



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

November, 2018

For All The Saints

Halloween may still be fresh in your mind (especially if you have lots of candy to remind you) but this Sunday we're on to the main reason for "All Hallows Eve" which is All Saints' Day. On Sunday, November 4, our worship will include a time of remembrance of those in our congregation who have passed away this year. A bell is rung as each name is read. It is a moving tribute to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have joined the church triumphant. Please join us this Sunday for this special worship service.



Blood Drive This Month



United Blood Services is now Vitalant. Have you ever donated blood? The process is easy, usually takes less than an hour, and most donors find it a painless and heart-warming experience. Take a few minutes to donate blood...and invite a friend to join you. St. Johns will sponsor a blood drive on Monday, November 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 699-3933 or go online to www.vitalant.org, sponsor code: parkrapids.

We also need volunteers to help with the drive. If you can bring bars or cookies, work at registration, or help out in the kitchen, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex next to the church office, or call Elayne at the number above. Please help us with this important, life-saving effort!

Welcome, New Members!

Come and meet our new members at a reception between services in the social hall on Sunday, November 18.

Our new members are: Paul and Judy Coan, Pastor Joel, Sarah and George Newton, Joan Rucktaeschel, Tim and Betsy Vrudny.



Voters Meeting—November 18



Our bi-annual Voters Meeting will take place on November 18 after the 10:30 a.m. service in the social hall. We will have a potluck lunch first. The 2019 work program, financial and board reports are some of the regular items on the agenda.

All communicant members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. If you are a voting member and will not be able to attend the meeting, please call the church office to be excused. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.



Ponderings from the Pew



Balance. One of today's trends is a push for work/life balance. Employees juggling work commitments with home and family commitments. Balance. A gymnast learns to keep her balance on a balance beam while performing difficult leaps, flips, and movements. Balance. It is second nature for bookkeepers to make sure their financial records balance between accounts. Balance. Tight rope walkers find their center of balance to walk the wire without falling. Balance. Balance scales are used to measure mass. Basically, balance means to have the same weight or mass on both sides.

A search of Biblegateway.com reveals the use of the word balance/s in the Old Testament 13 times. 13? How ironic. I was surprised it was there at all. Job 31:6, "Let me be weighed in a just balance, and let God know my integrity!" The soul of a Christian struggles to keep to the narrow path laid out before him; to keep an even keel in his life; to balance his life's journey with God's word and grace. It is sadly evident in politics we are a nation swinging too far to either one side or the other. Personally, the wellness movement gives the impression we are a nation striving to be the best we can be. But are we accomplishing our goal? Spiritually, we are looking everywhere but churches to find a higher power that serves our purpose. We have stopped trusting God and started demanding He do what we expect of Him. We are desperately out of balance.

So, what do we do? Psalm 62:1 says it all, "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation." For God alone can bring balance. So many times, the Bible tells us the only answer we need. "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," (Psalm 121:1-3). "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God," (Colossians 3:1-3). "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths," (Proverbs 3:5).

Balance in life and spirit are only attained through God's grace. True peace comes only in knowing God has us in His keeping. As John 1:17 says, "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Seek your balance in Christ our Lord.

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified," (Acts 20:32).

To God alone be the glory!

Renee' Anderson

What's On The Lutheran Hour

11/04 "The Problem of Heaven"

11/11 "What is Heaven?"

11/18 "Once And For All"

11/25 "Birth Pains"

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. You can also listen on Sirius XM Family Talk Channel 131, Sundays at 9:00 a.m. or any time on SENTRadio at lhm.org/sentradio.

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."



Put an MP3 Bible Stick in the Hands of a Soldier



The Military BibleStick is a digital audio player that is pre-loaded with a dramatized recording of the entire New Testament along with 65 minutes of selected Psalms. They are distributed to members of the military and veterans through chaplains. Interested in being a part of this ministry? One BibleStick costs \$25. Your donation earmarked "Military BibleStick" may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off or mailed to the church office this month.

