



The St. Johns Servant

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

January, 2019

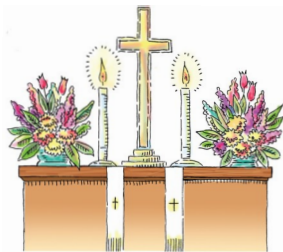


Christmas Undecorating

We plan to take down the Christmas decorations on Monday, January 7 starting at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and rolls will be served. The decorations went up. Come and help out to take them down!

It's Time to Renew...

...your Lutheran Witness subscription. The cost is \$22.56 for a one year subscription. There is a special Lutheran Witness envelope in your offering packet. Please put your name and address on the back of the envelope to help us double check for correct information. Deadline to turn in subscriptions is January 20.



Sign Up for Altar Flowers in 2019

The 2019 Flower Chart is posted in the front lobby. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on one or more Sundays, please sign up on the chart. You will receive a reminder call the week before you are scheduled to provide flowers.

Life Sunday

Sunday, January 20, is Life Sunday. We believe that life is a precious gift from God from conception to old age and on this Sunday we especially focus on life. We will also have a special door offering for our local Pregnancy Resource Center which provides assistance for those who are facing an unplanned pregnancy.



Youth Tubing at Detroit Mountain

All youth in Grades 5-12 are invited to go to Detroit Mountain for some tubing on Sunday, January 20 from 1:00—3:00 p.m. Watch details in your mailbox.



Ponderings from the Pew

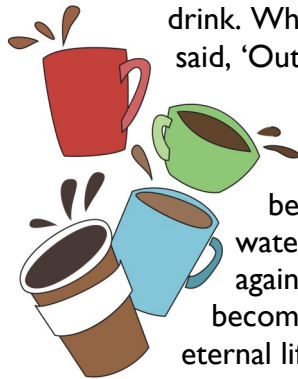


Coffee – if you drink it, you know how addicting it is. There are all kinds of coffee memes that proclaim just what level the coffee should be before you can talk to the cup holder, or how a person can't make it out of bed before coffee. "I drink coffee for your protection." "I could give up coffee but I'm not a quitter." "Life begins after coffee." "Life happens. Coffee helps." "I do not rise and shine. I caffeinate and hope for the best." "My blood type is coffee." "I don't have a problem with caffeine. I have a problem without it." I usually drink decaf coffee because my heart flutters do better without the added jolt. My kids say that doesn't count as coffee, but it works for me.

So, I had this flash of a picture of Jesus – the living water of life – saying, "I am the 'coffee' of life!" (I know my thought process is strange. Don't try to figure it out.) But following that line of thought, winding over the river and through the woods, I got to thinking that it would be easy to believe we put more value on our morning cup of joe than we do on being renewed by God's word. Do we seek first the kingdom of God, or the start up cup of coffee? Do we put as much energy into planting the seeds of faith and truth in our souls as we put into refilling our favorite cup? I know I don't. A lot of the seeds planted in my soul are from my confirmation, Sunday school and release time days. I've tried daily



devotions at different points of my life. They quickly fell by the busy wayside, but it's a rare morning I don't have time to seek out a cup of coffee to go. Why is that?

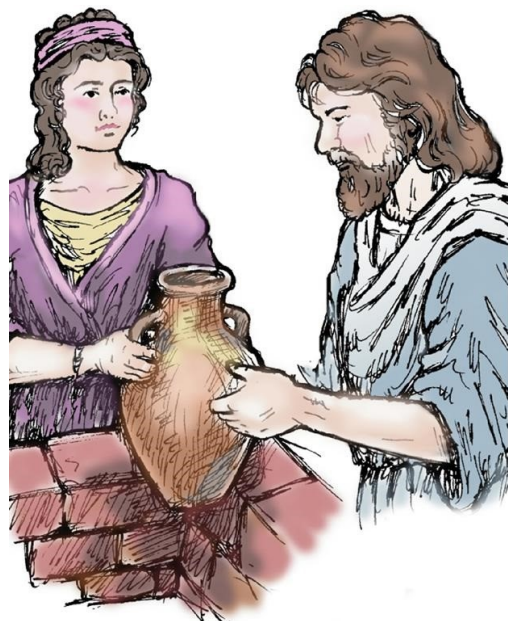


God desires an active relationship with us. He is present in our daily lives even when we have our noses buried in our coffee cups. But Jesus said in John 37, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" And in John 4:13-14, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

So maybe while we enjoy our coffee, we could find a moment or two to be addicted to God's word as well. Maybe we could drink the living (coffee) of life with a level of devotion that would reflect His importance to us. I'm a work in process – maybe God can do something with this lump of clay yet.

