

St. John's News

June, 2021



Church: 507-433-2642

Pastor: Cell 320-336-8149

Church Office:

stjohns@stjohnsaustincms.org

Pastor James Groleau:

shepherd@jamesplace.net

St. John's Webpage:

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



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

This month I'd like to talk about what a church needs to understand in order to begin growing. To do that I'd like to start by quoting a tidbit of wisdom found hidden in the Declaration of Independence. There it states:

"Prudence, indeed, will dictate that... all experience has shown that people are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

There is a good mission minded lesson in those words. The point, of the founding fathers of our nation, in those word, is that people are more likely to continue enduring a known pain rather then risk the potential of unknown new pain.

A growing church needs to see, for the person walking into our church the first time, there can be some "pain." Not physical pain but some nervousness. It can be a little uncomfortable. They don't know anyone. They don't know what we do, what we teach, or how, or if they will be accepted. They may not be familiar with the liturgy. In fact it is possible that they may have never participated in a liturgical worship service. So the question is, with that trepidation, what makes them walk in the building? The answer is the "pain" outside has become greater then the "fear" of walking inside.

Our society has become a "painful" one. We live in an hyper-individualistic society, so people are inherently lonely. COVID has amplified that exponentially. We also live in an hyper-busy culture, so

people are never at peace or rest, always feeling like they are out of time, or have no time. Although people are looking for that peace and rest, the trepidation of walking into a new church may be more intimidating than a perceived future of restlessness and loneliness. In general people are more willing to endure a known pain rather than risk change. When that outsider walks into our church they may be at a point of desperation.

When they walk in they are looking for peace, rest and comfort. They are generally not looking to hear a message of condemnation or judgment against the culture to which they must return at the end of the worship service. They are looking for an escape from it. In general people do not join a church, in our culture, because of the doctrine or confession of that church. (That may not be good, but is true none the less.)

Our task is "crisis evangelism." The visitor or new member needs to be treated with kid-gloves. Give them rest, healing and time. See them as suffering a sort of PTSD. Perhaps in part due to the affect described in Romans 1:28

"They did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done."

It is the pain they endure "outside" that they are trying to escape, because they've come to the realization that the way they live hurts too much. The Holy Spirit's call to faith has shown they are too far away from God, God's Word, and God's

way. They are coming to our church looking for healing of the soul, a closer walk with God, and peace.

The salve that heals is a congregation that is openly and purposefully welcoming to strangers. They greet them, help them through the liturgy, and all of the liturgical “house rules.” Help them get a bulletin, maybe even introduce them to the pastor. Ask them to sit with you. That serve two purposes: One they will feel welcome and they know they will be missed next week. Two when they do come back next week you’ll be able to sit where you always sit rather than feeling obligated to move to sit with them.


Be eager to make them feel comfortable. See those strangers to our church as the enemy’s victims. See them as people who need Christian care and friendship. No matter where they’ve come from, or what their past might be, we the faithful are all headed to the same place. They must know that here at St. John’s they are welcome. A growing church makes a habit of saying that out loud, and on purpose, all the time. Growing churches will practice “radical hospitality.”

May God give us the heart to help their pain, the wisdom to know their needs, the sight to see them as fellow Christians needing God’s grace, and then words and deeds to convey that comfort that truly comes only through Christ Jesus our Lord.

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



Weekday Bible Studies

Together in the Word

Sunday: Adult Bible class at 10:00 a.m. Pastor James is leading discussion on the book of Romans in Schleicher Hall.

Tuesday: Women’s Bible study meets at 1:00 p.m. at St. John’s. We are taking a break for the Summer.

Wednesday: Gray Matters meets St. John’s at 7:30 p.m. Join us for a free-flowing discussion. We are now studying the book of Luke.

Thursday: Men's Bible Study - join us at 5:00 pm on Thursdays next fall. They are taking a break for the Summer.

Worship Services

Sunday
 9:00 a.m. Worship (Traditional)
 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible study and Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship (Praise) This is a more contemporary service.

Midweek
 6:30 p.m. Wednesday service (Traditional)

The Sunday morning Bible study on Romans can be accessed through Google Meet. Go to St. John’s website, open the calendar and click on Roman’s Bible Study. A popup should direct you to join with Google Meet. You will need a Google account to access this.

