

St. John's News

January, 2022



Church: 507-433-2642

Pastor: Cell 320-336-8149

Church Office:

stjohns@stjohnsaustincms.org

Pastor James Groleau:

shepherd@jamesplace.net

St. John's Webpage:

www.stjohnsaustincms.org

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

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



THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Through Jesus Christ, we

proclaim God's Word,

encourage one another in faith,

witness to God's love and

serve all people.

Message from Pastor James

Greeting to you in Jesus' Name! We spent some time during the Advent season hearing about Old Testament prophecies fortelling of the Christmas birth. We learned something about our God and how much He cares for us. Christmas is a time of year full of energy and anticipation and here in church the Christmas excitement is not finished in the new Church Year. First we'll have two Sundays within the 12 days of Christmas. Then we enter a time called Epiphany that will take us right into Lent and Ash Wednesday on March 2

Epiphany is a Greek word that means understanding or discovery. It is at this time in the Church Year that we remember those wise men who came from the East to worship and give honor to little Jesus. Those wise men had an epiphany (an understanding) about who Jesus really was. They gave Him three gifts which signify so much about whom they knew Him to be. They gave: Gold which was the gift given at the birth of a king apparent. The Wise Men knew Jesus was the King of kings. They gave Frankincense which was the incense burned at the installation of a new priest. The Wise Men knew Jesus was our Great High Priest or Mediator between us and our Heavenly Father. They also gave Myrrh which was the incense

burned at a funeral of royalty or priests. A funeral gift to a new baby may seem strange but the Wise Men knew Jesus would die for the sins of the whole world. They knew all these things because the Old Testament told them so.

My prayer for you is that you would have an epiphany about the importance of Jesus in your life, and the importance of worship, the importance of God's Holy Word and these sacred Sacraments which bring forgiveness, life and salvation to all repentant sinners. I also pray that you would see clearly the opportunities God places in your life to share the truths and promises we learn every week with those around you. Help them have that same epiphany that opens their hearts and minds to the salvation won for us all through Jesus.

That is the miracle of Christmas and the celebration of Epiphany. The fact is Christ has come. He came for you. He died for you. He rose for you. When He returns, He will return for you. You are a forgiven child of the Most High. Merry Christmas, and Happy Epiphany!

Since new year's resolutions are all the rage this time of year the following devotion may prompt a better one than most:

Psalm 17:1 Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit!

A man tells of a strange discovery he made as he was walking along a country lane. In a weedy fence corner, he noticed a large stone that had been hollowed out as a watering trough. Upon closer examination, he found on the stone a noble inscription: "My help comes from the Lord." Yet instead of offering water to the birds and animals, the hollow of the stone, the trough, was now full of rotting leaves. Further investigation revealed that there actually was a well on the hill above. Also there had been a pipe leading from the well to the stone, but it had long been broken and rusted. There was still need for water in the fence corner, and there was still an ample supply of water up on the hill, but the contact, the means between the need and the supply, had been broken.

Isn't that a good picture of the Means of Grace, that is, the Word of God spoken and written Word, the Word of God in Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Isn't that a good picture of the Means of Grace in the life of so many, or maybe the lack of the Means of Grace in the life of so many? The need for God's help in our lives should be evident to everyone. God is ready, at all times, and in every kind of difficulty, to help and sustain us. The problem is the contact we can have with God by the Means of Grace can be broken and rusted as a result of neglect. People are all too often inclined to ignore one of life's greatest treasures: the sources of faith, strength, peace and courage in Christ. There is nothing we need most urgently than faith, strength, peace and courage in Christ.

When we have God's strength and peace we will want to communicate back to Him. That is prayer. Jesus knew the power of prayer, as He spoke often with the our Father in heaven. It didn't matter when or where. He prayed at His Baptism [Luke 3:21]; He withdrew from crowds to pray [Luke 5:16]; He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest [Luke 22:43-44]; and He prayed three times on the cross as He was dying for you [Luke 23:34; Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34].

