

St. John's News

September, 2021



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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

Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord!

[Psalm 27:14]

It's a crazy, unique and often troubling time right now. For some reason God has pushed the pause button on almost everything we know as "normal" in the church. These days can feel like hope is lost. These days can make you feel like courage is squeezed out. It is a season for pioneers, for new ideas, for new ways, for people willing to assume the challenge and live out the Mission of God. It is a season of hope and courage. Are you ready?

Perhaps we often overlook ourselves. We see ourselves as being unlikely to have the skills we need to move forward. What if you are overlooking yourself as a "hope bringer"? What if you are overlooking yourself and what God has put into you?

Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord!

[Psalm 27:14]

You might not feel you are "the one," but that's the kind of people God often uses. God often uses the

overlooked and the unlikely to do amazing things.

Take a look!

- The woman at the well led her town to Jesus. She was overlooked and very unlikely. (See: John 4:1-44)
- Peter was a simple fisherman and not a very successful one. "fished all night...but haven't caught anything." He was overlooked and very unlikely. (See: Luke 5:1-11)
- David a humble shepherd. He was overlooked by his own family. He was utterly unlikely. (See: 1 Samuel 16:1-13)
- Mary. Humble, poor, overlooked and unlikely. (Matthew 1:18-25)
- Are you on this list? Count yourself as one in good company!

Are you overlooking yourself?

I've learned God often moves in amazing ways through the lives of people who are overlooked, or overlook themselves. God often calls out in us what we fail to see in ourselves. If you feel overlooked and unlikely, you might be overlooking some of what God has poured into you. The question is: "Have you been overlooking yourself?" Too often people fool themselves. They limit what God wants to do through them. Are we allowing the world,

or the pandemic, to steal our potential?

How quickly do we resign ourselves to accepting: we are not enough; or there is not enough. The disciples did that and 5,000 people were fed. They were enough in the hands of Jesus.

I've grown tired of blaming COVID for everything. It has caused a real mess. It has messed up many plans. It looks like God has pushed the pause button. Maybe He has, but for His good reason. It is in a season like this that God can develop our character and strengthen our identity in Christ.

What if you are enough?

What if it's right in front of you and you can't see it? What if you are enough? In the hands of Jesus, you are. What if we stop overlooking ourselves and start investing in ourselves? What if we've overlooked some of the folks around us, and it's time you started believing in them before they've been able to believe in themselves?

It's and old joke...

Two guys are in the woods and they come upon a bear. One guy puts on his running shoes. The other guy says, "You're never going to out run that bear!"

The other responds, "I don't have too. I just have to out run you."

Churches often have this mentality. They want to "out run" the other guy. They want more programs and project that are bigger and better than the other guy. All the while perhaps overlooking their own true potential and calling gifted to them by God. If all we have is running shoes, put them on. Let's use the potential of St. John's to reach out into Austin and shine the Light of the world: Jesus.

Get ready to run.

If we're going to run we have to work out. We have to practice. That is best done by delving into God's Word. Beginning on Sunday September 12 please consider coming to Sunday Morning Bible study at 10:00am, between the services. We are going to use the gifts God has given us, His Holy Word, and the oldest catechism in use on the planet (Luther's Small Catechism), to exorcise our soul and spirit. It will get us ready to walk, or maybe run, that narrow road Jesus describes. It will also prepare us to lead the way for others to follow.

The study we are about to begin is a culmination of years of work I have put into this very thing. I'll admit I often overlooked and under estimated this work as an unlikely effort to do much good outside of some youth education. Yet here we are about to head into a re-start of the church and designing a new "church normal" with these tools at the ready.

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord. "I will restore you... from... where I have driven you," declares the Lord. "I will bring you back..." [Jeremiah 29:11-14]

I have big plans for you. Let's get ready together. Join us each week, starting Sunday September 12.

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

Together in the Word



*Weekday
Bible
Studies*

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.

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 beginning Sept. 9th.

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)



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. Most especially come to the Sunday morning study. We will be looking at and applying Luther's Small Catechism to our daily life in Christ.

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 struggle is often in knowing what, or 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.



Why study the Small Catechism? In the words of Martin Luther

In these excerpts from the Martin Luther he explains why the study of the Small Catechism is good and profitable for all ages of life. His words are, at times, a bit rough, but they do resound truth that too often we ignore. – Pastor James

Introduction

It is not for trivial reasons that we constantly treat the Small Catechism and strongly urge others to do the same. For we see to our sorrow that many are very negligent in this respect and despise both their office and this teaching itself. Some

because of their great and lofty learning, others because of sheer laziness and gluttony, behave in this matter as if they were focused for their bellies' sake and had nothing to do but live off the fat of the land all their days...

Besides, a shameful and insidious plague of security and boredom has overtaken us. Many regard the Catechism as a simple, silly teaching which they can absorb and master at one reading. After reading it once they toss the book into a corner as if they are ashamed to read it again.

For myself, let me say that I, too, am a doctor and a preacher—yes, and as learned and experienced as any of those who act so high and mighty. Yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism. Every morning, and whenever else I have time, I read and recite word for word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the Catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I do it gladly. These dainty, fastidious fellows would like quickly, with one reading, to become doctors above all doctors, to know all there is to be known. Well, this too is a sure sign that they despise both their souls, yes, even God and his Word ...

Therefore, I beg these lazy-bellies and presumptuous saints, for God's sake, to get it into their heads that they are not really and truly such learned and great doctors as they think. I implore them not to imagine that they have learned these parts of the Catechism perfectly, or at least sufficiently, even though they think they know them ever so well. Even if their knowledge of the Catechism were perfect (though that is impossible in this life), yet it is highly profitable and fruitful daily to read it and make it the subject of meditation and conversation. In such reading, conversation, and meditation the Holy Spirit is present and bestows ever new, and greater light and fervor, so that day by day we relish and appreciate the Catechism more greatly ...

