



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

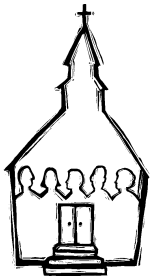
June, 2018

Vacation Bible School This Month

Splash Canyon Vacation Bible School is happening here at St. Johns June 4-8 from 8:30 a.m. to noon for kids ages four through 6th grade. Cost is \$5 per student with a cap of \$10 per family. You can pick up a registration form in the front lobby or go to our website—www.stjohnspr.org and click the VBS Splash Canyon tab at the top to register online. We're looking forward to a great week!



Bi-Annual Voters Meeting Set for June 5



June means it's time for our bi-annual Voters Meeting which will take place on Tuesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. Much of the church business, practice and policy is decided at these meetings.

All confirmed members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. If you are a voting member and can't attend, please call the church office to be excused. We hope to have a great turn out!

Newtons Will Be Installed on June 24

Pastor Joel and Sarah Newton will be installed as Associate Pastor and Diaconess here at St. Johns on Sunday, June 24 at 9:30 a.m. We will only have one service that day. The Board of Parish Fellowship is planning a brunch following the service. We will also have a card and money shower to help purchase items for their new home.

Please join us in welcoming Pastor Joel, Diaconess Sarah and George into our St. Johns family.



Have You Checked Out Our New Website?



It's still under construction but it will be really great when we have everything in place. This new site will allow members to sign in as users and access calendars, events, discussion boards and lots of other things.

Go to www.stjohnspr.org and check it out. Please let us know what you think. We want it to be a great resource.



Ponderings from the Pew



My husband went to Derek's for three weeks to help them get set up in their new place. It's the longest we have been apart in a long time. It's the longest he's been away from Owen in a long time, too. We've been waiting and waiting and waiting. I got to thinking this is a little like waiting for Christ to come back. Well, ok, not really, but it has seemed like a terribly long wait.

The end of time has been a fascination for people forever. There have been many predictions and many times people have prepared themselves only to find out they were wrong. The disciples must have felt that it would surely happen in their lifetime when Jesus said in Mark 13:30, "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened." And yet, they all died without seeing Jesus' return. Wikipedia has quite a list of end time predictions. I was surprised to see how many I have lived through. I guess I don't pay a lot of attention to these things or they weren't covered very well by news outlets.

I have never really understood the obsession with knowing when Christ will come. It's enough for me to know He will come. At this point in my life, I'd be ok with Him showing up today. Sure, there's things I want to do, and places I want to see yet, but going home to see Caleb and Dad trumps anything on my bucket list.

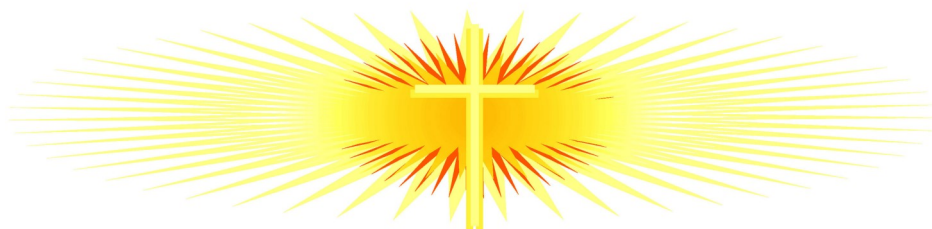


The Bible does offer hints and signs that time is running short. Read on though, to see where Jesus clearly also tells us in verses 32 and 33, "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come." Only the Father knows.

I know when my husband is coming home. I'm ok with leaving Jesus' coming to God. I'm pretty sure He has it under control and if He wanted us to know, He'd tell us. Owen and I will keep waiting and waiting for Pa to come home. If Jesus shows up before then, well, I guess either way our wait will be done.

Looking forward to that day. To God alone be the glory.

Renee'Anderson





Noon Concert Schedule for June

June 7: Emma and Jacob Taggart, sister and brother piano duo at Hubbard Methodist Church in Hubbard
 June 14: Unpolished, American and Bluegrass music with three-part harmonies at Faithbridge
 June 21: Classic Chorale at St. Johns
 June 28: Cheryl Steinborn and Terry Greenawalt, piano at the Hubbard Methodist Church

All concerts run from 12:15—12:45 p.m. Coffee and bars provided. Bring your lunch and enjoy these great concerts!



LWML Holding Convention in Bemidji

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Minnesota North District will be gathering in Bemidji to hold its 28th Biennial District Convention on June 18, 19, and 20. The theme is "Forever Written in His Hands" (Isaiah 49:16a NKJV).

The convention will feature guest speakers, convention business, a mite walk, entertainment and more.

