



The Eagle February 2022



St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

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*May we continue to be used by
God and share the Gospel with
A Heart for Hamilton County*



Focus is Everything

Recently, I've been looking through an old book I've read before called the "Externally Focused Church." I was reminded of a great analogy for the church. The authors write about Hubble Telescope which entered orbit on April 24, 1990. Expectations were high from the beginning, as astronomers anticipated new discoveries and verification of their hypotheses and theories. At launch time the Hubble project cost over 1.5 billion (petty cash by today's standards); it was the world's most powerful and accurate telescope. The primary mirror, nearly eight feet across and weighing nearly a ton, was ground as close to perfection as humanly possible. The curve did not deviate by more than $1/800,000^{\text{th}}$ of an inch; which means—for those of you like me who are not so mathematically inclined—it would be like the tallest mountain on the curvature of the Earth being no more than a bump 6 inches tall! All of this optical technology was perched 353 miles above the Earth. Hubble had an unobstructed view and could peer light years into space to observe countless undiscovered galaxies.

But there was a problem. Soon after the Hubble was set in orbit, engineers discovered that the main mirror was flawed. Objects that were supposed to be clear were fuzzy. The problem wasn't power or size. The problem was focus. The Hubble had to be repaired.

So, in December of 1993, astronauts aboard the space shuttle Endeavor fitted the mirror with corrective lenses. The mission was a complete success. Clarity was restored to Hubble and it could now carry on the mission for which it was created. The moral of this story... Power is important. Size is important. Well-laid plans are important. But focus is everything.

Like Hubble, so too in the church, I feel that sometimes we get very excited about new ministry and cool and exciting plans for the future. But all too easily we can lose our focus. In the Gospels Jesus gave his disciples focus: Whenever he was asked about what was the most important thing for a disciple to remember, Jesus would usually answer with the following: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments."* (Matthew 22:37-40). And whenever we as a Church forget these basic commands, everything we do is bound to be flawed.

As we continue to move into a new year of ministry at St. John, I pray we all endeavor to stay focused in this way. Our church has so many wonderful ministry opportunities, but they all exist to serve our neighbor—Hamilton city and beyond—but all of these ministries do not exist by themselves; they only exist because of what you and I do together as the church.

Joyfully,
Pastor Aaron



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Finance Update

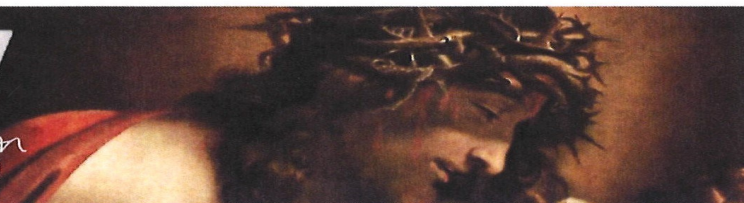
St. John Lutheran
Statement of Income and Expense by Major Group
December of Fiscal Year 2021
Responsibility: All
Fund: 01 - General

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income				
00-Group 00	36,548.00	62,211.54	458,096.00	487,930.38
Total Income	36,548.00	62,211.54	458,096.00	487,930.38
Expense				
04-Board of Outreach	1,495.00	763.49	10,511.00	4,365.49
10-Board of Elders	15,357.00	16,040.48	170,692.00	139,503.74
12-Board of Education	943.00	659.86	16,800.00	11,422.99
13-Board of Trustees	9,152.00	6,056.21	100,064.00	78,878.93
14-Board of Finance	4,041.00	10,521.53	46,750.00	47,347.73
16-Preschool Board	10,101.63	10,950.50	108,634.00	95,053.34
20-Memorial Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21-Non-Budget Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,087.47
Total Expense	41,089.63	44,992.07	453,451.00	387,659.69
Income Less Expense	-\$4,541.63	\$17,219.47	\$4,645.00	\$100,270.69

The gospel according to

MATTHEW

The King and His Reign



Pastor Aaron has started a new bible study that doesn't just skip over the surface of God's word, but digs deep. Written by Pastor Aaron, this fascinating exploration into the Gospel—the very life and words of our Lord—will uplift you and give you insight to what it means to be Jesus disciple in a world gone crazy with sin. Besides, we all know we need to be in the Word a little more, anyway... take this opportunity and resolve to make it happen. The Pastor's Bible Study is held every Sunday morning at 9:00 in the gym. There will be coffee, donuts and other refreshments, so join some friends – or make some new ones – and come to Bible Study at St. John.



