St. John's News

October, 2021



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

Church Office:

stjohns@stjohnsaustinlcms.org

Pastor James Groleau:

shepherd@jamesplace.net

St. John's Webpage:

www.stjohnsaustinlcms.org

Live Radio Broadcasts of Worship services every Sunday, 9:00 a.m. at KAUS AM 1480

Watch the service live on line by going to www.stjohnsaustinlcms.org



THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Through Jesus Christ, we

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

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

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

serve all people.

Message from Pastor James

Remember the joke last month? It's an old one. Two guys are walking in the woods. They meet a bear planning his lunch. One guy starts to put on his running shoes. The other explains, "You're never going to outrun the bear." The guy with the shoes says, "I don't have to. I just have to outrun you."

Many churches are trying to 'outrun' or 'out program' other churches, but their goal is to reach out to what is a vsmaller and smaller part of our community. It is trying to bring in people who are already Christian, and already look to our churches for Good News. As long as you can do better than everyone else you might attract more people, for a few more years, but most will fail, because the number of people looking to a church for answers continues to diminish. The result of this failed strategy is, most churches are declining in numbers and increasing in average age.

The fastest growing part of our communities in America are the "Nones" and the "Dones."

"Nones" have no religious preference. They do not align themselves with any faith, Christian or otherwise. They account for nearly half of those entering or attending college.

"Dones" are former members. They often find themselves tired of church politics, structure and limited impact. They decided they're better off without "organized religion."

Most church members and most church leaders are content with a vision of competing with sister congregations for a shrinking pool of interested participants. Especially if they seem to be "winning," There is a finite pool to pull from when your goal is only to target people who are already Christian and already attend a church. Only 20% of America attends church at least once a month. If we only target the 20% it is more likely we are going to be "eaten by the bears" then win. What if we began to strive for the 80%?

The ministry does not belong to paid professionals who alone who do the work. Especially when that is showing less and less promise, as the world becomes more and more unwelcoming of Christianity. The Church is not about an individual or personality (unless that individual is Jesus.) The Church needs to remember its "sent-ness" understanding that we are sent by Jesus into the world. This is the primary task entrusted to the Church by Jesus. He said, "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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded vou." [Matthew 28:19-20]

The old way of doing things has made great listeners but unengaged participants. It is our turn to take responsibility for our current reality. It is our turn to take responsibility for the changes we need to make. Let's get back to the basics. Look to the very early Church in the first 400 years. Through much of the first four centuries there were no institutions, large buildings, and not much for programs, but plenty of "bears" eager to join on the band wagon of persecution. Yet the Church grew from a few, to a majority of the Roman empire. Maybe it's time we remember further back when thinking our future.

As we take our journey through the Catechism don't see it as an old road well traveled. The truth is this road is "less traveled by." Martin Luther read the Catechism (which he wrote) daily. We (if we're honest) don't pick it up yearly. Author and poet Robert Frost wrote:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same, And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden black. Oh, I kept the first for another day! Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one **less traveled by,** And that has made all the difference.

See this walk through the Catechism as a "less traveled by" opportunity to relearn the basics and relearn how to share those basics with others who have not before been by this way. The basics we are learning are, for most in America today, far beyond any place they have ever traveled. You will find yourself far more equipped to share these things than you might imagine.

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



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.

Thursday: Men's Bible Study - join us at 5:00 pm on Thursdays...

Worship Services

Sunday

Weekday

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

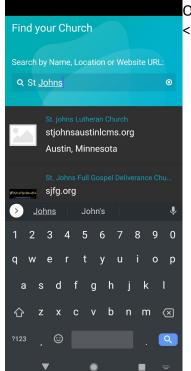
6:30 p.m. Wednesday service (Traditional)

<u>Men's Bible Study</u> – We will meet every Thursday at 5:00pm in the Council Room. See you there, and encourage others.

Women's Bible Study - meets at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoons.

We have an "App!"

If you've got a smart phone we have an app for our church. ---> Download the app called "Our church."

