# St. John's News

## November, 2020



Church: 507-433-2642 Pastor: Cell 320-336-8149

Church Office:

stjohns@stjohnsaustinlcms.org

Pastor James Groleau:

shepherd@jamesplace.net

St. John's Webpage:

#### www.stjohnsaustinlcms.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.stjohnsaustinlcms.org



THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Through Jesus Christ, we

<u>proclaim</u> God's Word,

<u>encourage</u> one another in faith,

<u>witness</u> to God's love and

serve all people.

## **Message from Pastor James**\

In last months newsletter article, and in the sermon, "09/20 - What Makes a Church Grow (The Change Series)" I challenged you to read through the book of Acts to watch how relationships were used to share the Gospel. How did it go? What did you see? Relationships are built, through which the Gospel is shared.

No one gets there on their own! That's the answer when you're talking about growing churches or walking through Heaven's gates. No one gets there on their own! People come to know Jesus through people who know Jesus. In the culture to which we are called to serve today people are going to come to Church one at a time. The days of the "great revivals" filling stadiums is gone. The "great crusades" of America pouring people into church by the droves is gone. If Billy Graham were preaching today no one would be listening. That may be sad. It may be distressing, but it is still true. The Church, however, is not dead.

No one gets there on their own! You are the one that will walk side by side with them along that narrow road Jesus has laid down for us. It is a road laid out with two parts, Law and Gospel. Both are required to "follow the map."

Using the three function of the Law the way is shown to us. Through the 1) Curb, 2) Mirror, and 3) Guide we are shown the road to walk. Then realizing the road is a challenging one to follow, one no one alone can walk, we come to the Gospel which shows us Jesus walks with us the entire way, leading the way. He does that through you as you bring that simple message of salvation through Jesus to others.

As we begin to chart a path of new hope for the Church we must not, cannot, lose sight of the course Jesus has set. That course is laid out in Word and Sacrament. Deviating from those, in how they are used, or how they are taught to be used, deviates from the narrow way. Our faithfulness to our doctrine is not in the way, it is the way. Jesus words are clear, "The gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." [Matthew 7:14] By God's good grace not too few.

If it is all so easy why does Jesus say it is hard, and why is the Church in America dying? In part because, "we've never done it that way before." Well that's not entirely true, but we have not done it that way in such a long time we've forgotten the way. The problem is we have come to a place where we feel those things the we treasure are slipping away. The way we remember things always being done give a sense of peace. When the world is a mess it's nice to come to a place where the mess should stay outside. That is what Church should be, but the Church must also prepare us to walk out into that dark mess and shine the light of

It reminds me of that proclamation of Jesus after Peter's confession, "You are the Christ..." Jesus replies, "... on this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." [Matthew 16:15-18] When you consider that verse have you ever considered the fact that gates do not attack. They don't move. They simply open and shut. What did He mean "prevail?" He meant we the Church are on the move. We the Church are to take the field. We the Church are to attack the very gates of hell. The gates of hell will not prevail against us.

We cannot hunker down hoping the devil won't notice us, and leave us alone. He is a roaring lion, a hungry lion, looking for someone to devour. [1 Peter 5:8] He will come. He will come with hate, lies, and heartless cruelty. He will come in the guise of friends. He will come in the guise of fellow Christians who are only wolves is sheep's clothing.

Such people are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. [2 Corinthians 11:13-15]

Satan will attack you, blind side you, and hit you where you are weak. He is relentless and evil. Jesus said, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him." [John 8:44] He won't leave you alone.

We, the Holy Christian Church, are to be on the offensive, knowing we do not trek out into the world alone. The Great and Mighty Lion of Judah, Jesus the Holy Christ of God, goes before us. The gates of hell will fail and fall. Christ's Church will, in the ends, stand victorious. That is precisely what Luther wrote in the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

Those are all great "fighting words" but what do we actually have to do? Let's start by admitting we don't know. Then let's muster the courage to be willing to try, and to trust the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us. Let's name the field of battle. For us it is the United States of America. More specifically for us it is Austin, MN. That is the field. A vast unreached mission field in desperate need of missionaries.