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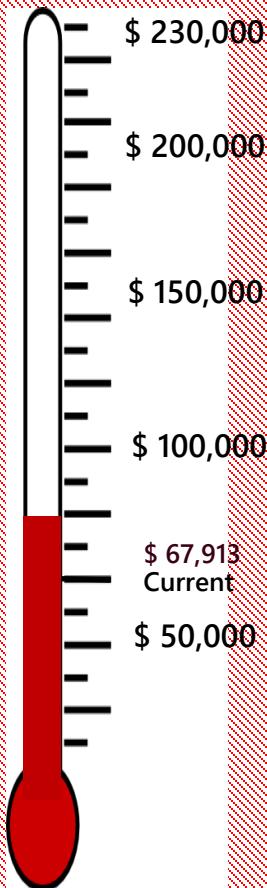
**Breakfast and
Sunday School
Sundays 9:00am**

**Church Worship
Sundays 10:00am
(Live streamed on
Facebook)**

**Youth Choir
Sunday 11:15am**

**Quilting
Tuesday 9:00am**

BUILDING FUND



T Our Military & Families:

Ross Bates, Travis Beach, Josh Chorenziak, Isaac Jerrell, Krista Jerrell, Matthew Medina, Ernie Mendez, Payden Nolen, Cade Roenne, John Slough, Warren Stanley, Micah Stork, Brennan Stroud, Keith Garrett White.

T Our Homebound & Nursing Facility Residents

Focused Care: Kendra Code, Lillye Sanders, Jewell Zimmerman, Geraldine Kautzsch **Hamilton Health Care:** Corene Streger, Katherine Hopper **Belton:** Maxine Wenzel **Homebound:** Frances Donahoo, Ricky Brown, Artie Peters, Mae Pietzsch, Frances Schrank, Nell Helmcamp, Barbara Jahns, Irene Zaruba, John Schoedel

T Our Members:

Mae Pietzsch - recovering at home from a stroke

Bonnie Williams - diagnosed with cancer, recovering from surgery

Jewell Zimmerman -stable

T Our Friends:

Oralia Alverado - (Angie Tawater's mother) various health issues

Noland Arbaugh - (Friend of Darryl & Michelle Beach) praying for complete healing of his paralysis

Molly Beach - (Niece of Darryl & Michelle Beach) suffering from an auto-immune disease

Doyle Billingsly - (Melanie Housden's father) cancer treatments

Bobby Cathey - (Tammy Wagner & Joe Cathey's father) various health issues

Gene DeLoach - cancer treatments continue, declining

Ronda Hall - (Betty Hardin's daughter) dealing with heart issues

Ossie Scott - (Doyle Robert's Sister) cancer has returned

T Praise and Thanks -

T For those who grieve -

T Special Prayers - Covid-19; Teachers & students; President & Government Officials; Medical Professionals; First Responders & Rescue crews; Fires and firefighters; Rain

Please contact the church office at 254-386-3158 with updates on prayer requests for friends and loved ones. Thank you.



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Anniversaries

8th	Doug & Kathleen Payne	30 Yrs.
17th	John & Lynda Lund	43 Yrs.
21st	Slim & Jenny Witzsche	46 Yrs.
24th	Danny & Charla Rudd	45 Yrs.