Prayer is, or certainly should be, a vital and active part of our lives as we are strengthened through the Means of Grace through the Holy Word of God, especially when things are not going so well. It is said that on one occasion when the great evangelist Dwight L. Moody was crossing the Atlantic, a fire broke out in the hold of the ship. A friend said to Moody: "Let us go to the other side of the ship and engage in prayer." The evangelist replied: "No! We will stand right here and pass buckets and pray all the time." That's living like Jesus did, praying while serving, all the time staying close to our Heavenly Father.

Unlike that hollowed-out stone that hadn't received a drop of water in a long time, let us receive God's life-giving strength through His Word and then talk with God regularly. Ithere we will receive blessings of refreshment from Him. Blessings that are good for us and good for others.

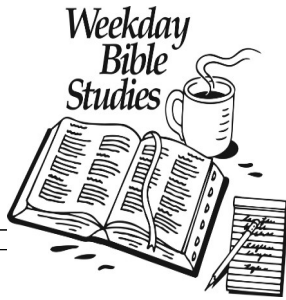
May our new year's resolution be a refocused devotion to bolstering our faith.

Pastor James.

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

Sunday: Adult Bible class at 10:00 a.m. Pastor James is leading discussion on the Catechism

Tuesday: Women's Bible study meets at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's.

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

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)

Men's Bible Study -Men's Bible Study - How do you answer someone when they point out a seeming bible contradiction? We will learn how to answer starting **January 6th** with a study of those apparent contradictions in the Bible. Join us for the answers every Thursday 5:00-6:00 pm in the Council Room.

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, January 15th at 7:30 a.m., at Barley's Family Restaurant. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

Matthew 12:30, [ESV](#): "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

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 (**Jan. 4th**). 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!

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

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, January 16**. 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.

Sunday School Scoop



Sunday school continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 10:10 following the 9:00 worship service. Snacks are provided and we are following the year of the catechism study provided by Pastor Groleau. The Sunday School children participated in a Youth Christmas program during the 9:00 worship service on December 19th. The Sunday school children also made little gifts for the shut-ins that were distributed with cookies provided by members of the congregation. Preschool through 5th grade are welcome to attend Sunday school and middle school/high school are welcome to attend a youth group class on Sunday mornings.

It is that time of year when we need to get out the winter wear. The tree is up in the west entry with hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. If you need an item or know of someone who is in need please feel free to take the items. Donations are welcome.

Since we are starting a new year let us make a New Year's resolution. Be it resolved I will always capitalize Bible – God's Holy Word. Book titles are always capitalized except for words such as the, of, etc. Thus Bible is always capitalized.

Members of St. Johns and Friends,

Happy New Year!

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 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:

January Birthdays

- 1 Berhane Bekele
- 2 Curt Anderson
- 3 Pat Mulso
- 5 Terry Wradislavsky
- 6 John Adeleke
- 7 Elizabeth Amaya
- 7 ElleIn Petersen
- 9 Eric Grant
- 11 Dereen Ernst
- 11 Wayne Wollenburg
- 13 Kretta Menuey
- 17 Susan Gosh
- 19 Isaac Bos
- 19 Kyla Groleau
- 19 Patty Shatek
- 20 Brett Farrell
- 21 Alanna Grant
- 23 Brianna Farrell
- 23 Ruth Oelkers
- 23 Pam Waters
- 25 Tyler Bos
- 25 Adryan Leshner
- 31 Troy Watkins

January Anniversaries

- 21 Dick Heuton/Gale Siegfried
- 22 Dave & Jane Ruhnke
- 24 Darrel & Dianne Bahn
- 25 Larry & Debbie Vorpahl
- 25 Richard & Kaaren Wuertz

Jan. 2, 2022 Sponsored by Miriam Luehman in loving memory of her husband Lloyd Luehmann.

Jan. 9, 2022 Sponsored by Kim and Sue Downey in memory of Sue’s parents Darrell and Grace Stacy.