Youth Trip to Sky Zone

Who: Youth 5th - 12th grade plus ONE friend

What: Trampoline Fun and Pizza

When: November 17 - Meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. - return approximately 3:00 p.m.

Where: Sky Zone in Fargo

Cost: \$10 per youth plus \$3 for bounce socks if you don't already have a pair. (Only Sky Zone socks are permitted - not regular socks)

All parents need to go online to www.fargostore.skyzone.com prior to November 17 and sign the waiver. Please forward a copy of the completed waiver to Pastor Newton, or print a copy and bring with. Only those youth with waivers on file will be allowed to board the bus!!!!



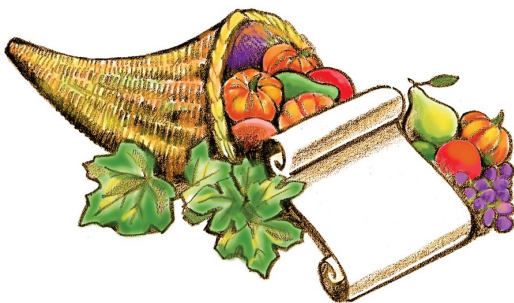
Christmas Decorating

You're invited to come and help decorate the church for the Christmas season on Monday, November 26, starting at 9:00 a.m. We've gotten so good at decorating that we're usually done before noon so this year instead of potluck lunch, coffee and rolls will be provided.

Thanksgiving Services

Wednesday, November 21, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 22, 9:00 a.m.



† Baptisms

10/07/18 **Madelyn Adele May**

Wayne and Trisha (Daniels) May

10/28/18 **Theia Rose Meier**

Matthew Meier and Shania Fosse

† Funeral

10/29/18 **Frances Lof**



Stewardship Corner—Love One Another



God's nature is love. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). Jesus tells us to love others as He has loved us (John 15:12). Love is the heart of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament, wrote again and again about Christ's love for us and our need to love Him by loving others. In his letter to the people in Corinth, Paul devotes a whole chapter to describe love (1 Corinthians 13).

When Sir Ernest Shackleton, an Irish-born British explorer of the Arctic, was asked to describe his most terrible moment in the Arctic, he said it occurred one night when he and the other members of his expedition were huddled together in a barren hut, trying to sleep. They had divided up the last of their food rations. There was nothing more to divide.

Then in the cold darkness, Sir Ernest heard a quiet movement. He turned and saw one of the men reach over and pick up the provision bag of the man beside him. Shackleton said he lived through an eternity of suspense the next few moments. He would have trusted his life to this

man. Was he now turning out to be a thief who would steal his comrade's last morsel of food? Then Shackleton saw the man open his provision bag, take out his last biscuit, and place it in the bag of his sleeping friend. Shackleton said, "I felt I had witnessed a secret moment between that man and God."



Because God has first loved us (1 John 4:19), each of us can be that person who gives away the last of our food. We can show love to one another in such a way, openly or in secret, that we are raised above the level of mere mortals to become more like our Creator. That is truly the imitation of God. As Jesus loved without expectation of that love being reciprocated, so we can learn to love not caring if we receive love in return. We can demonstrate our love by what we say and do. As we love others, we will become "little Christs." As Paul tells us: *"Love one another with brotherly affection"* (Romans 12:10). May Christ's love in us overflow to others.

Build and Bid on a Basket

It's that time of the year again for our silent auction basket fund raiser. Look for a sign up sheet in the social hall. You may bring your baskets for bidding on Sunday, November 25. The auction will be complete on Sunday, December 16. These baskets make great Christmas gifts!





