



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

December, 2018

Advent Services Answer A Question



The birth of a certain child two thousand years ago in Bethlehem prompted a poet in the nineteenth century to ask a very uncommon question in a hymn: "What Child Is This?" It was an uncommon question because it asked about the birth of a very uncommon child. Join us this Advent season as the answer to this question is revealed.

Advent services take place on Wednesdays at noon and 6:00 p.m. The noon service is followed by a light fellowship lunch. The evening service is preceded by a meal starting at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5—***Zechariah's Hope***, Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 12—***The Mighty Son***, Judges 13:2-7

Wednesday, December 19—***The Leap of Joy***, 2 Samuel 5:12-23 and Luke 1:39-45

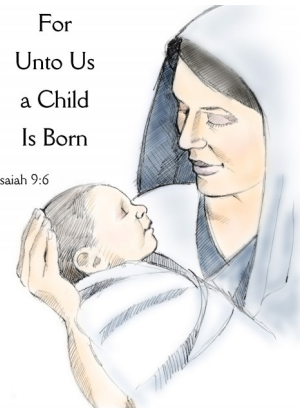
And Then It's Christmas!

Those three Advent services are all leading up to Christmas as we celebrate the birth of this uncommon child. Christmas Eve services will be held on Monday, December 24 at 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. We will have one service on Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.

***This, this is Christ, the King!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!***

For
Unto Us
a Child
Is Born

Isaiah 9:6



Toys for Boys and Girls/Tiny Tots



The Board of Evangelism once again is encouraging members from St. Johns to participate in the community Christmas gift program, Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots. A tree with cards attached to the branches is located in the front entry. Each card contains general information pertaining to a child's age and gender. After purchasing an appropriate gift, please bring it back to church by Sunday, December 9. A drop off box is also located in the front lobby. Please do not wrap your gift. Simply tape the card that you took from the tree onto the gift. Further inquiries may be made to Doug or Julie Kingsley.

Help is also needed for sorting and distributing gifts the week of December 10. If you would like to help, please call Tanja at 218-255-6056.



Ponderings from the Pew



Does it seem to you that people shop for a god similarly to how they shop for a new car? When looking for a vehicle, we make a list of must have accessories like heated seats, heated steering wheels, automatic doors, keyless entry, auto start. We make a list of color options, type of vehicle, maybe even specific brands, and cloth or leather seats. So, give a listen sometime and see what kind of god people seek – if they seek any at all that is. Let's see. Oh, he needs to be all about love, peace and wild flowers. He isn't a judge; he doesn't have any rules on right and wrong. Whatever works for you, works for him. Hell isn't necessary. My god wouldn't actually send someone to hell. Sin has no clear definition. Well, let's just say that sin doesn't exist. How can it be wrong if it makes me happy?



Humans try so hard to define God; to make Him fit in a form we can relate to and understand. No matter how many times God tells us that He is, in fact, a mystery. I Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." We want God to be Who we want Him to be, act like we want Him to act, do what we want Him to do. When we have trouble, we wonder where is God? We seek a god that fits into a box we define, but there is only one true God. Isaiah 45:20-21, "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols and keep on praying to a god that cannot save....there is no other god besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides Me." There is none beside the one triune God.

God doesn't behave the way we want. He doesn't always do what we want or answer our prayers the way we want. God is God. He alone decides. We don't get to make demands of Him. We are not promised easy, worry free, trouble free lives. God's children are not guaranteed peace on earth. We are guaranteed eternal life. We are guaranteed that He will never leave us even when we suffer here in this world. We are guaranteed that this place is not our home; that we have a mansion prepared for us in perfect heaven with Him. The pain, loss, illnesses we suffer here are temporary – eternal life is forever. Yes, God is a mystery we cannot fully comprehend here. But the time will come when we will see Him face to face. We cannot shop for a god who caters to our every whim. The one true God chose us, and not because we were the best, or had the purest hearts, or handled well on the bumpy roads. He chose us because we were broken, ugly, chipped, faded, sinful.



"Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?" (Exodus 15:11). No one. "Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 19:4). "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god'" (Isaiah 44:6). Don't waste time shopping for a god who cannot save. Be still and know the one true God is with you.

To God alone be the glory.

Renee' Anderson



An Acoustic Christmas

Eric and Krista Norquist, along with special guests, Hope and Alyssa Schroeder, will present an acoustic Christmas concert here at St. Johns on Saturday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m. The Lutheran Laymen's League will serve goodies following the concert. A freewill offering will be taken to support the local Lutheran Hour.



A Handbell Christmas Service

If you love listening to the handbell choir you're in for a special treat at the 8:00 a.m. worship service on December 16. Every song features bells from the prelude to the postlude. Come and worship with bells!



Cookies and Carols

On Sunday, December 16, we'll gather in the fellowship hall during coffee hour to sing our favorite carols and indulge in our favorite cookies, which will be furnished by members like you! Please bring a dozen or two of your favorite cookies or candy. After singing, the Board of Fellowship will make up gift packages of goodies and deliver them to our shut-ins. Please join us in this yearly tradition here at St. Johns.



Sunday School Presents "King Jesus"

St. Johns Sunday School invites you to their Christmas program, "King Jesus" on Sunday, December 16 at the 10:30 a.m. service.



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 12/02 "Reality Therapy"
- 12/09 "Redeemer with a Capital R"
- 12/16 "In Anxious Times - Rejoice! "
- 12/23 "The King's Strength "
- 12/30 "A Long Good-Bye"

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."

Bid on A Basket

Place your bid on one of the many baskets displayed in the social hall. Proceeds from the baskets will be divided between the National Youth Gathering and the Children's Choir. Bids will be taken until December 16 during the Cookies and Carols so be sure to check back frequently and make sure someone hasn't outbid you.

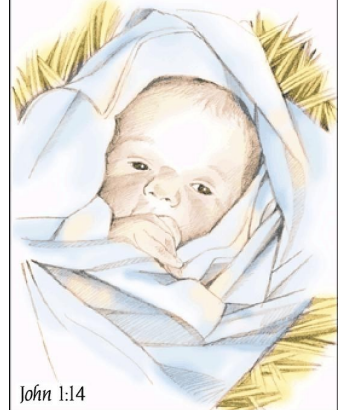




Stewardship Corner—*Make Known the Savior*

What greater mystery is there than these words of the Apostle John: “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*” (John 1:14)? This Word Who is with God and Who is God and Who has been with God since the beginning (John 1:1-2), this Word became one of us. Born in a stable more than two thousand years ago, Jesus lived among us. We joyfully sing every Christmas, “Joy to the Word, the Lord is Come.” In His 33 years on earth, He ate and drank and slept like one of us, and He showed us His glory.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.



“*And from His fullness, we have all received, grace upon grace*” (John 1:16), for this is what He came to bring. First and foremost of those blessings is the forgiveness of sins and life eternal with Him. He is “*the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!*” (John 1:29).

As we turn the pages of the Gospel of John, we come to know more about our Savior. He is: living water, the healer, the teacher, the miracle worker, the good shepherd, the raiser of the dead, the Vine, the Christ, the Son of God, the I AM.

And we are the sheep of His flock, His witnesses, the branches who cling to Him, the Vine, so that we might be sustained and empowered to serve this mighty Savior Who deigned to become one of us.

What does He ask of us, His sheep? To believe in Him, to remain in Him, to love others as He has loved us, to expect persecution for the sake of the Gospel, to trust Him so completely that He can accomplish through us even greater things (John 14:12).

“*You did not choose Me,*” Jesus said, “*but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide*” (John 15:16). How blessed we are to be chosen to have our identity in Christ, to be chosen for the tasks He gives us to do! Let us joyfully take up the work He gives us as we make known to all the Savior, the Work made flesh.

