

February 10, 2021



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your Midweek Update

Grace to you and peace from our Epiphany Lord Jesus Christ!

The Epiphany season is drawing to a close as we prepare for the Transfiguration of Our Lord next Sunday, February 14. Together with Peter, James, and John, we will travel in heart and mind up the mountain and view for a fleeting moment Jesus' heavenly glory ([Mark 9:2-8](#)). Transfiguration serves as a bridge between Epiphany and the coming 40 days of the Lenten season (Ash Wednesday is February 17).

The light of Jesus who is himself the Light of the world ([John 8:12](#)) calls us to live in his light and love, as the [sermon](#) for this past Sunday revealed. Whatever may have happened in the past, today is a new day; it is a new beginning for the child of God. The cleansing waters of holy Baptism call us back to who we are and whose we are, reminding us that we belong to Christ. Let us now live in him and for him.

Pastor Meehan

From the Pastor's Desk - [February 2021](#)

Letter from the President - [February 2021](#)

Visit our Online Calendar

Evening Songs and Prayer Tonight

Evening Songs and Prayer is an online devotional offered by St. John's on **Wednesday evenings (tonight, February 10) at 7:30PM**. Join us for a virtual time of prayer and hymn singing, led by St. John's Director of Music, Susan Gobien, and her husband, Jurgen. Evening Songs and Prayer is available on [SJLC Facebook](#). Click [here](#) for a copy of the bulletin.

Last Call for Final Being SJLC Conversation Session!

There has been great input from members and friends of St. John's at the three Zoom conversations about our congregation's future! Thank you to everyone who has already participated. There is one more session planned for this week on **Thursday, February 11, 10:00-11:30am**. As we move into a different and unknown future, this might cause anxiety or stress. It can be strengthening during these times to identify and re-commit to core ideologies, our deepest beliefs, our sense of self and vocation. Why is St. John's located at 5952 Franconia Road? Why do we exist as a congregation? What would be lost if we did

not? What would be the impact around us, locally and farther out, if we ceased to be? What is St. John's identity? What must we protect? What purposes and principles are central to our identity? What are we willing to let go to continue the mission?

Your input and participation is needed! There is no need to RSVP – simply register at the link below. With facilitated discussion we will tackle each question and may end early if conversations are good!

Feel free to share information with friends who have been worshipping with us or involved in our ministries but are not members, or have them register at [this link](#). Questions? Please contact [Jan Swicord](#).

Church Office and School Closing

Please note that St. John's church office and Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) will be closed on **Monday, February 15** for Presidents Day, a federal holiday.



Ash Wednesday – February 17

The 40-day Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17 – just one week from now. Lent is a season that calls Christ's people to renewed faith and repentance as we anticipate the joy of His resurrection at Easter (Sunday, April 4). **There will be one worship service on Ash Wednesday, February 17, at 12 Noon. This service will be in-person with livestreaming, and will include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.** You can [register here](#) for the in-person worship service; just click on Ash Wednesday, February 17, in the pop-up calendar and follow the prompts.

Paper copies of the Lenten devotional booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries will be available also. **Midweek Lenten worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:30PM will be entirely virtual this year.** Our order of worship will be Koinonia Evening Prayer, and will be led by Susan and Jurgen Gobien from their home. For online Lenten devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries, [click here](#).



ASHES
TO
GO

Unable to Attend the Ash Wednesday Service in Person? Ashes will be Available to Pick up at the Church

Recognizing that many people are not comfortable with coming to in-person worship, but would like to participate in the imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday, you are invited to stop by church and pick up an individual bag of ashes for use at home. **Ashes will be available for pickup at a station outside the Craft Room on Transfiguration Sunday, February 14, from 10AM-1PM. Additionally, ashes are now available for you to pick up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex, and you may stop by anytime.** Please note that the church office will be closed for the Presidents Day holiday on Monday, February 15!

Financial Update

Full year 2020 financial results, for both the Church and the ECEC, are now available. Thanks to strong giving from St. John's members and friends, particularly in 4Q, the church operating fund finished the year with revenue above budget. This is particularly remarkable during a pandemic with limited in-person worship. Expenses were below budget, leading to a net operating income of \$63,235. Praise God for His many blessings!

As has been discussed, the Early Childhood Education Center had a very difficult 2020, largely due to pandemic-related closures and caps on enrollment. A Paycheck Protection Program loan helped keep cash flow positive so that we could continue operations despite a full year operating loss of \$226,925. The ECEC board and leadership is hopeful that continued public health improvements will mean increased enrollment soon, and the ECEC will be back to profitability later this year.