Stewardship Review—September

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **259**

Total Offerings: \$34,600	Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,650	Budget/Week \$9,201
Total Expenses: \$36,414	Avg. Weekly Expenses \$9,104	Budget/Month \$39,870
Difference - \$1,814	Difference - \$454	

Total Offerings, September, 2017: \$34,990	Total Offerings, year to date: \$321,222
Total Expenses, September, 2017: \$29,475	Total Expenses, year to date: \$304,519
Difference \$5,515	Difference \$16,703

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 09/30/18: \$71,191	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts - \$553	Raised so far \$36,068
Difference \$70,638	Still need \$37,932

Get a Great Rate on Your Investment

Lutheran Church Extension Fund is offering a 40-month note at 4% to celebrate their 40th anniversary. You'll get a 4% fixed rate on a 40-month term note. You can invest as little as \$500 or as much as \$40,000. This is for new money only. You can't roll over funds from an existing LCEF investment. This is also a limited time offer. As soon as they reach \$100 million in investment it ends.



To get all the details, call LCEF at 800-843-5233 or visit them online at lcef.org/40month.

Kitchen Committee Coming Along



Back in August, we mentioned that we're putting together a committee to research remodeling the kitchen. We have four people on the committee at this time—Connie Fondow, Rod Helm, Elayne Luiken and Pat Stearns. Our first step will be to survey the various groups that use the kitchen to see what's working and what needs improvement. You can still join the committee. If you're interested, please talk to Connie or Pastor Neubauer.

We're Also Looking at a New Sign

Our outdoor sign has served us well since 2000 but at eighteen years old, it's starting to show some wear and tear. The Parish Planning Council has discussed purchasing a new sign. Of course, the place to start is by researching what's available, cost, regulations, etc. This will be brought up at the November Voters Meeting.

Watch for more information on progress.





Release Time Is Huge!

We got a little shock last month when Release Time classes started and we saw how many children were signed up to come this year. After a quick panic attack, Ruth Knaack helped me to reorganize our classrooms and with Pastor Newton and our deaconess, Sarah Newton, both volunteering to teach, all we had to do was find enough classrooms and supplies to make it work.

We have a total of 135 students this year!!! That is the most ever, at least while I have been involved with the program. Because of the classroom sizes we have had to split a few more of the classes into two groups than we originally had planned.

1st grade (2 classes) 1/2 the students are with Ruth Knaack and 1/2 with Laurie Kimball

2nd grade (2 classes) 1/2 with Sandy Phillips and 1/2 with Sarah Newton

3rd grade Pastor Neubauer

4th grade (2 classes) 1/2 with Pastor Newton and 1/2 with Cheryl Breitbach

5th grade (2 classes) 1/2 with Sandy Phillips and 1/2 with Cheryl Breitbach

6th grade (2 classes) 1/2 with Ruth Knaack and 1/2 with Laurie Kimball

7th grade Pastor Neubauer

8th grade Pastor Newton

It is fantastic to see that bus pull up on Wednesday mornings and see all those kids get off....slightly reminds us of a clown car.

Pastor Bill Knaack and Connie Fondow have already substitute taught for us this year, thank you both so much! Vickie Helm is leading a fantastic bunch of ladies who watch George in the nursery so that Sarah can devote all her attention to teaching.

So with a little help from our janitor, Mike Riewer, helping to set up tables in the youth room and choir room so we can have classes in there, Ruth meeting me here on extra days to run off extra lessons and put together classroom supplies and our extra teachers and substitutes.....all has been running pretty smoothly. If anyone else out there would like to be a sub or classroom helper sometimes just let us know. We can always use more help. Keep our program in your prayers and maybe next year we will top 140 kids!!!!

Big thank you's to everyone who has helped out to make our program a success.

God's blessings,

Laurie Kimball
Release Time Coordinator



This year's Third Graders with their new Bibles.



Board

HIGHLIGHTS

Christian Education:

Release Time: Pastor Neubauer reported that 132 students are expected on Wednesday.

Sunday School: Brandi Backmann reported that Rally Day was September 9. Activities were led by Pastor Newton with help from Shelley Lof and Ruth Knaack. On September 16 we began using the new curriculum. So far the response has been positive from teachers and students. We still need classroom helpers, especially in the 1st - 3rd classroom. Average attendance for the first three weeks was 36 students.