Birthdays

5th	Josh Bauman
6th	Howard Cox
7th	John Schoedel
9th	Laurel Friedrich, Eugene Jeschke
10th	Betty Hardin, Fabiola Olalde
11th	Bret Bauman, Grant Bauman
12th	Maranda Weiser
13th	Hunter Mize
14th	Jennifer Knutson
15th	Mona Smith, Landry Yates
16th	Kerry Kensing, Raymond Krueger, Jennifer Niemann, Brenden Tomlinson
17th	Gary Murray
18th	Vernell Reich
19th	Neede Anders, Derrel Hungerford
21st	Cecelia Jenson
23rd	Johanna Jeschke
27th	Mike Looney, Kim Ward

Baptisms

2nd	Jane Wagner
4th	Charles Jahns
5th	Claire DeLaGarza
7th	Lindsey Hanson
8th	Alicia Guitierrez
10th	Dane Batla, Stephanie Batla, Casey Yates, Lawson Yates
17th	Henlee Wagner
22nd	Angie Tawater, Cody Tawater, Kayla Tawater
25th	Charlie Bottlinger, Johann Jeschke, Dorothy Schoedel
28th	Cooper DeLaGarza



Upcoming February Events

6th -	MITE BOX SUNDAY
	11:15am Preschool Board
	1:30pm Nursing Home Devotions
8th -	1:00pm Glory Gamesters
	5:30pm Bd. Of Finance
13th	11:30am Bd. Of Elders
	11:15am Bd. Of Trustees
	11:15am Bd. Of Outreach



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Music Notes

By Gary Gromatzsky

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.
Come home, come home,
Ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinners, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me?

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, death's night is coming,
Coming for you and for me.

O for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me.
Come home, come home,
Ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

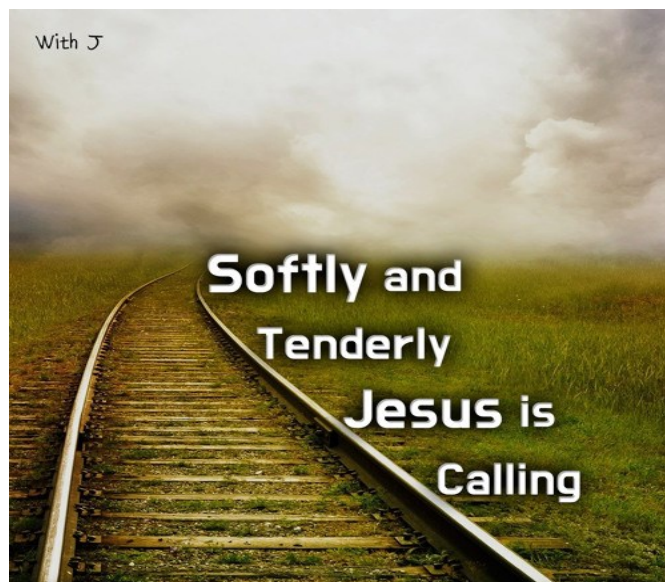
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling **William Lamartine Thompson** **1880**

Will Thompson was called the “Bard of Ohio.” Leaving his home in East Liverpool, Ohio, He went to New York City to sell some of the secular songs he had written. Music dealers picked them up, and soon people across the country were singing “My home on the Old Ohio” and “Gathering Shells from the Seashore.” He made so much money from his compositions that newspapers called him “the millionaire songwriter.”

But Thompson was a Christian, and he soon began concentrating on hymn writing. After he set up his own firm for publishing hymnals, he sold two million copies of his gospel-quartet books. Sometime around 1880, when Thompson was thirty-three years old, he wrote this invitation hymn, “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling.”

