



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

September, 2018

Back to...

Sunday School



Our fall Sunday School will begin on September 9 at 9:15 a.m. Letters have been sent out to families with kids age PK-8th grade with all the details. We're looking forward to a great year!



Bible Studies

Here are classes available throughout the week for you to study God's Word.

Sundays, 9:15 a.m. starting September 9 Pastor Neubauer leads a study in the social hall.

Sarah Newton will lead a women's Bible study, "Our Way Home, A Journey through the Lord's Prayer" in the library. This study may move to a different date and time depending on the interest and schedules of those who would like to join the group.

Pastor Newton will lead the youth Bible study (8th-12th graders) in the youth room. The study will center on the theme, "Real. Present. God," looking toward the National Youth Gathering of Summer 2019. We'll delve deeper into what it means for our everyday lives that our God not only is real, but knows the reality of our lives and has entered into them. He's present within our lives, working, shaping, forgiving, and strengthening us. He is God, Almighty and powerful, yet personal and near to us. He sacrificed His Son for us because of His love. We'll learn about what that means for each of us, and what Scripture has to say about our God and our relationship with Him. We'll learn a story, a psalm, a life application, and have some times for Q and A. Join us in the youth room on Sunday mornings between services!



Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. starting September 18 Pastor Neubauer leads a class on Ephesians in the library.

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. starting September 19 you can join Pastor Neumann in the library for a study on Proverbs.

Is there a topic you're interested in? How about being a Bible study leader? Please let us know!



Ponderings from the Pew



On a trip through the Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Reno area I was reminded of Luke 19:40. This is where Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the Pharisees wanted Him to rebuke the people shouting praises for Him. Jesus replied, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Overwhelmed by the awesome beauty of God's creation, it seemed to me that indeed the rocks of the mountains do just that. They proclaim the glory of their Creator. Psalm 19 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." Who can view such beauty on earth and not "hear" the rocks, rivers, oceans, trees, canyons, and lakes literally proclaim the awesome glory of God?

Psalm 50:6 says, "The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is Judge!" Who are we to doubt His power? In verse 1, "The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting." Who are we to fail to praise Him when the very earth He formed with His hands so thoroughly declares His majesty? "When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him and the son of man that You care for him?" (Psalm 8:3-4) Yet, God is more than mindful of us. He has given humans dominion over the works of His hand. He created such beauty for us.

But earth is not heaven, and evil exists here as Revelation 12:12 reminds us, "Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!...(17) Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus." We suffer. We know great loss and great pain. Yet, God is with us, and He is merciful and gracious, and, even in the valley of the shadow of death, we know He is there.

Seek God where He may be found; in His temple and in His glorious creation. "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord Who made heaven and earth. He will not let your feet be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. ... The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore" (Psalm 121). He will keep us here on earth and when He finally calls us home to Him.

To God, the Creator of heaven and earth, be all the glory.

Renee' Anderson





Got a College Student? We'd Like to Keep in Touch with Them



If you have a son or daughter heading off to higher education this fall, we'd love to have their address. The Evangelism Board is planning to keep in touch with them throughout the year with cards and care packages. You can call the church office (732-9783) or e-mail Ginny (ginnysj@gmail.com) with your child's name, mailing address and school. Thanks!

Confirmation Mentors Needed!

Great news! Our new fall 2018 confirmation class enrollment is projected to be quite high in numbers. We will need about ten or eleven 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).

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 9/02 "Eager to Preach the Good News"
- 9/09 "The Changeless Christ for a Changing World"
- 9/16 "The Mystery of God"
- 9/23 "Come, Lord Jesus"
- 9/30 "Cut Off-for Us"

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."



8/18 Matt Berghuis & Jackie Anderson

8/25 Justin Schroeder & Sunnie Rodriguez



Stewardship Corner—A New Start

The soloist began to sing a special song during the worship service. It was awful! She had somehow started on the wrong note, terribly out of tune with the accompanist. She abruptly stopped and announced she needed a new start. She then began anew with a beautiful addition to the morning worship. Had she tried to limp through the first try, people would have remembered the off-key solo. Instead, by her second start, the congregation was assisted in their worship of the Lord.