If you are a Baptized believer in Jesus Christ, relying on Him for forgiveness and salvation, then you are a missionary. You are worthy to sing, "Onward Christian Soldiers" and know you are counted among them.

## God's Holy word declares:

We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, {Ephesians 6:12-18]

Then ready for battle "do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." [Micah 6:8]

We need to learn to live comfortably among the people living in darkness. We should listen to their life stories and longings. We should blessing them and be a blessing to them. Through all of this bring Jesus to them. Not with violence. Not with an overbearing Law or a watered down Gospel, but with the full truth of God's Word. Just like Jesus did. Read the 4 four Gospels and watch how He worked.

Once you realize that you are, and have been, armed for battle with all that you need, only one things remains. Walk out onto the field and let God fight before you. Things change when ordinary people, the Baptized people of God, change from consumers to confessors. Things change when those accustomed to being served by professional clergy began to rise up as partners with them, assuming their rightful place as the representatives of Jesus, the Light of the world, in this dark

world. Things change when the faithful take responsibility for their place and are willing to see a different future for the Church in the United States and here in Austin.

In our Church we have identified what was needed. Now connected to the sources of hope, Jesus, we need to move. As we move we walk with Jesus in His Church, whom He will defend. We do not abandon the truth of God's Word and the blessings that comes through His Sacraments. We delve into them, learn them, and remain faithful to them as we teach them to others. We relinquish control to God. We do that through:

- holding confidence in the Holy Spirit to do the heavy lifting.
- being willing to accept risk and adventure as we walking where we've not gone in a long time.
- remaining anchored in God's Holy Word.

Already a decade ago, at every level, people asked, "Where are the leaders who help us grow? It is time to recognize they are you. We have simply forgotten how to disciple people like Jesus discipled people, like the Apostle Paul discipled people. Relational discipleship is the hinge on which the door to a vibrant growing future is hung.

These articles over the last few months have painted a bleak picture, made more desolate and desperate by COVID. We can get all caught up in Satan's apparent success. Stop. Take a breath. There is still good news, the Church is not dead. It is alive. We just need to stop napping. You won't get there by yourself. You will be regularly tempted to surrender. Don't! Stand firm.

To make that journey, and fight the good fight, we're going to go through some Bible studies. I've decided to delay "Joining Jesus" until after we have gone through about six weeks of "Becoming a Contagious Christian." In this study we will lose the "terrifying" knock-on-the-stranger's-door style evangelicalism, and learn how to share the Gospel comfortably and easily. Then we'll take up "Joining Jesus on His mission." Following that I'd like to go through "Flickering Lamps" to learn how churches can a do grow. All of this is preparation for heading into "Re:Vitality" a successful service, through our synod, that will take us to the next step.

Be of good courage. God goes before us.

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

Becoming a Contagious Christian is the new Sunday Morning Bible study with pastor. Evangelism doesn't have to be frustrating or intimidating. We can share our faith in Jesus, and it can be done in an easy and natural way. In Becoming a Contagious Christian we will learn what has helped many believers reach the unchurched. We will base these lessons on the words of Jesus, and I will share my own firsthand experience. Becoming a Contagious Christian is a personalized approach to relational evangelism discipleship. You will discover your own natural evangelism style, how to develop a contagious Christian character, and how to to direct conversations toward matters of faith, and to share biblical truths in everyday language. This book presents a blueprint for starting a spiritual epidemic of hope and enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel. What could be more needed and timely during these COVID epidemic times?

02 Sydney Rupe

04 Laura Grant

07 Dick Heuton

07 Harlan Koch

11 Helen Grabau

11 Cyndi Johnson

15 Devon Maas

17 Steve Binder

17 Marilyn Koch

17 Larry Waters

23 Kathleen Lange

26 Jodi VanPelt

27 Ava Grinstead

27 Stan Rasmussen

29 Michael Brandt

## November **Anniversaries**

09 Richard & Annette Kiehne 19 Wisley & Dorothee

Ochoro

24 Jerry & Myla Anderson

2 Doug & Donna Peterson

November Birthdays The Church Council approved a motion from the Elders Board on Tues Oct 6 that read:

That the Church Council of St Johns's approve, endorse and recommend to the Congregation engaging Ambassadors of Reconciliation to provide congregation reconciliation services using undesignated cash assets at a cost of \$14000.

