

# St. John's News

October, 2020



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Pastor: Cell 320-336-8149

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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

Most studies show by 2030 there will be very few full-time salaried pastors. The Church in America will have grow too small to support full-time workers, and to maintain the Church, pastors will have to pick up a second job to supplement what little the dying Church can provide. That projection is true for churches of all sizes, from churches struggling for resources, to churches with too much money sitting around not working for the Kingdom. That's not good news, but that is not the only news. There are churches showing an exception to the studies, and they are not the mega-churches centered around a charismatic personality. The Church serving people in all areas of America, in small congregations and large, can and does grow when discipling becomes the primary leadership tool. That is why last month we looked at discipling. The process of taking a select few and teaching them to teach, who in turn teach others to teach. Through that process a vibrant and energized church has begun to emerge. A church led by teams of disciple-making leaders. A Church that is growing; not with flash-in-the-pan tactics, but with real roots that grow deep and feed and sustaining a Church that can withstand the storms that hit it. Growing churches are led and gathered by teams of leader-disciples, collaborating alongside their pastors. The key is **teams**, not a lone pastor. What is needed is a team who shares the leadership load required by the flock of souls. They keep the congregation engaged in the mission and continue to raise up from the flock those who would learn to be leader-disciples themselves and join the team. The primary, and most important, points to stress are:

- Repeating the Mission.

- Demonstrate radical hospitality. Caring for those who come, and those who have not yet come.
- Remaining faithful to the God, by learning His way and His desire for our lives.
- Inviting people through, and because of, an excitement about the congregation and what it does.
- Teaching the Word of God.

If you look over that list, and if I told you something was missing, what do you think it would be? It is the one thing that must permeate everything we do. "Share the Gospel." Every one of those five point must end with the words **"and share the Gospel."**

What is fascinating is which churches recover more quickly, and join the 16% of growing church, when they decide to change and adapt their work to the culture they serve. It is the struggling churches, with limited resources, that begin to grow more quickly. That is because they have survived with a culture of volunteerism, rather than "just-go-buy-it-ism." They are already accustom to stepping up to the plate, and only need to be shown where to work, and what work to do.

The other churches have to learn how to step forward into worker roles first. That extra step can be a big one for churches that have for too long rested on their wallet rather than God. (That is a uniquely American culture problem, but it's a big one for us to over come while wallowing in the riches of American life.) Financially secure congregations that fail to recognize that their financial viability, and ability to afford to function, is reliant upon an aging, and mostly

generous, membership will too

quickly come to a rude awakening  
that all the resources are gone. Those

congregations, that fail to see it coming, suddenly close because the property they hold suddenly becomes more than they can handle.

So let's get back to the answer: **"Share the Gospel."** If that's the answer why aren't churches growing?! It sounds too simple. It sounds too easy. It is simple. It is easy. The number one problem in the American churches today is leaders that have not been disciplined, or taught to disciple. Change often comes hard. So seminaries, and the theologians who teach there, need to change their style of teaching. The lecture and note taking style that distributes knowledge is not going to carry those new pastors to where they need to be. Though profoundly unintentional, we have in places almost fallen into a gnostic-like (*pronounced: nostik*) heresy. Meaning false teaching that in part aims to teach knowledge is primary, not faith.

The teaching style Jesus used was discipling. We in Lutheran circles might refer to that as catechetical conversation. Jesus' style included walking, talking, teaching and eating together. Jesus' teaching style was catechetical. A style of questions that prompt answers, and those answers prompt more questions.

To bring that to a specifically Lutheran place, it is to use Luther's Small Catechism, not as a tome to commit to memory, but as a tool to prompt questions, which lead to answers that prompt more questions. Some of my most memorable moments of education at the seminary were sitting down at lunch with a professor (whose classes abhorred) to just talk and learn. It was there that we often gleaned what it really means to be a pastor.

How do we get there? A thriving church is one with leader-teams who:

- Are willing to remove or change programs and structures to allow the congregation to employ change more quickly. (*See my newsletter article for July.*)
- Embrace and learned a model of relational discipleship to complement their preaching and teaching. (*See my newsletter article for August.*)
- grow in their capacity to represent Jesus in an unfriendly world. (*See my newsletter article for September.*)

For the last 20 years or more most church leaders dismissed the alarm bells ringing deafeningly. Most churches simply assumed that the future would fix things, or they simply accepted it would be a diminished future, with a Church slowly fading away. They all assumed that things were better in other churches or other denominations.