If they show such diligence, then I promise them—and their experience will bear me out—that they will gain much fruit and God will make excellent Christians of them. Then in due time they themselves will make the noble confession that the longer they work with the Catechism, the less they know of it and the more they have to learn. Only then, hungry and thirsty, will they truly relish what now they cannot bear to smell because they are so bloated and over-supplied. To this end may God grant His grace! – Martin Luther

The Ten Commandments

Here we have the Ten Commandments, a summary of divine teaching on what we are to do to make our whole life pleasing to God. They are the true fountain from which all good works must spring, the true channel through which all good works must flow. Apart from these Ten Commandments no deed, no conduct can be good or pleasing to God, no matter how great or precious it may be in the eyes of the world...

It seems to me that we shall have our hands full to keep these commandments, practicing gentleness, patience, love toward enemies, chastity, kindness, etc., and all that these virtues involve. But such works are not important or impressive in the eyes of the world. They are not unusual and pompous, restricted to special times, places, rites, and ceremonies, but are common, everyday domestic duties of one neighbor toward another, with no show about them.

All this I say and repeat in order that people may get rid of the pernicious abuse which has become so deeply rooted and still clings to too many, and that all classes of people on earth may accustom themselves to look only to these precepts and heed them. It will be a long time before people produce a doctrine or social order equal to that of the Ten Commandments, for they are beyond human power to fulfill. Anyone who does fulfill them is a heavenly, angelic, and far above all holiness on earth. Just concentrate upon them and test yourself thoroughly, do your very best, and you will surely find so much to do that you will neither seek or pay attention to any other works or other kind of holiness. – Martin Luther

The Creed

Here in the Creed you have the entire essence of God, His will, and His work exquisitely depicted in very short but rich words. In them consists all our wisdom, which surpasses all the wisdom, understanding, and reason of men. Although the whole world has sought painstakingly to learn what God is and what He thinks and does, yet it has never succeeded in the least. But here you have everything in richest measure. In these three articles God himself has revealed and opened to us the most profound depths of His Fatherly heart, His sheer, unutterable love. He created us for this very purpose, to redeem and sanctify us.

Moreover, having bestowed upon us everything in heaven and on earth, He has given us His Son and His Holy Spirit, through whom He brings us to Himself. We could never come to recognize the Father's favor and grace were it not for the Lord Christ, who is a mirror of the Father's heart. Apart from Him we see nothing but an angry and terrible Judge. But neither could we know anything of Christ, had it not been revealed by the Holy Spirit.

What is meant by these words, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker," etc.? Answer: I hold and believe that I am a creature of God; that is, that He has given and constantly sustains my body, soul, and life, my members great and small, all the faculties of my mind, my reason and understanding, and so forth; my food and drink, clothing, means of support, wife and child, servants, house and home, etc.

Besides, He makes all creation help provide the comforts and necessities of life—sun, moon, and stars in the heavens, day and night, air, fire, water, the earth and all that it brings forth, birds and fish, beasts, grain and all kinds of produce. Moreover, He gives all physical and temporal blessings—good government, peace, security. Thus we learn from this article that none of us has his life of himself, or anything else that has been mentioned, nor can he by himself preserve any of them, however small and unimportant. All this is comprehended in the word "Creator."

Moreover, we confess that God the Father not only has given us all that we have and see before our eyes, but also daily guards and defends us against every evil and misfortune, warding off all sorts of danger and disaster. All this He does out of pure love and goodness, without our merit, as a kind father who cares for us so that no evil may befall us.

Hence, since everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given and sustained by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank Him without ceasing, and, in short, to devote all these things to His service, as He has required and enjoined in the Ten Commandments.

This, then, is the article which must always remain in force. Creation is past and redemption is accomplished, but the Holy Spirit carries on His work unceasingly until the Last Day. For this purpose He has appointed a Holy Church and a local congregation on earth, through which He speaks and does all His work. For He has not yet gathered together all of His Christian people, nor has He completed the granting of forgiveness. Therefore we believe in Him who daily brings us into this community through the Word, and imparts, increases, and strengthens faith through the same Word and the forgiveness of sins. Then when His work has been finished and we abide in it, having died to the world and all evil, He will finally make us perfectly and eternally holy. We now wait in faith for this to be accomplished through the Word. – Martin Luther

The Lord's Prayer

We have heard what we are to do and believe. The best and most blessed life consists of these things. Now follows the third part, how we are to pray. Mankind is in such a situation that no one can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly, even though he has begun to believe. Besides, the devil, along with the world and our flesh, resists our efforts with all his power. Consequently nothing is so necessary as to call up God incessantly and drum into his ears our prayer that He may give, preserve, and increase in us faith and obedience to the Ten Commandments and remove all that stands in our way and hinders us from fulfilling them. That we may know what and how to pray, our Lord Christ Himself has taught us both the way and the words. – Martin Luther

Holy Baptism

We must not speak of our Sacraments, instituted by Christ. Every Christian ought to have at least some brief, elementary instruction in them because without these no one can be a Christian, although unfortunately often nothing is taught about them. First we shall take up Holy Baptism, through which we are first received into the Christian community.

To be Baptized in God's name is to be Baptized not by men but by God Himself. Although it is performed by man's hand, it is nevertheless truly God's own act. From this fact everyone can easily conclude that it is of much greater value than the work of any man or saint. For what work can man do that is greater than God's work?

