

# St. John's News

August, 2021



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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

Coming out of COVID, and the news reports often making us wonder if we're going back to masks and social distancing, what can we do? I think there are three schools of thought on this.

- 1) Our church is fine. We just need to get back to normal. Then we'll be fine.
- 2) Our society has permanently changed. We need to strengthen our efforts in the work we've been doing. We need to get members to step up, volunteer, and get our church active again.
- 3) Culture has permanently changed. Recruiting volunteers is a failed plan. We need to learn a new way to lead people to Jesus and to disciple them where they live, work and play. We need to live lives of demonstrating the Gospel Good News.

What is the answer? The answer can be found in 2 Kings 7. The prophet Elisha speak words, of hope for the future, to a hopeless Israel. Israel is under constant attack and threat by the Arameans {ar-ME-ans}. Things are not good. People are starving, physically and spiritually. The city is closed. Nobody gets in. Nobody gets out.

The scene then changes to a conversation between 4 men suffering from leprosy. Who are evaluating the situation. They surmise:

- 1) If we do nothing. We die
- 2) If we go into the city, where it is safe. We die.
- 3) If we go to the enemy camp of the Arameans. maybe we die. Maybe we live.

They make decisions around scenario 3. They choose to do something new and different. It requires risk, courage and a willingness to accept that failure is possible, but not the only possible outcome. Stepping out in faith they discovered God was already there and God had acted before they arrived. The enemy armies had also heard of impending doom, and without God's presence in their hearts, they had run for their lives.

The 4 lepers eat, drink and celebrate. Then they go back and share the Good News What was the response to their words? Some were cautious. Some said, "Don't listen to them. Death waits for us!" Their skepticism was overrun. Seeing a future with a chance (even if it was a small chance) ran to a fresh lease on life. God was present before the knew He was there. God had acted. The lepers' made decisions around scenario 3, desperate as it might have appeared, was centered around the possibility, "Maybe we'll live."

In my work in churches during, and before becoming a pastor, I've spoken to, and learned from, many wise and seasoned missionaries and pastors who have brought the Gospel to people outside the Christian Church; to people who have never set foot in a church and

neither had their parents before them. In all those conversations there is one consistent message that has risen to the top.

**When you want to do the Church's work,  
look for where the Holy Spirit is already working.  
Go there!**

There are plenty of skeptics. There are plenty of people who are afraid of a future that includes change. What if we die?! What if our church dies?

- 1) If we do nothing. We die
- 2) If we go into the church, where it is safe. We die.
- 3) If we go to the enemy camp, the evil world that surrounds this building, maybe we die. Maybe we live.

Let's look at those three scenarios a little more closely.

**1) If we do nothing. We die.** If we just keep waiting, if we just wait out the mess of the world, we are waiting to die. If we give up on church, give up on teaching our children the Christian faith, if we give up on the people living in darkness, there is no hope. That's why the Bible, in leading up to the "Great Faith Chapter," charges us with these words:

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, all the more ... [Hebrews 10:24-25]"

Matthew 4:16 says, "The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." For those who do nothing. That light is hidden and they are hiding that light from others. The answer to this scenario is so simple, and we all know it.

This little Gospel light of mine  
I'm gonna' let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel. No!  
I'm gonna' let it shine.

We are the "Light bearers." We carry the light of Christ. What will we do with it? One answer is to do nothing. If we do nothing we can expect nothing.

**2) If we go into the church, where it is safe. We die.** If we just keep waiting, and coming to church for only ourselves; if we just wait out the mess of the world, we are waiting to die. The church cannot grow unless the work Jesus gave us to do is done. Jesus said, GO!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... [Matthew 28:19]"

The view the world has of the Church is bad! We are no longer an "assumed good." the Church is seen as the enemy that needs to be silenced and purged from the world. American society sees the Church as a burden and a problem. The old answer, "our doors are open come in for a visit" will not work. No one will come. If we hide inside they will never find us. Our cultures belief that the Church is the problem is a message that has been repeated often. It is a lie! But a lie told often enough will appear as the truth. That is the power of gossip. It breeds death. Death to those outside the Church, and death to the Church.

**3) If we go to the enemy camp, the evil world that surrounds this building, maybe we die. Maybe we live.**

We have an awesome, powerful, and profoundly unique message! It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We are the "Light bearers" to the world and to our neighbors. After those words about "a Light has dawned..." it reads, "Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' [Mathew 4:17]" Doing nothing is sin. We say so every week:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone...

