



# *The* **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

October, 2018

## **Bring It Home Begins**

It's time to start "Bring It Home." This is a program from the Minnesota North District aiming to get people to read the great stories of the Bible. If you ordered "The Story Bible" or "Know the Bible Now" you can stop by the church and pick up your order.

So how do you get started with the program? You can pick up a paper copy of the week 1 reading guide at the church office or go to the Minnesota North District website—<https://mnnlcms.360unite.com/home>—and click the "Bring It Home" graphic and sign up to receive weekly reading guides in your mailbox.



We're also working on setting up a "Bring It Home" group on our website. Watch for more information!

May God bless your Bible reading!

## **Homecoming Tailgate Party**



All youth and friends 5th grade and up are invited to a Homecoming Tailgate Party Friday, October 5 after school until 5:15 p.m. at the church picnic shelter. We will have burgers, hot dogs, chips, veggies and dip, soda and lemonade and a sweet treat. Come hang out with your friends and play some games or make a poster prior to walking over to the game at 5:15 p.m.

Please RSVP by signing up by the church office, or calling one of the following: the church office at 218-732-9783, Pastor Newton at 815-222-1359 or Brandi at 218-252-1888.

**Parents** - please note, we will get your student to the football field but will not be responsible for them after that. If you want you can pick your student at the church at 5:15 p.m.

## **Building a Website is Hard Work**

You may remember that we switched our website to a new format back in April. As with most renovation projects, it's taking longer than we planned to get it going to its full potential. The new platform operates much differently than our old one and the learning curve is steep for this old church secretary. Keep checking back at [www.stjohnspr.org](http://www.stjohnspr.org) to see how the progress is going (or not).

You may also receive an e-mail invitation to become a user on the site. We hope you will and give us feedback on what's working and what's not.





## Release Time Ready to Go

On September 26 we began a new year of Release Time classes here at St. Johns. Every Wednesday morning from 8:25 - 10:20 a.m. we will have approximately 110 students arriving for religious Christian instruction classes. There are five brave people who tackle this enormous job every week.

First grade.....Old testament lessons and memory work....Ruth Knaack

Second grade ..... New testament lessons and memory work....Sandy Phillips and Laurie Kimball

Third grade..... All about the Bible and children are presented with their very own bibles...Pastor Neubauer

Fourth grade....More advanced old testament lessons and memory work....Cheryl Breitbach

Fifth grade.... More advanced new testament lessons and memory work.... Cheryl Breitbach

Sixth grade....Martin Luther and the Lutheran church, 10 commandments and Apostles' Creed...Laurie Kimball and Sandy Phillips

Seventh and Eighth grades...Pastor Neubauer teaching creation and confirmation material



As you can see most of the teachers teach two grades. Why? Well one reason is a shortage of teachers and the other is because we can. The 5th - 8th graders arrive first at 8:25 a.m. and leave about 9:15 a.m. Then the 1st - 4th graders are here from around 9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. This gives the teachers just enough time to clean up their rooms from one class and prepare for the next one.

We are changing up our scheduling a little bit for our second younger group of kids by doing a few less video days and replacing them with more learning experiences instead. The 1st and 2nd graders will watch a more age appropriate video with the 3rd and 4th graders watching a more advanced one. We are looking at videos that match the lessons so they reinforce the lessons we have taught.

This year we will also be making Easter cards with the 1st through 4th graders to take home that includes a schedule of our Lenten and special Easter services to invite them to attend with their parents or guardians.

I would like to also publicly thank Sandy Phillips and Ruth Knaack for meeting on Wednesday mornings throughout most of the summer to change our lesson books over from the NIV version to our new ESV Bibles. All of your help and dedication to this program was very appreciated.

In closing I will ask for your continued prayers and support for this very worthwhile and important program here at St Johns, many children who would otherwise NOT get any Christian religious instruction are able to for free through Release Time classes. Pray for our teachers to have patience, understanding, wisdom and good health to make it through another exciting year and for the school district to continue to allow this program to exist and of course for our children that their ears and hearts may be open to receive the love of Jesus Christ and His message of salvation that is offered to all people.

God's blessings,

**Laurie Kimball, Release Time Coordinator**

### Last Minute Release Time Update

We have a bumper crop of students this year and could really use some extra help. If you're willing and available, please talk to Laurie. Thanks!



## Pregnancy Resource Center Annual Banquet

You are invited to the Pregnancy Resource Center's 23rd Annual Fall Banquet on Thursday, October 4, at St. Peter's Catholic Church. Seating begins at 6:15 p.m. The meal and program start at 6:30 p.m. An opportunity to make a financial gift will be extended. Meal is complimentary. Please RSVP to the PRC at 732-5212.