This should hit home most powerfully for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. That is because there is no other denominations that exceeds us in non-infant Baptisms. When it comes to reaching people who are lost and "calling them out of darkness into His marvelous light<sup>1</sup>" we are the best of the best. (Even among those denominations who deny infant Baptism.) Take a good look at the LCMS, the best in American today. Now imagine what it looks like everywhere else.

Church leaders of the past had no sense of "collective reality," no sense that the Church was fading, but thought that they were unique in their diminishing numbers. The truth is very few fell to their knees and interceded before God for the needed workers in the harvest field. They simply didn't see, or wouldn't see, the storm coming together.

Without a profound change in how we work we will see a profound change to the Church in which we work. Seminaries will continue to struggle with diminished enrollment. That problem is the product of congregations that are devoid of the under-age-40 crowd. When your pipeline of potential pastors comes from a pool of people over 40, your pool grows smaller, with less people interested in changing careers to join, what is perceived to be, a dying profession.

This leads to a necessary and important consideration of youth in the Church. A church with youth is a church that is living not dying. Kick out the kids and you kick the bucket. A church with kids can become a teaching church, a pre-seminary institution cultivating leaders engaged in the mission of God. A church without kids is a pre-cemetery institution just waiting to get in there.

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1 1 Peter 2:9 *adapted*.

The questions for us are:           What do we want to be?  
   Are we willing to make the changes and take the chances necessary?  
   Will we follow Jesus' Great Commission – Go and tell all...?  
   Do we truly have a heart for the lost?

Next month we will look deeper into what work needs to be done, and where should we do it. A profoundly wise pastor once told me, "Don't work hoping the Holy Spirit will join you. Look for where the Holy Spirit is working and join Him." This month, as you read through the book of Acts, try to look around you. Find where the Holy Spirit is working right here in Austin, and then let's get to work joining Jesus in the Commission Mission.

That is the title of the Bible study we will start on October 4 (Sunday at 10:00am). "Joining Jesus."

Pastor James.

Pastor James Office Hours	
Monday	9-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9-11:30 a.m.
Thursday	9-11:30 a.m.

On Tuesday Pastor James is working at home but can be reached by phone: 320-336-8149

#### October Birthdays for Shut-Ins

04 Brian King  
 04 Lois Schmidt  
 13 Meri Jo Lonergan  
 15 Diane Joseph



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

#### Ruby's Pantry in Austin

As we transition from summer into fall our Ruby's distributions continue at the Mower County Fairgrounds the 3rd Thursday of each month. With concerns about how many people we can safely have in our church building it's possible we may be at the fairgrounds for a few more months. There has been a noticeable drop off in volunteers for June and July so we are asking our area churches for any help they can give us in soliciting volunteers. If you have any individuals or groups who may be willing to help please have them call Grace Lutheran Church at 433-3445. As always, you are invited to stop out during any of our distributions to see the work we are doing in Christ's name to help our neighbors. Thank you for considering helping and please continue to pray our efforts will reach those who need it most.

[goodnews@rubyspantry.org](mailto:goodnews@rubyspantry.org)      [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org)

Bob Rosel  
 Media Coordinator Ruby's Pantry Austin

Beginning with the first Sunday in October the **Praise service will move to 11:00** and adult Bible study will be at 10:00. Social distancing will be practiced.

**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)

### Radio Broadcast

Fellow Members of St. Johns,

We would like to thank everyone for supporting St. Johns Radio Broadcast. The sponsors for the upcoming weeks are as follows.

Oct. 4, 2020 Sponsored by St. John's LWML in thankfulness to God for the radio broadcast outreach to our community.

Oct. 11, 2020 Sponsored by Cheryl Qualey and family and friends in memory of Cheryl's parents Harry and Lois Anderson.

Oct. 18, 2020 Sponsored by Pauline Field in memory of her husband Irving Field.

