



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

August, 2018

Sunday Morning Bible Class Switch

At our Sunday morning Bible class (usually runs from about 9:30 –10:15 a.m.) Pastor Neubauer has been doing a study on parables. Beginning July 29, Pastor Newton will lead a six week study on 1 John.

Why 1 John? Well, John is interesting. He was the youngest disciple and he lived longer than any of the others. Besides writing the letters 1, 2 and 3 John, he wrote the Gospel of John and Revelation so he had a lot to say as an eyewitness to Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In this epistle, John gives instructions to the church on how to be a church and living the Christian life—timeless teachings that apply as much to us Christians today as they did when he first wrote them.

We hope you'll join us on Sunday mornings!



Love...
in truth
and action.

1 JOHN 3:18, NRSV

Bernice Hinds Retiring as Parish Nurse



Back in 2005, Bernice Hinds was at a reunion when a classmate mentioned that she was a parish nurse. Intrigued, Bernice did some research, did some training and became St. Johns' first parish nurse. Over the years she has been instrumental in starting many ministries—prayer shawls, blood pressure checks, blood drives—that are still going strong today. Thanks to Bernice, we also had bus rides to worship, walking and jogging groups and lots of information about health and wellness in the newsletter. She and husband, Lee, visited members and gave out prayer shawls and she has sent out thousands of cards.

Bernice's nursing license expires this month. She has decided it's a good time to retire as parish nurse. You invited to attend a reception Sunday, August 19 between services in the social hall to thank Bernice for all she has done to promote health and wellness at St. Johns.

Youth Heading to Evergreen Park

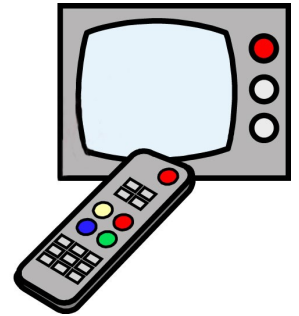
St. Johns Youth Group, grades 5-12, will meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. on August 28 to head north to Evergreen Park (formerly World of Christmas). We will return around 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 per attendee plus additional money if you would like to hit the snack bar or you can bring your own snacks. Invite your friends for an exciting afternoon. Contact Pastor Newton to sign up or if you have questions.





Pastors You Know On Main Street Living North

Pastor Newton and Pastor Larry Harvala will be on Main Street Living this month. This is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the North Dakota and Minnesota North Districts of our LCMS. Programs are broadcast at 9:00 a.m. central time on the following FOX stations: KVRR Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1, and cable and satellite systems carrying that station. If you don't get KVRR, you can watch archived programs at www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com.



Here's the schedule for August:

August 5: Rev. Joel Newton, presents the message: "One In Christ" based on Ephesians 4:1-16.

August 12: Rev. Dave Suelzle, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "Us – Imitators of God?" based on Ephesians 4:32-5:2.

August 19: Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala, Congregational Care Counselor, MN North District, presents the message: "Wisdom's Inner Invitation" based on Proverbs 9:1-10.

August 26: Rev. Matthew Tooman, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton, ND, presents the message: "The Bridegroom and His Bride" based on Ephesians 5:21-33.

In the Mood to Remodel?



We are. Specifically the kitchen. Back in 1993 we did a major remodel of the kitchen but time, use and leaking roofs have taken their toll. Our first step is to form a committee to research options and priorities.

If you're interested in being on the committee, please contact Pastor Neubauer.

August Noon Concerts

The last month of noon concerts will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church. Concerts run from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Coffee and dessert is provided. You're invited to bring your lunch and enjoy!

August 2—Hawken Paul & Lisa Dove, violin & piano

August 9—Bob Madeson & Sarah Carlson,
euphonium & piano

August 16—Upper Missisippians

What's a euphonium? The *euphonium* is a large, conical-bore, baritone-voiced brass instrument that derives its name from the Ancient Greek word εὐφώνος *euphōnos*, meaning "well-sounding" or "sweet-voiced" (εὖ *eu* means "well" or "good" and φωνή *phōnē* means "sound", hence "of good sound").