## Evening Guild Hosting LWML Fall Rally at St. Johns



Our Evening Guild is hosting the LWML Fall Rally here on Tuesday, October 23 with the theme, "The Lord's Prayer." Registration and coffee begin at 9:00 a.m. and the rally starts at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Newton will lead a Bible study on Matthew 6:5-15. Rhonda Lageson, coordinator for the Park Rapids Schools Helping Hands program, will be the guest speaker.

An ingathering of the following items will be collected for Helping Hands which provides school supplies for kids at Park Rapids schools. Items needed:

Backpacks (no wheels)  
Texas Instrument Calculator TI-30xa  
Plastic Pocket Folder (no prongs)  
Headphones from Dollar Tree  
Markers—10 count washable  
Large scissors  
Notebook paper refill—wide line  
#2 Pencils (not plastic coated)  
Large Pink Eraser

Elmer's Glue—4 oz.  
Fiskars Scissors—pointed  
Expo Dry Erase Markers  
Crayola Crayons—Box 24  
Plain Pocket Folder  
Highlighters  
Colored Pencils  
Markers—Small Point  
Glue Sticks

### What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 10/07 "God Created"
- 10/14 "We Will Not Fear"
- 10/21 "We Preach Christ Crucified"
- 10/28 "Stranger Than Fiction"

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."

### † Funeral

9/4/18 Edith Noeske





## Stewardship Corner—Overflowing Joy

The thought of anything overflowing is normally seen in a negative light. When we fill containers to their limit and beyond, the contents will pour out of the container resulting in a mess to clean up. We've all experienced putting too much water, soda, or milk in a glass causing an overflow. However, in a spiritual sense, an overflow is what we want. When we are filled with God's love and joy, His love and joy overflow from us to others. As God continues to fill us, we have more to share with our family, friends, and all people.

An example of being filled to overflowing is found in the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. In the eighth chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul encouraged the people in Corinth to give generously to the needy brothers and sisters in Christ in Jerusalem. To encourage the Corinthian people to give generously, Paul referenced the generosity of the people in Macedonia, who were filled to overflowing with an abundance of joy. Paul wrote, *"We want you to know brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty on their part have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part"* (2 Corinthians 8:1-2). In these verses, we find four significant thoughts. There is severe affliction and extreme poverty and in the midst of these troubles, we find an abundance of joy that is overflowing in generosity. The joy of the Macedonians flourished even with *"severe test of affliction"* and *"extreme poverty."*



The joy of the Macedonians was in Jesus. They were filled with joy because they experienced Jesus' love. They knew that because of their faith they were forgiven. Their hope and security were in Jesus, and they wanted to share their blessings with others. Having been filled by God they had much to share. Their joy could not be contained. Their joy grew and became complete as they shared their joy in Jesus with others as they gave their money *"beyond their means"* (2 Corinthians 8:3).

Where and in what you and I find joy will determine how we view and use the blessings that we have. If our joy is in the things of the world, we will want to hold onto and keep enjoying what we have for ourselves. When our joy is in material things, we become protective and possessive of them. If our joy is in Jesus, as was the Macedonians, our joy will prompt us to want to share our blessings. We want others to have the joy that we have in Jesus.

May God fill each of us with His joy and may He bless us as we share that joy with others.

## A Change to November Blood Drive

United Blood Services is now Vitalant Blood Services. They will be here Monday, November 5 from noon—6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 6 from 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. for St. Johns to sponsor our annual blood drive. Elayne Luiken will coordinate the drive. Check future bulletins for details on how to schedule your appointment or volunteer to help. In the meantime you can call Elayne at 699-3933 if you have questions.





## Stewardship Review—August

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 250

Total Offerings: \$29,354	Total Offerings, August, 2017: \$30,150	Total Offerings to date: \$286,614
Total Expenses: <u>\$33,830</u>	Total Expenses, August, 2017: <u>\$27,252</u>	Total Expenses to date: <u>\$267,954</u>
Difference - \$4,476	Difference \$2,898	Difference \$18,660

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$7,339	Budget/Week \$9,201
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$8,458</u>	Budget/Month \$39,870
Difference - \$1,119	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 08/31/18: \$73,344	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less dedicated accounts <u>\$398</u>	Raised so far <u>\$35,615</u>
Difference \$72,946	Still need \$38,185

## Board



**Christian Education:** Minutes of August 7 meeting approved with one addition. Added to minutes that the Release Time curriculum was approved.

Reports:

Release Time: No report this month.

