

St. John's News

April, 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,

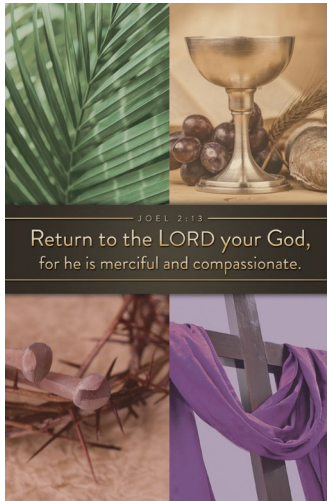
encourage one another in faith,

witness to God's love and

serve all people.

Message from Pastor James

Return to the Lord



This Lenten season we are focusing on returning to God and His Word. For the mid-week services we started with the book of Joel here he describes the coming judgment of God. It is bold and terrifying with hordes of locusts swarming over the land destroying everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth for us still today as wars rage, and plagues threaten. Right in the middle of this time in our world, we find the gracious invitation from the Lord:

Return to the Lord
your God,
for He is gracious
and merciful,
slow to anger,
and abounding in
steadfast love;
and He relents
over disaster.
[Joel 2:13]

God's grace is fully fulfilled in Jesus who accomplishes all God has declared. During this season of Lent, we will "Return to the Lord"

and examine how the call to return plays out in practical ways for the people who walked with Jesus as He carried out God's plan of grace and mercy for you, taking God's wrath on Himself, setting the stage for God to "...turn and relent, and leave a blessing." [Joel 2:14]

Ash Wednesday: "A Call to Return." Joel's prophecy is dark and terrifying, and the imagery is vivid. God says, "You have turned away from Me in your hearts and minds, and I have now shown you where that path will take you. It is not too late. Turn back! Return to the Lord! I am gracious and merciful, and I will bless you."

Wednesday of Lent 1: "Return to Prayer." This sermon focuses our attention on Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane, and explores prayer. Our prayer life rises and falls. We have times of abundant prayer and of drought. Throughout all of it Jesus prays consistently. We remember "the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans too deep for words." [Romans 8:26] When God calls us to pray, He provides the means, and even fulfills what we ourselves are unable to do.

Wednesday of Lent 2: "Return from Betrayal". Judas appears in the Garden of Gethsemane and betrays Jesus into the "hands of Lawless men." [Acts 2:23] Those without the Torah Law of God are Lawless. They have abandoned God's Word. This sermon explores betrayal, including the ways

we betray one another, and Jesus, through our rejection of the Word.

Wednesday of Lent 3: “Return from False Witness.” Judas’ betrayal brings Jesus before Caiaphas {*k-EYE-i-fas*} and the Council. In this sermon we explore what God actually means in the Eighth Commandment when He said that you should “not bear false witness against your neighbor?” (The subject of our November 14, 2021 sermon.) We will also learn what to do when our failure on this point leads us away from God. Thankfully God’s goal is grace. God calls us to turn from our sin, to look to Him, and to find our rest in Him.

Wednesday of Lent 4: “Return from Denial” Peter stands in the courtyard, watching his Lord and Savior wrongfully accused, following having promised he was ready to follow Jesus to prison and death less than 24 hours earlier. Here we watch as Peter denies knowing Jesus. Jesus, however, has the last word. He calls us to return to Him. (*See John 21:15-19 to see how that worked out.*)

Wednesday of Lent 5: “Return to the Kingdom of God” Pontius Pilate rules from his Headquarters and wrestles with the question, “What is truth?” [*John 18:38*], but the question he should have asked is “Who is Truth?” Our King, Jesus, calls us to return to His rule and reign through which He pours out blessings on us.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday: “Return to the Table” Jesus invites us to a place where we have fellowship with: all the faithful, the angels, the arch-angels and all the company of Heaven. Yet our fellowship is stained by sin. Jesus invites us to return and this invitation is accompanied by His promise to make all things new. Come and share His Sacred Holy Meal.