To God alone be the glory!

Renee Anderson





Seven from St. Johns Heading to National Youth Gathering

Real. Present. God. is the theme for this year's National LCMS Youth Gathering. We're thrilled that five of our high schoolers from St. Johns are able to attend! Dominik Backmann, Miriam Knaack, Grace Litzau, Keegan Moses, Daniel Neubauer, Brandi Backmann, and Pastor Newton will be heading down to Minneapolis July 11-14 this summer for four days of presentations by a variety of different speakers, worship with about 25,000 fellow members of the LCMS, a visit to Concordia Saint Paul, and some good fun times.



We're Looking for Student Addresses



The Board of Evangelism is still searching for the addresses of college students from St. Johns who are living away from home. We simply wish to send them encouraging cards or an occasional care package to let them know that they are not forgotten and to wish them well on their educational journey. If your son or daughter is attending a college or vocational school and living away from home, please call the church office and relay the address where he/she may receive letters or packages.

Resolve to Join a Bible Study

We've got some new Bible studies starting up this month so it's a perfect time to join one. On Sunday mornings, Pastor Neubauer is leading a study on angels which meets in the social hall around 9:15-9:30 a.m. or you can join Sarah Newton's women's Bible study in the library. Their topic is "Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman." The Tuesday morning group (8:30 a.m. in the library) continues through Ephesians with Pastor Neubauer. Pastor Knaack is taking over Pastor Neumann's Wednesday class (10:30 a.m. in the library) with the intriguing topic title of "Looking for Loopholes—There's No Such Thing as Cheap Grace."

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 1/06 "The Word Turned Toward"
- 1/13 "Reason to Believe"
- 1/20 "My Delight is in Her"
- 1/27 "Surrender to Start New"

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."





Stewardship Corner —We Are Here for a Purpose

Living for self is self-destructive, and it gives no long-term peace, contentment, or security. Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes that he tried everything to find happiness in life, but all his attempts led only to fleeting earthly joys and dissatisfaction. Solomon had everything and tried everything, leading him to say that all is “*vanity and striving after the wind*” (Ecclesiastes 2:25). Such is a selfish life which ignores spiritual purpose and relationships. After having accumulated everything that he wanted, Solomon said, “*Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun*” (Eccl. 2:11).



Although God made Solomon the wisest person in the world, Solomon chases after things that brought no lasting fulfillment. Nothing has changed; materialistic and consumeristic lifestyles of our day are just as pointless as in Solomon’s time. Security, satisfaction and purpose in life can be gained only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Paul wrote, “*I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me*” (Galatians 2:20). He is telling us that our old “I” is nailed to the cross with Jesus as our new Master, putting us under new management. Now we have a new existence with Christ. Christ’s love changes direction of our lives - from self to Him who has made and redeemed us. The compelling love of Christ pulls us away from gratification of our old nature and strengthens us for using all the spiritual resources He has given to serve others. God’s love is the energizing power that is essential for every life. Indeed, He died for all people so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for the Man Who died and was brought back to life for them.



If anyone
is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17,
NRSV

So, from now on, our perspective is that through faith we are all new creations. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships (2 Cor. 5:15-18). Our intimate connection with Him is seen in every aspect of our lives - spiritual, physical, material, intellectual, and social. Because of who we are and Whose we are, our purpose is to submit to God and follow His leading.

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—November

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 227

Total Offerings:	\$35,531	November, 2017: \$34,903	YTD:	\$398,849
Total Expenses:	\$36,575	November, 2017: \$35,286	YTD:	\$381,704
Difference	-\$1,044	Difference	- \$383	Difference \$17,145

Avg. Weekly Offerings	\$8,883	Budget/Week	\$9,201
Avg. Weekly Expenses	\$9,144	Budget/Month	\$39,870
Difference	-\$261		

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 11/30/18:	\$71,729	Our Healthy Balance Goal	\$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts	- \$107	Raised so far	\$37,300
Difference	\$71,622	Still need	\$36,700

Witness My Faith to Others? Who ME?



