was made by Harty Mechanical, and is now scheduled to be performed by them each August.

The pew project has been completed.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

Rally Day was a great success. 60-75 meals consisting of hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, vegetable salad, pie and drinks were served. Because of rain, the bouncy house was moved into the fellowship hall. The kids LOVED it; it over-shadowed the other games.

Plans are being worked on by Kerri Groleau and Lisa Flerlage for the Harvest Festival.

### **STEWARDSHIP BOARD:**

Carol and Pastor John Schleicher led the board members through its own identification of God-given Spiritual Redemptive Gifts. The members identified their own gifts of Proclaiming, Giving, Encouraging, and Teaching; and now, in co-ordination with Pastor James, plan to lead a Spiritual Gift identification for each of the congregational members. It is planned for Harvest Sunday, November 17, during the bible study time after the church service. Hopefully, the result of Spiritual Gift identification will be empowerment, confidence, and joy to serve, since God has done this gifting.

We decided not to use the stewardship program package offered by KLW Enterprises.

Script card sales continues. We may expand the program.

The board still needs one more member.

### **YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD:**

The Youth and Family Board met with the Board of Education for first time to work collaboratively and support each other in board efforts. At this meeting we discussed Rally Day which will take place on Sunday, September 8th. There will be lunch, games and prizes after the education hour. The members of the Youth and Family Board will be available to assist with Rally Day. The Youth and Family Board shared that we are planning to do a fundraiser this fall. The fundraiser involves the youth selling wreaths following worship services in September/October. The Pastor shared that he will be meeting with Sunday school teachers regarding the new curriculum and schedule on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Ellen Petersen and Sue Downey will attend this meeting to discuss the Hallelujah Harvest Festival. Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:30 p.m. Ellen Petersen and Sue Downey presented information regarding the Hallelujah Harvest Festival. Ellen left the binder with game descriptions, numbers, donation information and timelines with Lisa Flerlage. Many thanks to Ellen and Sue for all their past years of

volunteering for this event. Signup sheets for volunteers will be put up on the bulletin boards this Sunday. Rally Day was also discussed and details were worked out regarding this event. Rally Day will take place Sunday, September 8th following the education hour from 11:30-2:00. Kerri also brought up that Ruth Oelkers has asked if the youth can tie fleece baby quilts to be given away. The plan is to have the youth do this following the education hour on Sunday, October 13th. Next meeting of the Youth and Family Board/Board of Education will take place on Tuesday, September 24th at 4:30 to continue working on Hallelujah Harvest Festival details. Respectfully Submitted by, Lori Siegfried

### **SOCIAL MINISTRY:**

Pastor James talked to us about combining Social Ministry with the Board of Evangelism for a trial period of one year. A number of the things that both boards do could overlap. Each of the boards could help the other on certain events or projects. Pastor also said that some of the events or projects could be an outreach to people outside the church, such as inviting children in the neighborhood to our Easter Egg Hunt or trying to include people outside the church to donate food to the November and March food drives. Social Ministry could also help with the winter coat drive that the Board of Evangelism works so hard on. We also discussed the need to update the bulletin boards in Schleicher Hall. Kara Grant is going to update the information on our members who are attending college; Pam Waters on the members in the military and also include information on our veterans. The board for our shut-ins is also going to be brought up to date. Our list of shut-ins has greatly increased. Our next meeting will be coordinated with the board of Evangelism.

Since school has started, we packed 120 back packs.

### **EVANGELISM:**

We met with 2 members in attendance. We discussed the upcoming coat drive. The date will be Saturday, November 2 from 9-3. Kerri has talked to Our Saviors, Brownsdale and Holy Cross and they are both interested in being a part of the coat drive. Representatives from these 2 congregations will come to our next coat drive meeting. Thrivent Funds of \$250 have been applied which will be used to purchase new children's coats. Posters have been distributed to some of the area churches asking for coat donations. A box has been placed in the east entry for coat donations.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

A great deal of work was put into the implementation of a new cross generational program of worship and education this summer.

I am attending a number of conferences, and continuing education functions, and they will continue through September.

A number of new initiatives will be started over about six months beginning in October. They include:

- POBLO – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach. A group that helps facilitate bringing Jesus to people outside the Church. [www.poblo.org](http://www.poblo.org)
- UpWorks – Help develop skills and education to foster better work opportunities. [www.upworksmn.org](http://www.upworksmn.org)
- OAfC – On Going Ambassadors for Christ –A group that facilitates outreach within communities for the LCMS [www.oafc.org](http://www.oafc.org).