Thus you see plainly that Holy Baptism is not a work which we do but is a treasure which God gives us and faith grasps, just as the Lord Christ upon the cross is not a work but a treasure comprehended and offered to us in the Word, and received by faith.

In Holy Baptism, therefore, every Christian has enough to study and to practice all his life. He always has enough to do to believe firmly what Holy Baptism promises and brings—victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, God’s grace, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with His gifts. In short, the blessings of Holy Baptism are so boundless that if timid nature considers them, it may well doubt whether they could all be true. Suppose there were a physician who had such skill that people would not die, or even though they died would afterward live forever. Just think how the world would shower money upon him! Because of the pressing crowd of rich men no one else could get near him. Now, here in Holy Baptism there is brought free to everyone’s door just such a priceless medicine which swallows up death (Isaiah 25:8) and saves the lives of all people.

To appreciate and use Holy Baptism aright, we must draw strength and comfort from it when our sins or conscience oppress us, and we must retort, “But I am Baptized! And if I am Baptized, I have the promise that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body.” This is the reason why these two things are done in Holy Baptism: the body has water poured over it, though it cannot receive anything but the water, and meanwhile the Word is spoken so that the soul may grasp it. No greater jewel can adorn our body and soul than Holy Baptism, for through it we obtain perfect holiness and salvation, which no other kind of life and no work on earth can acquire. – Martin Luther

The Lord’s Supper

It is the Word which distinguishes this Holy Meal from mere bread and wine and constitutes it a Sacrament which is rightly called Christ’s Body and Blood. Now, this is not the word and ordinance of a prince or emperor, but of the Divine Majesty at whose feet every knee should bow and confess that it is as He says and should accept it with all reverence, fear, and humility.

With this Word you can strengthen your conscience and declare: “Let a hundred thousand devils, with all the fanatics, rush forward and say, ‘How can bread and wine be Christ’s Body and Blood?’ Still I know that all the spirits and scholars put together have less wisdom than the Divine Majesty has in His little finger.

Here we have Christ’s Word, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ ‘Drink of it, all of you, this is the New Covenant in My blood,’ etc. Here we shall take our stand and see who dares to instruct Christ and alter what He has spoken. It is true, indeed, that if you take the Word away from the bread and wine or view them apart from the Word, you have nothing but ordinary bread and wine. But if the Word remains, as is right and necessary, then in virtue of them they are truly the Body and Blood of Christ. For as we have it from the lips of Christ, so it is; He cannot lie or deceive.”

Now we come to its power and benefit, the purpose for which the Sacrament was really instituted, for it is most necessary that we know what we should seek and obtain there. This is plainly evident from the words just quoted, “This is my Body and Blood, given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.” In other words, we go to the Sacrament because we receive there a great treasure, through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins. Why? Because the Words are there through which this is imparted! Christ bids me eat and drink in order that the Sacrament may be mine and may be a source of blessing to me as a sure pledge and sign—indeed, as the very gift He has provided for me against my sins, death, and all evils.

Therefore, it is appropriately called the Food for the Soul since it nourishes and strengthens each repentant believer. While it is true that through Holy Baptism we are first born anew, our human flesh and blood have not lost their old skin. There are so many hindrances and temptations of the devil and the world that we often grow weary and faint, at times even stumble. The Lord’s Supper is given as a food and sustenance so that our faith may refresh and be strengthened and not weaken in the struggle but grow continually stronger.

Having now the right interpretation and doctrine of the Sacrament, there is great need also of an admonition and entreaty that so great a treasure, which is regularly administered and distributed among Christians, may not be heedlessly passed by. What I mean is that those who claim to be Christians should prepare themselves to receive this blessed Sacrament.

We too often see people becoming listless and lazy about its observance. A lot of people who hear the Gospel let months, or a year, or two, three, or more go by without receiving the Holy Sacrament, as if they were such strong Christians that they have no need of it. Some let themselves be kept and deterred from it because some have taught that no one should go unless one feels a hunger and thirst impelling them to it. Some pretend that it is a matter of liberty, not of necessity, and that it is enough if they simply believe. Thus they go so far that they become quite barbarous, and ultimately despise both the Sacrament and the Holy Word of God.

Now it is true, we repeat, that no one should under any circumstances be coerced or compelled, lest we institute a new slaughter of souls. Nevertheless, let it be understood that people who abstain and absent themselves from the Sacrament over a long period of time are not to be considered Christians. Christ did not institute it to be treated merely as a spectacle, but commanded His Christians to eat and drink and thereby receive Him who dwells in them.

Indeed, true Christians who cherish and honor the Sacrament will of their own accord urge and impel themselves to come.
– Martin Luther

Confession

We all know from experience, there has been no law quite so oppressive as that which forced everyone to make confession on pain of the gravest mortal condemnation. Moreover, it so greatly burdened and tortured consciences with the enumeration of all kinds of sin that no one was able to confess purely enough. Worst of all, no one taught or understood what Confession is and how useful and comforting it is.

Instead, it was made sheer anguish and a hellish torture since people had to make confession even though nothing was more hateful to them. These three things have now been removed and made voluntary so that we may confess without coercion or fear, and we are released from the torture of enumerating all sins in detail. Moreover, we have the advantage of knowing how to use confession beneficially for the comforting and strengthening of our conscience.

To begin I have said that in addition to Confession which we are discussing here there are two other kinds, which have an even greater right to be called the Christians' Common Confession. I refer to the practice of confessing to God alone, or to our neighbor alone, begging for forgiveness. These two kinds are expressed in the Lord's Prayer when we say, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," etc. Indeed, the whole Lord's Prayer is nothing else than such a confession.