VBS: No report this month.

Preschool: Kim Neubauer reported that enrollment for this year is 41, there are ten in the 3-4 year old class and 31 in other classes during the week. A state inspection will be done during the fourth quarter of the year and paperwork for that was due on October 5. The Preschool Committee met on September 18 to discuss enrollment and the budget. Their recommendations were approved under new business.

Pastor's Report: Sunday morning Bible class is taught by Pastor Neubauer and has an attendance of about 30. Pastor Neubauer's Tuesday morning class involves 8-16 people and is studying the book of Ephesians. Sarah Newton leads a Sunday morning class of 10-12 and they study the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Neumann has a class on Wednesday morning. Confirmation class meets together this year and is using the 7th grade material.

Old Business: We finalized the budget for next year. Lori Griess told us that progress is being made on getting a stage for the Christmas program.

New Business: Approved the Preschool Committee recommendation to leave the budget amount for

next year at \$16,500 and to ask the treasurer to take only \$500 from ABC's savings account and the rest from the budget amount to cover expenses starting in September.

We discussed costs of Focus on the Family inserts and recommend that the church resume including them in the bulletin every month. Motion made, seconded and carried to approve and submit our 2019 budget.

Church Properties: One minor electrical problem to be fixed this fall. North door extension done this fall before it gets real cold to allow both doors to close. Set budget for 2019. Office cabinets to be refaced.

Elders: Heard reports from the pastors and Sarah Newton. Worked on assisting elders. Finalized 2019 budget items.

Evangelism: Confirmation mentors have been secured and letters to both the confirmands and mentors have been mailed.

The mentor/confirmand pizza party will take place on October 24 after confirmation class. Deb Luther and Kathy Henry will coordinate this event. The pastors will take care of the "mixer" activity.

Dawn Lachmiller will attempt to call parents of some of the possible college student members to find out addresses for sending care packages.

Sixty patriotic key chains will be taken to the Legion to be distributed to area veterans. A card is attached with information about St. Johns service times.

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

Kathy Henry is working on deciding on a date to set for St. Johns members and confirmands to assist at Ruby's Pantry on one of the future third Saturdays of the month.

Kathy is keeping the board updated on the progress being made at the Women's Intervention Center in Park Rapids.

The pastors will review the material for "Every One His Witness" and let the board know when possible dates would be appropriate for leading this Bible study during one of the 2019 winter months.

Doug Kingsley will once again lead the Christmas community gifting program at St. Johns.

The pastors will inform the congregation about the new cards available in the pew racks. These informational cards will assist the elders and pastors with knowing when we have members who may be missing Sunday service due to illness or other concerns so that a "caring" call may be initiated.

Parish Fellowship: Old Business: New Member Welcome, 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. Elayne Luiken will also buy fruit and juice.

There will be a potluck luncheon immediately following second service, with the semi-annual Voters Meeting to follow. Elayne will purchase the plates and silverware.

New Business:
Pastor Appreciation – A reception will be held Sunday, October 28 between services. Our

board members will each bake two dozen cupcakes. We'll get together at church on Saturday, October 27 at 10:00 a.m. to frost them. Elayne will also purchase some kuchens from Pop and Chops (in Nevis).

Christmas decorating will be on Monday, November 26, starting at 9:00 a.m. Our board will furnish rolls and coffee.

Cookies and Carols will be Sunday, December 16 between services.

Public Relations: did not meet.

Stewardship: did not meet.

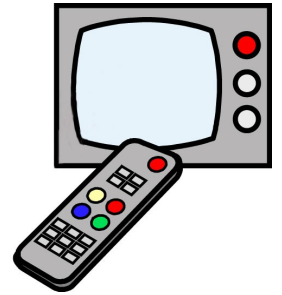
Young People: Homecoming Tailgate: Students can walk over to the church after school where we will provide food, and a place to hang out before the football game. We will walk students over to the football field at 5:15 p.m. and enter through the south gate by the concession stand. Pastor Newton will have a couple of games set up, and Brandi Backmann will provide materials for signs if anyone wants to make one. Brandi will shop for food Wednesday and Pastor Newton will check on grill.