Two New Policies Adopted - Council has adopted the Child Protection Policy and the Sexual Harassment and Exploitation Policy in order to meet new insurance requirements as well as to reduce the risk of incidents in our congregation. It is unfortunate, but necessary, that in this world as it has become more blatantly sinful, intentional protection for children and vulnerable adults has become necessary. A Child Protection Policy Committee will administer the Child Protection Policy which will include enforcing the policy, background checks and training for those who work with children and youth as well as maintaining confidentiality of private information. Becoming familiar with the policies is encouraged; copies are available at the church office.

June Birthdays

- 02 Daniel Meier
- 03 Connie Loudon
- 05 Donna Peterson
- 09 Steve Pfeifer
- 09 Bray Plowe
- 12 Leihla Wachlin
- 13 Max Kramer
- 13 Kristina Thorson
- 17 Bruce Reistad
- 17 Caleb Rickard
- 17 Aislee Steinbrink
- 19 Marsha Jensen
- 22 Dahilia Bergstrom
- 25 Robert Bos
- 25 Nick Downey
- 26 Kayveon Groleau
- 27 Robert Bailey
- 29 Amanda Farrell
- 30 Sandy Grant

Anniversaries

- 06 Eugene & Lois Auringer
- 06 Kevin & Cyndi Johnson
- 07 Steve & Debbie Binder
- 11 Robert & Sara Kruse
- 15 David & Kate Binder
- 15 John & Dereen Ernst
- 21 Donald & Rita Heller
- 23 Dave & Sandy Grant
- 23 Joel & Marsha Jensen
- 24 Vance & Ruth Oelkers
- 25 Pastor James Kerri Groleau
- 26 Harold & Virginia Rohne
- 29 Corbin & Laura Brocker

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



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. Damaged shoes can no longer be accepted.

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



June Birthdays for Shut-Ins

NO JUNE BIRTHDAYS FOR SHUT-INS
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

STEWARDSHIP

LUKE 15:5 – “**And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.**” The Lord Jesus came to seek and save what was lost. He came to put us back in the family of the Father and restore us to the kingdom of God. We are now new creatures in Christ Jesus. When we were claimed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism, we receive new desires, new priorities, and a new zeal for the things of God. We have been found. Let our lives reflect this fact!



LWML NEWS

This summer our LWML board will be meeting to work on new booklets for the coming year. We hope to have a meeting in September and also start quilting again then. The mission grants from the mite donations were all met. We pray you have a safe, healthy summer, serving our Lord in all you do. Sandy Grant

RADIO MINISTRY

Dear fellow Members of St. Johns and Friends,
Thank you to all who have supported the Radio Broadcast. You can see I added the last two Sunday's in May to this because I changed who sponsored these Sunday's. We still have several openings in the coming months. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a Sunday broadcast. We are thankful to be able to continue this ministry because of the support of our members and listeners. If you would like to make a donation to St. Johns Radio Broadcast you can mail your donation to St. Johns or to our home, The Petersen's 2805 5th AVE SW, Austin, MN 55912. The weekly fee is \$150.00 you can donate the total amount or any part of the amount please make checks payable to St. Johns Radio Broadcast.

- June 6, 2021 Sponsored by an anonymous donor to the Glory of God!
- June 13, 2021 Sponsored by Lorraine Andree in memory of her husband Edward Andree.
- June 20, 2021 Sponsored by an anonymous donor to the Glory of God!
- June 27, 2021 Sponsored by an anonymous donor to the Glory of God!

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

Script cards are available after each Sunday service. Check out the new list of businesses available. Orders, with payment, must be in by the third Sunday of the month, **Sunday, June 20**. The cards should be here the following Sunday. Place your order and check on the Scrip table or bring it to the office. These cards help the ministries of our congregation so consider purchasing them.

To our St. John's family

___ From the bottom of my heart a HUGE thank you for the cards, phone calls, personal wishes and emails when I was in the hospital and since my return home. Most of all thank you so very much for your prayers—past, present, and future. Some of us have talked about this again and again—what do people do without a faith? I know, I'm so grateful for all the blessings the Lord bestows on all of you and me. Praise and glory to our Lord and Savior. Thank you again. Annette Kiehne

Social Ministry Committee will be meeting Thursday June 3rd at 4:00 pm

VBS Opportunity

St. John's kids have been invited to join Brownsdale for VBS this summer. Brownsdale has engaged Camp Omega staff to run VBS during July. The dates and times are as follows: Monday, July 26th through Friday, July 30th. The hours will be 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Monday through Thursday, with Friday being 9:00 am to 12:00. Each child is to bring their own sack lunch. We will need to provide transportation to and from Brownsdale. More information regarding on-line registration will come in the near future. Please consider this opportunity as St. John's is not hosting a VBS this summer.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

May 11, 2021

The May 11, 2021, meeting was called to order by President Dale Siegfleid at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Grant, Darrel Bahn, Dick Heuton, Tim Carlson, Pastor James, Dale Siegfleid, Lori Siegfleid, Patty Shatek, Kara Grant, Vance Oelkers, Donna Bailey.