As Christians, we are called to be witnesses of Christ in our everyday lives. “Every ONE His Witness” is a Lutheran evangelism program that teaches you how to witness to your friends, coworkers, and any other unchurched 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 with those you encounter on a daily basis in an unforced, natural way. This program has nothing to do with going door to door and evangelizing to people whom you have never encountered or met. It’s about developing relationships with family, neighbors, and coworkers whom you already know and learning how to approach them naturally with the Gospel.

Please prayerfully consider attending “Every ONE His Witness” here at St. Johns. Pastor Jeff Lee from the district office will conduct this workshop the first three Tuesdays in February from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Each session builds on the previous one. We encourage you to attend all three sessions, but if this is not possible, please come to those that work into your schedule. We will need to order workbooks, so please sign up on the sheets available in the office or front lobby.





Voters Meeting Minutes November 19, 2018

Meeting called to order by Executive Director Dr. Rod Helm. Opening devotions led by Pastor Neubauer. Roll call showed 47 voters in attendance as well as a number of confirmands.

Motion Larry Hetrick, second Jerry Grudem to reinstate into voting membership Virgil Eskola and DeWayne Mead. Motion carried. Motion Larry Hetrick, second Jerry Grudem to accept into voting membership Sarah and Joel Newton. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of June 5, 2018-Motion Tim Huwe, second Jody Yliniemi to approve minutes from June 5 meeting as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Our income so far this year is \$374,055 and expenses are \$354,631 with income exceeding expenses by \$19,424. Last year at this time our income was \$383,304 and our expenses were \$319,625 with income exceeding expenses by \$63,679. Expenses have increased with the addition of the Newtons to the staff. We are \$36,800 short of our goal of \$74,000 for Healthy Balance. These funds have been moved to the LCEF Steward Account.

CNB Checking Account	74,295
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>- 200</u>
Available Funds	74,095

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings	28,024
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LCEF Current Fund	160,865
Less Parsonage Proceed	- 18,548
Less Healthy Balance	- 37,200
Less End. Fund Interest	- 918
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	- 21,229
Less T. Haberer Trust CD	- 78,335
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>- 1,777</u>
Available Funds	2,858

Motion Marty Steffel, second Russ Brown to approve treasurer's report prepared by Ginny Ranisate which Pastor Neubauer read due to Ginny's absence.

Motion by Marty Steffel to forgo the reading of the individual board reports in the interest of time, as most of the reports have been printed in the newsletter and become repetitive. Motion was seconded. Discussion. Motion failed.

Board Reports

Elders Report – Jerry Grudem

Elders continue to: Meet normally on first Tuesday of each month; Assist with communion for 8:00 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.

Evangelism Report – Connie Fondow - Jan Belshan read in Connie's absence.

The Board of Evangelism has been engaged in the following projects or events since our last report to the congregation on June 5, 2018. Mentors have been assigned to the eight new 7th grade confirmands. An introductory pizza party took place in October for mentors and confirmands to meet and get to know each other.

Ten more "My Church" books were purchased for the baptismal baskets given to parents at the time of a child's baptism.

Kathy Henry continues to keep the board updated on information pertaining to the Women's Intervention Center. This agency will soon be merging with the Walker Family Safety Network.

Approximately 60 patriotic keychains with a card attached about St. Johns' times of services were given to the local American Legion for distribution to area veterans.

Cards have been placed in the pew racks for parishioners to alert or remind the pastors about members who may possibly have become inactive in worship for one reason or another. Cards may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or taken to the church office.

Cards of care or concern continue to be sent out to members upon the pastors' suggestion.

Future events being considered or coordinated by the board include:

Kathy Henry will gather together a group of confirmands and adults from St. Johns to assist at Ruby's Pantry in Menahga on the third Saturday in March.

The board is looking at sponsoring another trivia event some evening in late winter or early spring. More info will be given out as this event develops.

Doug and Julie Kingsley will coordinate St. Johns involvement in the Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots program. A Christmas tree will be placed in the front lobby of the church with ornament tags attached. Information about the gender and age of each child will be on the card. After purchasing an appropriate gift, please return it, unwrapped, to the church by Sunday, December 9.

The board wishes to make a second attempt to acquire the names and addresses of any student attending an institution of higher learning who is living away from home. We are hoping to contact these St. Johns members via cards and/or care packages. Our goal is to let them know that their church family has not forgotten them and that we look forward to having them worship with us again when they return home on weekends, breaks, and holidays.