May peace and joy abound in our lives as we celebrate Jesus’ coming into the world as our rescuer from sin and death!

Successful Blood Drive

Blessed are the volunteers, for without them, what would we do? I’d like to thank everyone who volunteered to call donors, work registration, serve or provide snacks, and **especially** those who donated blood during our blood drive on November 5 & 6. There were 125 donors who were able to successfully donate for a total of 150 blood products. This wonderful outcome could not be accomplished without the help of our volunteers and donors. Thank you so much, everyone, for your support!



Elayne Luiken, Blood Drive Coordinator



Stewardship Review—October

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **273**

Total Offerings: **\$42,089**
 Total Expenses: **\$40,611**
 Difference **\$1,478**

Avg. Weekly Offerings **\$8,418**
 Avg. Weekly Expenses **\$8,122**
 Difference **\$296**

Budget/Week **\$9,201**
 Budget/Month **\$39,870**

Total Offerings, October, 2017: **\$41,231**
 Total Expenses, October, 2017: **\$30,148**
 Difference **\$11,083**

Total Offerings, year to date: **\$363,311**
 Total Expenses, year to date: **\$345,130**
 Difference **\$18,181**

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 10/31/18: **\$72,868**
 Less Dedicated Accounts **- \$411**
 Difference **\$72,457**

Our Healthy Balance Goal **\$74,000**
 Raised so far **\$37,068**
 Still need **\$36,932**

Hey Youth! Come Join Us for An Amazing Race!



All youth 5th-12th grade are invited to join us for a winter themed Amazing Race here at the church on Sunday, December 9, from 3:00—5:00 p.m. Come enjoy some fun, games and friendly competition. Make your own signature drink at the cocoa bar. Please bring a treat to share. Friends welcome!



You can sign up on the sheet by the church office, call the church (732-9783) or call, text or e-mail Pastor Newton (815-222-1359, pastorjoelnewton@gmail.com).



Scenes from the Youth Sky Zone Trip



It was a great time!

Thanks to Larry Hetrick for driving the bus!



Parish Planning Council Minutes October 23, 2018

Meeting called to order by Dr. Rod Helm.

Present: Pastor Newton and Pastor Neubauer, Mike Poole, Rod Helm, Jerry Grudem, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter, Connie Fondow, Brandi Backmann, Brad Dahn, Cliff Branham.

Absent: Ruth Knaack, Elayne Luiken.

Open Devotions – Pastor Neubauer.

Approval of the PPC Minutes for July 24, 2018 – motion Cliff Branham, second Brad Dahn, carried.

Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2018	356,572	328,371	28,201
2017	359,707	300,828	58,879
Difference	-3,135	27,543	--

Income is down slightly and expenses are up compared to last year at this time. Expenses have increased with the addition of the Newtons to the staff. We are \$37,068 short of our goal of \$74,000 for Healthy Balance. These funds have been moved to the LCEF Steward Account.

CNB Checking Account as of 10/23/18-----83,185
Less Dedicated Funds----- 436
Available Funds----- 82,749

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 10/23/18 -----27,898

LCEF Current Fund as of 10/23/18 ----- 160,621
Less Parsonage Proceeds ----- 18,548
Less Healthy Balance ----- 37,068
Less Endowment Fund Interest----- - 918
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest----- 21,209
Less T. Haberer Trust CD ----- 78,265
Less R. Haberer Memorial----- - 1,776
Available Funds-----\$2,837

Motion to approve treasurer's report Jerry Grudem, second Brandi Backmann, carried.

Pastor Newton's Report

General: He has been visiting members (still working through the As and Bs) and making phone calls, especially to the high schoolers, encouraging them to sign up for the National Youth Gathering. Also leading Bible studies as requested by Ladies Aid, Evening Guild, and Lutheran Laymen's League..



