

St. John's News

February, 2022



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Pastor: Cell 320-336-8149

Church Office:

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Pastor James Groleau:

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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

Why is Bible study important? Why should it be the first thing we do, not the last (if we have time)? God's Word is not in the way, it is the way. If God's Word is the last thing we do (if we have time) why should we expect God to bless our work done in His name. The work of the Church is the work of God. We can not do the work of the Church without looking to God's Word to see what that work should be, and how it should be done. If you catch yourself saying, "I don't have time" or "I already know that stuff" you are in far more trouble then you recognize.

The holiday (*holy days*) season is a time to remember when God came to save us, however the busyness of the time with church, family, travel, presents and more can break into our time with God. Add to that football, the Super Bowl, weather and more... with a little reflection you can look back and see God was given the back-of-the-bus seat.

With the new year comes a time to reflect and reset. Resolutions are useful so let's resolve to get back to God's Word and learn more of His will for us. As we wind down our study of the Lord's Prayer and walk into March we will begin the time of Lent and our look at the Sacred Supper we receive from God to heal, strengthen and save us.

I would encourage everyone to make that new year's resolution to join us for Bible study each Sunday morning at 10am.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

Psalm 139:17

Seven is a good Biblical number and 777 is often used to represent God. What follows is 21 (3x7) reasons to study God's Word using God's Word as our guide.

1. Receiving Direction

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105

It's important to study the Bible because God's Word guides you in the right direction through life. It lights the way so you can see clearly through the storms of life. Through every season you can be confident God is always leading you through His Word.

2. Answered Prayer

If you abide in me, and my words
abide in you,
ask whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you.

John 15:7

When God's Words abide in you, you will be able to pray according to His will and have confidence He hears you. [1 John 5:14] This isn't simply wishful thinking. Studying the Bible gives you God's heart and mind for your life, and for people around you. God joy is in answering when you pray from this place of abiding in His Word.

3. Strengthened in Faith

Faith comes from hearing,
and hearing through the word of
Christ.

Romans 10:17

Being exposed to God's Word energizes and feeds faith in you. You will know what to believe and on what to foundation your faith. There

you will find a deeper knowing in your heart and mind which only God's Word can bring.

4. Nourishment so You Can Mature

Jesus answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4

Life is much more than seeking and experiencing pleasures in the world. The Scriptures become your life-line to a relationship with the God who created you and desires your salvation. Just as your body needs food to survive, God's Word nourishes your soul so you can become spiritually mature and better able to deal with life's challenges and temptations. [1 Peter 2:2]

5. Built-Up in Resistance to Temptation

I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you .

Psalm 119:11

Studying God's Word strengthens you make time when you have no time. As more Scripture is stored up in your heart, the more you'll be strengthened in the core of your being for God. Martin Luther said he spent two hours each day in Bible study and prayer unless he didn't have time. Then he spent three.

6. Instruction

All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The purpose of Bible Study is to bring instruction, conviction, correction and training in God's ways so you can be equipped for every good work. You can be instructed with teaching from God for wisdom, truth and everything you need for life and godliness. [2 Peter 1:3] The Bible not only gives you truths you can believe but also instruction how to live life. No matter what your background and experience might be, you can receive God's instructions directly from Him as you study the His Word.

7. Conviction

Studying the Bible gives you a strong conviction about what is true and what God's will is for your life. God's Word builds you up and strengths your faith so you can stand against the storms you encounter.

8. Correction

God's Word corrects you when you're going the wrong way. God loves you enough to correct you and discipline you, rather than tolerate you. Correction can be painful at times but God does it so you can walk in His blessing rather than go in the way that reaps the harsh consequences of your actions.

A great prayer to pray is:

Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

See if there be any grievous way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 139:23-24.

9. Training in Righteousness or Holiness

We read the Bible is because it trains you so you can fulfill God's plan for your life. Regular Bible Study trains you in God's ways. You can understand God's ways and live out His will.

10. Equipping for Every Good Work

The Bible equips you so you can fulfill every task God has for you in life, whether it's family, ministry, or career.

[Ephesians 2:10] Studying the Bible will empower you to grow in God's wisdom, love, and strength. There will always be challenges in the world around you. God's Word equips you to make an impact.

11. Clear Mind

The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrew 4:12

God's Word cuts through the distractions in your thoughts and emotions so you can know God and understand yourself in God's plan better. It can be challenging to know the real motivation in the deepest part of your inner being. The Word of God isn't just ideas and thoughts in an old book. It is God-breathed. *[2 Timothy 3:16-17]* It is living and active and is activated in your life when you study the Scriptures.

12. Freedom

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." *John 8:31-32*

The Accuser (the devil) will attack with lies and half-truths to immobilize you. You might be tempted to fight or run away. When you abide in God's Word by reading, studying and living it, you'll be free. You'll receive the truth that frees from the leadings of this world. You will be free to follow Jesus and live out God's plan for your life.