That is the way it is with our lives, too. Our first start in life, our birth, is awful because of sin. We are born with a sin condition that makes it impossible for us to please God no matter how hard we try. We are captive to disobedience of God and His Law, to “doing it our way” and the passions of sin. But unlike the soloist we cannot even recognize we are out of tune with God.

Then it is God Who comes to us by His Word to show us our sin. It is He Who offers us grace and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. It is He Who by His Holy Spirit gives us that new start through Baptism. Through Baptism, we are united to Christ. Because Christ died for our sins, we are baptized into the death of sin with Him, that we may be raised to new life with Him.



The Apostle Paul tells us, “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.*” (2 Corinthians 5:17). God has redeemed and restored us into new people who live under the Lordship of Christ. We are given new hearts and a new nature. Through faith that God gives us, we live in Christ and for Him, and through faith, we serve Christ by serving others.

Now our lives can be pleasing to God, like the soloist’s second start. Not because of our work but because of the power of God’s gracious gift to us, Holy Baptism.

We Need Offering Counters

Are you good with numbers? Love to use an adding machine? Detail oriented? Then we could really use you! We need more offering counters. Each team of two usually counts the offerings one Sunday a month. It’s an interesting and sometimes challenging job but vitally important to our congregation. What good are all those offerings, if they aren’t organized, counted, credited to contributors and deposited to be used for the work of the church?

If you feel the call to crunch some numbers, please talk to Ginny and she will give you details.





Stewardship Review—July

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 264

Total Offerings: \$42,385	Total Offerings, July, 2017: \$38,325	Total Offerings to date: \$257,249
Total Expenses: <u>\$38,484</u>	Total Expenses, July, 2017: <u>\$27,359</u>	Total Expenses to date: <u>\$233,804</u>
Difference \$3,901	Difference \$10,966	Difference \$23,445

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,477	Budget/Week \$9,201
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$7,697</u>	Budget/Month \$39,870
Difference \$780	

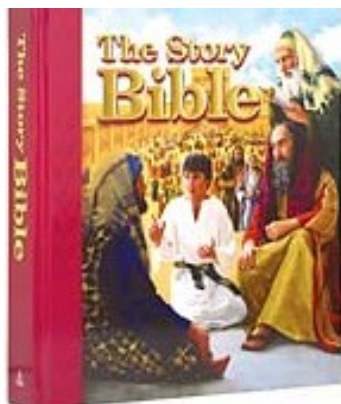
CNB Checkbook Balance as of 07/31/18:	\$113,066		
Less dedicated accounts	<u>\$249</u>		
Difference	\$112,817	Our Healthy Balance Goal	\$74,000
Less Healthy Balance	<u>\$35,615</u>	Raised so far	<u>\$35,615</u>
Difference	\$77,202	Still need	\$38,385

Bring It Home - Starting Next Month

What is *Bring It Home* and why would you want to do it? It's a program from the Minnesota North District designed to help families get into the habit of daily Bible reading. You can sign up by going to the District website - <https://mnnlcmcs.360unite.com/home> - and clicking on the "Bring It Home" graphic. Starting in October, you'll get e-mails each week with a list of Bible stories to read. If you don't have internet access but want to do the program, let us know and we'll get you the weekly reading plans.



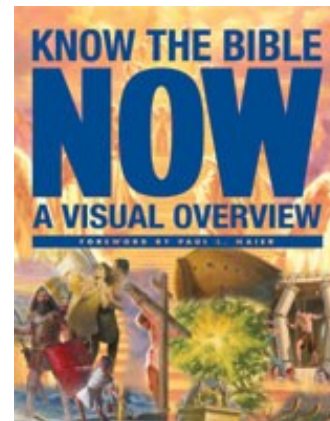
Get Ready to Read with These Great Deals



Get a great deal on two books featured in the upcoming *Bring It Home Bible* reading program—*Know the Bible Now* is available for \$8 (regular price \$19.99) and *The Story Bible* is \$10 (regular price \$29.99).