It is our intention to work with these groups in conjunction with Our Savior, Brownsdale and Holy Cross, Austin. Pastor Olana and I have spoken about doing more together with the three congregations and there is much that we see our congregations doing together in the mission of Jesus Christ. I pray these and additional efforts will be profitable to Christ's Kingdom within all three congregations. I would encourage everyone to explore these groups, learn what they are about, and how you might contribute to the ministry we have here. We will have speakers from each of these groups presenting their organizations. They are all ROS of the LCMS. (Recognized Service Organizations) Meaning the LCMS approves and supports working with these groups to

enhance ministry work done by a congregation. [www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-serviceorganizations](http://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-serviceorganizations) August work

- Sunday Mornings – Stuff They Didn't Teach You in Sunday School
- Thursday Evenings – Grey Matters
- Worship service at The Cedars of Austin
- Each Thursday/Saturday & Sunday
- Continued implementation of a new “comprehensive youth program transformation” encompassing: Sunday School, CASE, and Confirmation.
- A new teaching worship service with a very contemporary format will be held Wednesday at 4:30pm. It will be about 30-35 minutes in length. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. This service will serve as the impetus for a potential second Sunday morning worship service. We currently have about 30 services planned in which we will walk through an overview of the entire Bible to see the big picture of God's Message and God's Plan for all of us.
- The first quarterly “State of the Congregation” meeting, during the Education Hour on Sunday morning (10:30-11:30am), will be held September 22. There I will lay out my goals and objectives for the congregation. I will explain where we are in the implementation process and what the plans are as we proceed. I would strongly encourage all members to attend.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

M/S/P to pay Unruh Installation to blow in fiberglass insulation to give us a total insulation value of R-50, or a total of around 20" of insulation in the church attic which is over everything except the sanctuary and fellowship hall. The bid amount of \$9,440 will be taken from the building fund.

M/S/P that the Council submit the recommendation to the October 6<sup>th</sup> Congregational Voters meeting that St. Johns sell the parsonage contingent upon Groleaus buying a house near Lansing. This would be after Groleaus vacate and some repairs are completed.

M/S/P to release Nathan and Jennifer Augustine and family per their request.

It was decided how to disperse Thrivent income starting 2020: half to St. Johns LWML and half to St. Johns operating budget.

**ADJOURNMENT:** M/S/P to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Respectfully submitted: Donna Bailey, Council Secretary

**St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Recap**  
**January 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019**

<b>Undesignated Assets</b>	<b>Balance 1/1/19</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Balance 8/31/19</b>	<b>Notes</b>	
Cash	\$213,294.28	(\$7,862.28)	\$205,432.00	Undesignated Assets represent the funds available for general operating purposes.	
Prepays/Other Assets	15,955.70	(2,508.15)	13,447.55		
Buildings & Land	3,096,411.00	0.00	3,096,411.00		
Liabilities	(12,799.70)	1,673.49	(11,126.21)		
<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>		<u><b>(\$8,696.94)</b></u>			
 <b>Designated Assets</b>					
Building Fund	106,706.68	5,716.06	112,422.74	Designated Assets represent all of the various funds that can be contributed to for the designated purpose.	
Needy Family Fund	2,167.08	0.00	2,167.08		
Women's Ministry Fund	2,001.95	(43.15)	1,958.80		
Rachel's Hope Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Musical Equipment Fund	182.03	101.65	283.68		
Library Books Fund	412.89	(18.72)	394.17		
Choir Robes Fund	3,111.00	0.00	3,111.00		
Sunday School Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Memorial Fund	12,394.04	1,752.07	14,146.11		
Praise Band Fund	3,135.40	0.00	3,135.40		
Youth Fund	10,298.05	(3,312.33)	6,985.72		
Scrip Fund	12,385.83	1,456.00	13,841.83		
Sumner School Fund	8,894.23	(647.51)	8,246.72		
Endowment Fund	42,896.25	(1,579.95)	41,316.30		
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets</b>		<u><b>\$3,424.12</b></u>			
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<u><u><b>(\$5,272.82)</b></u></u>			

**ENCOURAGEMENT FOR PRAYING FOR THE WAYWARD: OCTOBER 6 AND 13.**

Do you have a family member, relative, or friend who was Christian, but has fallen away from our faith? Pastor Stohlmann invites you to an evening of sharing, encouragement, and prayer for these people. We will meet again on Monday, October 14, 2019, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Austin, at 7:00 PM. We will have time to share some of our stories, be encouraged by God's Word, and then pray for these people. Come and join brothers and sisters in our faith from Holy Cross, Our Savior's, St. John, and Zion Lutheran churches.

Thank you for your help,

Rev. Robert Stohlmann

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

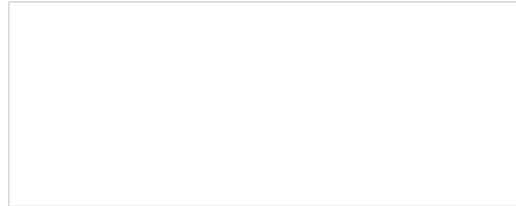
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**October, 2019**  
**NEWSLETTER**



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