Young People:

Bible Study has been going well—survey of the Bible, with interspersed Q&A

Registering tomorrow for the National Youth Gathering (have been trying to get one more person to sign up, and will hopefully get that information tonight or tomorrow morning). We'll be teaming up on some things with a SELK youth group from Germany. We also might be teaming up with a group from Trinity, Bemidji

In August we went to Evergreen Park and had a good turnout

September's event was a bonfire to talk about the National Youth Gathering

In October we hosted a homecoming tailgate party

We're heading to Sky Zone in Fargo (trampolines and pizza party) November 17. Meet at church at 9:00 a.m. Return at 3:00 p.m. Students may bring a friend. Cost to students is \$13 (includes the necessary special socks). Only those who have filled out online waivers already may board the bus. Don't let the money be the reason a student doesn't go

Started calisthenics with the confirmation students for 5 minutes before class to get blood pumping and help them learn and focus. This week that time will be used to fill out information forms for their mentors to get to know them better.

Projects:

Talked with Daniel Pike about a men's basketball group. He's going to see whether we can start something up at the school. If that doesn't work, Pastor Newton will talk with St. Peter's and Faithbridge.

Matt Harju, Roger Hanson, and Pastor Newton will be building a dartball board (thanks to LLL for the funding!) to start a men's dartball group, that will hopefully become a regular team that joins with or forms a league.

Working on plans for a young adult (18-40) Bible study

Personal

Sarah's family reunion in Florida was good—thanks for allowing us to attend!

Moved into our house (thanks to all who helped us move—both times—and have helped us furnish the new place!) George is a big ol' fan of the new place, and so are we!

Sarah's Mom will be visiting this weekend, so we're excited to have her in town!

Membership Changes

Transfer In: Paul and Judy Coan, First English, Dorset, MN – motion Jerry Grudem, second Connie Fondow to approve transfer – carried.

Release to other Lutheran: Dan and Nancy Ganske, Faith Lutheran, Blackduck, MN -- motion Jerry Grudem, second Connie Fondow to approve release – carried.

Pastor Neubauer's Report

Teaching times: Sunday morning Biblical Peacemaking

Confirmation: We are doing a combined class. Pastor Newton is doing an opening and closing and helping correct papers/guide the kids to understanding. Pastor Neubauer is correcting papers and leading the "lecture" time.

Release Time: Large enough that we split the 7th and 8th grade. He is doing Genesis I-II materials with 7th grade. Teaching "My Bible" with 3rd grade.

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Board



Christian Education: Minutes of October 2 meeting were approved.

Reports:

Release Time: Laurie Kimball's report was the page from the newsletter: it listed the teachers and classes and thanked the substitutes we have used so far (Pastor Bill Knaack and Connie Fondow); Vickie Helm, who is leading a group of ladies who watch George Newton while Sarah Newton teaches; and Mike Riewer who sets up tables in the choir room and youth room which are used as classrooms. She asked for volunteers and prayers for the program.

Sunday School: Brandi Backmann reported that attendance has been averaging 35 students this year. We still need adult volunteers in the 1st – 3rd grade classroom. Christmas program practice will begin November 14 for grades 1-6. Students will ride the church bus from school to practice. During November and December we will collect coins for offerings to help victims of Hurricane Harvey.
VBS: No report this month.

Preschool: Kim Neubauer reported that enrollment is currently 41 students; we gained one student and lost one. The licensing inspector was here on October 25; an exit interview will be done later. Inspections will be done annually from now on. Parent – teacher conferences will be this month. Information will be sent out about in mid-December to invite families to special services at church to celebrate Christmas.

Old Business: Lori Griess gave an update on the progress of the stage project. We discussed whether or not this is something we will be able to accomplish and if we want to do it.

New Business: We were reminded to think about the VBS survey that we will put together in December to send out in January.

Church Properties: Went over progress and possibilities of new exterior sign and kitchen remodeling. Looked at electrical projects. Discussed back door remodel. Mike Riewer has been working on other small repair jobs around the church.

Elders: no report.

Evangelism: The confirmation/mentor pizza party was well attended. We will repeat this event in April of '19.