To order your copies, sign up on the sheet by the office. Be sure to fill in complete information so we can let you know when the books arrive. You can also check out samples of these excellent books.

**But don't delay.
Last day to order is September 9!**





Join Us for A National Youth Gathering Get Together

All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us for the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis!

We're meeting up Sunday, September 16, 4:30 p.m. at church for a bonfire, hotdog roast, games, and to talk about the details of the youth gathering. Join up if you can, and bring a snack to share! Sign-up sheet is outside the church office.

If you want to go to the National Youth Gathering, you need to come to this meeting with a parent! We'll be filling out forms and stuff that need to be turned in ASAP.

Contact the church office (218.732.9783), Pastor Newton (815.222.1359), or Brandi Backmann (218.252.1888) with any questions or to sign up!



Choirs Starting Up Again This Month



Children's Choir - 1st through 6th grade students are invited to join our Children's Choir. Rehearsal time will be every Wednesday from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the choir room starting September 26. We pick kids up with the St. Johns bus from Century School and bring them to the church. Please let us know if your child will be getting on the bus. If your child would like to join the choir please contact Sarah Kaufenberg at kaufenbergsarah35@gmail.com or 651-260-3350.

The Senior Bell Choir will start practice on Wednesday, September 19 at 5:00 p.m. If you're interested in joining the Bell Choir, contact director, Vickie Helm, at 732-5874.



The Senior Choir will begin practice on Wednesday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m. If you're interested in joining the Senior Choir contact director, Mike Poole, at 573-3251.

Just for Girls

Check out these pretty boxes of supplies in the women's restrooms.

A big thanks to Laurie Kimball for using her talents to make them pretty.





Release Time Has Revamped Curriculum for This Year

We're preparing for the start of Release Time classes on September 26. The Release Time teachers spent the summer going through the lessons and switching all the Bible references from NIV (New International Version) to ESV (English Standard Version) since we put new ESV Bibles in the classrooms.

Wondering what Release Time is? Minnesota law allows children to be "released" from school for one hour a week for religious instruction. Here in Park Rapids, it's been Wednesday mornings for decades. There are two sessions. The first session 5-8th graders come from 8:25—9:15 a.m. They're bussed back to school and then the 1-4th graders come from 9:30—10:20 a.m. While they're here they learn Bible stories, Bible history and even about Martin Luther. At Christmas they put on a Christmas play. There's movies and treats on Wednesdays close to holidays like Christmas and Easter. Third graders receive a Bible of their very own.

We are truly blessed to be able to offer this program. For many of the children in the program, this is only time they hear about God's love for them. Please keep our teachers and students in your prayers this coming year.



3rd graders with their new Bibles. Pastor Neubauer teaches the class.



It's Slow Going Getting the New Website Working Great

Our new website can do tons of stuff that our old website couldn't. The problem is it's taking some time to figure how to get it to do all that great stuff. Keep checking in at www.stjohnspr.org to see if we're making progress.

A Special Thank You

Thank you for the marvelous retirement reception. Words can't fully express how your thoughtfulness touched my heart. It was wonderful to experience the beauty of people who care and take the time to celebrate together. Your hugs, greetings, decorated cakes, bouquet of home-grown flowers, help, personal touch, handwritten heartfelt messages in beautiful cards, all contributed to feeling the LOVE we have for each other.

My married granddaughter, Caitlin, and grandson, Marius Lee, were present and she also sensed this warm and joyful atmosphere. What an honor for me! It has been my privilege to serve as parish nurse and I thank God for HIS endless blessings.

Bernice Hinds





Board



Christian Education: Release Time: No report this month.