Similarly the second Confession, which each Christian makes toward his neighbor, is included in the Lord's Prayer. We are to confess our guilt before one another and forgive one another before we come into God's presence to seek for forgiveness. Now, all of us are debtors one to another, therefore we should and we may confess publicly in everyone's presence. Thus we have in the Lord's Prayer a twofold Absolution: our debts both to God and to our neighbor are forgiven when we forgive our neighbor and become reconciled with him.

Besides this public, and necessary Confession, there is also the secret Confession which takes place privately before a single brother or pastor. When some problem or quarrel sets us against one another and we cannot settle it, and yet we do not find ourselves sufficiently strong in faith, we may at any time and as often as we wish lay our complaint before a brother, seeking his advice, comfort, and strength. (*This is why Ambassadors of Reconciliation was called – Pastor James*)

Thus by divine ordinance Christ Himself has entrusted Absolution to His Christian Church and commanded us to absolve one another from sins. (See Matthew 18:15–19). So if there is a heart that feels its sin and desires consolation, it has here a sure refuge when it hears in God's Word that through a mere person God looses and absolves him from his sins.

Note, then, as I have often said, that Confession consists of two parts. The first is my work and act, when I lament my sin and desire comfort and restoration for my soul. The second is a work which God does, when He absolves me of my sins through the Word placed in the mouth of a man. This is the surpassingly grand and noble thing that makes confession so wonderful and comforting. – Martin Luther

Hope and Victory

Much has been written, and with a show of great learning at that, about the manner in which we should prepare for death and await the Last Day. But it has only made timid consciences much more depressed, for the writers have not been able to refer men to the consolation of the great wealth of grace and salvation in Christ but have merely directed people to their own works and pious lives as a support against death and the judgment of God.

Instead of such misdirection we now see the precious grace of God at work. Whoever has the Word of the Gospel goes forth to discharge the duties of whatever office or position he may hold. He consoles himself with the fact that through

Holy Baptism he is incorporated in Christ. He receives the Holy Absolution and for the strengthening of his faith partakes of the Lord's Holy Supper, committing his soul to Christ. Why should such a person fear death?

Regardless of when it comes, whether by pestilence or accident, whether it finds him awake or asleep, he is in Christ and is, therefore, always ready and well prepared for death. – Martin Luther

September Birthdays

01 Debbie Binder
02 Miriam Luehmann
03 Hannah Green
03 Hope McAlister
05 Katy Hodge
06 Rebecca Thor
12 Jan Christiansen
13 Carter Grant
13 Amelia Grant
13 Brantley Steinbrink
14 Andrea Funke
14 Cindy Hovey
15 Carol Schleicher
16 Jonathan Grant
17 Sue Downey
17 Sherri Wessels
17 Kara Grant
17 Nathan Wradislavsky
20 Alisha Meyer
22 Heather Meyer
22 Brian Wollenburg
23 Francine Strouf
25 Barbara Donkers
27 Kiley Kusick
27 Wayne Strouf
28 Arnie Mulso
29 Dave Grant
30 Rodger Bliese

Anniversaries

01 Bill & MeriJo Lonergan
05 Lyle & Holly Wasko
07 Tanner & Christina Bergstrom
08 Gary & Donna Barclay
08 Albie & Connie Gilsrud
08 Merrill & Bonnie Meier
11 Dave & Sharry Watkins
12 Tim & Kathy Carlson
13 Bruce & Pam Reistad
15 Ken & Winnie Greenlee
19 Jason & Angela Grant
21 Michael & Susan Gosha
24 Adam & Alisha Meyer

Why the Catechism in a Year?

“We’ve already learned this stuff.” “The Catechism is for kids.” “I already know it.” The truth is none of us know it well enough. Listen to Martin Luther, the author of Luther’s Small Catechism:

For myself, let me say that I am a doctor and a preacher, and as learned and experienced as any... Every morning... I read and recite... the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed,... **I must still read and study the Catechism daily**, yet I cannot master it as I wish... Those fastidious fellows would... with one reading, [think to] become doctors above all doctors, to know all there is to be known. Well, this is a sure sign that they despise both their souls... and even God and His Word...

The treasure of the Holy Christian Church is God’s Word and the Confessions which have been used to structure and govern the Church from the beginning. The Small Catechism is taking those deep, rich, challenging documents called the Confessions, bring them to you, as Martin Luther expressed it, “in a simple way.”

They are something we all need daily. They are things we may believe we know, because we don’t remember what we’ve forgotten.

Why the Catechism in a Year? Because we all need it. “**A Year with the Catechism**” series will take us through the doctrines and confessions as they are taught in the Holy Bible. We will dig deeply into each subject and apply it to our lives so that it helps us see the world through Christian eyes.

But: “We’ve already learned this stuff.” “The Catechism is for kids.” “I already know it.” That is exactly the problem! It is a problem with so many in the Christian Church. “We already know it.” We will mark our Bibles. The Catechism you will receive is designed to be marked. That all fine. It’s good to do.

However, the real point is not how you have marked your Catechism, or how you have marked your Bible. The real point is about a very long, arduous, and sometimes treacherous journey of 18 inches. You have the brain acquisition. Has that knowledge traveled the 18 inches from your brain to your heart.

You have marked your Bible. Has your Bible marked you?!

You have marked your Catechism. Has your Catechism marked you?!

“**A Year with the Catechism**” series will include:

- Weekly worship messages
- Adult Study – digging deep into the Confessions and Scripture
- Youth study – Biblical events correlating to the Catechism topic
- Daily reading plan – Read through the entire *Small Catechism with Explanation* in one year.
- An opportunity to contribute to the LCMS treasury of devotional studies.