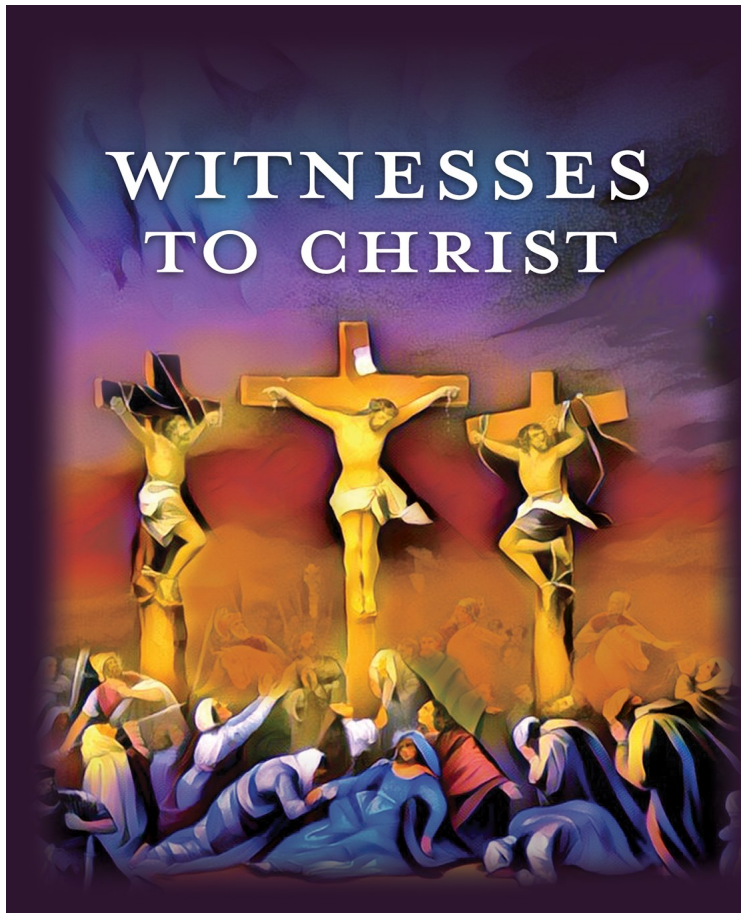
Recognizing that many people in the smaller towns of American would never hear evangelists like Moody or singers like Sanky, “the millionaire songwriter; loaded an upright piano on a two-horse wagon and drove into the Ohio countryside to sing his gospel songs in the hamlets and villages of his state.

“Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home.” The invitation still stands.





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WITNESSES TO CHRIST: PEOPLE FROM HIS PASSION

John tells us why he wrote his Gospel: “Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30–31). Life! When we believe that Jesus is the Christ, God gives us life—abundant life, forgiven life, and eternal life.

Historically, the Fourth Gospel is likened to an eagle—an image that suggests John soars to heights of glory and grandeur. That’s because the evangelist paints a stunning portrait of Jesus, who is the bread of life, the resurrection and the life, and the way, the truth, and the life. Life in Jesus. That’s God’s gift to you!

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those in John’s Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Along the way, we’ll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, as well as sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus *three* times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by *seven* demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for *thirty* pieces of silver).



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We will again be sharing Lenten services with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aleman.

A meal will be served at 5:30 prior to the 6:30 service.

Please join us for worship as we hear the witness of these people in John's Gospel:

Ash Wednesday: March 2 St. John
John the Baptist, John 1:29–34

Midweek of Lent 1: March 9 St. Paul's
Mary, the Sister of Lazarus and Martha, John 12:1–11

Midweek of Lent 2: March 16 St. John
Malchus, John 18:1–11

Midweek of Lent 3: March 23 St. Paul's
Peter, John 18:12–27

Midweek of Lent 4: March 30 St. John
Barabbas, John 18:33–40

Midweek of Lent 5: April 6 St. Paul's
Pontius Pilate, John 19:1–16

Maundy (Holy) Thursday: April 14 St. John
Judas Iscariot, John 13:21–30

Good Friday: April 15 St. John
John, the Gospel Writer, John 19:25–37

The Resurrection of Our Lord: April 17 St. John
Mary Magdalene, John 20:1–18



Taking Care of the Body and Soul of Cancer Patients

Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients Phil's Friends — \$70,000

2021–2023 Biennium
Mission Goal:
\$2,150,000
Mission Grant #6
\$70,000

And when did we see

you sick or in prison

and visit you?

And the King

will answer them,

'Truly, I say to you,

as you did it

to one of the least

of these my brothers,

you did it to me'

(Matthew 25: 39-40).

Phil Zielke started Phil's Friends after battling cancer twice while in his mid-twenties. His friends provided him care items that were specific for people who are going through cancer treatment. The notes of Christian encouragement from family and friends that accompanied these items gave him hope in the battle for his life. Phil had Christ in his heart, and he had Christian encouragement. However, in the hospital many patients did not have that hope. When he recovered, he made it his mission to give hope to cancer patients. Phil's Friends was established as a full-time ministry in 2009.