13. Wisdom Beyond Your Years

I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.

Psalm 119:99

You will receive wisdom from heaven, beyond the limitations of your training and life-experience. In reading the Bible you get to think God's thoughts with Him. You receive insight and wisdom to know God and apply His will in the world around you.

14. Revived Soul

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

Psalm 19:7

Being exposed to God's Word refreshes and revives your mind. The world brings endless pressures with greed, jealousy and anger all around. Studying God's Word brings His wisdom into situations that would otherwise bring devastation to your soul.

15. Delight

How sweet are Your Words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psalm 119:103

God's Word brings delight to your heart. The Bible becomes your source of life and joy as you live in God's design. There is a reality of real delight and inner joy that cannot be taken away from you. Through every season of your life, through all the good and even the trials, you can know the sweetness of God's Word as you draw near to Him and experience His goodness.

16. Cleansing

That He might sanctify her (*the Church*), having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word.

Ephesians 5:26

God uses His Word to purge you of the things that bring bitterness and hopelessness into your life. God's Word washes your mind, your will, and emotions so you can think clearly and love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.

17. Others Are Impacted by Your Life and Service

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

When you study the Bible, God's wisdom gets stored up in your heart and mind. It will infuse your life with God's truth and encouragement. It will spill-over into those around you as you live for God. The more you get God's Word in you, the more His love and power will flow through you to people living in brokenness and pain around you.

18. Blessing and Prosperity

Blessed is the one who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the Law of the Lord,
and on His Law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

Psalm 1:1-3

As you think and meditate on God's Word, your mind will be renewed. [*Romans 12:2*] When you draw on God's truth and wisdom for every decision and every challenge, you'll see the powerful results of God's blessing in every season of your life. You'll see fruitfulness in your labors and experience God's abundance in your life.

19. Courage so You Can Be Successful

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. Then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good

success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. *Joshua 1:8-9*

Regular Bible Study strengthens you and gives you courage to face the world. You will grow in confidence of God's truth. You will understand more of His desires for you, understanding all God has done for you through Jesus Christ. God's Word you free from fears so you can be successful in His assignments for you in life. No matter what is holding you back, you can move forward with confidence as you follow God's Word.

20. Equipped to Stand in the Face of Spiritual Warfare

Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. *Ephesians 6:17*

The Word of God becomes your weapon as you stand to face of life's challenges and struggles. God has provided everything you need for your life as you pursue Him. As you stay connected to Him through His Word, you will be able to stand and persevere until the day that you stand before Him. All Scripture becomes available to you to overcome any discouragement, doubts or fear that might come against you. God has made you more than a conqueror. [*Romans 8:31-39*]

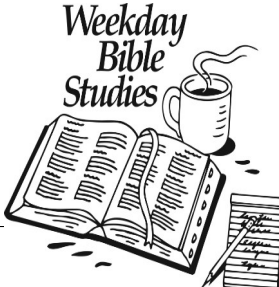
21. Endurance and Encouragement

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. *Romans 15:4*

The Bible is God the Creator's, love letter and instruction book for your life. The Bible records examples of how God works in the lives of people throughout history. Through both the positive and negative ways that people responded, you can learn valuable lessons. You will see how God brings salvation to people who experience brokenness in this world. Is studying God's word you will develop endurance, courage and hope. God is faithful to finish the work He began in you [*Philippians 1:6.*]

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

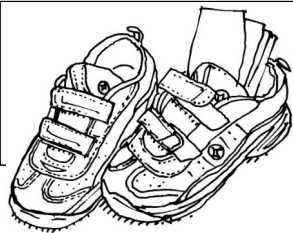
9:00 a.m. Worship (Traditional)
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible study and Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship (Praise) This is a more contemporary service.

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 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, February 19th at 7:30 a.m., at Barley's Family Restaurant. Come and enjoy the fellowship.



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 (**Feb. 1st**). 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

Radio Ministry

February Birthdays

01 Dagito Kewatt
 02 Darrel Bahn
 02 Nicole Kramer
 03 Sandy Groleau
 03 Dick Wuetz
 04 Terri Stough
 07 Tanner Bergstrom
 08 Sidney Menuey
 09 Mary Bos
 11 Kelsey Stough
 13 Virginia Rohne
 13 Beth Saurer
 15 Dale Siegfried
 16 Sharon Burgess
 16 Bonnie Meier
 18 Melenie Woodford
 22 Janet Augustin
 22 Grace Van Proosdy
 24 Roger Jacobs
 25 David Root
 27 Jodi Humphries
 27 Jerry Jansen
 28 Haylie Meyer

Anniversaries

05 Wayne & Linda
 Wollenburg
 29 Phillip & Joanne
 Miller

Dear members of St. Johns and Friends,

We pray 2022 is off to a great start for each one of you!