Some of the Council knew of some of this but others were surprised by the motion. There was much discussion about this motion prior to the ballot vote, with comments like "I knew nothing of this" and "what are the issues?" and "who does this involve".

You may have a sense that there has been something "going on" at St John's from what you have heard or read. These are issues that your Pastor and Elder Board have been working on reconciling for over a year.

At the September 2020 Church Council meeting, a motion was made and approved to contact the MN South District Office to use their resources for congregational reconciliation. On September 24, Pastors Wismar and Johnson from the District Office met with your Pastor and several others and then offered the following recommendation for St John's:

## "The leaders of St John's should, as soon as possible, engage Ambassadors of Reconciliation (AoR) in Group Reconciliation Assistance"...

Ambassadors of Reconciliation is a Christ Centered organization, trained in healing and reconciliation for congregations. They trained the MN South District pastors who were here on September 24 and have worked with many churches to bring healing and reconciliation, using Gods Word and trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit within the congregation. See www.aorhope.org for more information about Ambassadors of Reconciliation.

A special Congregation meeting has been called for November 1 at 12:15pm for the Congregation to:

"approve engaging Ambassadors of Reconciliation, to provide congregation reconciliation services, using undesignated cash assets at a cost of \$14000.

Please attend this meeting and support this motion as recommended by our MN South District office, the Board of Elders and your Church Council.

Please keep our Congregation in your prayers.

In Christ, the Board of Elders

Tim Carlson Thad Kusick **Dave Watkins** Richard Kiehne Eric Grant

## 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

www.rubyspantry.org

Bob Rosel, Media Coordinator Ruby's Pantry Austin

## **Together in the Word**

**Sunday:** Adult Bible class at 10:00 a.m. led by Pastor James Total Forgiveness at 10:00 led by Thad Kusick, Elder The Gospel of Luke at 10:00 led by Sandy Groleau

**Tuesday**: Women's Bible study at 1:00 p.m. led by Sandy Groleau, LCMS Director of Church Ministries. We are now studying the book of Daniel. All ladies are welcome.

**Wednesday:** Gray Matters meets St. John's at 7:30 p.m. Join us for a free-flowing discussion. **Thursday:** Crossways at 10:00 a.m. Study the entire Bible in two years. Led by Sandy Groleau, LCMS Director of Church Ministries. New members always welcome.

Men's Bible study at 5:00 p.m. - a topical study on wisdom from the book of Proverbs, led by Dave Ruhnke.

## **November Birthdays for Shut-Ins**

11 Helen Grabau17 Marilyn Koch



Our shut-ins would appreciate a card, phone call or visit

DURING THE MONTH. A LIST OF ALL THE SHUT-INS IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS

#### Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, phone calls and well wishes. It was very much appreciated.

Helen and Butch Grabau



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## **Shoe Away Hunger**

**Shoe Away Hunger** If you have gently used shoes you no longer need, consider placing them in the box near the office. One pair of shoes can supply a family with seven days of essential groceries. <u>Damaged shoes can no longer be accepted.</u>

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

## Pastor's Report to Council.

It is regrettable I must state here that no portion of the Pastor's report was included in the Council Minutes. The one in the Council Minutes was not submitted by me. It is also regrettable that hidden in the vote to approve the Council Minutes last meeting was hidden a vote to silence the pastor. Censorship is something we cannot and must not endure. Such action should, and will, require far more explanation then a passing phrase in a regular vote to approve minutes. The Council Minutes should include all reports, and all votes and actions taken by the Council.

My report to the council is as follows:

The COVID-19 situation continues and I'm sure we've all been tired of it for some time now. It currently looks like we will be at this for the foreseeable future. To accommodate a Bible study hour we have moved the second service on Sunday to 11:00am. Bible studies have started and I would encourage everyone to join at least one. During these times delving into God's Holy Word is even more necessary to feed and nourish the soul. This COVID craziness causes a lot of disruption, but we'll continue to work toward getting back to normal as much as possible.