More details can be obtained from [Angie Stiens](#), Treasurer. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing financial stewardship!

Church December 2020 YTD Operating Fund	Actual	Budget
Operating Income	812,624	789,500
Operating Expenses	749,389	813,862
Net Operating Income	63,235	(24,362)
Net Other (Investment) Income	15,694	0
Total Net Income	78,929	(24,362)

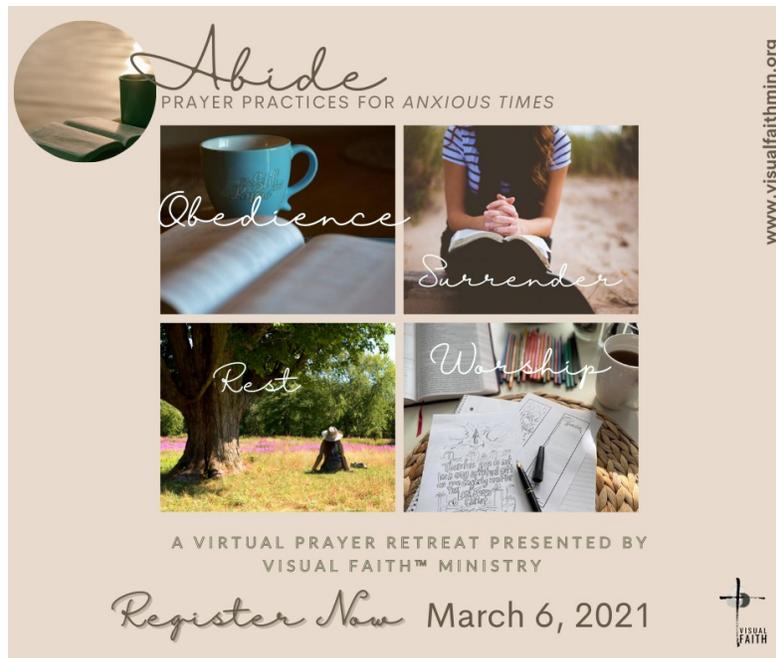
ECEC December 2020 YTD Operating Fund	Actual	Budget
Income	464,790	828,947
Total Expenses	691,715	828,079
Net Income (Loss)	(226,925)	868



Mark and Megan Mantey – Missionaries in Uganda

St. John's is blessed to help sponsor Mark and Megan Mantey, who are serving as LCMS missionaries in Uganda. Each week, we lift them up in prayer and we also provide financial support for the ministry they are doing. The Mantey's are back in the States right now and will be coming to St. John's on **Sunday, February 14** (Transfiguration Sunday). They will be with us at the 9:30AM worship service, and will speak to the congregation. To learn more

about what the Mantey's are doing, as well as supporting their work, please see the [attached flyer](#).



Virtual Prayer Retreat March 6

In this season of fear, uncertainty, and social distancing, Visual Faith™ Ministry invites you to find rest with God. Join us for a day of abiding with God and one another as we hear, see, and experience prayer practices that can be done in your personal devotional life, with your family, or in the larger context of a Christian community. Twelve Visual Faith™ Ministry coaches and leaders will introduce you to a variety of prayer practices that are achievable and grace-filled. Connect with these speakers and visual faith practices that will guide you as you walk in relationship with Jesus, your Savior.

For more information or to register, [click here](#).

A Thank You Message from Greg and Susan Finke

We received a short [video message](#) from Greg and Susan Finke thanking St. John's for our generous support of their ministry, [Dwelling1:14](#), this past year as well as the ministry many of us are doing in our own communities and neighborhoods in "Joining Jesus on His Mission."

Thank You to St. John's from the Wasmund Family

We recently received a thank you letter from the Wasmund family, LCMS missionaries in East Asia, thanking St. John's for our financial donation in support of their ministry. [Click here](#) to read their interesting and informative letter.

In-Person Registration for Worship Services and Holy Communion as well as Links for Viewing Worship Services, Educational Opportunities, Bulletins, and Virginia COVID-19 Restrictions

- Registration for [in-person worship](#) services. Just click on the date you want to register for on the pop-up calendar.
- Registration for [Holy Communion](#) held on Wednesdays at noon.
- [Facebook Live](#) for viewing live services or educational opportunities as well as those previously recorded.
- [YouTube](#) for viewing church services
- [Click here](#) and scroll down for the bulletins
- [Virginia COVID-19 Restrictions](#) effective November 19, 2020

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