Good Friday: “Return to Truth” On this solemn day we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for each one of us. Our focus will be on the One who is the way, the truth, and the life, even as He hangs on the cross to His death, enduring pain and agony.

Easter Sunrise (9am - Traditional): “Return to the Church” Our attention will be on what Jesus accomplished through His death: He has taken your sins, all of them, endured your punishment, all to ensure your salvation. Your salvation has been accomplished, and from a wounds of our Lord is born the Holy Church, the very Bride of Christ.

Easter Day: (11a, - Praise) “Return and See” Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! We rejoice that our Lord’s call to return was give so we would have life in abundance through the One who lived, died, and rose again to secure our salvation. Praise be to God!!

The Sunday services will be focusing on the Lord’s Supper, guided by Luther’s Small Catechism. This Holy Meal is a precious gift, given by Jesus, for our salvation.

02/27 - Mark 14:12-25 - **What is the Sacrament of the Altar?** What is this special meal and why is it so important?

03/13 - Matthew 6:19-34 - **What is the Benefit of Eating and Drinking?** What purpose does it serve, beyond a small morsel of sustenance. Is there something more?

03/20 - John 6:35-44 - **How Can This Do Such Great Things?** Having learned what it does and what it provides, we ask how this is possible through very humble bread and a meager sip of mediocre wine.

03/27 - 1 Corinthians 11:26-29 31-3 - **Who Receives This Sacrament Worthily?** We have learned this Meal can be taken to your spiritual harm, so who should, and who should not, come to this Table. If Jesus said, “Do not judge.” Why do we judge who is worthy?

04-03 - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - **How to Prepare for the Lord’s Supper?** What should we do to get ready to receive these heavenly gifts? The first time we celebrate this Sacred Supper after hearing these words will be when we remember Maundy Thursday, “on the night when He was betrayed, our Lord took bread... took wine... given for you.”

04/10 Palm Sunday - where we will celebrate Confirmation Sunday as two of our young members give their own public declaration of faith. We as a congregation will welcome them to the Holy Table. Inviting them, and all who believe, to Return to the Lord and Return to the Table, through Holy Week and into the glorious wonder of Easter Sunday!!

If you've been away for a while now is a great time to "Return to the Lord." If you've missed any of these messages head to our website and listen to them in the Sermon Archive. During Lent don't give up something, add something. Be sure to "Return to the Lord" each week, to hear of the wonder our Lord has given.

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 Catechism

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

Wednesday: C.A.S.E (Children's After School Education 4:30 p.m.
Youth Group 7:30 p.m.

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 - Discover the truths and spiritual riches revealed by King Solomon, the wisest of men, in our 6 week study of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. Join us Thursdays, 5-6 pm, except Maundy Thursday.

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, April 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.

FROGS (Faithful Retired Old Guys)

Calling all retired guys! Join us at the church on the first Tuesday of every month (April 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 men 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

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

Dave Anderson is leading a July 10-28 tour to Scandinavia and he has room for two people. Dave is at 480-838-8500

LWML NEWS



LWML Austin Zone Spring Rally is Saturday, April 23, 2022 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sargeant, MN.. Registration fee is \$15.00. See the bulletin boards for more information.

Stewardship:

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, April 24th). The cards should be here the following Sunday. Place your order and check on the Script table or bring it to the office. These cards help the ministries of our congregation so consider purchasing them.

Confirmation

Confirmation will be held on Palm Sunday, April 17. The confirmands are Aiden Grant and Sydney Rupe. There will be a reception for them following the 9:00 service in Schleicher Hall. Cake and refreshments will be served.