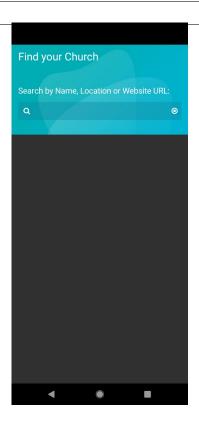


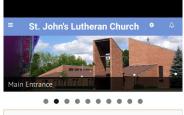
Open the app and type "St Johns"

There is our church.

You'll have access to everything you find on our website.









October, 2021

Sudanese Ministry Spotlight

It is an honor for me, Rev. Gatluk Reat, to share about the ministry to Sudanese people in Southern Minnesota again this month. In this article I would like to share with you what to expect if you join us for a Sudanese worship service.

If you attend one of our worship services you would see that we like to dress up for worship. Casual clothes, which are very common in worship among Americans, are not common among Sudanese worshipers. Men wear suits, women wear dresses and children dress up too. There are almost always one or more choirs and they will be wearing robes.



There will be people present at the designated start time for the service but people will continue to arrive after the service has started.

The order of service is based on a traditional Lutheran liturgy but it is not always followed to the letter. If someone is inspired to share a testimony or an update on what is going on among the Sudanese people or if the choir has extra songs they are inspired to sing no one objects if they do so.

Music will be accompanied either by a keyboard or a drum. The service will be conducted in the Nuer language. The Nuer people are the largest ethnic group in South Sudan.

Americans still frown on using cell phones in church but that is not the case among Sudanese. It is very common for Sudanese people to record parts of the service on their phones or to use their phones to communicate with others during the service. The recordings made during the service are then shared on social media.

For Americans, it is very common to have refreshments after worship services and other church events. This is not common for Sudanese people.

So this is what you can expect when you attend a Sudanese worship service.

Last month I wrote about the trips I have taken back to Africa. My most recent trip was this past summer. On Sunday, October 24, starting at 2:00 p.m., I will be giving a presentation about my recent trip to Africa at Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault. I will share pictures and talk about the mission work there. It would be great if you could join us.

What is a Confessional Lutheran? Part 3

In our world today there are over 2,000 different Christian denominations. That is a lot. That can cause confusion among those who are not Christian. Why so many different denominations? Why can't we all just get along?

The answer to that question lies in understanding what a denomination is. Denominations do not come about because of personality conflicts or differences in opinion. A denomination is a specific confession of faith; a specific profession of the truth of God's Word. These differences in faith cannot simply be overlooked or compromised on matters of our salvation.

Some try to downplay these differences, perhaps stating the Bible does not speak of denominations. Though Bible does not have the word 'denomination' in it, it does talk about the confession of the truth, and how important the truth is. It is this very truth that the Lutheran Confessional writings strive to maintain and proclaim. It is because the truth matters that they were written. It is because the truth matters that we study them. They speak the unchangeable truth that does not change.

To be a Lutheran is much more than simply a title or a denomination. It means to believe, teach, confess and practice the truth and faith as taught and explained in the Lutheran Confessions. It is to hold the Lutheran Confessions as the correct exposition, explanation and understanding of the Word of God. If we begin to believe, teach, confess and practice something else we have, by definition, stopped being Lutheran.

Striving for the truth is not just something the Reformers considered important. It is spoken of constantly and consistently in the Scriptures. The Bible warns, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump." *[Galatians 5":9]* A little bit of false doctrine matters because it never stays little. It works through the whole truth and the whole Church, growing a poison of lies. *[John 8:44]*

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

700 12th Street Southwest, Austin, MN

DAYS AND HOURS

3rd Thursday of the Month Registration begins at 4:00 PM

Food bundles available 4:00-5:30 PM

goodnews@rubyspantry.org www.rubyspantry.org

Bob Rosel, Media Coordinator Ruby's Pantry Austin

FROGs (Faithful Retired Old Guys) Calling all retired guys! Join us at the church on the first Tuesday of every month (**Oct. 5th**). FROGs offers both a social component and a volunteer component. Come the first Tuesday of each month for coffee and fellowship. We will also be looking for ideas to serve, doing general maintenance or upkeep activities or other creative ways to serve the Lord here at St. John's. Volunteer to serve if you want. If not, just come for the fellowship. All are welcome... just show up!