What's On The Lutheran Hour

8/05 "And the Pursuit of Happiness"

8/12 "Pigeonholed"

8/19 "In Your Light We See Light"

8/26 "What Is Best"

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. If you would like to help sponsor the program your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour."

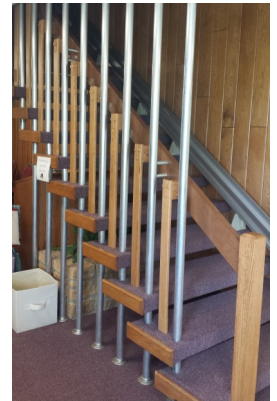


Projects Completed

This summer, we've completed two projects and they turned out great!



First, the stair rail project for the balcony stairs. When we installed the chair lift, we also had to bring the rails up to code and it was definitely a puzzle trying to figure a good way to do this. Jerry Eischens came up with a design and made the various pieces. Then Jerry, Brad Dahn and Virg Eskola installed them. The new rails look wonderful and were approved by the building inspector so that project is finished! Yay! Thanks to Jerry, Brad and Virg!



Our other project was a new cabinet to house organ music. We inherited an extensive collection of music from Connie Shubert's family (Connie served as our organist for many years). Organist, Cheryl Hilgemann, took on the task of organizing the music and it soon became apparent there wasn't room on our current shelves to house everything and access the music easily. Her husband, Jeff, drew up a plan for a cabinet and Dennis Endorf agreed to construct it. The finished project is a work of art, beautifully designed and constructed. It even features a pull out shelf so the organists can set music on it to look at.

Thanks to Cheryl, Jeff and Dennis!

Confirmation Mentors Needed!

Great news! Our new fall 2018 confirmation class enrollment is projected to be a good sized class. We will need about ten St. Johns adult members to step forward and become a friend to one of these students.

This mentorship does not require a great deal of your invested time. We simply ask that you attend a fall and spring "mixer" event at St. Johns with your confirmand, greet and talk with him/her when you see each other at church or in other community settings, and send a card or two during the year marking a holiday or a special event in the confirmand's life. Some mentors have chosen to attend a few of the student's extracurricular school events as well. The most important request that we have is that the mentor remember to include the confirmand often in regular prayer time asking that he/she may grow in the faith and knowledge of the Savior's grace.

If you would like to be a mentor to one of our young confirmands, please contact Pastor Neubauer or Connie Fondow (732-9236).





Stewardship Corner—Discover the Joy in Sharing the Gospel

Joy is both a gift of God as well as a response to the gifts of God. Joy is a deep-seated sense of happiness in what God has done and what He is doing in our lives. Filled with God's love, grace, and mercy, we eagerly want to share those blessings with others. We want others to experience our joy in the Lord. Through our sharing with others, we receive even more joy knowing that we are being faithful in telling others about Jesus' amazing love.

God's plan for His people has always been that we take responsibility for sharing the Good News of the Gospel. Peter wrote, *"Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for that the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15). God blesses us with minds to learn and mouths to speak. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God will give us the words and the courage to use them. Along with most people, we are eager to talk about the weather, sports, economy, or politics, but, as Christians, we have been given the treasure of the Gospel message--something vastly more important to talk about. Our attitude should be like that of Peter and John, who, when commanded to stop speaking of Christ, said, *"We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20).

In sharing the Gospel, we want people to know there is a God Who cares for us and is almighty and powerful, yet loving and compassionate. Like kids bragging about their dads, we can talk about our wonderful, almighty loving Father, Who, while we were still sinners, sent us a Savior to redeem us from our slavery to sin (Romans 5:8). This is the God, Who, at just the right time, *"sent forth His son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those who were under law, so that we might receive adoption as sons"* (Galatians 4:4-5).