Oct. 25, 2020 Sponsored by Edna Freese and family in memory of Edna's husband Joe Freese and her son Tom Freese

You can listen to the radio broadcast live on KAUS Radio Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

God's blessing to all of you,

Clayton and Ellen Petersen

### LWML NEWS



Dear Ladies, The LWML board met in September and decided our monthly mission donations will go on for now but lessened the amount we will give. Our dues for LWML this next year will be \$12. Please pay Ellen Petersen or leave it in the church office. LWML Sunday will be observed on October 11. We hope everyone will make a mite donation that day. Remember to designate your Thrivent dollars to St. John's. The LWML gets money from this. We welcome all ladies to join us. All of our projects at church are on hold right now but we hope to resume some of them soon. Have a safe, healthy and blessed fall as we enjoy God's blessings of the season. Sandy Grant

### Stewardship

**Matt. 22:40 – “On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”** We serve God and our neighbor through the various vocations (holy callings) that God has given us. We do not need to go searching for good works or inventing our own. God has given us roles to fill in home, at church, and in society, and that will keep us plenty busy. When we seek to fulfill the duties of these vocations in a spirit of faith, God-pleasing works are the result.

### Thank You

Merrill and Bonnie Meier wish to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and phone calls during Merrill's illness. It was truly a blessing.

### **Portals of Prayer**

We are reviewing & updating our list of people who are receiving the quarterly Portals of Prayer booklets. If you are not currently on the list & want the Portals, please notify the church office at 433-2642 or Doraine Graff at 433-6637. Also, if you no longer want the Portals, please notify us of that, too.

As a gift to our congregation, our own LWML provides a yearly subscription to each of our members or families who want it, so there is no charge to you for the booklet. (Thank you, LWML !!) New member families are automatically put on the list. The booklet is printed quarterly & contains daily devotions & prayers that pertain to that time of year, plus prayers to be used anytime or for specific situations. It is a wonderful resource for daily devotions with Bible readings & a short reflection for the day. It is especially useful now during the pandemic. We need to be in the Word every day.

Booklets are placed on a table in the narthex in alphabetical order about a month before the new quarter begins. If at all possible, please pick up yours and deliver one to a shut in or someone who is not presently coming to church. Extra copies are available on the ushers' stands for you to share with family or friends who could use them. Please take them. We want them all to be used.



#### **Shoe Away Hunger**

Thank you all for donating the 120 pairs of shoes that were recently delivered to Minneapolis. Those shoes were sorted and then put on a bus to go to poorer areas of Minneapolis. They were sold for a nominal price and that money goes to provide food for the hungry.

With their various contacts, Shoe Away Hunger is able to feed 1 person for 7 days for \$2.50. In May, they fed 19,000 individuals with 7 days of groceries. In June, they fed 14,000 people. Currently they have over 21 hunger relief sites.

So as you can see, this is an easy way for us to help others. We can just check our closets for wearable shoes we no longer use and bring them to the church. Tie the shoelaces together or rubber band them together and put them in the box by the church office. They are certainly appreciated and we thank you for your support!

**Automated External Defibrillator AED** training will be offered after the second service on Sunday October 11th and at 4:00 on Monday October 12. This will take about one hour. Please sign up for a date if interested on the sign up sheet outside the church office. If you have any questions please let me know. Kara Grant

## RUMMAGE SALE

### 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 Grabau  
 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  
October Anniversaries  
 04 Thad & Wendy Kusick  
 08 Kim & Sue Downey  
 20 Katy & Robert Hodge  
 22 Rachel & Eric Sippel

The rummage sale at St. John's Lutheran Church is going to happen, with limited access in and out of the building. Safe sanitizing guidelines will be in place.

**Masks are required.**

**WHERE:** St. John's Lutheran Church  
 1200 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. NW

**WHEN:** Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Enter the Northwest door and follow the arrows through Schleicher Hall and exit the Northeast door. Upon arrival, purchase a grocery bag for \$5 and fill your bag with items you wish to take. If you do not find any items you want to take simply return the bag and get \$5 back. Large items will be priced and purchased separately.

Please come and support our youth. All proceeds will go towards the funding of youth to attend the National Youth Convention in Houston, Texas in 2022.

Masks required. Thank you.



Francine Rivers has written five historical novels about men of God who worked in the shadow of God's chosen leaders. Silas is one of these men who worked closely with Peter and Paul. She weaves an outstanding story based on Biblical and historical facts in her book, The Scribe. She also adds a character or two to enhance the story.