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, October 16th at 7:30 a.m., at Barley's Family Restaurant. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

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



October Birthdays for Shut-Ins

04 Brian King04 Lois Schmidt13 Judy DeYoung13 Meri Jo Lonergan15 Diane Joseph

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

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

<u>Praise the Lord With Music</u> – 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 Siegfreid.

<u>Script cards</u> 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, <u>Sunday</u>, <u>Oct. 17</u>. 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.

<u>Lunch Bunch!</u> We have started our monthly lunch outing again. We choose a different restaurant each month. Call the office if you would like to come and get to socialize with fellow St. John's members.

Stewardship

Luke 14:5 – "And he said to them, 'Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" The time is always ripe to do right. God is always calling us to faithfulness and love, which is the fulfillment of the Law. The Pharisees wanted an easier law – something less than love – that was easier to keep. Why? Because they thought they had to in order to be saved. But since we know that Jesus saves by His sacrifice, we are free to see the real Law of love and to strive to fulfill it not out of fear but out of thanksgiving.

LWML NEWS

Fall is upon us and we can see God's handiwork in changing of the trees and the farmers harvesting their crops. LWML had our first in person meeting which was wonderful. We have really missed being able to meet together. The quilters have started and are eager to have others join us Monday mornings at 9 AM. LWML has received a generous donation of prayer

shawls. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving one just let Sandy Grant, Miriam Luehmann or myself know. We will be sure that person receives one. October 9,2021, the Owatonna Conference will meet at Trinity, Janesville. The speaker is Dr Jim Seman, District Prison Coordinator. Please take a look at the flyers on the east and west bulletin boards. October is LWML month. We will be having mite offerings for the month of October. Please place your mites in the big mite boxes that are in the church or give to Ellen Petersen. God Bless. Francine Strouf

Portals of Prayer - December Devotions

The Portals of Prayer Devotion Booklets for October-December are out & available to all. The 14 Matt Auringer Portals contain "nuggets of gold" from God's Word for us to ponder each day, & prayers for special occasions & problems that we encounter & want to bring to our Lord. Of special interest this quarter are the December devotions which were written by Pastor Tom Ogilvie. He served our congregation from 2009-2014. He is currently the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa. Be sure to pick up your copy of the Portals on the ushers stand.

RADIO MINISTRY

Members of St. Johns and Friends,

Thank you to all who have supported the Radio Broadcast and continue to support it. God is faithful in providing us with sponsors of the radio broadcast as we have needs. We are fairly full from now until the end of the year but in January we will start having several openings again. We 24 Lori Siegfreid are thankful to be able to continue this ministry because of the support of our members, friends, 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.

October sponsors are as follows:

Oct. 3, 2021 Sponsored by St. John's LWML in thankfulness to God for the radio broadcast outreach to our community.

Oct. 10, 2021 Sponsored by Cheryl Qualey and family and friends in memory of Cheryl's parents Harry and Lois Anderson.

Oct. 17, 2021 Sponsored by Dave & Sharry Watkins celebrating God's Blessings on our children, their spouse's, 7 grandchildren and a "Special" prayer for our St. John's church family!

Oct. 24, 2021 Sponsored by Edna Freese and family in memory of Edna's husband Joe Freese, her son Tom Freese, and her son-in-law Dallas Lemmen.

Oct. 31, 2021 Sponsored by Pauline Field in memory of her husband Irving Field.

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

October Birthdays

- 02 David Kramer
- 02 Javante Pineda
- 03 Emily McAlister
- 03 Lindsey Wylde
- 04 Brian King
- 04 Lois Schmidt
- 04 Amy Steinbrink
- 05 Gale Siegfreid
- 06 Tim Carlson
- 06 Butch Grabau
- 08 Karen Jacobs
- 08 Brian Stough
- 12 Kristen Maas
- 13 Judy DeYoung
- 13 Meri Jo Lonergan
- 14 Myla Anderson
- 14 Kylea Rupe
- 15 Diane Joseph
- 15 Asher Kramer
- 17 Clayton Petersen 17 Gerhard Wollenburg
- 19 Wendy Kusick
- 20 Kathy Carlson
- 21 Sara Wradislavsky
- 22 Doraine Graff
- 22 Hapickaw Ogilla
- 23 Walt Wollenburg
- 25 Annette Kiehne
- 27 Harold Rohne
- 27 Stacey Rupe
- 29 Albie Gilsrud