Through Christ, we know the Father, and, through Christ, the Father has come to us. Through Christ, we have life everlasting in Heaven. This is the Good News that we as joy-filled Christians want to share. May God give us courage to use the opportunities He gives us, and may we experience true joy knowing that our hearts are right with God and that He is working through us as we tell others about Jesus.

Stewardship Review—June

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **242**

Total Offerings: \$32,015	Total Offerings, June, 2017: \$36,248	Total Offerings to date: \$214,854
Total Expenses: \$36,779	Total Expenses, June, 2017: \$29,683	Total Expenses to date: \$195,319
Difference - \$4,764	Difference \$6,565	Difference \$19,535

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,004	Budget/Week \$9,201
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$9,195	Budget/Month \$39,870
Difference - \$1,191	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 06/30/18: \$108,744	
Less Dedicated Accounts \$664	
Difference \$108,080	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Healthy Balance \$35,265	Raised so far \$35,265
Difference \$72,815	Still need \$38,735



Sunday School News



Happy Birthday!

- 8/13 Maari Clark
8/22 Coley Girtz
8/24 Nicklaus Sowers
8/25 Brooke Kimball
8/30 Isaac Knaack
8/30 Matthew Neubauer



Baptismal Birthdays

- 8/02 Samantha Fiemeyer
8/03 Sophia Gauthier
8/07 Jillian Neubauer
8/12 Emma Berghuis
8/12 Natalie Berghuis
8/14 Khloe May
8/15 Isabell Croskey
8/20 Kasen Girtz
8/20 Andrew Rodriguez-Renskers
8/28 Caleb Arola
8/28 Emma Ravnaas



Looking Forward to Fall Sunday School

We hope everyone is enjoying their last month of summer but we're really looking forward to September and the start of Sunday School. This year we're trying a new curriculum called Cross Explorations and we can't wait to see how you like it.

We're also looking for teachers and classroom helpers. If you want to be a part of the Sunday School staff, please contact Brandi Backmann at 252-1888 or stjohsnprsundayschool@gmail.com or talk to Pastor Neubauer. A planning meeting for all staff is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14 at 5:00 p.m. We'd love to have you join us! Your continued support and prayers are appreciated!

GOD'S amazzzzing BEES

God created bees to pollinate flowers and make honey. Psalm 119:103 says God gives us something that's even sweeter than honey.

Directions: Find the word that fits each clue. Then write the answers in the correct numbered honeycomb shape to complete Psalm 119:103, NIV.

CLUES

1. rhymes with cow
2. opposite of sour
3. pronounced "R"
4. rhymes with four
5. Letters create ____.
6. not too or two
7. rhymes with by
8. the tongue's job
9. more sweet
10. rhymes with pan
11. golden liquid
12. Pleased ____ meet you.
13. rhymes with fly
14. body part

WORD BANK

than your to are
sweet sweeter How
my honey mouth
words to taste, my

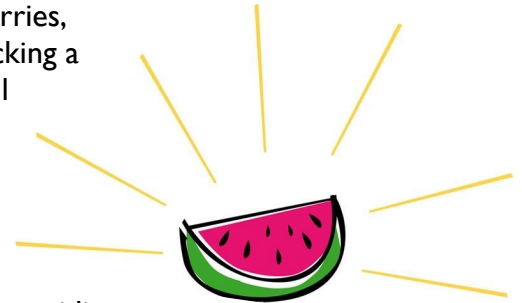
Answer: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103, NIV





ABC Preschool News

Summer!! That wonderful time of year of when we have warm sunny days, time at the lake and of course all the delicious summer fruits - strawberries, blueberries, peaches and of course watermelon. Mmmmmmm. Picking a watermelon can be tricky at times. Will it be juicy and sweet? Will it have seeds? When you take that first bite, you are usually rewarded with a really yummy treat!! Thinking about watermelon makes me realize that ABC Preschool is really one in a "MELON"!! Did you know there are only 24 LCMS Preschool centers in Minnesota North District? St. Johns has been serving this community for over 30 years!! What a wonderful gift we are providing to families with young children.