For details or to register visit the LWML District website: lwmlmnn.org.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 6/03 "The Battleground of Time"
- 6/10 "A Light Momentary Affliction?"
- 6/17 "Tell Me a Story!"
- 6/24 "Jesus, Don't You Care?"

Listen to the Lutheran Hour every Sunday on KPRM 870 AM at 9:30 a.m. or KTIG 102.7 FM at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.

The Lutheran Laymen's League sponsors the program on KPRM each Sunday at a cost of \$52.50 each. If you would like to help sponsor the program your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour."



† **Funeral**
 5/21/18 Paul Stendahl



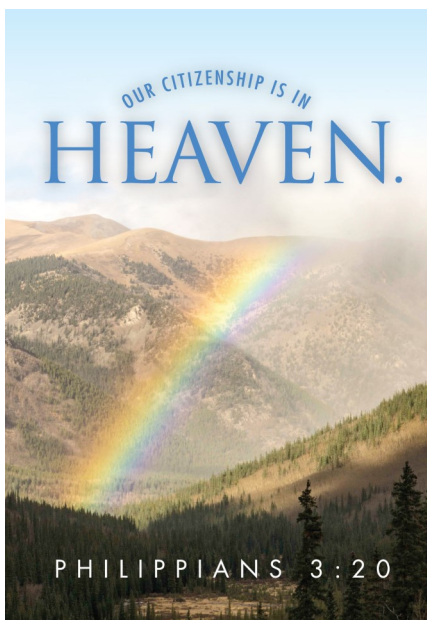


Stewardship Corner—*Living as Pilgrims*

Our society tells us to live for today. The words from a poster “Forget about the PAST; Don’t worry about the FUTURE; Live TODAY!” captures our society’s encouragement to live for the moment with gusto because there is no tomorrow. In contrast, we, as God’s people, are encouraged to live with an eternal perspective. The Apostle Paul encourages us to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:2). We are told that God “*has put eternity into [our] hearts*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Through faith, we live our lives knowing that heaven is our true home. According to the writer of Hebrews, we are aliens and strangers on this earth (11:13). In Philippians 3:20, Paul tells us that we are citizens of heaven not earth.

In order for us to be citizens of heaven, aliens, strangers and pilgrims on this earth, we can’t allow the accumulation of things to distract us from our relationship with Jesus. As God’s people, we can have and enjoy comfortable homes and cars, but we need to be careful that we don’t become too attached to the blessings God gives us. We are to possess our possessions rather than let our possessions possess us. We must be on guard not to let anything demand so much of our time, energy, and money that the relationships we have with the Lord will suffer.

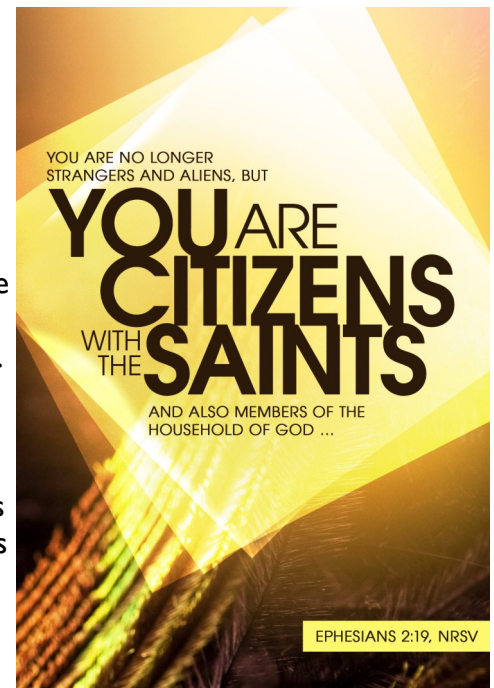
The words of Martin Luther encourage us to not become attached to the things of this world:



Therefore we must use all these things upon earth in no other way than as a guest who travels through the land and comes to a hotel where he must lodge overnight. He takes only food and lodging from the host, and he says not that the property of the host belongs to him. Just so should we also treat our temporal possessions, as if they were not ours, and enjoy only so much of them as we need to nourish the body and then help our neighbors with the balance. Thus the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night, since we have here no continuing city, but must journey on to heaven, where the Father is.

With the same indifference to material things, Jesus sent out the 72 disciples into the harvest field (Luke 10:1-12). In their journey, they sort of resembled pilgrims. For pilgrims, material possessions are valuable only as they help their mission. A pilgrim will not want to carry a lot of things around because they would slow him down. A pilgrim chooses possessions rather carefully so as to be able to travel lightly. If he foolishly accumulates things, he will find it more difficult to reach his destination.

With God’s help, we can put our trust in the Lord and not in our possessions, and we can live as pilgrims here on earth, ever looking forward to the eternity God has placed in our hearts.