October Anniversaries

- 04 Thad & Wendy Kusick 08 Kim & Sue Downey 20 Katy & Robert Hodge
- 22 Rachel & Eric Sippel

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING September 14, 2021

The September 14, 2021, meeting was called to order by President Dale Siegfreid at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Grant, Dick Heuton, Marsha Jensen, Thad Kusick, Pastor James, Dale Siegfreid, Lori Siegfreid

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor James led us in a Bible study from The Lutheran Witness.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: David Grant moved to approve the secretary's report for August 10, 2021. S/P

TREASURER'S REORT: Net Operating Loss: \$17,371.55. Net Increase in Designated Funds: \$6,850.67. Net Income (Loss): \$10,520.55. Marsha Jensen moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written. S/P. Budget procedure & potential date for fall voters' meeting discussed.

ELDERS' REPORT: Thad Kusick

Elders met on Tuesday September 7th @ 6:30. Present Richard Kiehne, Dave Watkins, Thad Kusick and Pastor James.

Discussed AoR report and created our top priorities we are going to work on and have been work on. This list below is not in order of importance its a list we felt were of most important.

Number 2 The Need for every lay and called leader of St John's make a renewed commitment to study God's word.

One step - (Bring your Bible and Catechism to Church - Pastor going to implement asking us to open our Bibles/Catechism during service).

Number 14 Begin a pastor-led Sunday morning study - this has started and plans are already in motion on this.

Number 3 Identify a core group of people to build a reconciliation ministry

Number 7 & 8 Stop Gossip and Blaming

September 25th - Elders and Pastor are getting together to work through the rest of the priorities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT: Marsha Jensen

Our organ maintenance company, J.W. Draeger, replaced a dead valve on the organ for \$425; Harty Mechanical performed the fall preventive maintenance on the HVAC system last week; floor mats were trimmed to get rid of broken edges and Velcro was added to the east door mat to try to keep it from moving as a trip hazard. Parking lot cannot be done until spring as the company is busy.

BOARD OF EDUCATION and YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD: Lori Siegfreid

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Alisha Meyer, Patty Shatek, Jodi VanPelt, and Lori Siegfreid

Absent: Nicole Kramer

Both boards met conjointly for a brief time due to activity conflicts.

Rally Day – September 12 th

Sunday school begins at 10:00 and Lori will teach. Classes will be held in the

choir room as one whole group. Lori will purchase snacks for Sunday school.

Noon meal will consist of hot dogs, buns, chips, apples with caramel and

lemonade. Jodi will purchase the hot dogs, buns, chips, ketchup and mustard at Cosco.

(Jodi donated the food items). Patty will donate apples and purchase individual caramel packets to serve with the apples. We are planning for 50 people.

Alisha, Jodi, Patty and Lori will be available after Sunday school and the second church service to work in the kitchen and get out outdoor activities. Outdoor activities to include the parachute, tunnels, hoola hoops, sidewalk chalk, corn hole game and tubular golf.

AOR report – Members were encouraged to read through the AOR report so that at our next meeting we can discuss any suggestions in the report that pertain to this board. Goals and Objectives for 2021/2022 – This is another item to discuss at our next meeting. Next Meeting will be Wednesday, October 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Child Protection Policy Six Month Rule: In order to allow other LCMS members from other churches to collaborate & work with our children, Lori Siegfreid moved to amend the Child Protection Policy Six Month Rule to read, "No person will be considered for any volunteer position involving contact with children until s/he has been active at a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Southern Minnesota for a minimum of six (6) months." S/P

STEWARDSHIP: The stewardship board met September 8, at 6 PM. In attendance were Harold Rohne, Lee Grant and Wayne Strouf. We discussed when we should order offering envelopes for the next year. We also discussed the script program.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Social Ministry Board met on September 7 with 3 members present.

We discussed and completed the following projects.

We updated the bulletin board for the college students.

Reservations were made for the Pastor's wives retreat for Kerri Groleau and Yeroon Malaku. Holy Cross will reimburse us for Pastor Olana's wife.