Take A Bite Out of Our School Supply List



As we gear up for a new school year we are asking the congregation members to help take a "bite" out of the school supply needs list. Our annual school supply drive will be during the first weeks of August. Please check the display board for watermelon slices which list some of the items we will need throughout the school year. Please take a watermelon slice with the specific item/size/quantity/amount listed. Make your purchase and return to church by Sunday, August 19. Please look very carefully at the item desired - if you cannot find the requested item - don't substitute- please let Kim know!!! If a dollar amount is listed - a monetary donation is desired. Many supply items can be purchased through school supply catalogs at a lesser cost than in stores. A list of supply items that will be purchased with that money will be in the ABC office.

Thank you for your help in making ABC a great place for children to begin their educational journey. Your generous donations help us keep the costs down so we can continue with this important ministry of our church and help keep ABC one in a "MELON"!!

Other Ways to Help ABC

Looking for other ways to help? Do you love interacting with young children? Do you like helping behind the scenes? There are many ways to help support the preschool. Consider helping out in the classroom as a substitute teacher or teacher's aide. How about trimming labels and organizing receipts for the Labels for Learning program and other programs that provide help to the school? What about volunteering to go on field trips? What about a talent you have and would like to share - woodworking, sewing, musical talents? Please talk to Kim or one of the pastors if you are interested in sharing your time and talents with the preschool.





St. Johns has set up a wonderful program to assist families with tuition costs. Many in the congregation have donated to this fund over the past years and the program has grown well. We can offer scholarship assistance to those who need it. The preschool has other needs that are not covered with the scholarship tuition funds. Please consider making a donation this year to the general ABC fund to help cover operating costs.

Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

Please remember to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to ABC Preschool. Your dollars go directly toward the ministry of ABC Preschool which helps prepare young children socially, emotionally, spiritually and academically for future schooling. The money received through the Choice Dollars program will go toward maintaining and replacing large equipment and learning materials. The replacement of larger items is not usually written into the yearly budget. Your dollars go a long way in helping to keep the preschool up to date and helping to create an excellent learning environment for young children.

Open House and Registration

ABC will have an Open House and Registration Day on Wednesday, August 15 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

We have openings at ABC for children ages 3-5. Classes meet two, three, four or five days per week throughout the school year (September through May). Members of St. Johns pay no registration fee. Financial assistance is available. Call the office for more information.



Bring It Home This Fall

We all know it would be great to get into the habit of regular Bible reading, especially with our children, but sometimes it's hard to know where to start. But it will be easier if you join the *Bring It Home* program coming this fall. The program gives you a daily reading guide and you'll also have the opportunity to purchase two books that will help at a really great price.

To find out more go to mnnlms.org and click on the "Bring It Home" link. Watch the video and sign up for information. Watch for updates in the bulletin, too. Then get ready to make the Bible reading habit easy by "Bringing It Home."



"Then God said, 'I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the apple had zero cholesterol.'"



Parish Planning Council Minutes July 24, 2018

Meeting called to order by Executive Director, Dr. Rod Helm.

Present: Connie Fondow, Ruth Knaack, Brandi Backmann, Brad Dahn, Cliff Branham, Elayne Luiken, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter, Rod Helm, Mike Poole, Pastor Newton, Pastor Neubauer. Absent – Jerry Grudem.

Opening Devotions – Pastor Neubauer.

Approval of the PPC Minutes of March 20, 2018. Motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter – Elayne Luiken, second, Cliff Branham – motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

	2017	2018	Difference
Income	255,365	249,574	-5,791
Expenses	212,580	223,263	+10,683
	42,785	26,311	--

Income is down and expenses are up compared to last year at this time. A comparison with last year's figures for expenses would not be accurate since our staff situation has changed with the arrival of the Newton's. We are \$38,385 short of our Healthy Balance goal of \$74,000.