The board is extending an invitation to all members to participate in a four-week Bible study event

(Continued on page 11)



Board



Christian Education: Minutes of November 6 meeting were approved. Reports:

Release Time: Laurie Kimball reported that she and Lois Just made 65 Oreo cookie turkeys for a Thanksgiving treat for those in grades 1-4. Second graders will decorate Christmas cookies to share with the other classes on December 12th. Everyone will have a small piece of cake and ice cream during the video on the Wednesday before Christmas break. Fourth grade will not be doing a Christmas play this year because no one is available to direct it. They will have a lesson on the birth of Jesus instead.

Sunday School: Brandi Backmann reported that PreK-6th grade started New Testament I material on Sunday, December 2nd. First – 6th graders have been practicing for the Christmas program on Wednesdays and Sundays. Seventh grade is working on a service project for Christmas. We asked Jerry Werder about the project and he will get more information that could lead to a project for the congregation or other groups in church.

VBS: We worked on a survey to be sent to members of the congregation. More information is included under new business.

Preschool: Kim Neubauer reported that enrollment is currently 41 students. Parent teacher conferences were held in the middle of November. Christmas break will be December 19 – January 1; school resumes on January 2.

Old Business: It has been decided that the stage project for the Christmas program is not feasible.

New Business: Ruth Knaack will send out Christmas cards to Sunday School and Release Time teachers expressing the board's appreciation for their time and service.

Notes about the VBS survey:

Post card sent to families with children eligible to attend, but will be online and in the newsletter for all members of the congregation
Sent out January 15th and returned by February 4th; may be returned to church office, Sunday school office, mailed to church, or answered online (Survey Monkey?).

Five questions

What month should VBS be held? ___ 1st week in June ___ last week in July ___ 1st week in August

What time? ___ 8:30 – noon ___ 5:30 – 8:30

Has transportation been an issue in the past? ___ yes ___ no

How can you help? ___ provide food ___ teach ___ daycare ___ help with crafts ___ \$ donation ___

Other _____

Comments:

Next meeting date and time: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:00.

Church Properties: No report.

Elders: Worked on assigning assisting elders for coming months. Heard from Pastor Newton about STM program. Elders will support him in pursuing this degree. Next meeting will be January 8 since first Tuesday is New Year's Day.

Evangelism: Toys for Boys and Girls and Tiny Tots: Doug Kingsley reported that 48 initial tags were placed on the Christmas tree for parishioners to retrieve. Thirty-six additional tags have been hung since the response was so positive.

The pastors will make an additional reference to the pew cards pertaining to "missing" members so that people are reminded to use them if they have concerns about someone they haven't seen in worship for an extended period of time.



We are investigating possible projects that would benefit from funds generated by a Trivia event (March).

Postcards informing congregational families about times/themes for upcoming Advent/Christmas services will be sent out. Mailing costs will be incurred by our board.

Deb Luther sent greeting cards and Caribou Coffee gift cards to two college students from St. Johns living away from home. We would welcome additional names and addresses of any other college students living outside of Park Rapids so that we can send cards of encouragement.

“Every ONE His Witness” – The board is sponsoring this event taking place at St. Johns on the first three Tuesdays in February from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. We encourage ALL members of St. Johns to consider attending this course to discover new ways of expressing your faith to people you come in contact with in your daily lives. More information along with sign-up sheets will be available immediately in the new year. Dawn Lachmiller will organize snacks for these sessions.

Connie Fondow will investigate the possibility of the board purchasing small wooden crosses from crosstheworld.org. These could be used during the Lenten season.

The board will organize BINGO facilitators from St. Johns to go to Diamond Willow once a month (Tuesday/5:45-6:30 p.m.) to replace an individual who has discontinued this volunteer service.

Due to the New Year holiday, our next board meeting will take place on January 8 at 5:00 p.m.

Parish Fellowship: Old Business:

Cookies and Carols—Notices have been placed in the bulletin and newsletter, asking everyone to bring cookies to share on Sunday, December 16 between services.

Dave Vik will lead the singing of carols and Cheryl Hilgemann will accompany.

We'll plan to assemble cookie trays for the shut-ins at the same time. Ginny Ranisate will provide labels with names and addresses of those who need them delivered. Elayne Luiken will buy decorative trays, napkins, plates, etc. We'll serve apple cider along with coffee.

New Business:

Christmas decorations will be taken down on Monday, January 7 at 9:00 a.m.

Public Relations and Stewardship: Did not meet.

Young People: Finalized plans for Amazing Race on December 9.