Sunday School: Brandi Backmann reported that the first day of Sunday School will be September 9, which will be Rally Day. Mission this year will be Hurricane Harvey Relief. Teachers will be PreK and K – Sandy Phillips; 1st -3rd – Tori Harju; 4th-6th – Shelley Lof; grade 7 – still to be determined. Sheets asking for volunteer helpers will be posted outside each classroom. Sarah reported that the Christmas program will be 'King Jesus' and will be on December 16 during late church. Rehearsals will begin the week before Thanksgiving.

VBS: We discussed a survey that will be done in January.

Preschool: Kim Neubauer reported that open house was poorly attended. Thirty-nine have enrolled so far. The first day of class was September 4. She shared the following information about the families that are attending: 21 families have a church home; eight families listed no church; nine families are members of St. Johns; one family is a member of another LCMS congregation. The scholarship fund is being used; 12 families are receiving assistance. The Preschool Committee has not met but will before our next meeting.

Old Business: We began work on the budget for next year.

(Continued on page 6)



*(Continued from page 5)*

**New Business:** We want to be sure that the beginning of Release Time will be noted in the church bulletin and ask that Ginny Ranisate include that announcement.

The board recommends that a description of what a Sunday School helper will do be included with the volunteer sign up sheet.

We talked about having some kind of stage for the Christmas program. Lori Griess and Jerry Werder will work on this project.

We want to be sure that a poster about Bible class offerings is up soon. Lori will make three posters to be put near the three doors into the building.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Sunday School mission offering to Hurricane Harvey Relief.

**Elders:** no report.

**Evangelism:** Confirmation mentors are still needed for four boys and one girl. Board members will approach congregational adults to fill this need. The first pizza party mixer with mentors and mentees will take place on Wednesday, October 24, at 5:00 p.m.

The board is hoping to receive names and addresses of current college students living away from home so that “care packages” may be sent during the school year.

The board will sponsor three evening workshop sessions from an LCMS program entitled “Every One His Witness.” Pastor Newton and Pastor Neubauer will facilitate these sessions in either January or February for our congregational members as well as members from circuit congregations.

Linda Leckner will contact a member of the Legion to inquire when an opportune time would be to distribute patriotic key chains to local veterans in the month of November. An Acts 1:8 card will be attached to the key chains.

A list of names of members who would benefit from receiving a “card of care” will be given to the board at the October meeting.

**Parish Fellowship:** Old Business: New Member Welcome will be Sunday, November 18. The reception for new members will be during coffee hour. We’ll ask the Evening Guild ladies who are scheduled to bring treats that day to each bring two dozen muffins and our board will also bring them. There will be a potluck luncheon immediately following second service, with the semi-annual Voters Meeting to follow. We will finalize plans at our October meeting.

**New Business:** Elayne Luiken will check with Brandi Backmann and Pastor Newton to see if they have anything special our board can do to help provide snacks for Rally Sunday.

**Church Properties, Public Relations and Stewardship:** did not meet.

**Young People:** no report.





# Sunday School News

## October Lessons

### PK-K

- 10/07 The Birth of Isaac
- 10/14 Joseph Forgives His Brothers
- 10/21 The Birth of Moses
- 10/28 The Giving of the Law

### I-6th

- 10/07 Moses and the Burning Bush
- 10/14 Moses and the Plagues
- 10/21 The Passover
- 10/28 Crossing the Red Sea



- 10/14 Luke Eskola
- 10/24 Eli Burton
- 10/24 Sawyer Harvey
- 10/25 Andrew Rodriguez-Renskers

### Baptismal Birthdays

- 10/01 Sawyer Torkelson
- 10/02 Sophia Neubauer
- 10/25 Laura Kaufenberg
- 10/25 Leo Kaufenberg
- 10/26 Tristan McCullough



## From the heart

We all need people who share godly wisdom with us.

*Directions: First, unscramble the bold letters to spell another word for "pal." Write that word in the first empty row. Then move the words under each bold letter to that letter's new column. The result will be Proverbs 27:9, NIV.*

D	E	F	I	R	N
<b>F</b>					
to	bring	Perfume	incense	and	joy
Perfume					
of	the	the	and	heart,	pleasantness
the					
advice.	their	a friend	from	springs	heartfelt
A friend					

Answer: FRIEND, Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, NIV

### October Memory Verse:

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Hebrews 11:3

Photo by Steve Stockman on Unsplash



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Lutheran Church**

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*Pastor James Neubauer*

*Pastor Joel Newton*

*Pastor Bill Neumann*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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Spooky stories around the Pastor Retreat campfire.