- ... and more!!!

What is: “An opportunity to contribute to the LCMS treasury of devotional studies.” As I point out in another article in this newsletter: There is a lack of daily devotional material for youth. I would like you to consider lending your hand to helping write such things. If you are so moved, look at: the Daily Reading Plan, the Adult and youth study material, and the weekly message (sermon). Take a try at writing a Portals-of-Prayer-style devotion for youth. Each topic will need 7 short devotions (Sunday through Saturday) to be used as regular devotion time for youth in their homes.

“**A Year with the Catechism**” is intended to become a book, a resource, to provide families with tools that will help them mark their children’s hearts with the Bible and the Catechism. Write a week of devotions and get your name in the credits. More importantly, help carry a soul to heaven’s gates.

Matthew 18:1-6 – The disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

What is the purpose of Youth Ministry in the Church?

For some it is ‘Fun.’ It is a fun place to gather, eat pizza, play games and call it Christian fellowship. Youth Ministry in the Church must be so much more.

For some it is ‘Service.’ It is a place to gather youth, with all their energy, and put them to work fixing and cleaning things around the church, and on occasion helping out in the community. Youth Ministry in the Church must be so much more.

For some it is ‘Doctrine.’ It is a place to have the youth sit and read their Bible so they will know what the Bible says. Youth Ministry in the Church must be so much more.

For some it is ‘Stories.’ It is a place to tell stories and testimonials (hopefully with some kind of Christian message) to help youth navigate life. Youth Ministry in the Church must be so much more.

Nothing is inherently wrong with any of these things. What is profoundly wrong is when any one, or all, of these are the only reason for Youth Ministry. Youth Ministry in the Church must be about community, relationships and trust through which the Gospel is taught through action and word. Youth Ministry must be about growing children in the Church into Adults in the Church. In today’s world kids are dealing with life issues that you would have never dreamed at that age. The questions I have been asked, and the deep troubling problems they have to face, are often more than you ever will face.

Additionally kids today have to deal with these things on their own. With over half of marriages failing kids are resigned to one parent homes, bouncing between houses, with little real stability where they are, by necessity not necessarily neglect, being taught by the television. Take some time to turn on “kids programming” this week and see what kids are being taught. I promise, you will be shocked! It is a place where all adults are ignorant, Christians are evil, and children are supreme. All of this in a pattern of portraying lifestyles of the lowest morality as exalted.

What is the purpose of Youth Ministry in the Church? To help.

I have spoken with many parents. All of them want what is best for the children. In my experience with parents, in and out of the Church, they nearly all have said they want their children to learn about Jesus. The problem is this. As parents they don’t know how to teach them, and they cannot find resources that would help them. I’m going to pick on the LCMS because it is our synod, though what I’m going to say here could be said about any denomination. We have lots of resources. Portals of Prayer devotions, Lutheran Hour Ministry devotions, and several publications like the Lutheran Witness. All of these are very good! What do we have for youth? Nearly nothing.

This has been the problem for a long time. The problem is this. In the past this problem was not a problem. By that I mean: in our LCMS, from the 1950’s forward, the vast majority of evangelism to grow a church was done at the Baptism

Font. Families had children. They brought those children to church. The children grew up in the church, and the children became Christians.

Then a pattern started. Children were confirmed, and then they would vanish. They would later come back when they got married and had their own children. They would get them Baptized, and still the vast majority of evangelism to grow a church was done at the Baptism Font. Sunday School was little more than telling stories and snack-time. Parents had no resources to teach children at home so they relinquished that task to the church.

Look at the first words Martin Luther printed in the Small Catechism. "As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household." At home. Not at church.

The problem is: Catechisms are given when children are eleven years old. They are a "tool for the pastor" and they are discarded after Confirmation. With that change, what developed, starting in the 1950's, was a generation that stopped teaching their children the Christian faith, at home. The generation to follow sees Church as "good for kids" but the adults don't show up themselves. The generation raising children today is not coming back to church. They like then two generations before them vanish after Confirmation, but they don't come back to have their children Baptized. They don't come back.

If church is only "good for kids" and Youth Ministry is only fun, service, doctrine and stories for kids what good is it?

Youth Ministry in the Church can and should include fun, service, doctrine and stories but it must include very purposeful mentoring and discipling. Our Youth Ministry must be about helping our youth face a world that is purposefully hostile to Christianity. Christ is the only thing that will get them to Heaven. Fun, service, doctrine and stories won't, nor will these things mentor them in how to use the Bible and the Catechism to deal with life, or disciple them in how to teach the Bible and the Catechism to others, including their own children.

Youth Ministry in the Christian Church must be about a future. It is not just about the moment, or this year, or this child. It is about this child's eternal life, as well as the eternal life of their children and their children after them. Youth Ministry is about this congregation's future. Youth Ministry in the Christian Church must be about a future that is seen through Biblical lenses. Those same Biblical spectacles will help them see life issues and problems through a Biblical perspective and the answers to those problems from the Bible and our Confessions as taught in a simple way in the Catechism.

This year we are starting up:

Sunday School

CASE (Christian After School Education)

Confirmation

Senior Youth

Use these opportunities for your children. Let us also think of ways these opportunities can be used to reach those who are not yet connected to a church. Children have friends. Some of those friends do not go to church. Tell them to invite their friends. Let's also make sure we are using these resources to transition children in the church to adults in the church. Help them see their place, their importance, their reason for being in the church and part of this congregation. It is more than fun, service, doctrine and stories. It is about eternity, salvation, and life in Christ.