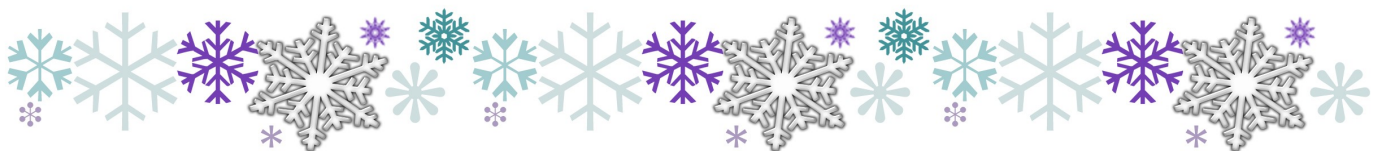
Advent meal will be mac and cheese with assorted toppings, salad and treats. Brandi Backmann will purchase groceries and let confirmands know what to bring.

Decided to do luminaries this year. Pastor Newton will work on getting forms, etc.

Dee Persons will call to see if party room is available for tubing at Detroit Mountain on January 20 or 27.

The magician is not available for February so we will change to event to movie and pizza either February 17 or 24.

Next meeting will be January 9 at 4:30 p.m.





Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance—December

PK3 Thatcher Eidsmoe
 Kdg. Sawyer Eidsmoe, Ava Kimball
 1st Sophia Neubauer, Brayden Schroeder
 2nd Zachary Harju
 4th Maxwell Harju, Brooke Kimball
 6th Laura Kaufenberg, Leo Kaufenberg,
 Olivia Kimball
 7th Jack Moses, Kilea Persons
 8th Hailey Kimball

Great job!



1/7 Ava Kimball
 1/11 Peightyn Walker
 1/16 Kilea Persons
 1/24 Sawyer Eidsmoe
 1/28 Bria McMahon
 1/29 Mason McCarthy
 1/29 Anna Neyens
 1/30 Lilah Forbes

Baptismal Birthdays

1/04 Sawyer Harvey
 1/11 Maxwell Harju
 1/18 Jedidiah Kruchowski
 1/24 Thatcher Eidsmoe
 1/28 Abby Eskola



A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were therefore buried with him
 through baptism into death in order that,
 just as Christ was raised from the dead
 through the glory of the Father,
 we too may live a _____.

Romans 6:4, NIV

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Answer: f i e l e w n y new life

If you confess with your **MOUTH**  **JESUS is Lord**



and believe in your **heart**
 God raised him from the
 dead, you will be saved. For
 with the heart one believes
 and is justified, and with the mouth
 one confesses and is saved.



(Continued from page 7)

entitled “Every One His Witness.” This Bible study assists God’s people in being able to share the Gospel with those whom He has placed in their everyday lives. A pastor from the MN North District Office will be at St. Johns to facilitate the program. We will meet every Tuesday evening in February from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. More information will be forthcoming. Please prayerfully consider attending one, two, three, or all four of these sessions. Each session will be a helpful resource to you in understanding how to more effectively build a relationship with people for opening windows of opportunity to speak with them about their Savior.

Board of Christian Education - Ruth Knaack

Release Time

First Grade: teachers are Laurie Kimball and Ruth Knaack; 20 students total

Second Grade: teachers are Sarah Newton and Sandy Phillips; 16 students total

Third Grade: teacher is Pastor Neubauer; 9 students

Fourth Grade: teachers are Cheryl Breitbach and Pastor Newton; 16 students total

Fifth Grade: teachers are Cheryl Breitbach and Sandy Phillips; 16 students total

Sixth Grade: teachers are Laurie Kimball and Ruth Knaack; 19 students total

Seventh Grade: teacher is Pastor Neubauer; 16 students total

Eighth Grade: teacher is Pastor Newton; 14 students

These are the teachers and numbers as of November 6. Attendance the first hour is 60 and for the second hour 65, or 125 in all. A number of ladies have volunteered to watch George Newton so that Sarah Newton can teach. We thank them all for volunteering their time.

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 activities 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 “King Jesus” will be presented on December 16 at 10:30 a.m. Rehearsals began last week. 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. So far, Sunday School attendance has been slightly higher.

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. 1 family is a member of another LCMS congregation. 12 families are receiving financial assistance. A state inspection was done on October 25; the day of our Fall Party. It went well and we received no citations. 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

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

account and the rest from the budget to pay expenses again this year. This was approved by the board. Parent – Teacher conferences were held.