Radio Ministry

April Birthdays

03 Dave Ruhnke
04 Reagan Farrell
04 David Prantner
04 Allison Schulz
05 Lucille Wollenburg
06 Ben Farrell
06 Robin Orth
06 Neveah Pineada
07 Gary Barclay
07 Phillip Miller
08 Alexis Kruse
08 Joseph Siegfried
08 Darlene Trimble
08 Holly Wasko
09 Lee Grant
09 Steve Thorson
11 Virginia Bly
14 Rita Heller
18 Kathryn Anderson
18 Kerri Groleau
19 Vance Oelkers
19 Brittany Plowe
20 Loraine Andree
20 Ethan Grant
21 Debbie Vorpahl
22 Ruby Harris
22 Christi Heuton
25 Sara Kruse
27 William Meyer
29 Rev. James Groleau

Anniversaries

23 Clayton & Ellen
Petersen
25 Randy & Doraine
Graff

Dear members of St. Johns and Friends,

We pray you are all staying warm and looking forward to spring!

Thank you to all who have supported the Radio Broadcast and continue to support it. God has been faithful in providing us with sponsors of the radio broadcast as we have needs.

We still have several openings in the next few month and 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. John's 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.

March sponsors are as follows:

April 6, 2022 Sponsored by St. Johns Library in recognition of National Library week and our ability to read. NLW April 3-9, 2022, to God be the glory for the radio ministry as an outreach to our community.

April 13, 2022 Sponsored by Wayne and Fran Strouf in thankfulness to God for the radio broadcast and to God be the Glory!

April 20, 2022 Given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Graff, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Graff, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Graff, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Graff, Chester & Louis Graff, Ralph & Loraine Wright, by the Graff family.

April 27, 2022 Sponsored by Pat Leloup, Pam Majerus, and Diane Joseph in memory of their loving Mother Lois Schmidt.

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

Prospective Seminary Students

College-age and older men and women are invited to **Contemplate**, a visitation event giving prospective students an opportunity to learn about life at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** and the preparation leading to service as a pastor or deaconess. **This free event will be held May 3-4, 2022.**

The deadline to register is April 4, 2022. Interested participants can learn more and sign up at csl.edu/contemplate.

St. John's is looking for a new church secretary. Duties include but are not limited to the creation and printing of weekly worship bulletins, News & Notes, monthly newsletter, working with Servant Keeper, ordering office supplies and light correspondence for the congregation. **The position is part-time from 8:30 a.m. to Noon, Monday – Thursday. Contact one of the elders if you are interested.**

Stewardship

Mark 16:6 – “And he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.’ ” Jesus is risen, but is that Good News? What if He is mad at us for betraying Him, for running away at Gethsemane, for not believing He would rise? The Good News is not just that Jesus is risen; the Good News is that He is risen to bless us. There is no need to be alarmed. He still calls us His friends and brothers and means to bring us through death to resurrection as well. **The Lord is risen – He is risen indeed!**

Four SJLC Youth to attend the 2022 LCMS National Youth Gathering July 8 – 14 in Houston, Texas!

This year St John’s is excited to support our youth members **Haylie Meyer, Zoe Kewatt, Aiden Grant, and Jonathan Grant** who will have the opportunity of a lifetime! Every 3 years the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youths and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. The theme for this year’s gathering is “In All Things” Colossians 1:15 – 20.

The adult leaders for this trip will be Pastor James and Kara Grant. SJYG will be traveling with a small group from Zion Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. We will be flying down to Houston and for some of the youth this will be a first-time aviation experience! Our youth are excited about this event, and are thankful for all the financial support the church members had given them during their fundraising events.

In the upcoming newsletters more details of the Gathering and the youth participating will be shared. For more information on the LCMS National Youth Gathering you can browse the website www.lcmsgathering.com and the official Facebook page LCMS Youth Gathering.



Youth Group Kwik Trip Carwash Fundraiser During the month of April members of the SJLC youth group will be selling Kwik Trip carwash cards after each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services. Funds raised will be used for special events like bowling, laser tag, snow tubing, pizza & movie night, and the next LCMS Youth Gathering. Each card has 5 Ultimate Carwashes that can be used at any Kwik Trip store location with a carwash. The cards cost \$36.00. When purchased at the store an Ultimate Carwash costs \$10. Contact Kara Grant or any youth member if you have questions or want to purchase a carwash card. SJLC youth group members are grateful for your continued support!