Sunday School: A Sunday School teachers meeting will be held on August 14. The first day of Sunday School will be September 9.

VBS: No report this month.

Preschool: Kim Neubauer submitted a report that was shared with the board. So far enrollment for next year is 39; 46 would be full with our current staffing option. There are 28 4's and 11 3's. Wednesday, August 15, from 10:00 - 1:00 and 5:00 - 7:00 will be Open House and Registration Day. Both pastors will attend and Shelley Lof will assist parents. Ads have been placed in the Enterprise, posters have been put in churches and area businesses, 2 large banners are up outside church, small signs are up around town and in member's yards. Postcards were sent to St. Johns members who have preschool age children inviting them to the open house and to preschool. Supply needs board is up. Preschool Committee will meet at the end of the month.

New Business: We looked at information about 'Bring It Home,' a new Bible literacy program to get people to read Bible stories in their homes. We would like the pastors to include information about the program during the announcements made in worship.

We discussed VBS, wondering if: it should be later in the year; on summer evenings; and should it involve parents. We want to find out when other churches offer VBS. We will work on a note and survey in January.

Ginny Ranisate will put together an insert and information for the newsletter about various Bible study opportunities available for all ages at St.

Johns. We would like it to include Sunday school, Bring It Home, ladies groups, men's club, youth, and any other groups that meet during the week or month and have Bible studies. We want to put up posters in church listing all offerings.

We began preliminary work on the budget for next year.

Church Properties: Decided to keep old riding lawn mower for doing the ditch and back 40 until it dies. Possibly work on fixing back door before winter if there is money available. Okay for Evangelism Board to pursue replacing benches in front entry. Cleaned up playground area and fixed some things for ABC Open House. Working on wireless microphones. Started working on 2019 budget. Working on ideas for expanding pastor pictures in social hall. Discussed snow stops over sacristy door.

Elders: Worked on assisting elders. Talked with Sarah Newton about deaconess duties. Discussed continuing education and schedule with Pastor Newton. Reviewed health insurance information for staff.

Evangelism: Discussion on the time (5:00 p.m.) of our board meetings took place. The board wishes to consider the schedules of the pastors when deciding about whether or not this practice of meeting prior to the general board assembly should continue. Connie Fondow will approach the pastors on this issue and report back to the board.

There will be about 10-11 new confirmation students in the fall. New mentors are needed. Connie will send a list out to board members with the names of current and past mentors.

Ten "My Church" books were ordered from Shutterfly for the baptismal baskets. We



transitioned to a soft cover book to assist with lowering the cost.

Kathy Henry will notify the board about the outcome of the meeting that she will be attending involving the Intervention Center staff/board. This information will hopefully assist us in making recommendations and decisions concerning "Dawn's Room" funds that are currently available.

We are considering hosting a Saturday workshop organized and presented by staff from the MN North District office. This workshop would center around equipping members of St. Johns with tools needed for effectively approaching inactive members of the congregation. We share a concern for retaining our members.

Replacement of outside benches – The majority of the board members felt that this project would not fall under the responsibilities of evangelism. We brainstormed other ideas for possibly obtaining new seating at the outside front door.

Future evangelism projects:

The board will inquire about obtaining a list of St. Johns members who will be attending college in the fall. We would like to be able to locate addresses for these students and then send them small care packages a couple time a year in an attempt to help keep them interested in staying connected with St. Johns.

The board is considering organizing a group to assist with Ruby's Pantry in September.

Parish Fellowship: Old Business:

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.

New Business:

There will be a reception held on Sunday, August 19 to honor Bernice Hinds for her many years of service as our first parish nurse. Our board will take care of ordering the cake and serve the refreshments between services that Sunday. We will ask the Evening Guild ladies that are assigned to serve that Sunday to help us serve.

There will be a New Member Welcome held this fall, probably some Sunday in October. We typically have a potluck lunch following the 10:30 a.m. service. The pastors will settle on the date.