Sky Zone: Group Price for 15-37 people is \$12 for one hour. Special socks must be worn and these cost \$3. Normal socks are not permitted. Can reserve upstairs space for after bounce time is over. Large pizza is \$15. Parents/Guardians will need to sign the online waiver prior to trip date and forward confirmation e-mail of waiver to Pastor Newton. Youth without waivers will not be allowed to attend. Cost to youth will be \$10. This will include bounce time and pizza. Youth will need to bring socks if they have them or an extra \$3 to purchase socks. Date set for November 17. Leave church at 9:00 a.m., return around 3:00 p.m. Shelley Lof will reserve space. Brandi will ask Ginny Ranisate to do announcement for bulletin and newsletter and send out postcard.



Have You Checked Out 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: 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.



Are you old enough to remember, "This is the Life?" This was a television program produced by The Lutheran Hour that ran from 1952 into the 1980s which presented everyday and contemporary problems, and resolved them using a Christian solution. These programs are now on Main Street Living North, replacing "Kids' Crossing."

Here's the schedule for November:

November 4: Rev. William Moeller, Jr., Bethlehem Lutheran Churches of Baudette and Warroad, MN, presents the message: "The Blessed" based on Matthew 5:11-12. "This Is the Life" program: "Cell of Hope."

November 11: Rev. Mark Chepulis, Our Savior Lutheran/Cavalier, ND, St. Paul Lutheran/St. Thomas, ND, and Redeemer Lutheran Church/Langdon, ND, presents the message: "The Sleep of Death" based on Matthew 9. "This Is the Life" program: "Undertow."

November 18: Rev. Thomas Puffe, St. John's Lutheran/Thief River Falls, MN., and Zion Lutheran/Warren, MN, presents the message: "Hebrews 10:11-25" based on Hebrews 10:11-25. "This Is the Life" program: "The Healer."

November 25: Rev. Craig Fenske, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message: "Be Ready for His Return" based on Mark 13:24-37. "This Is the Life" program: "Flames of Hate."

(Continued from page 8)

December Event: Suggestion from confirmands to do Amazing Race with winter activities such as: snowman challenge, broomball, candy wrapped in tape and plastic wrap, trivia. Need to set a date and plan activities.

Upcoming activities: December 19 – Advent Meal, January – Tubing, February – Magician Calvin Gunn in conjunction with Sunday School – or movie and pizza, March – Water Park. Dee Persons will make reservations for tubing and water park once dates are set. Roger Hanson will contact Calvin Guinn about possible dates in February.

National Youth Gathering Update: Two youth have signed up. Deadline to sign up is October 10. Sarah Newton is working with a German Youth Group who will be with us the week before the gathering. Will try to coordinate a Servant Event with the German group during that time. Once number of youth is determined we can help coordinate fundraising events.



Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance

September

- PK3 Thatcher Eidsmoe, Marcella Trandem
 PK4 James Trandem
 Kdg. Sawyer Eidsmoe
 1st Clinton Koch, Alex Lof, Sophia Neubauer
 2nd Zachary Harju, Khloe May,
 Kolt Safratowich, Elsie Trandem
 4th Maxwell Harju, Aiden May
 5th Kolie Safratowich
 6th Vivian Harju, Laura Kaufenberg,
 Leo Kaufenberg
 7th Jacob Lof, Jack Moses, Matthew Neubauer,
 Kilea Persons
 8th Natalie Backmann, Jillian Neubauer
 11th Daniel Neubauer


October

- PK3 Thatcher Eidsmoe
 PK4 Colton Nilson, Hunter Schroeder
 Kdg. Sawyer Eidsmoe, Autumn Kvitem
 1st Clinton Koch, Alex Lof, Kryton Nilson,
 Brayden Schroeder
 2nd Zachary Harju, Khloe May,
 Kolt Safratowich
 4th Aiden May
 5th Kolie Safratowich
 7th Jacob Lof, Jack Moses
 8th Natalie Backmann, Haley Kerr

Our Offerings:

September \$43.06
 October \$50.26


This year our Sunday School offerings are going to Hurricane Harvey Recovery. You read that right. Even though it's been over a year since Hurricane Harvey blew through, there's still a lot of rebuilding left to do.