100 pairs of shoes were delivered to Shoe Away Hunger in Minneapolis.

Cards were ordered and received for birthday cards for our members. These mailings will start soon

EVANGELISM: David Grant

The Evangelism board did not meet in person but we talked with each other.

The billboard ads have been running and the 3 of us have stopped to view them and were pleased with how they looked. We increased the CASE, Rally Day and Jesus Loves You ads the last week to showcase what was coming up at St. John's.

Church members are being contacted to see if they would like to be part of our board.

New member packets were given to the 2 new families.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor James

A great deal of work was put into the implementation of a cross cultural/generational program of worship and education during the summer. I've attended a number of conferences, and continuing education functions, to that end.

Pre-COVID we had intended to start number of new initiative including:

⊕ PABLO – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach. A group that helps facilitate bringing Jesus to people outside the Church. www.poblo.org

① UpWorks – Help develop skills and education to foster better work opportunities. www.upworksmn.org

⊕ OAfC – On Going Ambassadors for Christ –A group that facilitates outreach within communities for the LCMS www.oafc.org

UpWorks did not survive COVID, but we'll explore opportunities to replace that effort. We've added to this list "Laurel Community School" www.laurelcs.org We plan to have the founder of this school speak in Austin in September. As her schedule allows.

It is our intention to work with these groups in conjunction with, primarily, Our Savior – Brownsdale and Holy Cross – Austin. Other congregations are also participating. Pastor Olana and I have worked on doing more together with the three congregations and there is much that we see our congregations doing together in the mission of the Church. I pray these and additional efforts will be profitable to Christ's Kingdom within all three congregations. I would encourage everyone to explore these groups, learn what they are about, and how you might contribute to the ministry we have here. We will have speakers from each of these groups presenting their organizations. They are all ROS of the LCMS. (Recognized Service Organizations), or are working through the process to become one. Meaning the LCMS approves and supports working with these groups to enhance ministry work done by a congregation. www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-service-organizations September Initiatives (YwtC = Year with the Catechism)

- Worship services Will follow the YwtC pericope list provided in the last Newsletter.
- ② Sunday Morning Bible study Delve deeper into the YwtC work.
- Wednesday Evening Bible study will begin a class called "Structured for Missions."
- ① Sunday School restart Will use Bible lessons I've compiled to teach Catechism concepts through Bible events and accounts aligned with the Catechism topic for the week.
- ① CASE restart Walking through the Bible in a year utilizing my "God's Message and God's Plan" Bible lessons.
- ② Senior youth are exploring the Sunday Morning adult Bible study material.
- ① Confirmation will be going through Year-One material which will serendipitously coincide with much of the YwtC series.

With the restart of CASE we will have two worship services on Wednesday.

- ② 4:30pm will be a 30-40 minute Teaching Praise services walking through the Bible in a year.
- © 6:30pm will continue to be a repeat of Sunday 9:00am Traditional service.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor James moved to have our church (St. John's) charter & host Cub Scout Troop 113, allow them to use our space for meetings, and park their trailer on the church's property. S/P

ADJOURNMENT: Thad Kusick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Doraine Graff, Council Secretary

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

<u>Undesignated</u>					
<u>Assets</u>		Balance 1/1/21	<u>Activity</u>	Balance 8/31/2021	<u>Notes</u>
	Cash	\$432,709.04	(\$14,039.23)	\$418,669.81	Undesignated Assets
	Prepaids/Other Assets	16,179.66	(1,111.96)	15,067.70	represent the funds
	Buildings & Land	2,827,692.00	0.00	2,827,692.00	available for general
	Liabilities	(2,143.91)	(2,220.03)	(4,363.94)	operating purposes.
Net Operating Income (Loss)			(\$17,371.22)		
<u>Designated</u> <u>Assets</u>					
	Building Fund	108,942.05	6,094.29	115,036.34	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	(938.00)	19,489.21	
	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	4,169.23	45,158.31	
		195,859.61		202,710.28	
Increase (Decrease) in Designated					
Assets		\$6,850.67			
Net Income (Loss)					

October, 2021

October, 2021 NEWSLETTER





ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Return Service Requested