The church council discussed at the July meeting the formation of a kitchen remodeling planning committee. They are looking for interested people to serve on this committee. Elayne Luiken volunteered to serve on it as a representative of the Fellowship Board.

Our board voted on and approved the budget for 2019. It will be the same as this year - \$550.

Public Relations and Stewardship: did not meet.

Young People: Discussed recent trip tubing down the Crow Wing. Thanks to Larry Hetrick for driving, Jill Hartig, Brandi Backmann, and Pastor Neubauer for chaperoning.

Discussed upcoming trip to Evergreen Park August 28.

Discussed preparation plans for the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July 11-15, 2019. We'll need \$100ish commitments for each youth planning to attend. We'll have more details later about the Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche youth group whom we'll host for the time

(Continued on page 11)



Sunday School News

Sunday School begins September 9
at 9:15 a.m.

We're looking forward to a great
year and hope to see **You** in Sunday
School!

Happy Birthday!

9/02 Kolie Safratowich
9/4 Henli Maier
9/12 Sophia Neubauer
9/15 Leo Kaufenberg
9/22 Kiften Luther
9/24 Tristan McCullough
9/25 Kale Ravnaas
9/30 Cort Cook

Baptismal Birthdays

9/02 Maari Clark
9/11 Brandi Novak
9/20 Brooke Kimball
9/24 Matthew Neubauer
9/27 Peyton Benson
9/27 Aiden May
9/27 Emma Mayer

Lessons this month:

9/9 Rally Day
9/16 Joseph and His Brothers
9/23 Joseph Forgives
9/30 The Birth of Moses



Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.



blind



leprosy



lame



deaf



dead

hear



walk



raised



sight



cleansed



The _____ receive _____, the _____, those
who have _____ are _____, the _____
_____, the _____ are _____.

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV

September Memory Verse:

We look **not** to the things that are
seen but to the things that are
unseen. For the things that are **seen**
are **transient**, but the things that
are **unseen** are **eternal**...
We walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians
4:18, 5:7





Have You Checked Out On Main Street Living North?

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: KVRN Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1, and cable and satellite systems carrying that station. If you don't get KVRN, you can watch archived programs at www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com.



Here's the schedule for September:

September 2: Rev. Jared Nies, St. John's Lutheran Church, Perham, presents "Dressed for Battle" based on Ephesians 6:10-20.

September 9: Rev. Alan Eppen, Zion Lutheran Church, Edgeley, ND and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Forbes, ND presents "Be Strong and Fear Not!" based on Isaiah 35:4-71.

September 16: Rev. Ross Fritz, Grace Lutheran Church, Breckenridge presents "He Hung Around" based on Mark 9:14-29.

September 23: Rev. Paul Preus, Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale, ND presents "Friend, Go Up Higher" based on Luke 14:1-11.

September 30: Rev. David Walsh, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Menahga presents "Acting in the Name of Christ" based on Mark 9:38-41.

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before or after the youth gathering (Here's information on the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church, or SELK, with whom the LCMS is in full fellowship: <http://www.selk.de/index.php/information-in-english>).

Discussed NYG Details Bonfire on September 16, 4:30 p.m. behind the church. We'd like parents to attend and fill out the necessary forms if possible. ("Congregations may begin entering registration information online beginning September 5, 2018. Registration for the Gathering opens October 17, 2018 and will be open on a first come, first served basis. Forms postmarked before October 17, 2018, will be returned and registration will be delayed. The Gathering registration fee is \$365 per participant. After March 1, 2019, participants will continue to be admitted to the Gathering on a space available basis for the late registration fee of \$400.")

Tabled the discussion of the 2019 budget until next meeting, when Brandi Backmann will be here.

Former Members Meet



Pastor Matt and Pam Thompson were at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for son, William's graduation from basic training. Pastor Thompson served St. Johns from 2001-2007. Jon Fondow, (former member and son of Pastor Don and Connie Fondow) is stationed there and was able to meet up with them.



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Bill Neumann



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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