***Amazing Stories of Life after Death* by Liz Gwyn, DNP is the book for this month's report. It features true accounts of angelic, afterlife, and divine encounters.**

You may scoff at the idea of angelic encounters until you read this book. Now take a minute and look back on your life--was there a time when you thought something in your life was going terribly wrong, but didn't? Had you prayed about this "something"? Did you give thanks and praise to God for His blessing later? I have read about these types of events many times, especially in **Guideposts** magazine. I believe God leads us to learn of these events to strengthen our faith.



The author writes the following: "The stories in this book will surely have you amazed at Jesus's love and divine intervention. His hand is at work everyday through His angels and miracles. And while the ones we love may have to leave this earth physically, they are never gone. They live on in Jesus, and Jesus binds our hearts together through eternity."

This book is new to our library and may not be on the shelf yet. Be sure to read the back cover when you check the book out.

Annette Kiehne

Easter lilies can be purchased for \$8.00 and we would have to place our order by April 4th. We will need people to have their orders in by Sunday April 3rd. Consider donating a lily to a shut-in. Bring form and check to the church office.

Prospective Seminary Students

College-age and older men and women are invited to **Contemplate**, a visitation event giving prospective students an opportunity to learn about life at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** and the preparation leading to service as a pastor or deaconess. **This free event will be held May 3-4, 2022.**

The deadline to register is April 4, 2022. Interested participants can learn more and sign up at csl.edu/contemplate.

Ukraine Assistance through the LCMS

If you would like to support by means of a financial gift, here are some alternatives:

- (1) Text **LCMSUKRAINE** to **41-444**
- (2) [Give online via LCMS Mission Advancement](#)
- (3) Call the LCMS at **888-930-4438**
- (4) [Give online via Mission Central](#)
- (5) Call Mission Central (Mapleton, Iowa) at **712-882-1029**

By mail, make your check out to "The LCMS," and write "Ukraine Relief" in the memo line. Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

It Takes a Church to Raise a Church Worker

As a laborer in God's harvest, you are uniquely positioned to help **RECRUIT, IGNITE, and EQUIP** the next generation of kingdom workers.

Concordia St. Paul humbly requests your assistance in these three ways:

- (6) Encourage young men and women to consider church work.
- (7) Urge them to explore Concordia St. Paul's Church Work Tuition Guarantee. (\$6000 maximum tuition for DCE, DCO, DPM, LTC; \$0 tuition for Pre-Seminary)
- (8) Access resources available through "Set Apart to Serve", (LCMS Church Work Recruitment Initiative)

For more information, contact Tom Halligan at halligan@csp.edu.

KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUE.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING **March 8, 2022**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Heuton, Thad Kusick, Ruth Oelkers, Harold Rohne, David Ruhnke, Dale Siegfried, Lori Siegfried, Sharry Watkins, Doraine Graff

OPENING PRAYER: Thad gave the devotion.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Dick moved to accept the Secretary's Report of 2-8-2022. S/P_

TREASURER'S REPORT: Net Operating Loss: (\$4,618.23). Net Decrease Designated Funds: (\$7,102.58). Net Income Loss: (\$11,720.81). Ruth moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. S/P.

ELDERS' REPORT: Elder Report 3-07-22 by Thad Kusick

Dave Watkins, Richard Kiehne and Thad Kusick were in attendance March 07th 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.

We continued conversations around the AoR report.

We discussed steps on getting a new Secretary hired for start after Easter.

TRUSTEES' REPORT: All of the accumulated lime was cleaned out of the Bunn coffee maker and a new thermometer was installed. A neutralizer was installed to prevent the boiler condensate from eating away at the concrete floor sink. The paddles for our two AEDs (automatic external defibrillator) have to be replaced every two years. The cost is \$320 and they have been ordered and will be replaced. Board of Elders and Trustees are looking for the best way to get rid of our old offering plates and communion trays. There are also all of the previously used Hymnal Supplements as well as some old Lutheran Worship, our old hymnals that someone else could use

BOARD OF EDUCATION and YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD: Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Present: Patty Shatek, Jodi VanPelt, and Lori Siegfried

Opening: Devotion from Woman of God devotion book.