CNB Checking Account as of 7/24/18	116,331
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>-250</u>
Available Funds	116,081
Less Healthy Balance	<u>-35,615</u>
Total	80,466

LCEF Current Fund as of 7/24/18	123,139
Less Parsonage Proceed	-18,548
Less End. Fund Interest	-799
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	-21,157
Less T. Haberer Trust CD	-78,078
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>-1,771</u>
Available Funds	2,786

Motion to accept the treasurer's report – Cliff Branham, second, Elayne Luiken – motion carried.



Pastor Newton's Report

Sarah and I are grateful for your welcoming us and for all the kind notes and gift cards and such. We're excited to be here and ready to get to work!

July 21 – recorded a service for Main Street Living North in Fargo for the August 5 broadcast

July 24 – Tubing on the Crow Wing with youth group

July 29 – Bible study on I John begins

Working with Brandi Backmann on a youth event for August 28, 12:30-4:30 p.m. – Evergreen Park.

Beginning preparation for youth Bible study, which will start in the fall.

Membership Changes

Transfer In: Motion by Cliff Branham to approve transfer in, second Brandi Backmann, carried for Sarah Newton, Our Savior, Eagle River, WI and Joel and George Newton, Mount Olive, Rockford, IL.

Transfer Out: Motion by Brandi Backmann to approve transfer out, second Cliff Branham, carried for Helen Henderson, Gethsemane, Snellman, MN.

Release to other Lutheran: Motion by Brad Dahn to approve release, second Elayne Luiken, carried for Glen McManigle, Peace Lutheran, Nevis, MN.

Pastor Neubauer's Report

Worship: Installation service

Teaching times: VBS – Opening and Closing, pictures; Sunday morning --Finished Parables of Jesus

Confirmation: Most likely going to do a combined class again this year. CPH has released a new curriculum in combination with a new format for the Small Catechism, have been evaluating it. Working on revision to my curriculum. Switching to ESV. Kids receive a Bible in 3rd grade and our up and coming 7th grade class is the first to receive it in the ESV.

Sunday School: Bible Memory posters “By faith” ---September through January are done.

Miscellaneous: Sarah Newton's position—Women's Bible Study, visits coordinated with Pastor Neumann.

No longer defined as 15 hrs/wk but she will keep track of her hours.

Youth: Tubing today with Pastor Newton and youth

Circuit/District/Regional Events: Lutheran Island Camp Pastor of the Week

Elders Report – no report due to Jerry Grudem's absence.

Board of Evangelism – Connie Fondow

The Board of Evangelism will continue its focus on the following projects:

Confirmand Mentorship program

Recovery Bible purchase for the Hubbard County Jail

“My Church” book purchase for infant baptismal baskets

Discussion of appropriate use for Dawn's Room funds

Internal/external outreach events

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

Availability of pamphlets/tracts pertinent to current life/synodical issues

Assisting the pastors and elders, under their direction, with membership retention.

Board of Christian Education Report - Ruth Knaack

Release Time: Last day of class was April 25. Watched a video about VBS and took home information and forms. Made canvas bags to carry books and supplies. All teachers plan to return next year.

Sunday School: Kids sang in church on Palm Sunday. Last day was May 20. Celebrated last day with a group lesson and pancake brunch. Switched to Cross Explorations curriculum for grades 1-6, Bible study for 7th. Teachers meeting August 14. So far 3 teachers, one helper; looking for more.

Vacation Bible School: Sarah Kaufenberg was Director, June 4-8., Splash Canyon. Approximately 40 kids attended.

Preschool: Enrollment for last year was 41. Tuition prices raised \$5.00 per month. Enrollment for next year 37 so far. Closing program for 3-4 year olds was May 15. Preschool graduation was May 16. Last day of classes was May 25. Registration/open house August 15.

Actions: Approved switching to Cross Explorations Sunday School material. Christmas program will be on a Sunday afternoon this year.