We come face to face with Silas and Peter at the very beginning of the book. We walk down the Roman street in the dark trying to escape with Peter, his wife and Silas knowing Peter was a wanted man. We stand

with Silas as he watches the Romans execute Peter's wife and then Peter. The journey begins again with Silas leaving Rome. Prayer, listening for God's answer and dependence on God is always a very prominent feature and the direction the book takes. You find yourself rooting for Silas. The book is hard to put down and you can find your faith strengthening as you travel with Silas. Find this book and several others by Francine Rivers in our library. They are worth your time.

Annette Kiehne

## **Congregation Meeting**

**August 23, 2020**

The pastor opened with prayer.

The pastor gave a report to the congregation concerning sinful conduct within the congregation.

The board of elders stood with, and in support of, the pastor.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**September 8, 2020**

The September 8, 2020, meeting was called to order by President Dale Siegfried at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Ruhnke, Dave Watkins, Richard Kiehne, Kara Grant, Ruth Oelkers, Darrel Bahn, Pastor James, Lori Siegfried, Dale Siegfried, Dick Heuton, Donna Bailey

**OPENING PRAYER:** Pastor Groleau

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** M/S/P to accept the secretary's report for August 11, 2020 as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Net Operating Loss: \$(34,144.59). Net Increase in Designated Assets: \$10,272.78. Net Income (Loss) \$(44,417.37). M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report, as written.

The treasurer was encouraged to put 3 x \$45,000 = \$135,000 into LCEF 2-year CD's earning a total of \$5,760. Also another large amount into LCEF Gold which pays 1.5% interest and is easily accessed. Most of this money represents the income from the sale of the parsonage.

### **ELDERS' REPORT:**

Present were elders Kusick, Watkins, Kiehne, Grant, Carlson, with Pastor. Opened with a devotion and Bible study.

Reconciliation within St. John's: It was discussed bringing in outside assistance to help with reconciliation of differences within the congregation. The final decision was to go with Minnesota South District which has three trained and certified reconciliation counselors. Dale Siegfried will contact District President, Dr. Lucas Woodford to start the process.

We will continue the summer worship schedule (Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.). We will continue to look at ways to restart Bible study and an education hour.

Closed with personal prayers and the Lord's prayer.

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT:**

Waste Systems will be replaced with Thompson Sanitation for our garbage service which will save around \$40 per month.

Vance is in the process of repairing the lit cross on top of the church.

Around 1.5 tons of river rock was scattered around the church to cover exposed black plastic, and the 4 light poles along the west sidewalk were repainted. The faded LCMS road marker signs pointing to our church on 4th St. NW are going to be replaced and additional signs on 14th St. NW are being considered.

As part of the HVAC issues, wiring between the chiller and the mechanical room was shorting out and was replaced by Austin Electric for \$2,100. Since they accepted some liability because they installed it 10 years ago, they reduced the bill by \$500.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

Members Present: Patty Shatek, Alishya Meyer, Lori Siegfried

Both boards met conjointly to briefly discuss the budgets for upcoming year. This will be finalized at the next meeting.

Discussed preparing for Sunday School. It was decided that at this time we will prepare Sunday school lesson packets to be picked up at the church. The members present copied Lesson 41, "God Calls Abram" to be placed in the packets.

The boards also briefly discussed the need for Sunday school teachers when we return to in-person Sunday school. We are also in need of someone to lead the opening/music.

Brief discussion was held regarding the Pastor's shed that is holding contents for a future youth rummage sale. The rummage sale has been put on hold due to the pandemic situation. At the next meeting we will discuss where we can move the contents to, with the Youth room mentioned as a possibility.

At the next meeting the boards will be putting together take home packets and deciding who and how to contact families regarding Sunday school. We will also finalize budgets.

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

Youth Group "Hang Out" will start Wednesday, October 7th from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. as social distancing allows in the Youth Room. The Youth Group will be led by Kara Grant.

We are expecting around 10 youth, grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, from our church family to participate this school year.

Kara will need one adult volunteer to act as a second chaperon each Wednesday night. Please talk to Kara if you are interested in socializing with our youth, sharing your faith and having a fun time.