The same holds true for coming to church, but only for ourselves. If we “hoard church” for ourselves; if we fail to share it we are not listening to Jesus who saved us. He said GO! The questions are: Where do we go? What do we do? How to we know?

One of the most powerful ministries a Church can have is a youth ministry that reaches outside the Church.

**When you want to do the Church’s work,  
look for where the Holy Spirit is already working.  
Go there!**

Jesus, calling a child to Him, said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [Matthew 18:2-3]”

Jesus said:“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. [Matthew 19:14]”

This little Gospel light of mine  
I’m gonna’ let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel. No!  
I’m gonna’ let it shine.

One of the most powerful ministries a Church can have is a youth ministry that reaches outside the Church. Parents will follow their children into a church. If the children learn to love the church, enjoy the church, and learn about having a very real relationship with Jesus the parents will follow.

How many of you when you first got married allowed the Church to slip by the wayside, but when the kids were born returned to the Church, for the kids? How many of you have seen that in others? The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was filled with members. We all remember the times when we set up extra chairs. Evangelism was done primarily at the Baptism Font.

At that time that is how we used to do things. That time is gone.

Today parents are not coming back to church with their children. Our society, in repeating the lie that “the Church is the problem,” has convinced most people that the Church is the problem. People will not come. They will not come until we convince them the Church has the answers. The Church, and the faith in Jesus we teach here, is the answer. It is the only answer.

Coming out of COVID, and the news reports often making us wonder if we’re going back to masks and social distancing, what can we do?

As we get back to “normal” let’s not get back to what was normal. Let’s start a new “normal.” the mission of St. John’s is excellent in its brevity and wisdom: P.E.W.S.

Let us go forth in peace.  
to **P**roclaim God's Word.  
**E**ncourage one another in faith.  
**B**earing Witness to God's love.  
**S**erve all people.  
In the name of the Lord.

As we start up with new boards and a new school year, I would ask each board to really think about how their board can fit their work into that mission. It is God's mission. It is the Church's mission. It should be our only mission.

Pastor James.

### **Bible Study Encouraged**

As we start up with new boards and a new school year, I would ask everyone to strongly consider getting into Bible study. The preliminary report from Ambassadors of Reconciliation included an observation of a lack of Bible study. The Bible needs to be the focus and central piece of everything we do. We'll get a list of available studies out soon.

Additionally I would ask each board to consider following the example the Pastor and Elders have set. Take 10-15 minutes, at the beginning of each meeting, looking into God's Word. The problem is often in finding something to study. We all get, through the generosity of this congregation, a copy of the Lutheran Witness. There is a brief Bible study in there each month. I would encourage you to start each meeting with that study. Look at what God's Word says, then get about the business of the church, which can only be done when God's Word is the focus.

Please pray about this and allow the Holy Spirit to work, through God's Word, to lead in Jesus' name.

Pastor James.

### **What is a Confessional Lutheran? Part 2**

In part 1 of this series, I briefly outlined what is meant by the term "Confessional Lutheran." In fact, from the time of the Reformation, to be Lutheran meant to be confessional. Being "Lutheran" meant that one subscribed to the Confessions of the Lutheran Church.

In more recent times the strong connection between being Lutheran and a subscription to the Lutheran Confessions has been weakened, maybe even lost, by many. To some, the Lutheran Confessions are just historical documents, about a past time in our history. For others, the Confessions are studied in the seminary but then never read or looked at again. If we no longer know or define ourselves according to the Lutheran Confessions, what does it mean to be Lutheran? The answer is: nothing.

Let me give you an example. Many people study and learn a foreign language. The problem is the time comes when the classes are done and the time to use the language passes. After a few years if I were to ask to converse in that language, most probably could not? Why? Because they did not continue to use and study the language, and as time went by they lost that knowledge.

That is most certainly true with me personally with Japanese. I wanted to travel there, so I learned the language. I walked around the country, often in very small towns. I went for nearly a week with almost no English being heard, or even spoken by me. Today I remember almost nothing of that language, aside from a few phrases.

The same is true of the Lutheran Confessions. We can learn the Confessions and what they say and mean. Part of those Confessions include the Small Catechism which most of you spent much time studying. Yet if we do not continue to read, study and apply it throughout our lives, how can we truthfully and faithfully live, or teach, the pure doctrine contained in them to those who follow after us? How can we remember what it means to be Lutheran? How can we continue to subscribe to what our Confessions say?