Please do continue to wear masks while in church. I would encourage everyone to read 1 Corinthians 8. We should do nothing that would hinder someone from being fed in our church.

We continue though two sermon series. The first is called "The Change Series." Once a month we explore what St. John's can do for the Kingdom and to bring God's Word to the people around us, and how we as a church can grow by spreading the truths of the Bible and God's love for all people. We will skip the Month of November, and probably December, in this series because the Church Year Worship Calendar is a bit full. The parallel Newsletter articles will continue.

The second series is called "God's Greater Story." It will run through the end of November. It is walking through the book of Romans. This book was written by St. Paul to explain, in detail, what the Christian faith is, what is means to be a Christian, and how Christians act differently from the world around us. He gives perfect examples for us to follow today with many way we can see how to prosper the Church even in these COVID times.

There will be information in the newsletter explaining what worship services will be through Christmas Day. Please note there on Christmas Eve we will plan four services: 3:30, 6:30, 9:00, 11:00pm. We will require people to sign up for the service they would like to attend.

**Please continue to pray for the Sudanese ministry.** Please pray for Pastor Reef and the souls for whom he cares. Pastor Reef and I intended to conduct a joint service but currently he is working a full-time job in addition to his duties as pastor so the service is on hold. We have our own challenges as a result of COVID. His are compounded even more so.

Lastly in reference to the troubles here at St. John's. Sadly the trouble continues. The District Office was called in to provide help and assistance last month. Their recommendation was delivered to the Council for their consideration. A recommendation I fully support and one that is in line with the recommendation by the Elders and Pastor. More information about that will be brought to the congregation later. This process has been profoundly difficult for me, the Elders, and my family. I cannot state is words sufficiently large how much we appreciate the kind words from so many. This has been a long process, which by necessity of good Christian conduct, needs to go on a bit longer. Thank you for your patience and Christian understanding as we work through this with God's Word as our guide.

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Pastor James.

## **Upcoming Worship Opportunities**

We're coming closer to the end of the Church Year with that time comes the special services that lead up to the Festival Season of the new Church Year.

The calendar of worship is:

**October 25** – will be our Reformation Day service. It will be a special "the-service-is-the-sermon" style. We will sing hymns, many by Martin Luther, and hear from our God about the work that lies ahead of us.

**November 1** – is All Saints' Day when will hear about "New Beginnings" and the hope that comes through Jesus Christ alone.

**November 25** – is Thanksgiving Day Eve. It will be about remembering Deuteronomy 8:1-10 and remembering "Our Family History."

The remaining Sundays will finish working through our study on the book of Romans. Exploring God's plan for His struggling Church. The last Sunday of this Church Year is November 22.

**November 29** – is the beginning of the new Church Year, and the season of Advent. This Advent and Christmas season we will Go though two series:

<u>Sundays</u> will be about the Jesse Tree. An old tradition of the Church that has been all but lost. It will be a great time for families to gather around God's Word and remember His promises. Promises fulfilled in Jesus.

<u>Mid-week</u> service will be about seeing the "Wonder of Jesus" and why He came.

**December 24** – Is Christmas Eve. I am planning four services to accommodate everyone. The current plan is:

3:30 - Nativity Service

6:30 – Nativity Service

9:30 – Candlelight Service

11:00 – Candlelight Service

We will require people to sign up for these services to ensure we don't overflow the allowed number for our sanctuary under COVID protocols.

**December 25** – 9:00am Christmas Service

More information will be made available later, and these December plans are only tentative, but it will give you some idea about what is coming up.

## 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. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in November is open if anyone would like to sponsor it please let me know. Ellen at 433-6626.

Nov. 1, 2020 Sponsored by an anonymous listener in thankfulness to God for the radio broadcast.

Nov. 8, 2020 Sponsored by Cheryl Qualey and family and friends in memory of Cheryl's parents Harry and Lois Anderson.

Nov. 15, 2020 OPEN

Nov. 22, 2020 Sponsored by Clayton and Ellen Petersen in memory of Rev. Curtis and Mary Schleicher

Nov. 29, 2020 Sponsored by the Wood family in memory of Violet and Richard Wood, Dale Wood and Lou Vidmar.