The Youth Group Kwik Trip Carwash cards have all been sold. Thank you to everyone who purchased a card. The Youth Group sold 40 cards and raised \$640.00 to use for Youth Group activities and the National Youth Convention.

#### **STEWARDSHIP BOARD:**

The SCRIP program continues, with cards being sold between the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

#### **SOCIAL MINISTRY:**

In August, 120 pairs of shoes were delivered to the Shoe Away Hunger program in Minneapolis.

Reminder, we are still collecting rice and pasta for the Salvation Army.

The Sumner School backpack meal program is still on hold.

We will be updating the Shut-in, College Student and Military Veterans bulletin boards in Schleicher Hall.

The November food drive for the Salvation Army is coming up. We will be passing out collection bags at the end of October.

#### **EVANGELISM:**

Wisely Ochoro and Curt Anderson have resigned from our board. We thanked them for their service to the Evangelism Board.

There will be no coat drive this fall due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hopefully we will have it in the fall of 2021 as it has been a wonderful outreach to the community.

We continue to be a welcoming presence as members begin to return to services and as we notice visitors to our church. We have monitored the church website and will continue to see that it is updated and complete with our church news and events.

Our board will continue to send out the baptism anniversary cards to children of the congregation 12 years old and under as outreach to our members.

We discussed and updated our budget for 2021 for the evangelism board.

Our board has listened to Pastor's call-in line and has agreed it is a great resource. It has an abbreviated version of the most recent service. It is a great resource! The number is 518-906-1379.

Our goal as an evangelism board is to support our divinely called pastor and encourage one another in faith and practice total forgiveness.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:**

See Pastor's report directly following the council minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Our Fall Voters Meeting will be Sunday, November 22. A time will be established closer to that date.

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

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Respectfully submitted: Donna Bailey, Council Secretary

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**Pastor's Report**

The COVID-19 situation continues to make it difficult to do what the Church should be doing, bringing Jesus to people. The three worship services we currently hold, Sun 9:00am, 10:30am, and Wed 6:30pm continue to slowly grow. We are exploring ways to restart Bible studies. Information about them will come out in the near future.

I would like to reiterate the message from the elders. We would ask everyone to wear your mask throughout the church service. Some people are uncomfortable coming to church and would be willing to attend if everyone wore a mask. For the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ I would ask all of you to do that. I would encourage everyone to read 1 Corinthians 8. We should do nothing that would hinder someone from being fed in our church.

St. John's has a new special phone number which will be used to provide additional spiritual care. The number you dial is: 518-906-1379. then select open '1' for "Live Radio." You will then automatically hear an abbreviated recorded service from the previous Sunday. This broadcast is updated generally on Tuesday. This service is meant to supplement the radio broadcast which a few who have had trouble receiving, and for those outside the radio broadcast area who do not have Internet in their homes.

Visiting shut-ins remains difficult. The various care facilities remain in a lock-down state. They are now allowing visits outside, but sadly the weather has since not cooperated. September's forecast looks good to allow me to visit everyone soon.

We continue through two sermon series. The first is called "The Change Series." Once a month for 6-7 months we will explore what St. John's can do for the Kingdom, and how we as a church can grow by spreading the truths of the Bible and God's love for all people.

The second series is called "God's Greater Story." It will run for a few months and will walk through the book of Romans. This book was written by St. Paul to explain, in detail, what the Christian faith is, what it means to be a Christian, and how Christians act differently from the world around us. He gives perfect examples for us to follow today.

Please continue to pray for the Sudanese ministry here in Austin. Pastor Reef is a Sudanese man who is now an ordained LCMS Pastor. He is working diligently to pull this ministry back together. This ministry has seen some great turmoil since Pastor Simon Dup was called home. Pastor Reef is a wonderful man with a true heart for the people of God. They began meeting in our church before the COVID situation. Please pray for Pastor

Reef and the souls for whom he cares. Pastor Reef and I will conduct a joint worship service very soon so you can meet him and the people he serves.

Lastly in reference to the troubles here at St. John's. The board of elders and I have been meeting with people, trying to diligently follow Matthew 18's guidance, as well as guidance from our district office. That process has sadly not gone well. To date there has been no repentance for sinful conduct brought to the attention of individuals. Much is being said about this around the congregation. Please note your elders and I are not speaking. This situation cannot be solved through gossip and rumor.

