

# THE SJLC MINUTE

## January 2025

### SJLC CALENDAR

- Jan. 13** Staff Meeting  
APATT Feeding Ministry
- Jan. 14** Finance Team Meeting
- Jan. 16** Highway and Byways  
Feeding Ministry
- Jan. 19** 2nd Sunday after  
**Epiphany**  
\*Nursery  
\*Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack,  
and Craft  
\*Youth ... Games and Spiritual  
Gains  
\*Parents ... Coffee and  
Conversation  
\*Adults ... Bible Study
- Jan. 20** **Martin Luther King Day**  
The Church office will be  
closed.  
Family Day of Ministry  
APATT Feeding Ministry
- Jan. 21** National Day of Racial  
Healing



### FINANCIAL REPORT

12-31-2024

YTD actual income \$276,057  
YTD budgeted income \$301,543  
Variance **\$25,486** (income was less than budgeted)

YTD actual expenses \$383,939  
YTD budgeted expenses \$331,162  
Variance **\$52,776** (expenses were more than budgeted)

Variance income to expenses **\$107,882** expenses were more than income.

Please contact Chris Brooks at  
cbrookstn40@gmail.com,  
865-250-3181 or  
Debbie Sweany at  
doubledcs@yahoo.com,  
423-921-4812 for any questions

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**January 19 at 10:10 AM in Sparks Fellowship Hall**

Join us as we begin our exploration of the book of Luke, which we'll continue for at least the next eight weeks. We'll look at the first chapter, and if you wish, you can read through it before we gather. We'll also have books from Augsburg Fortress available for purchase, either Sunday or the following Sunday.

You'll note the first chapter includes the Magnificat, which we sang each Wednesday night during Advent. Take a close look at verses 46-55, and we'll talk about how that passage help sets up some of the key ideas in the Gospel of Luke.



On **Monday, January 20**, from **10 AM to 2 PM**, we warmly invite families to come together for a meaningful day of service, reflection, and connection. This special event honors the spirit of unity and service while providing opportunities to grow and give back to our community.

### Here's what the day will include:

- **Special Presentation:** Mary Cole, a cherished member of our congregation, will share her inspiring experiences during the civil rights movement.
- **Crafts & Activities:** Engage in activities designed to spark thoughtfulness, discussion, and connection.
- **Brown Bag Lunch:** Bring a lunch from home for your family to enjoy in fellowship with others.
- **Blessing Bags Assembly:** Help us assemble care packages for our unhoused neighbors.

We are also collecting donations for the Blessing Bags. Please use this Sign-Up Genius link below to select the items you can contribute. If you cannot attend but wish to donate, you're welcome to drop off your items in the church Library (the first room on the left in the hallway to the Sparks Fellowship Hall, outside Pastor Amy's office) by **Sunday, January 19**, labeled "Blessing Bags."

This Family Day of Ministry is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our shared values, create connections, and make a tangible difference in the lives of others. We hope you'll join us in celebrating the power of service and community.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



### St. John's Leadership Summit

**Friday, February 28 6:30-8:30 PM**  
**Saturday, March 1 9:00 AM-2:00 PM**

Please save the date  
as a top priority!



## WORD ABOUT WORSHIP FROM PASTOR JOHN: WEEKS AFTER EPIPHANY

The weeks after Epiphany (Jan 12 - Mar 2) focus on who Jesus is and what it means for who we are as the church and as believers. It's a key set of teachings for building faith.

*Wedding at Cana* (Jan 19) — Jesus enters the celebrations of our lives at a wedding feast, blessing water to become wine, and Paul writes to the early church of how God blesses our lives to pour forth gifts of the Spirit.

## EPIPHANY

*Reading of Isaiah* (Jan 26) — Jesus reads his mission statement, “to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Paul explains, we are all part of Christ’s body, here to carry out his mission in love.

*Presentation of Our Lord* (Feb 2) — Simeon holds the infant Jesus and declares him to be a light to all the world. We bless candles to use in worship, as well as candles we bring from home, to remind us that we are to bring Jesus’s light to the world.

*Unlikely Messengers* (Feb 9) — this Sunday has a sense of humor, which makes it easier to imagine ourselves called by God. In answer to the question, “Whom shall I send,” God picks a person “of unclean lips,” a persecutor of the church, and three fishermen who can’t catch a fish!

*Sermon on the Plain* (Feb 16) — Luke is all about making the high low and the low high, to the point that his version of the Sermon on the Mount is on a plain! Jesus blesses the poor, hungry, sad, and excluded, and he curses the rich, full, laughing, and well-regarded. What would it be like, to see as he sees?

*Teaching on Mercy* (Feb 23) — Jesus gives one of his hardest and most important teachings: love your enemy; do good to those who hate you; be merciful, just as your Father in heaven is merciful.

*Transfiguration of Our Lord* (Mar 2) — together with Peter, John, and James, we climb a mountain with Jesus to pray and his face is changed, his clothes become a dazzling white, and Moses and Elijah appear in glory, talking with him about what he is to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter wants to stay on the mountain. Jesus turns us to the valley and the cross.



JOIN US FOR

# UNDIVIDED

## LIVING UNDIVIDED

### Racial Healing in the City of Knoxville

Far more than a discussion group or diversity training, UNDIVIDED facilitates experiential learning in community.

Our hope in these cohorts is to engage each other in courageous conversations that create measurable impact in our city.

### MEETING DATES

- February 3
- February 10
- February 17
- February 24
- March 3
- March 10

### MEETING TIMES

10 AM - 12 PM

Faithful Ones at St. John’s,

Please consider this invitation to engage in racial healing. Using scripture, history, theology, art, and lived experience, you will explore what it means to **root** in a foundation for relational growth and empathy training, **realize** the impact of systemic and structural injustice, **reckon** with teaching and training in active listening and the recognition of echo chambers, **respond** by examining racial and cultural identities and preparing to change, **repair** by taking action to nurture relationship and address divisions, and **resolve** to move forward toward racial unity.

More information will be included in a congregational e-mail later this week.

We will meet at Emerald Youth Foundation at 1740 Texas Avenue!