Jan. 16, 2022 Given in memory of Violet and Richard Wood, Dale Wood and Lou Vidman by Mavis Wood.

Jan. 23, 2022 Sponsored by Ken and Winnie Greenlee in memory of Nola Greenlee. Nola passed away Sept. 12, 2021, her birthday would be New Year’s Eve.

Jan. 30, 2022 Sponsored by Gary and Sherry (Hartwig) Ehret in memory of Sherry’s father Corlos (Cork) Hartwig.

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

The book starts on a plane with Jessie and her 10 year old son Spencer (nickname Splint) flying from London to Tanzania, Africa. Jessica has inherited a house on Zanzibar Island and they will be living there. Splint has lots of questions, but the most important to him is “does my Dad live there?” Other characters are introduced as the story weaves in and out about the daily happenings. Jessica is an artist and has a contract illustrating a series of children’s books. The house belonged to her art professor and is filled with his works. The story starts to pick up speed and it’s hard to put the book down. How the Holy Spirit works is always a mystery, but He is busy working in and on some of the book characters. You will find **A Whisper of Danger** by Catherine Palmer in our church library.



January always seems like a good month to read when it’s cold out and staying home is a good way to stay out of bad weather. Take a look in our church library or the mini library in the west entry for a good book to read. As the old commercial used to say, “try it, you’ll like it.”

Annette Kiehne



**American
Red Cross**

Give Blood!

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

Austin Blood Drive

Tuesday January 11th, 2022

12:00 PM - 06:00 PM

Call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org

enter: Austin MN to schedule an appointment.

Walk-ins accepted.

January, 2022

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.

This month I would like to share with you the names of those who have agreed to serve on the Sudanese Ministry Steering Committee. As the name implies, the purpose of this committee is to work with me to guide and promote the ministry to Sudanese people in our area.

Members of the committee come mostly from the two circuits of the Minnesota South District in which most of my ministry happens, the Faribault and Austin circuits.

From the Faribault Circuit there is Rev. Armand Boehme, who supervised me during my seminary training and Rev. Paul Rieger, who is the senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Faribault, the congregation that hosts many of our Sudanese worship services and other activities.

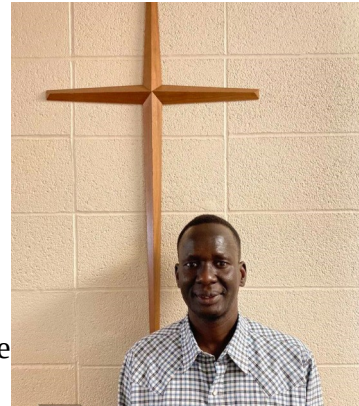
From the Austin Circuit there is Rev. Loel Wessel, the pastor of First English Lutheran Church in Spring Valley, who has been very supportive of my ministry over the years.

The lay members of the steering committee are Chang Rauch from Rochester, Mary Pouk and Kaway Guin from Albert Lea, and Nyawal Ruot from Austin.

Rev. Kirk Griebel from Redeemer Lutheran, Owatonna and Dan Haupt from Linc – Twin Cities are serving as advisory members of the committee.

I am very pleased with the willingness and qualifications of the members of the steering committee. Please pray for this committee as it seeks to enhance our ministry to Sudanese people in Southern Minnesota.

If you have questions please contact me at 651-399-3959 or gatluklul@yahoo.com.





Happy New Year!

January comes with new resolutions. Have you made some to be more involved with learning about Jesus or serving Him through church and community involvement? Sunday, January 23 we will be having our church birthday party. Remember, we all celebrate our birthday on this day. Lunch will be served so please sign up so we know how many to plan for. Sign up sheets will be on both bulletin boards. Also sign up to bring a cake for a month. That sign up sheet will be by the office. Let's have a fun time together. God bless your month. Sandy Grant

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Downey, Doraine Graff, Dick Heuton, Marsha Jensen, Thad Kusick, Dale Siegfleid, Lori Siegfleid, Wayne Strouf__

OPENING PRAYER: Thad Kusick opened with prayer & a devotion from The Lutheran Witness.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Thad moved to accept the Secretary's Report for 11-9-2021. S/P

TREASURER'S REPORT: Net Operating Loss: (\$18,156.80). Net Increase Designated Funds: \$11,338.74. Net Income Loss: (\$6,818.06). Wayne Strouf moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. S/P. Dick indicated we will be incurring a one-time fee of \$299 & an on-going monthly fee of \$29 to upgrade our record keeping software.