This is where some of the differences and divisions in our Synod come. We have lost our Confessional knowledge which bound us together, and are instead relying on something else. That can be precarious and unreliable ground. To be a Lutheran is to subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions as the correct exposition, or explanation, of the Word of God. To do this we must know what they say. Otherwise the false teaching of others will creep into our churches and our theology until there is no longer a Lutheran Church. It means something to be Lutheran. Luther said it time and time again, we must know "What does this mean!"

Beginning in August I am going to restart a tradition I had at my previous congregation. It is to take a few Sundays each Summer to dig into the Confessions. We will do that primarily through the Small Catechism, because that is probably the most accessible part of the for the congregation. We will begin on August 1 looking at the First Commandment, and work our way through all of them each week that follows.


I will have copies of the Small Catechism available for those who do not have, or cannot find, one at home.

May God bless us in our work in His kingdom.

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. Join us in the fall.

**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)

**"Our society strives to avoid any possibility of offending anyone---except God"**

**Billy Graham**

**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



**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](mailto:Miriam.Luehmann@icloud.com)



**A Special Birthday**

**August Birthdays for Shut-Ins**

No August birthdays

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

**Portals of Prayer**

If anyone wants a large print Portals of Prayer & is currently not getting one, please call Doraine Graff at 433-6637 or the church office. The order from Concordia can be changed only in August, so call now.

**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, August 15**. 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.



## LWML NEWS



Our LWML board met and has set up an agenda for the next year starting in September. New booklets will be available for all women then. We worked on the Christian Service Committees and hope that when we have to serve that men will come and help also. Many hands make light work. We are always open to program and meeting ideas. We hope you will give us a try. Quilting will be starting again in September. We meet on Mondays; bring your own lunch. All women and men are invited to help with this mission project. You do not need to have any sewing ability to join us for a good time.

Remember your Secret Sister with a card of encouragement. How thoughtful to get a card knowing someone cares.

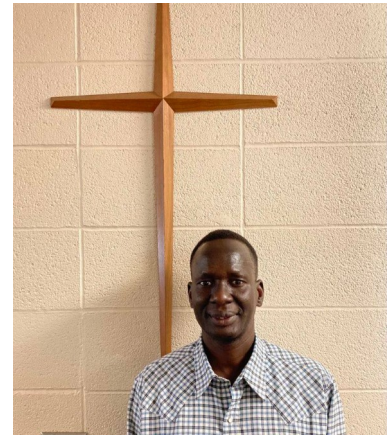
Enjoy the rest of the summer serving our Lord in all we do. Sandy Grant

### **Sudanese Ministry Spotlight**

August, 2021

It is an honor for me, Rev. Gatluk Reat, to share more about the ministry to Sudanese people in Southern Minnesota this month. Perhaps you are wondering why there came to be so many Sudanese people in this area.

Religious, economic and cultural differences within the country of Sudan led to a decades-long civil war. Finally, in 2011, it was decided that the best way to end the fighting was to split the country in two. The northern half of the country remained the country of Sudan and the southern half of the country became the country of South Sudan.



The years of war caused millions of Sudanese people to flee the country and take refuge in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. You may have heard or read about the Lost Boys of Sudan as several books and movies have been created to tell their remarkable story. I was not one of the Lost Boys of Sudan but my family was one of the millions of families that fled from our war-torn country and ended up in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

While living in the Ethiopian refugee camp I started going to church which led me to being baptized at the age of 12.

Coming to America was not my plan; it clearly was God's. His almighty hand guided and protected me the entire journey. An organization called Church World Service sponsored me to come to the US. I ended up in the Twin Cities where I was able to finish High School and start college.

When some of my Sudanese friends relocated to Faribault and started attending Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault I joined them and became a member of Trinity in 1999.

Since coming to America 25 years ago I have been able to return to Africa many times. In a future newsletter I will share with you the exciting mission work that is happening in the region of Africa from which I came.

I ask for your continued prayers for my ministry among the three communities of Sudanese people I serve, Faribault, Austin/Albert Lea and the Twin Cities. Ask our Lord Jesus to open hearts and ears for the continued

growth and work of His Kingdom where His seed has been planted. Do not allow the evil one to come and snatch away what has been sown in hearts. I would love to bring the Good News so all who hear can indeed bear fruit and yield a harvest in the communities I am called to serve.