It was suggested that we make a second attempt to acquire the names and addresses of students from St. Johns attending institutions of higher learning who are living away from home. Sending cards and occasional "care packages" to these young people remains our goal.

Doug Kingsley will take care of setting up a tree with cards attached for parishioners to take and subsequently purchase appropriate gifts for the upcoming Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots program.

The board will sponsor the "Every One His Witness" Bible study to be held during the month of February. A pastor from the district will facilitate the four-week program.

Kathy Henry will continue to provide the group with information concerning the local Women's Intervention Center. This facility will soon merge with the Walker Family Safety Network.

Kathy Henry will coordinate a group of confirmands and other adult members to assist at Ruby's Pantry on the third Saturday of March. No names were submitted for cards to be sent to inactive members.

**Parish Fellowship: Old Business:**

New Member Welcome is Sunday, November 18. The reception will be during coffee hour. We'll ask the Evening Guild ladies who are scheduled to bring 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.

Christmas decorating will be on Monday, November 26, 9:00 a.m. We'll furnish rolls and coffee.

Cookies and Carols will be Sunday, December 16 between services. Dave Vik will lead us in singing and Cheryl Hilgemann will accompany on the piano. That same day our board will assemble cookie trays for shut-ins and arrange for people to deliver them.

New Business: Our board filled out a worksheet, outlining the work we feel should be done in the church kitchen remodel. It will be turned in to the committee overseeing the planning.

Public Relations: did not meet.

Stewardship: did not meet.

Young People: no report.



Ladies Aid Christmas Potluck

The Ladies Aid invites all women of the congregation to join them for a special Christmas potluck on Thursday, December 6 at noon in the social hall. This event is always fun. Come and enjoy!



Christmas Caroling

The Evening Guild is going caroling on Monday, December 10 and you're invited to join them. We'll meet at 6:00 p.m. at the church for the caroling and return for snacks when we're done.

Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance--November

PK3	Thatcher Eidsmoe, Olivia May
Kgd.	Sawyer Eidsmoe, Dylan May
1st	Clinton Koch, Sophia Neubauer
2nd	Zachary Harju, Khloe May, Kolt Safratowich
4th	Maxwell Harju, Aiden May
5th	Kolie Safratowich
6th	Abby Eskola, Vivian Harju
7th	Jacob Lof
8th	Jillian Neubauer



12/08 Maxwell Harju
12/09 Grace Hockett
12/25 Abby Eskola
12/28 Theodore Komppa
12/30 Gavin Smith

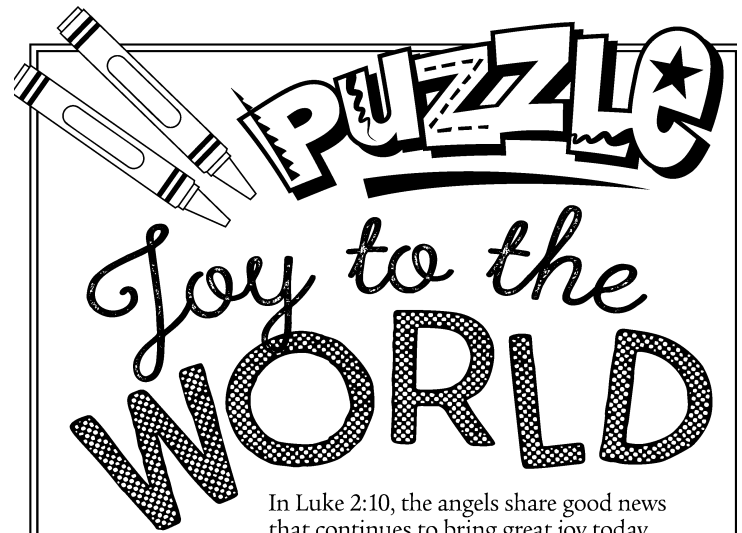
Baptismal Birthdays

12/04 Alex Lof
12/05 Zachary Harju
12/11 Eli Burton



December Lessons

12/02 The Birth of Jesus Foretold
12/09 Mary Visits Elizabeth
12/16 Christmas Program
12/23 An Angel Visits Joseph



In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

Directions: Circle all the complete small “joy” words — forward only.
Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find “Jesus” amid all the joy!