ELDERS' REPORT: Thad Kusick. Pastor James, Dave Watkins, Richard Kiehne and Thad Kusick were in attendance December 6th at 6:30.

We started the meeting with a Portal of Prayer Devotion and a then a Bible Study from Lutheran Witness. We continued conversations around the AoR report. Action to transfer Tim & Cathy Carlson to St Paul's in Perham MN.

Thad Kusick moved to transfer Tim & Cathy Carlson to St. Paul's in Perham, MN. S/P _

TRUSTEES' S REPORT: Marsha Jensen. Made arrangements with Boy and Cub Scouts to get their flags and flag bases up off the storage room floor.

The Spruce-Up Committee's final report was presented and discussed. If we hired professionals to paint and make recommended repairs it would cost over \$12,000. Further discussion and consideration will be given at next month's Trustees meeting of ways to substantially reduce that cost. Other recommendations could involve volunteer help for replacing bulbs and broken ceiling tile, cleaning and paint ceiling registers, attending the courtyard, and general cleaning and organizing to improve overall appearances in the building.

The dishwasher is out of commission for now as we were sent the wrong pump seal. Our 1970s era dishwasher model has long since been discontinued and there are few parts still available. Efforts are being made to secure the correct seal.

BOARD OF EDUCATION and YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD: Lori Siegfleid.
12, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

December

Present: Patty Shatek, Jodi VanPelt, and Lori Siegfleid

Christmas Program:

Program will take place on Sunday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m. Kerri is taking care of directing and organizing the program which will involve the Sunday school children and the middle school/high school youth.

Patty has volunteered to check into getting gifts for the children and youth. She will check at Hobby Lobby and Dollar Tree for Christmas ornaments. There are 11 Sunday school children and approximately 7 youth that will be participating in the program.

Lori will purchase apples, oranges, and candy for the treat bags as well as provide paper lunch bags.

Jodi will check into ordering a Jesus birthday cake to be served after the program in the fellowship hall to everyone in attendance.

Any children that stay after for the celebration in the fellowship hall will be invited to come to the Sunday school room to watch a video so the adults can still attend Bible class.

Following the church service on Wednesday, December 15th at the boards will put together the treat bags and gift bags for the youth and children which will be distributed on Sunday, December 19th following the program

Next Meeting:

The boards do not plan to meet during the month of January but will meet again on Wednesday, February 2nd at 7:30 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP: Wayne Strouf

The Stewardship board met on December 1, at 6 PM, with 2 members present.

We made plans for getting out the offering envelopes. We also had a lengthy discussion about supporting a special fund for repairing the parking lot. That way we thought we could have most of the money on hand before we do the repair work.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: No report.

EVANGELISM: Sue Downey. Ruth and Dave met December 8 after church. Sue has been working with the billboard company on proofs. We looked over the billboard holiday proofs and made a few corrections. They will run December 20-24 at the Sterling location.

We talked about the shopper ad and if we should run an ad. We decided to run a small ad for the December 21st shopper.

PASTOR'S REPORT: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Discussed going door-to-door again to invite people to our church.

ADJOURNMENT: Doraine moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. S/P

CLOSING PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Doraine Graff, Council Secretary

MEMORY VERSE

**BLESSED BE THE GOD
AND FATHER OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST! ACCORDING
TO HIS GREAT MERCY,
HE HAS CAUSED US TO BE
BORN AGAIN TO A LIVING
HOPE THROUGH THE
RESURRECTION OF JESUS
CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.**

1 PETER 1:3



Why is the Old Testament important even today? Hasn't the New Testament replaced it? Q: Why is the Old Testament important even today? Hasn't the New Testament completely replaced the Old?