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

# St. John's Fall Voters Meeting Sunday, November 22, 12:00 noon

(No meal or food involved, unless you want to bring a brown bag lunch)

This will mostly cover:

discussing and approving the 2021 budget presenting the goals and plans of the various boards.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING October 6, 2020

The October 6, 2020, meeting was called to order by President Dale Siegfreid at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathy Carlson, Sharry Watkins, Lori Siegfreid, Patty Shatek, Darrel Bahn, Dale Siegfreid, Dick Heuton, Dave Ruhnke, Pastor James, Tim Carlson, Donna Bailey

VISITORS PRESENT: Richard Kiehne, Thad Kusick, Dave Watkins, Ron Shatek, Alicia Meyer, Adam Meyer

**OPENING PRAYER:** Pastor Groleau

Ron Shatek resigned as vice president of St. Johns. We apologized to him for dumping this position on him at the last voters meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**: M/S/P to accept the secretary's report for September 8, 2020, as corrected.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**: Net Operating Loss: \$(40,720.32). Net Decrease in Designated Assets: \$9,943.14. Net Loss \$(50,663.46). M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report, as written.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Adam Meyer will remove the dead tree and trim several other trees with low hanging branches this week. Vance fixed the lighted cross on the roof.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

The Youth and Family/Education Boards met together on September 10th to discuss the budget for the upcoming year and decide what to do about Sunday school.

It was decided to order materials from CPH for Sunday school as this will allow us to prepare take home packets. There were 19 lessons ordered which included 7 preschool/kindergarten lessons, 6 first through third grade lessons and 6 fourth through sixth grade lessons.

On September 19th we put together Sunday school packets with the CPH materials. There were 16 packets prepared and all families were contacted regarding picking up these materials.

Our next meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m. We will discuss the procedure for dealing with the corona virsus.

## **YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD:**

The Youth and Family/Education Boards met together on September 10th to discuss the budget for the upcoming year and decide what to do about Sunday school.

It was also decided that the rummage sale items in the shed will be moved to Schleicher hall on Saturday, September 19th at 9 a.m. At that time we will also be putting together Sunday School take home packets.

On September 19th the contents of the shed were moved to Schleicher hall with the assistance of Kara, Ethan and Jonathon Grant. We also put together Sunday school packets with the CPH materials.

The rummage sale will be taking place on October 9th and 10th.

Our next meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m.

## **STEWARDSHIP BOARD:**

Stan will resume the stewardship message for the monthly newsletter.

Reviewed the SCRIP program. Purchases are brisk. Need volunteers to sell the cards following the 9:00 a.m. Sunday church services for the winter months.

Discussed having a fall Stewardship Sunday. No decisions were made yet. Will work with Pastor James on the matter.

Offering envelopes for next year will be distributed around December 1.

We set the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. for our regular monthly board meetings.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY:**

The Social Ministry board met on October 1st, 2020.

We discussed setting our monthly meeting time on the first Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm.

We will be updating the Bulletin Boards for the Shut-in Members, College Students and Military Veterans as needed.

The November Food Drive will start Sunday, November 1st and end Sunday, November 29th.

We will be putting together some information on St. John's Church and Bible material to hand out to shoppers of the Youth and Family Board's Garage Sale on October 9 and 10th.

## **EVANGELISM**:

We began our meeting with a prayer which encouraged us to be thankful for all who bring Jesus to us through sermons, Sacrament, teaching, music and personal Christian care. We want to always be grateful for our local congregation and our brothers and sisters in Christ which God has given us.

We reviewed our goals from the past year and have agreed that we want to continue to be a welcoming presence as members begin to return to services and as we notice visitors in church.

Our community outreach may look different as there will be no coat drive or Hallelujah Harvest Festival this fall.

We will continue to monitor the church website so that visitors will have updated service dates and times. We updated church brochures with the new service times and dates. We prepared new member folders and have given one to Lee and Aidan Grant.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**:

Pastor is working on getting regular activities and services up and running.