Stewardship Review—April

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **278**

Total Offerings: \$44,579	Total Offerings, April, 2017: \$37,683
Total Expenses: \$32,671	Total Expenses, April, 2017: \$33,456
Difference \$11,908	Difference \$4,227

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,916	Budget/Week \$9,201
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$6,534	Budget/Month \$39,870
Difference \$2,382	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 04/30/18: **\$110,430**

Less Dedicated Accounts **\$1,032**

Difference **\$109,398**

Less Healthy Balance **\$34,695**

Difference **\$74,703**

Our Healthy Balance Goal **\$74,000**

Raised so far **\$34,695**

Still need **\$39,305**

O, Chicken of Little Faith

The Children's Choir musical, *O, Chicken of Little Faith*, was amazing—the set, the music, the costumes, the make up, the guest actors! A huge thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success!





Board

HIGHLIGHTS

Christian Education: Release Time: Laurie Kimball reported that the Release Time program ended on April 25 with ice cream sundaes and end of the year reviews. Grades 1-4 watched a short video about VBS, and students in grades 1-6 were given VBS sign-up sheets and information. Grades 1-4 decorated canvas bags which were used to send books and supplies home with them. All teachers plan to return next fall.

Sunday School: Brandi Backmann reported that the last day of Sunday School will be May 20. They will celebrate with a large group lesson and pancakes in the rooms.

VBS: No report this month.

Preschool: Kim Neubauer reported that enrollment stands at 41 students. There are 4 weeks of school remaining. So far 25 are enrolled for next year. Closing program for 3 and 4 year olds will be on May 15. Preschool graduation will be on May 16. The last day of classes will be May 25.

Old Business: After discussion, it was decided that we will not do anything with "Classroom Guideline and Disciplinary Procedure for Religious Education Programs of St. Johns Lutheran Church" at the present time.

New Business: We spent a good deal of time looking at ideas and suggestions about changes in curriculum and format to be made in Sunday School for next year.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to bring 6th grade students back into the regular curriculum for Sunday School, including music and programs.

Next month we will need to make decisions about the structure of Sunday School next year. We want to invite the Sunday School teachers to our meeting to gather their views and input.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve 75 hours over three months, paid at aide salary, for the Preschool Director to do 'extra' work not allowed for during the school year.

Church Properties: Made plans for yard clean-up on Saturday, May 12.

Made a decision to purchase a new riding mower from Midwest Machinery in Wadena.

Looked into the door closure issue on the back entrance doors.

Discussed the new law on wireless microphones. Investigated a small varmint hole in the paneling.

Looked over the painting of the new pastor's office and boiler room and also the new ceiling and LED lights in the three front offices.

Elders: Worked on assisting elders and went over future events.

Evangelism: The confirmand/mentor pizza party was well attended. All participants appeared to enjoy the activity and meal.

Kathy Henry informed the board about the status of Dawn's Room at the Headwaters Intervention Center. This facility is undergoing a complete overhaul in staff and routine. We may need to consider a new avenue for the funds we currently have set aside for Dawn's Room. We hope to have more concrete information within the next six months concerning the future of the Intervention Center.

Board members engaged in a lengthy discussion concerning the sending of cards to inactive members. We will be sharing our thoughts with Pastor Neubauer.

(Continued on page 7)



Items to be discussed at the next board meeting: possible summer events, purchase of Bibles for inmates at the jail.

Parish Fellowship: Old business:

We served approximately 45 people this evening for the confirmand meal.

New business:

Seminary graduate, Rev. Joel Newton, has been assigned to be our new associate pastor. He and his wife, Sarah (who has also been assigned to serve as our deaconess) will be joining us some time this summer. When we know the date of his installation, our board will plan his welcoming reception.

Public Relations: and Stewardship did not meet.

Young People: Went over details for senior recognition.

Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance--April

Kdg. Alex Lof, Sophia Neubauer
 1st Zachary Harju
 3rd Maxwell Harju
 5th Vivian Harju
 7th Jillian Neubauer

May

PK4 Ava Kimball
 Kdg. Clinton Koch
 Sophia Neubauer
 1st Zachary Harju, Khloe May
 3rd Maxwell Harju, Sawyer Harvey,
 Brooke Kimball, Aiden May
 5th Leo Kaufenberg, Olivia Kimball
 6th Matthew Neubauer
 7th Natalie Backmann, Hailey Kimball,
 Jillian Neubauer



Happy Birthday!

6/01 Eli Maves
 6/02 Olivia Kimball
 6/07 Aiden May

Baptismal Birthdays

6/17 Elijah Benson
 6/24 Olivia Kimball
 6/26 Camden Quinn
 6/29 Natalie Tretbar



Our offerings for the year were \$545 for Lutheran Island Camp. Thanks much for your generous gifts!



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Bill Neumann



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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