[illegible]

TOTAL JOY=_____

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large O

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17



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Miscellaneous: Had A-fib Ablation procedure.

Circuit/District/Regional Events: Attended one day at Fall Pastors Conference

ABC Preschool: Open house, September devotions; harvest festival

This February we will be working on presenting Everyone His Witness Every One His Witness, a Lutheran evangelism program that teaches you to witness to your friends, coworkers, and any other nonchurched people you may know. Using the LASSIE approach to witnessing (listen, ask, seek, share, invite, and encourage), you will learn how to naturally share the Good News of Jesus Christ through relational, contextual witnessing.

Elder's Report - Jerry Grudem

Elders continue to:

- Meet normally on first Tuesday of each month
- Assist with communion for 8:30 service on second and fourth Sundays
- Assist pastors with showing concern for members not attending worship frequently
- Review and counsel pastors regarding their duties and activities each month
- Review service schedule changes
- Help oversee the scheduling of ushers
- Attend annual public questioning of confirmands

Board of Evangelism – Connie Fondow

Since the July PPC meeting the Board of Evangelism has been engaged in the following:

- Confirmand/Mentor pairings have been established. The first pizza party gathering will be on 10/24.
- College student care packages – This project has been placed on hold at this time since no responses were received from our request for parents to relay student names and addresses.
- Patriotic keychains with cards attached indicating St. Johns worship service times were given to the Legion to distribute to local veterans.
- A group compiled of both current confirmands and St. Johns members will assist at Ruby's Pantry in the near future.
- During the winter of 2019 the pastors will facilitate a series of evening Bible studies entitled "Every One His Witness." Exact dates to be determined.
- Cards have been placed in the pew racks for parishioners to alert/remind the pastors of members who may possibly have become inactive in worship for one reason or another. These cards should be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or taken to the church office.
- Board members continue to send cards of concern or caring to St. Johns parishioners from a list generated and given to us by the pastors.
- The board will facilitate St. Johns involvement in the community children's Christmas gifting program. The Kingsleys will be dispersing the appropriate information.

Board of Christian Education – Ruth Knaack (Ginny Ranisate read her report due to absence)

Release Time: These are the teachers and numbers as of October 3. Attendance the first hour is 62 and for the second hour 69, or 131 in all. A number of ladies have volunteered to watch George Newton

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so that Sarah Newton may teach. We thank them all for volunteering their time.

Grade	Teacher	# of Students
1 st	Laurie Kimball, Ruth Knaack	21
2 nd	Sarah Newton, Sandy Phillips	16
3 rd	Pastor Neubauer	9
4 th	Cheryl Breitbach, Pastor Neubauer	16
5 th	Cheryl Breitbach, Sandy Phillips	16
6 th	Laurie Kimball, Ruth Knaack	19
7 th	Pastor Neubauer	17
8 th	Pastor Newton	17

Sunday School:

Teachers are: **PreK-K:** Sandy Phillips; **Grades 1-3:** Tori Harju; **Grades 4-6:** Shelley Lof; **Grade 7:** Jerry Werder; **Youth Bible Study:** Pastor Newton. First day of Sunday School was Rally Day. Activities were led by Pastor Newton with help from Shelley Lof and Ruth Knaack. Sheets asking for volunteer help are posted outside each classroom. The mission offering this year will go to Hurricane Harvey Relief. The Christmas program this year will be "King Jesus" and will be presented on December 16 during late church. Rehearsals will begin the week before Thanksgiving. So far the response to our new curriculum has been positive from students and teachers. We still need classroom helpers, especially in the 1st – 3rd grade classroom. Average attendance for the first three weeks was 36 students.