We'll have our regular Thanksgiving and Advent services. We will offer four worship services on Christmas Eve to accommodate social distancing.

Including 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, we have 9 youth.

## **ELDERS' REPORT:**

Thursday October 1, 2020 – 630pm

Elders Kusick, Watkins, Kiehne, Grant, Carlson and Pastor James attending.

Opening Devotion – LHM for Sept 20 – "What God Ordains is Always Good

Bible Study - In the Very Midst of Life from September 2020 Lutheran Witness led by Dave Watkins

Pastors Report – Education hour will be 10-11am on Sunday. 2nd (Praise) service will be 11-12noon starting Oct 4. Confirmation has started Sunday evenings with 9 students. Lutheran Study Bibles will be provided to each student. Pastor will virtually attend Fall Pastors conference Oct 12 and 13.

#### Old Business:

- a. Added \$500 to Misc. expense for Lutheran Study Bibles for 2021/2022 Confirmation class. Will be \$800 total instead of \$300. Dave Watkins to inform Dick Heuton on this change.
- b. Reconciliation within St John's recommendation from Pastors Wismar and Johnson (MN-South District) to use Ambassadors of Reconciliation (AoR) at Group Reconciliation Assistance (level 5). M/S/P to recommend to Council to approve and endorse engaging AoR, using undesignated cash assets. Cost is \$14000.
- c. Discuss a special congregation meeting on Sunday Nov 1 to approve using AoR for congregation reconciliation services. Congregation will be notified of the reason for this meeting in the bulletin, newsletter and mailing to each household.

Closed with personal prayer petitions and the Lord's Prayer.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

St. John's Fall Voters Meeting will be Sunday, November 22, at 12:00 noon. This will mostly cover discussing and approving the 2021 budget and presenting the goals and plans of the various boards.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**:

Dale announced that St. John's annual volunteer ditch clean-up will be Sunday, October 25, at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

We were able to discuss with Dwight Schettler, representing Ambassadors of Reconciliation (AoR), on live streaming throughout our 2-hour meeting. After much discussion, motion made and seconded to approve, endorse and recommend to the congregation engaging Ambassadors of Reconciliation to provide congregation reconciliation services using undesignated cash assets at an initial cost of \$14,000. It passed with 8 voting yes and 3 voting no. A voters meeting regarding this has been scheduled for Sunday, November 1, right after the second service (approximately 12:00 noon).

**ADJOURNMENT**: M/S/P to adjourn at 9:06 p.m.

**CLOSING PRAYER**: Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Donna Bailey, Council Secretary

# St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Recap January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020

Undesignated Assets	Balance 1/1/20	Activity	Balance 9/30/2020	Notes
Cash	\$199,211.92	\$263,023.24	\$462,235.16	Undesignated Assets
Prepaids/Other Assets	13,831.09	(2,914.32)	10,916.77	represent the funds
Buildings & Land	3,096,411.00	(268,719.00)	2,827,692.00	available for general
Liabilities	(5,171.02)	(31,674.24)	(36,845.26)	operating purposes.
Net Operating Income (Loss)		(\$40,284.32)		
Designated Assets				
Building Fund	107,467.19	77.87	107,545.06	Designated Assets
Needy Family Fund	1,667.08	(500.00)	1,167.08	represent all of the
Women's Ministry Fund	1,923.46	0.00	1,923.46	various funds that
Rachel's Hope Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	can be contributed to
Musical Equipment Fun	283.68	0.00	283.68	for the designated
Library Books Fund	394.17	100.00	494.17	purpose.
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	212.22	7,329.40	
Scrip Fund	15,452.11	(15,452.11)	0.00	
Sumner School Fund	8,746.72	0.00	8,746.72	
undesignated		(436.00)	(436.00)	
Endowment Fund	41,316.30	(327.22)	40,989.08	
	205,095.40	-	194,716.26	
Increase (Decrease) in Designated As	(\$10,379.14)			
Net Income (Loss)		(\$50,663.46)		

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

November, 2020

**NEWSLETTER** 



U S Postage Paid Permit No. 82 Austin, MN Non-Profit Organization

## ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Return Service Requested