Young People – Brandi Backmann

April: Youth served Easter Breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and egg bake. Board Games

May: Senior Recognition hosted by the Junior Class and their parents. Thank you to Dee Persons for organizing and setting up.

June: No events

July: Tubing down the Ottertail River

Upcoming Events: August – Evergreen Park and 2019 Youth Gathering Registration. The event is scheduled for July 2019 in Minneapolis.

Church Properties – Brad Dahn

The stairway balcony project is finished and approved by the building inspector!

We have the new riding lawn mower and the lawn looks great! The board will be deciding what to do with the old one.

Would like to start getting info for the new wireless microphones that must be implemented next year for budgeting in 2019.

Start making plans for redoing the back doors with opener and door placement for the 2019 budget.

Jerry Eischens will start refacing the office cabinets as soon he gets a break from the summer.

Always working on the basic plumbing, electrical, lock, and general fixit things to be done. Thanks to Mike Riewer, our janitor and Mr. Fixit. A special thanks to Virgil Eskola and Jerry Eischens for doing a fine job on bringing the railing to the balcony up to code. Looks great!



Stewardship – Cliff Branham – no report as board has not met.

Parish Fellowship – Elayne Luiken

Our board served the confirmand meal on May 2. Approximately 45 people were served.

Our board assisted in the planning and clean up for the meal to welcome and install our new pastor, Rev. Joel Newton and his wife, Sarah, as our deaconess on Sunday, June 24. Laurie Kimball catered the meal that followed the 9:30 a.m. service.

Public Relations – Ginny Ranisate spoke on some of the new features the new web site has to offer. She began working on the new site in April and is currently working on getting it completed. Check out the new website: www.stjohnspr.org.

Old Business --Kitchen Remodel Committee: The following have volunteered to be on the remodel committee: Pat Stearns, Brad Dahn, Elayne Luiken, Rod Helm. Still need someone to act as the chairperson and a few more volunteers. Contact Pastor Neubauer or Ginny Ranisate if you are interested in serving.

New Business – Pastor Newton VISA Card

Pastor Joel Newton will need to be issued a credit card (\$2500 limit) to be used for incidentals. The card will be mostly used for on-line purchases and youth events. Motion by Brandi Backmann to approve the credit card, second Cliff Branham, motion carried.

Digital Sign --- Rod Helm brought up the possibility of purchasing a new digital sign in front of the church for highway traffic. Discussion.

Replacement of benches in front of church – Connie Fondow said the Evangelism board would like to see new benches purchased for the front of the church. They will coordinate with Church Properties board.

Ginny Ranisate told the PPC that Bernice Hinds will be retiring from her position as Parish Nurse in August. Plans are being made to have an appreciation party during Sunday coffee. Tentative date – August 19.

Next PPC meeting – October 23, 2018.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Potter, Secretary

NEW TRENDS IN BIBLE STUDY

The "Turtle Race Method" for selecting a book to study is a real crowd pleaser, despite minor flaws.





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Neumann



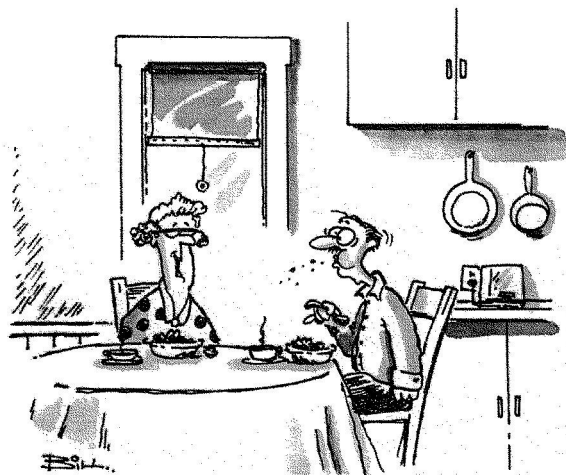
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"I thought I'd surprise you with something different this morning...John the Baptist Oatmeal! I've wanted to make it for some time, but you wouldn't believe how hard it is to find locusts."