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 have several openings in the next few month we pray for your continued support of this most important ministry.** 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. John's radio Broadcast.

February sponsors are as follows:

Feb. 6, 2022 Sponsored by Stan Rasmussen in memory of his wife Joanne Rasmussen.

Feb. 13, 2022 Sponsored by Pastor John and Carol Schleicher in memory of Pastor John's parents Rev. Curtis and Mary Schleicher.

Feb. 20, 2022 Given in memory of Dalvin Augustin and in thankfulness to God for Janet's birthday she will celebrate Feb. 22nd by Janet Augustin and family and friends.

Feb. 27, 2022 Given in memory of Edna Freese by family and friends.

You can listen to the radio broadcast live on KAUS Radio Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

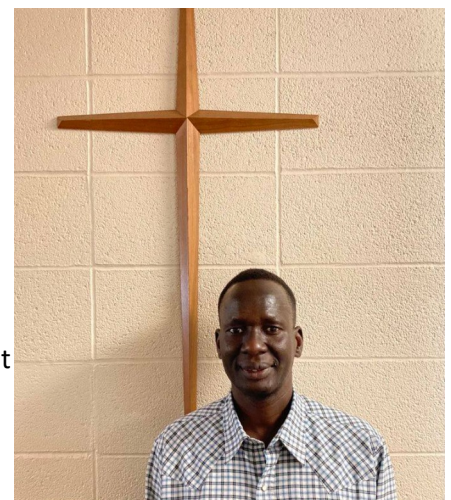
God's blessing to all of you,
 Clayton and Ellen Petersen

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

It is an honor for me, Rev. Gatluk Reat, to share about the ministry to Sudanese people in southern Minnesota, and overseas specially, Ethiopia ET, and South Sudan ss This month I will be going to Ethiopia for the ordination of three Pastors who were trained under LCMS to be come God's servants. I will leave on Wednesday January 12. And come back on February 9, I ask for your prayers and support to Sudanese Ministry. I like to close this with one verse from Gospel Mark 16-15 (NIV): Go into all the world and preach the Good news to all creation.

If you could find it in your heart to support this ministry financial funds can be sent to:

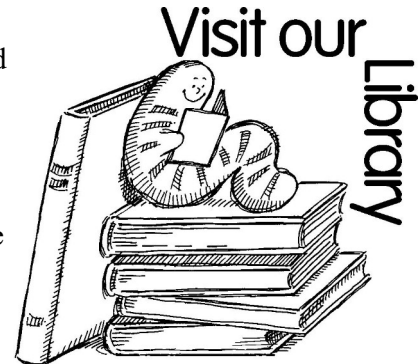
Sudanese Ministry c/o Trinity Lutheran Church
 530 4th St NW, Faribault, MN 55021



American Red Cross THANK YOU!

The blood drive on January 11, 2022 had a total of 35 donors, 2 first time donors and 32 units of blood were collected. There were a96 potential lives saved.

The book, *Light in the Dark Belt*, is the autobiography of Rosa Young. You have to remember this is written about the early days of the 1900's and on. and the verbiage then was different compared to today. To me she is the Martin Luther of Alabama--always advocating for her fellow man to follow "the Light", teach the children, and lead by example. She tells about life in her era--read the first chapter and weep. This chapter tells about the physical living conditions on the plantation for the colored people. Rosa tells about the lack of spiritual knowledge among her people.



The back cover reads: This little volume is to tell its readers in plain, simple words how the Almighty God, for Christ's sake, in a mysterious way, prepared and led me and a host of others out of the gross darkness which hung like a dense fog over our souls into the marvelous light of His salvation.--Rosa Young

Here is the inspiring story of Rosa Young, who labored tirelessly to establish Christian schools throughout the Deep South.

Rosa's passion for education med her to influence the founding of 30 Lutheran schools, 35 Lutheran congregations, and Concordia College Alabama. An advocate for children, she touched the lives of more than 2,000 students in Alabama alone. ...

This is an interesting book. I keep asking myself could I have done what she did? Only with God's help and guidance would be the answer She never gave up. Rosa came from a heritage of nothing to living with almost nothing. How she could stretch those dollars to "make do". She was always advocating for Jesus, her schools, Jesus, the children, Jesus. What an example she gave and still gives us today.--Jesus is the only way. You will find this inspiring book in our church library.

Annette Kiehne



LWML NEWS

By now you know that the birthday party was postponed. We still hope to have it before spring if covid slows down.

Please be sure to pick up your LWML booklets and if you see a shut-in one to deliver-they would enjoy a visit.

Prayer shawls and lap robes are in the quilt room and can be taken to anyone who needs to know that we are praying for them.