This situation has required me to share much information with the elders. They have conducted themselves with profound integrity in protecting that information which does not need to be released to the congregation. The elders had planned to meet each Monday, for a few weeks, with individuals to attempt to resolve this situation in accord with Matthew 18. That process was stopped when the district office was called by others in an attempt to hinder that work.

The district office has been involved with this and has been at St. John's repeatedly since February. The elders and I will certainly welcome the assistance they will provide. This process has been going on for a year and a half. It needs to be resolved soon. I respect many of you have concerns. Many have called the elders and myself to express that concern, and your support for me and my family. The cards and notes are also much appreciated. Please know it has been difficult to not share all that is going on, with you. I would ask for a little more patience as we work through this, with God's Word as our guide.

God's blessings to each of you. Pastor James

#### Matthew 18:1-19

**1** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** He called a little child and had him stand among them. **3** Then he said to them, "I can guarantee this truth: Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Whoever becomes like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** And whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me. **6** "These little ones believe in me. It would be best for the person who causes one of them to lose faith to be drowned in the sea with a large stone hung around his neck. **7** How horrible it will be for the world because it causes people to lose their faith. Situations that cause people to lose their faith will arise. How horrible it will be for the person who causes someone to lose his faith! **8** "If your hand or your foot causes you to lose your faith, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life disabled or injured than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into everlasting fire. **9** If your eye causes you to lose your faith, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hellfire. **10** "Be careful not to despise these little ones. I can guarantee that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father, who is in heaven. **11 12** "What do you think? Suppose a man has 100 sheep and one of them strays. Won't he leave the 99 sheep in the hills to look for the one that has strayed? **13** I can guarantee this truth: If he finds it, he is happier about it than about the 99 that have not strayed. **14** In the same way, your Father in heaven does not want one of these little ones to be lost.

**15** "If a believer does something wrong, go, confront him when the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have won back that believer. **16** But if he does not listen, take one or two others with you so that every accusation may be verified by two or three witnesses. **17** If he ignores these witnesses, tell it to the community of believers. If he also ignores the community, deal with him as you would a heathen or a tax collector. **18** I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you imprison, God will imprison. And whatever you set free, God will set free. **19** "I can guarantee again that if two of you agree on anything here on earth, my Father in heaven will accept it.

**St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Recap**  
**January 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020**

<b>Undesignated Assets</b>	<b>Balance 1/1/20</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Balance 8/31/20</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Cash	\$199,211.92	\$263,609.82	\$462,821.74	Undesignated Assets represent the funds available for general operating purposes.
Prepays/Other Assets	13,831.09	205.70	14,036.79	
Buildings & Land	3,096,411.00	(268,719.00)	2,827,692.00	
Liabilities	(5,171.02)	(28,805.11)	(33,976.13)	
<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>		<b><u>(\$33,708.59)</u></b>		
<b>Designated Assets</b>				
Building Fund	107,467.19	(251.77)	107,215.42	Designated Assets represent all of the various funds that can be contributed to for the designated purpose.
Needy Family Fund	1,667.08	(500.00)	1,167.08	
Women's Ministry Fund	1,923.46	0.00	1,923.46	
Rachel's Hope Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Musical Equipment Fund	283.68	0.00	283.68	
Library Books Fund	394.17	100.00	494.17	
Choir Robes Fund	3,111.00	0.00	3,111.00	
Memorial Fund	14,481.11	5,946.10	20,427.21	
Praise Band Fund	3,135.40	0.00	3,135.40	
Youth Fund	7,117.18	(223.78)	6,893.40	
Scrip Fund	15,452.11	(15,452.11)	0.00	
Sumner School Fund	8,746.72	0.00	8,746.72	
Undesignated		0.00	0.00	
Endowment Fund	41,316.30	(327.30)	40,989.00	
	<u>205,095.40</u>		<u>194,386.62</u>	
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets</b>		<b><u>(\$10,708.86)</u></b>		
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<b><u>(\$44,417.45)</u></b>		

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

**October, 2020**

**NEWSLETTER**



OCTOBER

# ST. JOHN'S NEWS

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