**I invite you to follow me on Facebook at Gatluk Reat and to visit the Sudanese Ministry website at sudaneseministrysouthernmn.com. My phone number is: 1-651-399-3959.**

## RADIO MINISTRY

Members of St. Johns and Friends,

Thank you to all who have supported the Radio Broadcast. We still have several openings in the coming months. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a Sunday broadcast this can be done anonymously if you would like it that way. 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

August Sponsors are as follows:

**Aug. 1, 2021 Sponsored by the Wood family in memory of Violet and Richard Wood, Dale Wood and Lou Vidmar.**

**Aug. 8, 2021 Sponsored in memory of Joanne Rasmussen by her husband Stan and family and friends**

**Aug. 15, 2021 Sponsored by an anonymous donor to the Glory of God!**

**Aug. 22, 2021 Sponsored by an anonymous donor to the Glory of God!**

**Aug. 29, 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

### August Birthdays

01 Eugene Auringer  
03 Kakach Ogilla  
05 Toni Watkins  
07 Rod Wenzel  
08 Aiden Grant  
12 Michael Binder  
14 Robert VanPelt  
17 Kristi Rupe  
17 Rosie Seltz  
17 Larry Vorpahl  
18 Eve Kewatt  
18 Dylan Maas  
20 Sandy Auringer  
24 Diego Bos  
22 David Binder  
24 Bill Lonergan  
27 Nicole Zoske  
28 Deb Thorson  
28 Kristina Vorpahl  
31 Mary Clasby

### August Anniversaries

01 Dale & Lori Siegfried  
04 Condly & Berry Hovey  
11 Nathan & Sara  
    Wradislavsky  
12 Todd & Sherri Wessels  
13 Michael & Wendy Brandt  
16 Allen & Barb McAlister  
16 Ron & Patty Shatek  
17 Wayne & Fran Strouf  
22 Steve & Deb Thorson  
24 Zachary & Kami Wessels  
26 Parker & Maxine  
    Bracken  
26 Troy & Tammy Watkins  
28 Roger & Karen Jacobs

### **Stewardship**

**Luke 18:11-12 – “The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men ... I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ”** The Pharisee has surely missed the point of tithing! We can't earn brownie points with God, and we certainly can't put Him in our debt. Our giving to the Lord's work proceeds from a thankful heart full of God's own generosity, not our own pride. As Mary replied to the angel Gabriel, "I am the handmaiden of the Lord, may it be to me according to your word." We are the Lord's servants, therefore we live by His Word.



### **Sunday School**

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

**WE ARE IN NEED OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THIS OPPORTUNITY AS OUR CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH. YOU CAN CONTACT LORI SIEGFREID AT 437-7394 (HOME) OR 993-1275 (CELL). ANY WAY YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED. GOD BLESS.**

**Men's Breakfast** will be Saturday, August 21st at 7:30 a.m., at Barley's Family Restaurant. Come and enjoy the fellowship. All restrictions have been removed.

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

**July 13, 2021**

The July 13, 2021, meeting was called to order by President Dale Siegfleid at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lori Siegfleid, Kathy Carlson, Tim Carlson, Dick Heuton, Pastor James, Dale Siegfleid, Dave Ruhnke, Donna Bailey

**OPENING PRAYER:** Pastor Groleau

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** M/S/P to accept the secretary's report for June 8, 2021, as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Net Operating Loss: \$(3,963.74). Net Increase in Designated Assets: \$3,680.61. Net Income (Loss) \$(283.13). M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report, as written.

**ELDERS' REPORT:** Tim Carlson

Elders met on Monday July 12 @ 630. Present were Thad Kusick, Richard Kiehne, Dave Watkins, Tim Carlson and Pastor James.

Accepted the resignation of Eric Grant from the Elders Board effective July 1

Discussed the meeting for AoR to present their report with observations and recommendations to the congregation. Scheduled for Sunday July 18 following the 9am worship service. Dwight Schettler from AoR will be here to present the report.

M/S/P for Council to use \$1,000 from Memorial Funds to help with costs for Dwight to travel to Austin for this presentation.

Thad Kusick will take on the Head Elder role for the next year.

Elders will meet on Monday August 2.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT:** Dave Ruhnke

Members of the Spruce-Up Committee have been selected and have agreed to serve. They include Betty Hinks, Joel Jensen, Jane Ruhnke and Stan Rasmussen. Their first meeting is planned for next week.

Notice how much brighter and more uniform the lighting is in the north sign since it was converted to LED lights last week.