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Groleau

SECRETARY'S REPORT: M/S/P to accept the secretary's report for April 13, 2021, as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Net Operating Loss: \$(5,041.95). Net Increase in Designated Funds: \$4,274.01. Net Income (Loss) \$(767.94). M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report, as written.

ELDERS' REPORT:

Elders met on Monday May 3.

We continue to work through the reconciliation process with AoR.

National Day of Prayer scheduled for Thur May 6 with a prayer vigil throughout the day and a Prayer Service over the lunch hour.

Leadership changes for Scout Troop 113 sponsored by St John's have Scoutmaster Ted Krueger stepping down after many years of service and Jeremy Johnson stepping into the Scoutmaster role.

Nothing for Council action.

TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Harty Mechanical has been called to fix the middle toilet in the west ladies restroom that doesn't flush well.

Joe Chiarelli has volunteered to maintain the courtyard this year.

Carpets will be spot cleaned where needed.

The valves on the faucet in the Nursery changing room have been loosened up so the faucet is functional again.

A vacuum cleaner with a narrower power head to fit between the pews will be ordered for \$220.00.

One of the four compressors in the AC chiller is seized up. Harty Mechanical has been directed to order and install a new one for \$5,000.

BOARD OF EDUCATION and YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD:

Members present: Nicole Kramer, Patty Shatek, Lori Siegfleid

Sunday School – the six week of Sunday school ends on May 16th. We have had 9 students in attendance with 1 youth and 2 adults. As we look to the Fall we are in need of volunteers to help teach. We are hoping things will be back to normal by September and Sunday school will return with more students attending. We also discussed ordering CPH materials for Sunday school so volunteers that are willing to help will have all materials they need and preparation will be at a minimum.

VBS – Brownsdale will be hosting VBS with Camp Omega staff leading it. St. John's has been invited to attend. The dates are July 26 – 30th, Tuesday through Thursday from 9 to 3 and Friday, 9 to 12. Kids will need to bring a sack lunch. We will need to provide transportation for our kids to attend. Registration will be done on-line (more information regarding this to come in the future). The Pastor will check into the registration and get this information out as the time gets closer.

Bible Distribution – Bibles will be distributed on Sunday, May 23rd to preschool and third/fourth graders. Families may attend the 9:00 or 11:00 service on that Sunday to receive the bibles. The following students will be presented with bibles:

Preschool – Bontu Kewatt, Nelainy Stienbrink, Lyncoln Wradislavsky, and Ingrid Meyer.

Third/Fourth – Dagito Kewatt, William Meyer, Wesley Wradislavsky, and Heather Meyer.

Child Protection Committee – Lori will serve on this committee to represent the Youth and Family Board. Education Board representative to be determined yet.

Patty purchased graduation gifts for the graduates and these will be given to them at the reception on Sunday, May 16th. Graduates are Ethan Grant and Diego Bos.

Next Meeting date to be determined.

STEWARDSHIP BOARD:

The stewardship board met on May 5 with 2 members present.

There are no new activities to report. Darrel Bahn

SOCIAL MINISTRY:

The Social Ministry Committee met on May 6th at 4:00.

Pam Waters will be resigning from the Social Ministry Committee at the end of this term.

High School Graduates Ethan Grant and Diego Bos were recognized by Pastor James during the 9am service on Sunday, May 9th. The church presented embroidered blankets made by Sandy Grant as gifts. There will be a High School Graduation Reception for Ethan Grant and Diego Bos Sunday May 16th after 9am service in the fellowship hall.

National Day of Prayer was Thursday, May 6th. There were several members and guests who attended the 12:15 pm Prayer Service lead by Pastor James

Pasta and Rice collection for the Salvation Army

Donated 40 pounds of pasta this month

AOR Meeting with Board and Elders 4/22/21

Practiced and plan to model confession of sins to each other and being reconciled to others

Next Social Ministry Meeting Thursday 6/3/21 at 4:00pm

EVANGELISM:

Evangelism board met on May 3 with 3 members present.