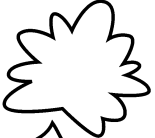






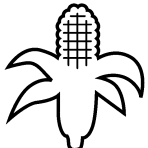




HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.



“The  will  
 what is , and 
 will  its .”
  : , NIV

Answer: “The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.” Psalm 85:12, NIV

November Memory Verse:

Just as you received
 Christ Jesus the Lord,
 so walk in him,
 rooted and built up in him
 and established in the faith,
 just as you were taught,
 abounding in thanksgiving.





11/03 Khloe May
 11/06 Kaitlyn Maves
 11/14 Jacob Lof
 11/15 Zachary Harju
 11/15 Hailey Meier
 11/20 Gemma Leckner
 11/21 Thatcher Eidsmoe
 11/28 Jedidiah Kruchowski
 11/29 Ryan Maves

Baptismal Birthdays

11/18 Kolie Safratowich
 11/20 Luke Eskola
 11/20 Kiften Luther
 11/26 Kale Ravnaas



Volunteers Needed

We are in need of classroom volunteers! We need additional eyes, hands and ears in the classroom to help maintain a positive learning environment. Please consider helping one or more Sundays. You can sign up on the sheets outside of each classroom. Thank you!



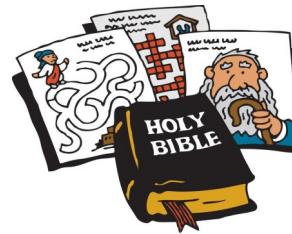
Lessons this month:

PK-K

11/4 Building the Tabernacle
 11/11 The Battle of Jericho
 11/18 Ruth
 11/25 Samuel as a Boy

1st-6th

11/4 God Provides Manna, Water, and Quail
 11/11 The Ten Commandments
 11/18 Worship in the Tabernacle
 11/25 The Bronze Serpent



It's Christmas Program Practice Time

We will have Christmas program practice for 1st-6th graders on Wednesdays, November 14 and 28, December 5 and 12 at 3:15 p.m. The St. Johns bus will pick up kids at Century School each Wednesday. If you're planning to have your child ride the St. Johns bus, please let Sarah Kaufenberg know, 651-260-3350, so we make sure we get everyone. There will also be a rehearsal on Saturday, December 15. The program will take place December 16 at the 10:30 a.m. service.



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Park Rapids, MN 56470

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Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Neumann



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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Inside this issue:

<i>For All the Saints</i>	1
<i>Blood Drive This Month</i>	1
<i>Welcome, New Members</i>	1
<i>Voters Meeting—November</i>	1
<i>Ponderings from the Pew</i>	2
<i>What's on the Lutheran Hour</i>	2
<i>Put an MP3 BibleStick in the Hands of a Soldier</i>	3
<i>Youth Trip to Sky Zone</i>	3
<i>Thanksgiving Services</i>	3
<i>Christmas Decorating</i>	3
<i>Baptisms and Funeral</i>	3
<i>Stewardship Corner</i>	4
<i>Build and Bid on a Basket</i>	4
<i>Stewardship Review</i>	5
<i>Get A Great Rate on Your Investment</i>	5
<i>Kitchen Committee Coming Along</i>	4
<i>We're Also Looking at a New Sign</i>	5
<i>Release Time Is Huge!</i>	6
<i>Board Highlights</i>	7
<i>Have You Checked Out Main Street Living North?</i>	9
<i>Sunday School News</i>	10



**"Ed here has a question
about the origin of life."**