Recently 11 men trimmed and hauled away 7 loads of tree branches and 2 loads of leaves from around the north and west lawn area.

A railing will be installed on the partition by the west stairs leading up to the alter area to increase safety for those navigating the stairs.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION and YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD:** Lori Siegfleid

Present: Alisha Meyer, Patty Shatek and Lori Siegfleid

VBS – Kerri has taken on organizing the needed help for St. John’s participation in VBS at Brownsdale and we appreciate all her efforts. Several people have signed up to assist in helping the kids at VBS as well as several people have signed up to provide food for the camp counselors.

Child Protection Policy – we briefly discussed requirements that need to be fulfilled for volunteers working with children and youth. This is to comply with insurance coverage and maintain safety for our children.

Sunday School – Lori will put a blurb in the August newsletter and future bulletins asking for volunteers who would be willing to assist with Sunday School. We are in need of teachers.

Youth Fundraisers – Lori will be talking to Kara Grant and the youth regarding possible fundraising opportunities. The National Youth Gathering is in 2022 and we would like to send as many youth as possible.

New Board of Education member – Jodi VanPelt has agreed to serve on the Board of Education.

Nominating Committee – Lori has volunteered to represent the boards at the nominating committee which will be meeting sometime in the near future before the voters meeting on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting will be in August, the exact time and date to be determined.

#### **STEWARDSHIP BOARD:**

No report.

#### **SOCIAL MINISTRY:**

No report.

#### **EVANGELISM:**

The evangelism board met on July 12 with 3 members present.

We will be having an advertising space on the digital billboard on 14th St NW. It will run from August 16 through September 12 and will feature fall education/children’s opportunities at St Johns.

As an outreach to our congregation, we continue to send cards to children as a remembrance of their Baptism.

New member packets will be given to Phillip and Joanne Miller and to Ron and Nancy Prigge.

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

There are plans in the works to facilitate a multi-congregation **Vacation Bible School**. We are looking into starting CASE again, not only at St. John’s, but also a few other congregations.

We are exploring “**micro-schools**” as a possible ministry option within our circuit. This is only in the investigation phase. If you would like to learn more about what a micro-school is and how it is being implemented in the MNS-LCMS District you can visit [www.LaurelCS.org](http://www.LaurelCS.org)

**Romans Bible** study continues between services. I would encourage people to come. We’ve had some lively conversation digging through the Book of Romans. It is a book that contains so many memorable verses and so much of what helps us explain and define our Christian faith.

I am back to visiting all **shut-ins**. All facilities are open, as are all hospitals.

We are exploring some **community outreach** opportunities including worship and Bible study and small group opportunities. As we move toward the end of summer we want to spin up the church into as much regular operation as possible.

**Volunteers** are something we will need in various places. Please consider where you might be able to invest a little time. We’ll all need to work together exploring ways to reach those whom we haven’t seen in a while, as well as those who have never entered a church before, and all those in between. I hope to have some options listed for opportunities to give a little toward the investment of souls. I would encourage all the boards to brain-storm ways you could foster opportunities for people to contribute to your work in achieving our congregation’s mission.

Proclaim God's Word.  
 Encourage one another in faith.  
 Witness to God's love.  
 Serve all people.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The congregation voters meeting on Sunday, July 25, will start at 12:00 noon with a meal purchased from Pizza Ranch. Dale will order the food.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

M/S/P to grant the request of Bob and Donna Bailey to transfer their membership to Zion Lutheran Church in Albert Lea.

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

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Donna Bailey, Council Secretary

**St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Recap**  
**January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021**

<b>Undesignated Assets</b>	<b>Balance 1/1/21</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Balance 6/30/2021</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Cash	\$432,709.04	(\$3,601.32)	\$429,107.72	Undesignated Assets
Prepays/Other Assets	16,179.66	1,331.72	17,511.38	represent the funds
Buildings & Land	2,827,692.00	0.00	2,827,692.00	available for general
Liabilities	(2,143.91)	(1,694.14)	(3,838.05)	operating purposes.
<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>		<b>(\$3,963.74)</b>		
 <b>Designated Assets</b>				
Building Fund	108,942.05	2,248.92	111,190.97	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	(2,301.28)	4,288.33	
undesignated	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Endowment Fund	40,989.08	3,906.54	44,895.62	
	195,859.61		199,540.22	
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets</b>		<b>\$3,680.61</b>		
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<b>(\$283.13)</b>		

**August, 2021**

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