To do that we need your help! We have people who have stepped up to run these things, but we need you to help. There are many ways you can help but the best way is to be present. Build friendships with these youth and think of ways they can connect to our church. If you've got an idea, share it with me or one of our Youth Ministry leaders.

Let's see our kids as the precious treasure of our church and the Church's future.



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.

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

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



September Birthdays for Shut-Ins

22 Brian Wollenburg

30 Roger Bliese

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

Praise the Lord With Music – Has God given you the talent of music? Consider using your talent to enhance our worship services by getting involved in the handbell choir. Curious? Talk to Dave Ruhnke or Gale Siegfried.

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, Sept. 19**. 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.

Men's Bible Study – We begin this season with a short study entitled, *Have Your Heard--About Gossip?* This will take us through the first two weeks, then on to probably a book of the Bible. We will meet every Thursday at 5:00pm in the Council Room starting September 9th. See you there, and encourage others.

Stewardship

Mark 7:37 "And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, 'He has done all things well ...' " When God created the world it was "very good." And here Jesus does all things well. God is always blessing, always seeking our good. We know this is so but we still struggle to believe it. For if we really believed it, why would we ever do anything contrary to God's will and Law? We know that everything He tells us to do is for our good, and yet we struggle in the weakness of the flesh. Lord we believe, help our unbelief!

LWML NEWS



We plan to start reconnecting with each other. Quilting will be starting on Monday, September 20 at 9:00. Come when you can. Please join us. We have plenty of room to distance ourselves and if you want to stay into the afternoon, bring your own lunch. This is a wonderful mission project and a good time of fellowship for women and men. No sewing experience is necessary and if you don't know how to tie a knot, we will gladly teach you.

September 17 & 18 is the District Fall Women's Retreat. Look for details posted on the bulletin boards.

Tuesday, September 21 we are planning our fall meeting. Supper will be bought and provided at 5:30. We hope to have a speaker from the LWML national convention. This is for all women in our congregation.

Enjoy the rest of the summer serving our Lord. Sandy Grant

Message from the President – the Ambassadors Of Reconciliation (AOR) has issued their written report to St. John's Lutheran Church. The report is available in paper form in the church office and it is also available in PDF if you'd like an electronic copy (from the church office or you're welcome to contact me – dalesiegreid@charter.net). In relation to the report: First – the church council has set up a framework for analyzing the report and undoubtedly will be our main focus of business over the next months. Second – all of us on the council urge all of our members to read the report and when you do, if you have questions, concerns, recommendations, etc. – we urge you to contact head elder Thad Kusick, Pastor Groleau or myself, and third – if you feel strongly about any issues related to the report and want input to the church council, please contact one of the 3 aforementioned people so we can schedule you at an upcoming council meeting. And one other thing – with a number of board positions and the office of Vice President still open we'd welcome you to join one of those boards or accept the position of vice president. And one last thing – please – continue to pray for our church.

Thanks everyone – Dale Siegreid, President

What level of Biblical knowledge have you attained?

Kindergarten: Baptized and confirmed

Elementary school: Attend church services/Bible study

High School: Read and study the Bible daily, attend a Pastor led Bible study regularly, daily devotions

Collage: Read the Bible and commentaries, Luther's Large Catechism, Book of Concord.

Ask questions if you don't understand something.

Admit to yourself that you have just scratched the surface of God's Word. Never stop studying.

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, September 18th at 7:30 a.m., at Barley's Family Restaurant. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

Rally Day

We are planning to begin Sunday School on Sunday, September 12th at 10:00 a.m. After the second worship service at 11:00 we will have a small carnival and noon lunch. Please come join us for the kick off to our 2021/2022 Sunday school year. Come for Sunday school at 10 and stay for worship at 11, then join in on the carnival fun and meal.



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 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.

September sponsors are as follows:

Sept. 5, 2021 Sponsored by Merrill and Bonnie Meier in thankfulness to God for their 64th wedding anniversary they will celebrate Sept. 8th.

Sept. 12, 2021 Sponsored by Ken and Winnie Greenlee in thankfulness to God for their 65th wedding anniversary they will celebrate Sept. 15th.

Sept. 19, 2021 Sponsored by Rosalie Seltz in memory of her husband Dick Seltz also Dick and Rosalie parents Rev. and Mrs. Paul Seltz and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Critchfield.

Sept. 26, 2021 Sponsored by Janet Augustin and family and friends in memory of Janet's husband Dalvin Augustin.

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



**American
Red Cross**

Give Blood!

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood!

Austin Blood Drive

St. John's Lutheran Church

Thursday, September 2, 2021

12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org

enter: Austin MN to schedule an appointment.

Walk-ins accepted.



A new book for the library—***A Log Cabin Christmas Collection.*** This book contains 9 historical romances during American Pioneer Christmases. Some of the authors are: Wanda E Brunstetter, Margaret Brownley, Kelly Eileen Hake and others. The book jacket proclaims: “The American pioneer didn’t have an easy life, but a snug little log cabin was a blessings against the forces of winter. Beside a cozy fire, surrounded by log walls built off his own land, a frontiersman could feel like a king. All he really needed was someone to share his castle.

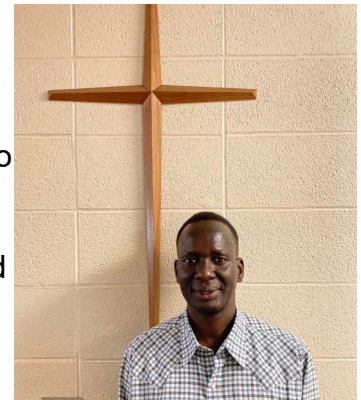
In this exclusive collection of nine Christmas romances, you will relive a pioneer Christmas with all its challenges and delights as penned by some of Christian fiction’s bestselling authors.”