Business: The board attendees met for about half an hour as one member had to leave early. We discussed serving at an upcoming Lenten supper and it was decided we would volunteer for the April 6th date if it was available. If that date is not available we will serve at the March 30th supper. Jodi will check into possibly getting some shredded pork donated for that supper. We are planning for approximately 50 people as CASE kids will be included in the meal prep.

Confirmation gifts were discussed briefly and Patty has volunteered to check into ordering those gifts. There are two confirmands: Aiden Grant and Sydney Rupe.

Patty and Lori finished going through the bins of files in the former DCE office after the meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 30th at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be to finalize any meal preparation details for the April 6th supper.

STEWARDSHIP: The Stewardship board met by phone on March 2, 2022. We discussed and set up the schedule for selling script. We also discussed delivering the remaining collection envelopes. I mentioned to Harold that Dave Watkins and Dale Siegfried had offered to help with the remaining envelopes. With what I have delivered there are just a few left to be delivered.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: The Social Ministry Board met on March 1 with 5 members present. We opened with devotions.

The March Food Drive has begun and bags are available on the ushers' stand. We discussed events coming up in the next month such as the delivery of Easter lilies to shut-ins, Confirmation on Palm Sunday, and an Easter egg hunt for the kids on April 24th. Boxes will be set out in each entry for donations of candy for the Easter egg hunt.

Donna Pederson has requested to step down from the Social Ministry Board. Diane Waksdal has agreed to finish out her term. Our next meeting will be April 1 at 4:00. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

EVANGELISM: Dave Grant, Ruth Oelkers, and Sue Downey met after Bible Class on February 27, 2022. The New Members were introduced at the Congregational Birthday Party. The New Member Board will be alternated between the 2 entrances for a few weeks.

We discussed our advertising options for Easter Week. We have not seen anything yet from the Herald or the Shopper for what they have to offer. Sue is contacting Reagan Advertising to see if the billboard by Sterling is open for advertising Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services. I heard from them today (3/8) and they have no open slots on either billboard for that time.

PASTOR'S REPORT: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Dale indicated that churches can qualify for a return of certain payroll taxes paid during 2020 & 2021 through an IRS "Employee Retention Credit" and will be applying for this credit unless there are objections. No objections were voiced.

These boards agreed to serve the Lenten suppers: Evangelism – 3/16, Stewardship – 3/23, Trustees – 3/30, and Education & Youth – 4/6.

ADJOURNMENT: Lori moved to adjourn at 7:40 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, 2022 through February 28, 2022

Undesignated

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Balance 1/1/22</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Balance 2/28/2022</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Cash	\$419,303.22	(\$2,838.60)	\$416,464.62	Undesignated Assets represent the funds available for general operating purposes.
Prepays/Other Assets	12,030.35	582.05	12,612.40	
Buildings & Land	2,827,692.00	0.00	2,827,692.00	
Liabilities	(3,789.78)	(2,361.68)	(6,151.46)	
Net Operating Income (Loss)		(\$4,618.23)		

Designated

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Balance 1/1/22</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Balance 2/28/2022</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Building Fund	119,639.14	711.42	120,350.56	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	409.17	50.00	459.17	
Choir Robes Fund	3,111.00	0.00	3,111.00	
Memorial Fund	18,989.21	0.00	18,989.21	
Praise Band Fund	3,135.40	0.00	3,135.40	
Youth Fund	10,730.30	(7,864.00)	2,866.30	
Sumner School Fund	4,288.33	0.00	4,288.33	
undesignated	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Endowment Fund	45,158.31	0.00	45,158.31	
	208,835.08		201,732.50	
Increase (Decrease) in Designated Assets Net Income (Loss)		(\$7,102.58)		(\$11,720.81)

APRIL, 2022

NEWSLETTER



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ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Return Service Requested