A: Both the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God (Heb.1:1), authored by the one and same Holy Spirit. No one can discard either one without incurring the wrath of God. Essentially the two are the same in that they both contain the same moral law and the same Gospel message that sinners are saved alone by grace in His Son, the Messiah, who was to come. The Gospel of Christ is the central message of the entire Bible, essential for our salvation. Jesus affirmed that He is the Christ of the Old Testament (Luke 24:25-27). Above all, we need the Old Testament to see Jesus in it and to know what He fulfilled for us. We also need the Old Testament, because, being God-breathed, it is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16) It can be used for edifying and encouraging one another. Without It we would not understand much of the New Testament, especially why God sent Jesus. History, examples of those who had faith and of those who rejected God's promises, wisdom for life, etc. would be missing. We need the Old Testament! And that's what the ancient Christian Church said when they established the list of authentic books of God's Word, the Bible. The Bible is to be used as a whole for our justification and sanctification. Usage: We urge you to contact an LCMS pastor in your area for more in-depth discussion. Published by: LCMS Church Information Center ©The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295 888-843-5267 • infocenter@lcms.org • www.lcms.org/faqs

Did Jesus have any siblings? Q: My husband and I recently went to see the movie, 'The Passion.' I was wondering who the man was with Mary and Mary Magdalene. My husband believes it was Jesus' brother, James. My mother and I were unaware that Jesus had a brother. Why isn't there more talk about Jesus' entire family, if it is true that James was his brother?

A: Perhaps a couple of comments in response to your letter will be helpful. Based on my own viewing of The Passion of the Christ, it is my understanding that the young man present on numerous occasions with Mary and Mary Magdalene was the disciple John, the Beloved—who became the "son" of the Mother of Jesus, and she his "Mother." There are a number of "James" referred to in the New Testament, including one called "brother of the Lord." He is listed first among the brothers of Jesus, presumably as the oldest of them (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3). Most scholars think that he is the same person as the one simply referred to as James in the book of Acts (12:17; 15:13; 21:18; 1 Cor. 15:7) and in Galatians (2:9, 12). There has been some dispute regarding the relationship between Jesus and James, the natural interpretation being that James was the son of Mary and Joseph (thus a "half-brother" to Jesus). In the history of the Christian church, some believing in the perpetual virginity of Mary developed the view that Jesus and James were foster brothers, while others conjectured that they were cousins. LCMS theologians have found no difficulty with the view that Mary and Joseph themselves together had other children, including James. Usage: We urge you to contact an LCMS pastor in your area for more in-depth discussion. Published by: LCMS Church Information Center ©The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295 888-843-5267 • infocenter@lcms.org • www.lcms.org/faqs

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

<u>Undesignated Assets</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>1/1/21</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Balance 11/30/2021</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Cash	\$432,709.04	(\$15,359.44)	\$417,349.60	Undesignated Assets represent the funds available for general operating purposes.
Prepays/Other Assets	16,179.66	574.52	16,754.18	
Buildings & Land	2,827,692.00	0.00	2,827,692.00	
Liabilities	(2,143.91)	(3,281.88)	(5,425.79)	
Net Operating Income (Loss)		(\$18,066.80)		
<u>Designated Assets</u>				
Building Fund	108,942.05	10,351.36	119,293.41	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	(35.00)	409.17	
Choir Robes Fund	3,111.00	0.00	3,111.00	
Memorial Fund	20,427.21	(1,438.00)	18,989.21	
Praise Band Fund	3,135.40	0.00	3,135.40	
Youth Fund	8,846.87	502.43	9,349.30	
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		207,108.35	
Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets		\$11,248.74		
Net Income (Loss)		(\$6,818.06)		

January, 2022

**January, 2022
NEWSLETTER**



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Austin, MN
Non-Profit
Organization

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Return Service Requested