We would like to have a St. Johns church message on the digital billboard on 14th St. NW. It would read JESUS LOVES YOU and have the LCMS cross and our church name. We can purchase a spot on the billboard for \$700 for a 4-week time span.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

COVID-19 I've now been able to visit nearly all of our shut ins. By the end of April I anticipate being able to visit them all on a regular monthly basis again.

National Day of Prayer went well with a noon-hour service with about 10 attending.

Shut-Ins in April I was able to visit all but: Jewel Weeks – Owatana, Judy DeYoung – Spring Valley, Primrose

In May all shut-ins will be back on the regular cycle of visits.

Worship: Attendance continues to grow at all three service. As COVID restrictions wind down I would encourage everyone to consider coming back to church. We will continue to maintain social distancing protocols. Also remember we now have two worship services on Sunday. The 9:00am service will remain the same traditional serve St. John's has had for some time. The 11:00am service is where we will introduce new things. The doctrines of our church, the clear proclamation of forgiveness and salvation will not waver, but how that message is delivered can. I'd encourage you to look at the Sermon Archives on our church web site and see if that is a service you would enjoy. Additionally the Wednesday 6:30pm service is available for those who would like more social distancing.

Bible Study Romans Bible study on Sunday morning has grown, but on-line attendance has dropped to zero. I will probably drop the on-line streaming if no one is using it. Grey Matters Bible study after Wednesday worship is going through Luke.

Holy Communion is one of the most holy and sacred gifts given to us by our risen Lord and Savior. For a year we have enjoyed this hallowed "foretaste of the feast to come" sitting in the pews. The time has come to begin coming forward again to receive our Lord's body and blood. The elders and I will making some changes from the first Sunday, to continue to improve the process.

For those who would feel more comfortable remaining seated, the East wing of pews will continue to be set up with the trays. We would ask that anyone sitting in those pews not get up for Holy Communion, but take it with those seated with you.

OLD BUSINESS:

The National Barrow Show will be using St. John's facilities for the first week of September 2021. Stan Rasmussen is the contact person for this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Regarding the Child Protection Policy” and/or “Sexual Harassment and Exploitation Policy”: Dave Ruhnke will be the contact person and Kara Grant will chair the committee in charge of it. Dave Watkins will represent the Board of Elders. The Boards of Education and Youth & Family will also have a member on the committee.

We decided to not renew our commitment to the State Highway Department for ditch clean-up.

The congregational voters meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 25, at 12:00 noon, starting with lunch...more details later.

Since we have no vice president, Dale Siegfried agreed to be in charge of the nominating committee. We are looking for men and women to fill these positions.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: The Lord’s prayer

Respectfully submitted: Donna Bailey, Council Secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Recap

January 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021

Undesignated

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Balance 1/1/21</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Balance 4/30/2021</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Cash	\$432,709.04	\$2,731.75	\$435,440.79	Undesignated Assets
Prepays/Other Assets	16,179.66	(6,886.54)	9,293.12	represent the funds
Buildings & Land	2,827,692.00	0.00	2,827,692.00	available for general
Liabilities	(2,143.91)	(887.16)	(3,031.07)	operating purposes.
Net Operating Income (Loss)		(\$5,041.95)		

Designated

<u>Assets</u>				
Building Fund	108,942.05	1,352.59	110,294.64	Designated Assets
Needy Family Fund	1,167.08	0.00	1,167.08	represent all of the
Women's Ministry Fund	1,923.46	0.00	1,923.46	various funds that
Musical Equipment Fund	283.68	0.00	283.68	for the designated
Library Books Fund	444.17	15.00	459.17	purpose.
Choir Robes Fund	3,111.00	0.00	3,111.00	
Memorial Fund	20,427.21	0.00	20,427.21	
Praise Band Fund	3,135.40	0.00	3,135.40	
Youth Fund	8,846.87	(188.57)	8,658.30	
Sumner School Fund	6,589.61	(811.55)	5,778.06	
undesignated	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Endowment Fund	40,989.08	3,906.54	44,895.62	
	195,859.61		200,133.62	
Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets Net Income (Loss)		\$4,274.01		
		(\$767.94)		

St. John's Lutheran Church
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**June
NEWSLETTER**



ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Return Service Requested