Preschool—Current enrollment is 41; 10 in the 3-4 year old class and 31 in other classes during the week. Open House was poorly attended. Here is information about the families who are attending: 21 families have a church home; 8 families listed no church; 9 families are members of St. Johns. One family is a member of another LCMS congregation. Twelve families are receiving financial assistance. A state inspection will be done during the 4th quarter of this year. Paperwork was due October 5. The Preschool Committee met on September 18 to discuss enrollment and budget. They recommended that the budgeted amount remain at \$16,500 and that the treasurer take \$500 from the preschool savings account and the rest from the budget to pay expenses again this year. This was approved by the board.

Pastors' Report -These adult Bible Study opportunities are offered each week:

Sunday morning class – led by Pastor Neubauer with approximately 30 in attendance

Sunday morning class – taught by Sarah Newton studying The Lord's Prayer

Tuesday morning – Pastor Neubauer leads a class on Ephesians with 8-16 in attendance

Wednesday morning – Pastor Neumann leads a class studying Proverbs

Confirmation class meets together this year and is using the 7th grade material

Other:

Encourage people to use "Bring It Home" Bible literacy program.

Looking for ways to get more people to come to VBS; survey to be sent out in January.

Recommend that the church resume putting Focus on the Family inserts in the bulletins.

**Young People Report – Brandi Backmann**

August - Evergreen Park – 18 youth joined for a cloudy but fun day of go-carts, laser tag, mini golf, and more

September - Youth Gathering Info Meeting – hosted by Pastor Newton

October - Homecoming Tailgate – 12 youth joined for a rainy tailgate gathering prior to Homecoming

Upcoming Events:

Sky Zone – November 17

Advent Meal – December 19

Winter Minute to Win It/Amazing Race – December 9?

Board of Church Properties- Brad Dahn

Completed the budget for 2019. A few of the budgeted items for next year are purchasing compliant wireless microphones, openers for 1-2 doors.

Having Craig Rittgers Glass move the back entrance door in a few inches so it will close right, hopefully this fall.

Several electrical items around the church need attention, having Marchell Electric look into them. Talked about the kitchen remodel project.

Board did some fixing on playgrounds and other things around the church before ABC open house.

Mike Riewer has been doing a fine job of fixing and repairing many things around the Church....Thanks, Mike!

Stewardship Report – Cliff Branham – no report as they have not met.**Fellowship Board Report – Elayne Luiken** (Ginny Ranisate read her report due to absence)

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 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.

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.

New member welcome, Sunday, November 18. The reception for new members will be during coffee hour. There will be a potluck luncheon immediately following second service, with the semi-annual Voters Meeting to follow.

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 report – none.

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Old/New Business

Voters meeting & agenda – Reviewed the proposed agenda for the Voters Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 18 after the 10:30 a.m. service. The board had a few minor corrections and additions to the agenda.

2019 Budget – Reviewed and discussed proposed 2019 budget as in the handout. Motion Connie Fondow – second Cliff Branham to approve proposed budget to be presented at the Voters Meeting in November. Carried.

Kitchen Remodel Committee – no meetings have been held as the committee is not quite established. Connie Fondow will speak to members of the Parish Fellowship Board, Evening Guild and Ladies Aid to seek volunteers to be on the committee. Connie volunteered to be chairperson with Brad Dahn and members of church properties board assisting the committee with knowledge of remodeling projects.

New business: The PPC board discussed the possibility of purchasing an outdoor electronic sign as a goal for the future. Brad Dahn will check on options of different kinds/styles as well as price range.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Potter

Interested in A Mission Trip to Puerto Rico?



Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico in September of 2017. For many months, the island has worked at restoring basic services such as water and electricity. LCMS mission sites are now ready to receive mission teams to help with various projects. The Minnesota North District of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has agreed to send two mission teams of 6 to 12 people to Puerto Rico during 2019.