I enjoyed the collection of stories, some more than others of course. I think this book could be read year around not just the Christmas season. You will find bravery, mysterious happenings, love, hope, and so much more in these stories. Read and enjoy. If not on the shelf it soon will be. Find it in St. John’s library—where there are books to meet almost everyone’s reading pleasure. Annette Kiehne

September, 2021

Sudanese Ministry Spotlight

It is an honor for me, Rev. Gatluk Reat, to share more about the ministry to Sudanese people in Southern Minnesota again this month. This month I would like to share with you about the trips back to Africa that I have been able to go on. There is a lot of exciting mission work going on in Africa and I am blessed to be a part of that ministry as well.



My first trip back to Africa was in 2002, just a few years after I arrived in America. I accompanied a group from Trinity, Faribault that included Rev. Robert Snyder and Dr. George Wagner. The purpose of that trip was to do build a church and a clinic in the town of Malow, Ethiopia, which is right on the border between South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Eleven years later, in 2013, I was able to return to Africa with Dr. Wagner and Bill Kirkpatrick. On that trip we were able to dedicate the church building that was started in 2002.

My most recent trip to Africa took place this past summer. When we built the church in Malow we did not have enough funds to finish the church floor. On this trip we were able to install a concrete floor in the church thanks to funds provided by the members of Trinity, Faribault.

Since I am now an ordained pastor, I was also able to travel around the region of Malow and preach the Word of God in many places. The believers in Malow are very grateful for the help they have received from their fellow believers in America over the years.

As you can see, my calling is not just to minister to the Sudanese people in Southern Minnesota. I am also committed to serving the believers 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 and for the believers we are affiliated with in

Africa. 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.blog. If you would like to call me my phone number is: 1-651-399-3959.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SPRING VOTERS' MEETING OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH HELD AT AUSTIN MINNESOTA ON SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021

The annual Spring Voters' meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by President Dale Siegfroid with 38 members present.

OPENING PRAYER: Given by Pastor James Groleau, prior to the pre-meeting meal.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: M/S/P to accept the secretary's report from the fall voters' meeting from 22 November 2020, with the revision to the acceptance at that meeting of the 25 July 2020 meeting minutes which should have indicated Nathan Wradislavsky being removed from the nomination for Vice President and the nomination of Ron Shatek for Vice President.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Dave Watkins, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer's report as of and for the 6 months ended 30 June 2021.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS: Motion by Pam Reistad, seconded and passed, to approve the list of officers and board members effective 1 August 2021. Note: the M/S/P was for the names on the list of officers and board members with an asterisk (*) behind their name.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (required by by-laws to be included in the minutes of this meeting): President Dale Siegfroid reported on the following:

- Urged all boards to send a representative to council meetings, even if they haven't met or have nothing to report
- Indicated the congregational as well as council meetings need to adopt Roberts Rules of Order for their recording of minutes as required by our constitution
- Asked for volunteers from the audience to fill open board positions, and especially asked for a volunteer for the open office of Vice President. There were no takers.
- Noted that the congregation was in good shape from a balance sheet standpoint, but contributions by members is behind budget for the 6 months ended 30 June 2021. The deficit in giving projects to a shortfall of approximately \$18,000 for the year.
- Indicated that President Dale Siegfroid and head Elder Thad Kusick had discussed a framework for reviewing and possible actions once the written report from AOR is received
- Urged everyone to painlessly contribute to the church financially by supporting the Scrip program

- Lastly, and most importantly, urged everyone to put their best “evangelism efforts” forward and offered cards with our church’s information to anyone interested, to hand out to people whenever they hear someone using the Lord’s name inappropriately.

Submitted by Dale Siegfleid, acting secretary for this meeting

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

August 10, 2021

The August 10, 2021, meeting was called to order by President Dale Siegfleid at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Grant, Pastor James Groleau, Dick Heuton, Thad Kusick, Wendy Kusick, David Ruhnke, Dale Siegfleid, Lori Siegfleid, Doraine Graff

OPENING PRAYER: Dick Heuton

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Dick Heuton moved to approve the secretary’s report for July 13, 2021. S/P.

TREASURER’S REORT: Net Operating Loss: \$15,180.10. Net Increase in Designated Funds: \$4,091.28. Net Income (Loss): (\$11,088.82). Dale Siegfleid moved to accept the Treasurer’s report as written. S/P

ELDERS’ REPORT: Thad Kusick

Elders met on Monday August 2nd @ 6:30. Present were Richard Kiehne, Dave Watkins, Thad Kusick, and Pastor James.

Discussed the oral report and reviewed the written report from AoR. Discussed how to prioritize and implement some of the recommendations.

TRUSTEES’ REPORT: Dave Ruhnke

The Board selected David Ruhnke as Chairman of the Board.

The asphalt parking lot has been around 47 years and may have had an asphalt over lay one time. It was seal coated 4 years ago and after consulting with two contractors, it is recommended that to halt further crumbling that another layer of asphalt be applied. Four contractors were contacted and two responded. Ace was \$131,000 and Ulland Bros. was \$84,550. Ulland would mill off 1.5” and overlay 2” of asphalt. Board of Trustees recommends that we hire Ulland Bros. to do the work.

Dave Ruhnke moved that we hire Ulland Bros. to put on more asphalt on parking lot for \$84,550 this year with the money to come out of the Building Fund. Dick Heuton moved to table Dave’s motion to get more information. After further discussion, Dick withdrew his motion. Dave’s motion seconded & passed.