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.

Board of Young People – Brandi Backmann

Events since June: July – tubing, August – Evergreen Park, September – Youth gathering kick off, October Tailgate party – Panther homecoming, November – Skyzone trampoline park in Fargo.

National Youth Gathering will be held July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis. We are registered with 5 students and 2 chaperones. Sarah Newton has connections to a German student exchange program. German students will be in Park Rapids about one week prior to the National Youth Gathering. There may be a need for host families. Watch for announcements as we get closer to their arrival. Future events – Advent meals and Christmas luminaries. Basket auction proceeds will go to the youth.

Board of Church Properties – Brad Dahn

Focus has been basic repairs of various things around the church. Mike Riewer, who has been here almost a year, is doing a fantastic job cleaning and doing so many things around the church.

Repairs on the playground and other outside repairs were done a couple of evenings in August.

Working on some electrical issues, the biggest one being the lights on the cross in the sanctuary. Currently it is a neon light that is flickering and buzzing. We need to install new LED lights. Anyone with experience on how to get up there with scaffolding, please talk to me. Back door will not close due the closures hitting. We are on the schedule to have this fixed. New heating system and mechanical room is working great. Set budget for 2019. Kitchen project being evaluated. A survey was sent out regarding areas that need repair. Discussion of a new exterior sign to replace the existing brick sign. Suggested this would be a great project for memorials to be given.

Stewardship Board – no report

Parish Fellowship Board– Elayne Luiken

Our board assisted in the planning and cleanup 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.



Our board hosted a reception on Sunday, August 19 to honor and thank Bernice Hinds for her many years of service as our first parish nurse.

The new member welcome was today between services. We welcome four new households to St. Johns.

We also hosted a potluck luncheon today immediately following the second service, followed by the semi-annual voters meeting.

Upcoming events

Christmas decorating will be on Monday, November 26 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Public Relations – no report

Pastor Neubauer's Report

Health Update: June had an ablation for SVT. August Sleep Test. End of August diagnosed with Afib - this is what I've been dealing with for 20 years. Ablation on October 11. Won't know its success until January.

Worship: "What Child Is This?" Advent Series

Teaching times: Sunday morning "Peacemakers;" Tuesday morning "Ephesians"

Release Time: 3rd Grade (9); 7th-8th (16)

Confirmation 7th – 8th Grade (24 students)

ABC Preschool: Helped with open house and Fall Festival; Devotions in October

District/Regional Events: Pastor of the Week at LIC July 15-20

Pastor Newton's Report

General: Have been visiting members (still working on B names), teaching 4th and 8th grade Release Time, helping with confirmation class, youth events and preparing for the National Youth Gathering, and leading youth Bible study Sunday mornings.

Young People: Bible study has been going well – survey of the Bible with interspersed Q & A. Registered 5 students for the National Youth Gathering next summer – July 10-15, 2019. We will be teaming up on some things with SELK youth group from Germany. We might be teaming up with a group from Trinity, Bemidji. July – tubing Crow Wing River. August Evergreen Park and had a good turnout. September – bonfire to talk about the national youth gathering. October – we hosted a homecoming tailgate party. November – headed to Skyzone in Fargo - trampolines and pizza party. December will be Minute to Win It/Amazing Race at the church.

Projects: Talked with Dan Pike about a men's basketball group, he is going to see whether we can start something up at the school. If that doesn't work, I will talk to St. Peters' and Faithbridge to see if we can use their gymnasiums.

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

Working on plans for a young adult (18 – 40 years old) Bible study.

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

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!

Deaconess, Sarah Newton's report

Leading a women's Bible study, Our Way Home, on the Lord's Prayer. Teaching Release Time 2nd grade class. Would like to have an open house at our new home – still working on a date. The German students coming next summer will need host families.

Old/New Business

Presentation and action on the 2019 annual budget of \$493,825 approximately 3.2% increase. Motion Marty Steffel to approve the budget, second Ken Schroeder. Discussion. Motion carried.

Synod Officer Nominations

President and vice president - Pastor Neubauer recommended the two incumbents – Matthew Harrison and Herbert Mueller. Motion Mike Poole, second Jerry Grudem to nominate the above named recommendations. Motion carried.

Regional Vice President nomination - Pastor Neubauer recommended Nabil Nour. Motion Larry Hetrick, second Mike Poole to nominate the above named. Motion carried.