The possible dates (set by local people in Puerto Rico) are May 18-25, July 20-27, September 14-21, November 9-16. Individual costs would be air transportation of probably \$500/person round trip, a portion of the ground transportation cost of \$150/week per team, and room and board of \$55/day.

If you're interested, please contact Pastor Jeffrey Lee at the District office (jeffrey.lee@mnnlcms.org) with dates you would be available and if you want to participate on a construction or a mercy team in 2019.





Main Street Living Update for December



If you haven't checked out Main Street Living, this month is a great time to do so. Programs are broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on KVRP Fargo-Moorhead or you can watch all of the archived programs at any time on line! To reach the website for archived programs you will first need to go to the MSL Network site at www.mainstreetliving.com and then click on "North" to reach the Main Street Living site.

To help with the cost of expanding to the western half of North Dakota, the Main Street Living NETWORK has also announced that they will provide matching funds up to \$16,000 for any new donations made. To add your much needed financial support, checks may be sent to "Main Street Living NORTH", 821-5th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by credit card or your PayPal account. Thank you and God's blessing in Christ!

Note: During December, the regular "This Is the Life" programs are being replaced by a church-season series of Lutheran Hour animated programs.

December 2: Rev. Michael Nielson, Trinity Lutheran Church, Fisher, MN, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Euclid, MN, presents the message: "Singing to the King" based on Luke 19:28-40. Today's Lutheran Hour program is "The City That Forgot About Christmas." In it, Benji thinks the hustle and bustle of Christmas only makes people more grouchy, but grandfather has a different view.

December 9: Rev. Daniel Voth, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, presents the message: "The Second Sunday of Advent" based on St. Luke 3:1-14. Today's Lutheran Hour program is "The Stableboy's Christmas." In it, a family experiences the excitement of the holidays, while trying to keep the true meaning of Christmas at the center of their preparations.

December 16: Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, President of the English District LC-MS delivers today's message: "Do Not Be Anxious" based on Luke 7: 18-28. Today's Lutheran Hour program is "Red Boots for Christmas." In it, a small shop in the small town of Friedensdorf doesn't have any Christmas decorations, and no Christmas spirit inside the store.

December 23: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod leads our Christmas worship service. The message is based on Luke 1: 39-45. Today's Lutheran Hour program is "Christmas Is." which takes a journey back in time to the first Christmas with Benji and Waldo to rediscover the feeling and message of this significant day.

December 30: Rev. Nabil Nour, third Vice President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Hartford, South Dakota presents today's message: "The Firstborn" based on Exodus 13: 1-2. Today's Lutheran Hour program is "The Puzzle Club Christmas Mystery." It's Christmas, and some mysterious events have occurred which require some special investigative talents.





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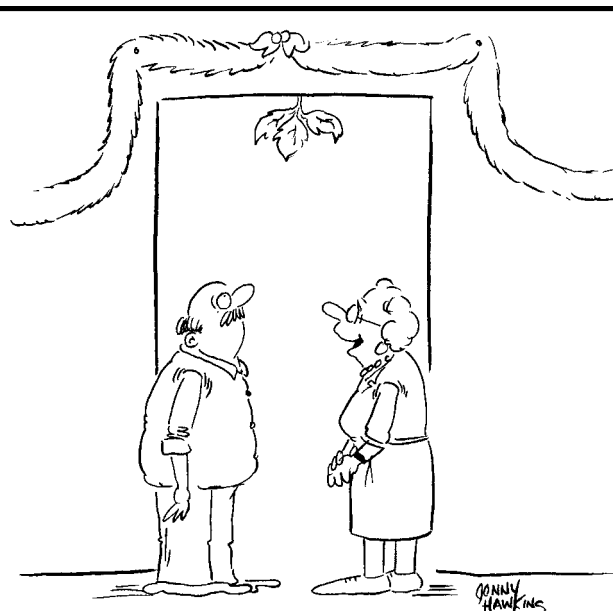
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"No, it's actually poison ivy. That's why
I'm itching to kiss you."