Phil's Friends is an LCMS Recognized Service Organization with a mission to introduce and strengthen relationships with Christ by providing faith-based hope to those with cancer. They provide practical, emotional, and spiritual support by providing a care package and encouraging cards, "Cards of Hope", for 12 consecutive months. After receiving their care package, the cancer patient can meet virtually with a trained Phil's Friends volunteer as part of the "Hope on Call" program. Phil's Friends support the person with cancer but also impact those individuals supporting the person going through cancer.

Care packages contain a Bible, fleece blanket, knit hat, fuzzy socks, Biotene gel, lip balm, toothpaste, toothbrush, unscented lotion, journal, pen, puzzle book, and playing cards. Most importantly, there is a letter that contains the message of the Gospel and an explanation of how our "hope" comes from our relationship with our Lord. When someone is battling cancer, it is so important to know of the unending love of Jesus. The Bible and the Gospel messages may introduce someone to the love of Christ or strengthen their relationship with the Lord.

Anyone can request a care package be sent to someone struggling with cancer at no charge. Cards of Encouragement are then sent for the next 12 months. The Hope on Call program, started in 2020, can virtually connect specially trained volunteers with someone who has received a care package. The volunteer is there to listen, provide encouraging words, and pray with the person.

The grant funds will be used to support 1,000 individuals with care packages, Cards of Hope, and Hope on Call. Phil's Friends will be able to provide the cancer patients with the hope and encouragement that only Jesus can bring.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants





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NURSERY CARE AT ST. JOHN

The board of elders is committed to starting a nursery ministry for bible study and worship every Sunday at St. John. They are looking for individuals who would be willing to work 2 hours on Sunday mornings. St. John would need to do a background check on any nursery worker. The pay would be \$20 an hour for adult workers. If you are interested or know someone who might be, contact Pastor Aaron.

If you are looking for devotional material to share with your family at home, you might want to check out:

pastoraaronkalbas.com

He also has interesting articles to read and other information posted on our Facebook page and website.



Children's Choir

OUR YOUTH CHOIR IS CURRENTLY MEETING SUNDAY'S IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP. ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME. WE HAVE SOME GREAT THINGS PLANNED FOR THEM. BRING YOUR KIDS TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY!

Pastor Aaron is starting a new blog, "Blogging Through the Gospels" He will be posting on Tuesdays and Thursdays . Check it out on our webpage.

THIRD - FIFTH GRADERS



Friday, February 11

7:30 pm - Midnight

\$5 PER CHILD (AT THE DOOR)

Email pastorkalbas@gmail.com
with name and age for head count



Games & Prizes

Christ-centered Lessons

Lots of snacks and food

Oreo Cookie decorating

Movie time

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Mission Night- Valentine's to Shut Ins</i>	3	4	5
6 <i>Super Bowl Sunday</i>	7	8	9 <i>Sr. Youth 6:00 10th Commandment</i>	10	11 <i>Valentine's Midnight Madness 3rd-5th</i>	12
13 <i>Jr. Youth Confirmation 5:00-7:30</i>	14	15	16 <i>NYG Night— Bible Study and Planning</i>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 <i>Sr. Youth 6:00</i>	24	25	26 <i>JR. HIGH YOUTH DAY 3:00 -10:00</i>
27	28					

February 2022

St. John Youth Activities



Jr/Sr Youth Mission Night

February 2 at 6:00

Make Valentines for Elderly

Jr. High Confirmation

Sunday, Feb 13

5:00-7:30

Parent Help Appreciated

Junior High Youth Day

3:00-10:00 February 26

Parent Help Needed

Details to Come

National Youth Gathering
February Meeting & Study
Wednesday, Feb 16



Valentine Midnight Madness

Friday, Feb 11

Grades 3-5

If youth and parents can volunteer to help Pastor Kalbas please let him know.
He will need help!

Senior Youth Meets Weekly

Feb 2 Mission Night

Feb 9 Bible Study with Pastor

Feb 16 NYG Night

Feb 23 Bible Study



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122 Cheyenne Mesa

Hamilton, Texas 76531

«First Names» «Last Names»

«Address»

«City, State Zip (5-digit)»