The quilters have taken 24 quilts to Rachel's Hope since they were in need of them. Since September 54 quilts have been given away locally.

It has been a few years since our kitchen has had a good cleaning so the service committees will be busy with that this month.

February is known as the 'month of love'. Let's show our Christian love and concern to each other in all we do. God's blessings, Sandy Grant

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 11, 2022

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doraine Graff, Thad Kusick, Ruth Oelkers, Pastor James, Dale Siegfleid, Lori Siegfleid__

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor James led a Bible study on selected verses in Ephesians & prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Thad Kusick moved to accept the Secretary's Report of 12-14-2021. S/P

TREASURER'S REPORT: Net Operating Loss: (\$19,201.00). Net Increase Designated Assets: \$12,975.47. Net Income Loss: (\$6,225.53). Figures as of December 31, 2021. Ruth Oelkers moved to accept the Treasurer's Report of 12-31-2021. S/P

ELDERS' REPORT: by Thad Kusick. Elder Report 01-11-22

Pastor James, Dave Watkins, Richard Kiehne and Thad Kusick were in attendance January 11th at 6:30. We started the meeting with a Portal of Prayer Devotion and a then a Bible Study from Lutheran Witness.

We discussed conversations with members.

Discussion around the attendance of the Sunday Bible Study of the Small Catechism. Calls are going to be made to Leaders of the Boards to get feedback.

We going to be looking at Bible Study offerings of different topics for individuals who would like to study as a group at different times(other than Sunday morning) or locations of the groups choosing. More to come on this.

We continued conversations around the AoR report. _

TRUSTEES' REPORT: No report.

BOARD OF EDUCATION and YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD: Did not meet in January. No report. Will meet Feb. 6.

STEWARDSHIP: Did not meet. No report.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: by Sharry Watkins. The Board met January 10 at 4:00 with 4 members present. Food drive bags were picked up in early December. The Salvation Army reported there were 454 pounds of food donated. We thank everyone for supporting this good cause.

On December 21, we helped deliver poinsettias to the shut-ins. Christmas cards made by a friend of Doraine Graff were also delivered with them. Birthday cards were written on for the January birthdays.

We discussed ways to connect with families of Boy Scouts and CASE that are at St. John's each week. We talked about events coming up in the next few months that we need to prepare for.

EVANGELISM: by Ruth Oelkers.

Ruth Oelkers, Dave Grant, Susan Downey met Thursday, January 6 on a 3 way phone conference at 3:30pm.

Advertising for December was the billboard by Sterling running December 20-24. Bill was paid. We also ran a Christmas ad in the Shopper on December 21. We are looking ahead to Lent to see what advertising options are there.

It was decided to personally invite 5 new church member families to the January 23 Congregational Birthday Party. (We found out that it was postponed but will still contact) We each took names to call and will ask for a photo and general interest and activities of the family. We will introduce them and make a poster with the families and display them at the **party**.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor James. The "Year with the Catechism" (YwtC) series continues. Our average weekly church attendance remains at about 60 across the three services, but Sunday morning Bible study has dropped to about 15. A number of factors have contributed to this including: football, weather and COVID. As we reset into a new year let's resolve to be resolute to in a new dedication to getting back into God's Word.

Youth

CASE is being put on hold for a month. Austin schools report a 10-fold increase in positive COVID cases. We are also postponing the YMCA swimming event at the end of January.

Confirmation will continue to meet in person. We remain on track to hold Confirmation Sunday on April 10, Palm Sunday.

Seniors

Many have expressed their appreciation for the cards, letters and poinsettias. These things are a wonderful blessing to them. Thanks to all who were able to contribute to that.

Thanksgiving/Christmas/Eve

These all went well. There has been more interest in an earlier service for those who would rather not drive at night. On Christmas Eve the 3:30 service was just over double the attendance at 6:30. We'll be exploring options for Lent/Easter to accommodate that need in the congregation.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Thatd moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 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 December 31, 2021

Undesignated Assets

	<u>Balance 1/1/21</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2021</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Cash	\$432,709.04	(\$13,405.82)	\$419,303.22	Undesignated Assets represent the funds available for general operating purposes.
Prepays/Other Assets	16,179.66	(4,149.31)	12,030.35	
Buildings & Land	2,827,692.00	0.00	2,827,692.00	
Liabilities	(2,143.91)	(1,645.87)	(3,789.78)	
Net Operating Income (Loss)		(\$19,201.00)		

Designated Assets

Building Fund	108,942.05	10,697.09	119,639.14	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	1,883.43	10,730.30	
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		208,835.08	
Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets Net Income (Loss)		\$12,975.47		
		(\$6,225.53)		

February, 2022
NEWSLETTER



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ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Return Service Requested