Synod Pastoral and Lay Voters for LCMS President

Motion Larry Hetrick, second Marty Steffel to nominate Pastor Neubauer and Roger Just. Motion carried.

Pastor Newton Parsonage Allowance

Motion Larry Hetrick, second Marty Steffel to the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and established a parsonage allowance for Pastor Newton in the amount of \$12,500 per year.

Motion carried.

Appoint Board Nominating Committee

Motion Mike Poole, second Jody Yliniemi to appoint the Parish Planning Council as the board nomination committee. Motion carried.

Kitchen Remodeling Committee

Pastor Neubauer discussed the need of a remodel as it has been 25 years or more since the last one. Some of the items that need attending to are ceiling issues, flooring, stove, refrigerator. This is more of a spruce up remodel not a full remodel. We are in the process of getting a committee together. If you are interested in assisting on this committee contact Pastor Neubauer or Connie Fondow.

Miscellaneous information

St. Johns Statistical information – 2018 (year to date)



Total Baptized membership – 819
Total Communicant membership – 629
New members – 13
Members removed – 17
Average Sunday attendance – 251
Average Yearly contribution per Contributor - 1419

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Potter, Secretary

Main Street Living Programs This Month

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.

January 6: Rev. Lester Wolfgram, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: "A Light For Our Dark World" based on Matthew 2:1-12. Today's This Is The Life program is "A Friend In Deed."

January 13: Rev. Kevin Zellers, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND. (Message title & text tba). Today's This Is The Life program is "God of Love."

January 20: Rev. Brandon Woodruff, Peace Lutheran Church, Garrison, ND and St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Max, ND, delivers today's message: "Signs" based on John 2:1-11. Today's This Is The Life program is "Adrift."

January 27: Rev. Thomas Marcis, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: "Jesus' Opening Address" based on Luke 4:21. Today's This Is The Life program is "The Hand of God."





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Park Rapids, MN 56470

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Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Bill Neumann



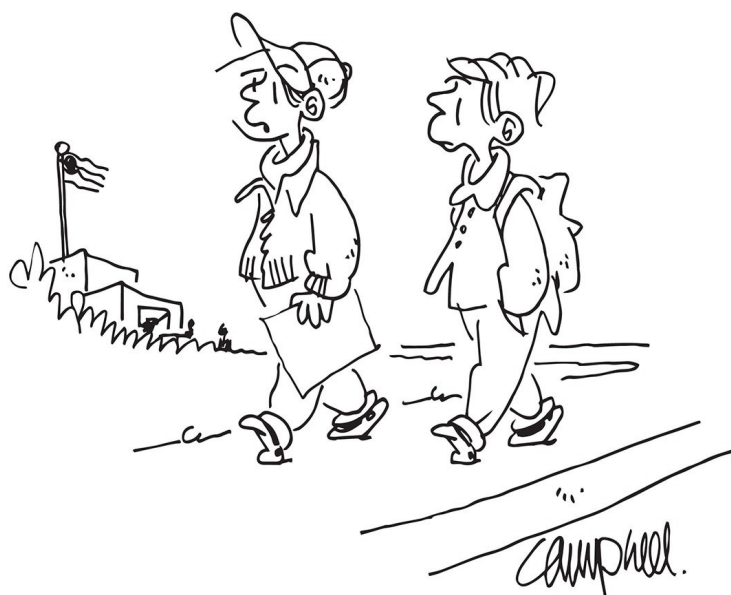
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Inside this issue:

<i>Christmas Undecorating</i>	1
<i>It's Time to Renew . . .</i>	1
<i>Sign Up for Altar Flowers in 2019</i>	1
<i>Life Sunday</i>	1
<i>Youth Tubing at Detroit Mountain</i>	1
<i>Ponderings from the Pew</i>	2
<i>Seven from St. Johns Heading to NYG</i>	3
<i>We're Looking for Student Addresses</i>	3
<i>Resolve to Join a Bible Study</i>	3
<i>What's on The Lutheran Hour</i>	3
<i>Stewardship Corner</i>	4
<i>We Need Offering Counters</i>	4
<i>Stewardship Review—November</i>	5
<i>Witness My Faith to Others? Who ME?</i>	5
<i>Voters Meeting Minutes</i>	6
<i>Board Highlights</i>	8
<i>Sunday School News</i>	10
<i>Main Street Living Programs This Month</i>	15



**"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli.
If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."**