Our organ tuner has made us aware that major work is needed on the pipe organ. A \$400 repair is needed at this time on the valve of one pipe in a pipe rank that is used a lot, and that work will be completed. However, that and other past issues are a foreshadow of more major work that does need to be done. The electrical components on the wind chest are at least as old as this installation that goes back to the mid-1970’s when the organ was brought over from the old church. Each pipe has a separate electric valve that needs to be updated to

digital technology along with complimentary components in the console (keyboard). The estimated cost from our organ tuner is \$50,000-\$60,000. The work is not urgent but should be done in the next 3-4 years. Trustees will obtain other opinions, but in the mean time we recognize that the work needs to be done and recommend that a Memorial Fund be established to raise the money for the updates and that a campaign be established to encourage contributions and memorials.

BOARD OF EDUCATION and YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD: Lori Siegfroid

The two boards met conjointly August 5, 2021, for a brief time due to the fact that there were only two members present (Alisha Meyer, Lori Siegfroid), (absent – Nicole Kramer, Patty Shatek) and also due to many unknown factors at the time of the meeting.

Sunday school was discussed and decided that at this point we will probably do a whole group setting as there may only be 12 to 13 kids present for preschool through 6th grade for Sunday school. After some discussion it was decided to utilize the curriculum created by Pastor James for the whole group setting.

There have been no adult volunteers stepping forward to help at the time of this meeting. We are still hopeful that this will change.

Lori will check with Pastor at the council meeting to see what he is thinking regarding Rally Day which will take place on Sunday, September 12th.

STEWARDSHIP – written report submitted by Wayne Strouf

The Stewardship Board met on Wednesday, August 4 and discussed the duties of the board. One of our duties is to have a stewardship message and handle the Scrip program. We also manage the offering envelopes for the coming year.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Wendy Kusick

Social Ministry met on August 8, 2012. Present: Sharry Watkins, Wendy Kusick, Bonnie Bos

Sharry opened with devotions and discussion. We discussed getting information to update bulletin board with high school/college graduates.

We discussed helping send birthday and anniversary cards to members. We discussed helping deliver Portals of Prayer booklets to members who do not pick them up.

We read and discussed the AoR paper page 22 recommendations.

We discussed asking and helping Kerri Groleau go to a program from our District for pastor's wives in October. Sharry will lead this.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is September 7th at 4:00 p.m.

EVANGELISM: David Grant

The Evangelism Board met on August 9 with three members present.

We looked at the proofs from the billboard company and approved two ads. They will start running on August 16th through September 12th.

We had questions about Rally Day, the Hallelujah Harvest Fest and other activities that we may need to advertise for or if they are going to happen this year.

Church members are being contacted to see if they would like to be part of our board. New member packets are ready and will be given to the two new families.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor James

Youth Ministry at St. John's is attempting to get the wheels of progress started again. The VBS at Our Savior – Brownsdale was a brilliant success. The benefits of that event are on-going. Sunday School, CASE, and Youth are will also get started soon. I believe we're all focusing on the Sunday after Labor Day as the kick off for that.

I continue to visit every shut-in each month.

With the release of the AoR report the short Catechism series I started, on Sunday August 1, was postponed until Sunday September 12 with a new focus. In a similar way to the Red Letter Challenge we conducted, we are going to go through a series titled: A Year in the Catechism. This is a series I have developed over a number of years. Look for more details in the September Newsletter.

A very special, and probably one time only, opportunity has become available to the LCMS Congregations in Austin. A study and conversion with Rev. Dr. Peter A. Meier, every Monday evening at Holy Cross Lutheran Church from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, from August 16 to September 27, 2021. You may attend the event in person or through Zoom. The study material will be handed out on the day of the event. Dr. Peter Meier is the Executive Director for Missions and Outreach for the Florida-Georgia District. More detailed information will be made available on our website and in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dale moved to confirm Kara Grant, David Watkins, Lori Siegfried , and Pastor Groleau as inaugural members of the Child Protection Policy Committee. S/P

Discussion was held on interpretation of Robert's Rules & our church constitution concerning whether or not board reports should be a permanent part of the council minutes. Wendy Kusick made a motion to create a committee to study the situation. Motion seconded & defeated by a 5 to 2 vote. Topic tabled for now with the board reports to be included with the council minutes.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Dave Ruhnke moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. S/P

CLOSING PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Doraine Graff, Council Secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church Financial Recap
January 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021

<u>Undesignated Assets</u>	<u>Balance 1/1/21</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Balance 7/31/2021</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Cash	\$432,709.04	(\$15,854.44)	\$416,854.60	Undesignated Assets represent the funds available for general operating purposes.
Prepays/Other Assets	16,179.66	2,549.88	18,729.54	
Buildings & Land	2,827,692.00	0.00	2,827,692.00	
Liabilities	(2,143.91)	(1,875.54)	(4,019.45)	
Net Operating Income (Loss)		<u>(\$15,180.10)</u>		
<u>Designated Assets</u>				
Building Fund	108,942.05	2,659.59	111,601.64	Designated Assets represent all of the various funds that for the designated purpose.
Needy Family Fund	1,167.08	0.00	1,167.08	
Women's Ministry Fund	1,923.46	0.00	1,923.46	
Musical Equipment Fund	283.68	0.00	283.68	
Library Books Fund	444.17	15.00	459.17	
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	
	<u>195,859.61</u>		<u>199,950.89</u>	
Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets		<u>\$4,091.28</u>		
Net Income (Loss)		<u><u>(\$11,088.82)</u></u>		

September, 2021

**September, 2021
NEWSLETTER**

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Organization



ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Return Service Requested

