



The St. Johns Servant

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

February, 2019

Every ONE His Witness is This Month

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.



Death By Chocolate Bake Sale is Back



Treat your sweetie with something chocolate on Valentines Day. The Bell Choir is hosting a Death by Chocolate Bake Sale on Sunday, February 10 between services. You’re invited to stop by and pick up something scrumptious. If you like to bake, you’re invited to bring treats, too. Remember, chocolate is “health food.” Proceeds will go to St. Johns music ministry.

Youth Tubing at Detroit Mountain—Second Try

Since it was so cold last month, we’ve rescheduled tubing for this month. All youth in Grades 5-12 are invited to go to Detroit Mountain for some tubing on Sunday, February 17. We’ll meet at church at 11:45 a.m. and return around 4:00 p.m. Each child attending must have a signed waiver. You can go online to get one at <https://detroitmountain.com/tubing-guide> or pick one up at church. Cost is \$10 plus snack money.

Please sign up on the sheet by the office or call so we can sign you up so we know how many are going.





Parish Planning Council Minutes January 22, 2019

Members present – Connie Fondow, Ruth Knaack, Brandi Backmann, Brad Dahn, Mike Poole, Shirley Potter, Ginny Ranisate, Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton. Absent – Jerry Grudem, Elayne Luiken, Cliff Branham.

Pastor Neubauer opened with devotions.

Approval of PPC Minutes from 10-23-18 meeting – motion Connie Fondow – second Brad Dahn to approve minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2018	449,851	431,024	18,827
2017	449,905	384,318	65,587
Difference	-54	46,706	--

Income was down slightly and expenses were up in 2018 compared to 2017. Expenses increased with the addition of the Newton's to the staff. We are \$34,971 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 12/31/18	73,891
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>- 1,150</u>
Available Funds	72,741

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 12/31/18 34,402

LCEF Current Fund as of 12/31/18	163,024
Less Endowment Fund Interest	- 1,038
Less Parsonage Proceeds	- 18,548
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	- 21,267
Less T. Haberer Trust CD	- 78,467
Less R. Haberer Memorial	- 1,780
Less Healthy Balance	<u>- 39,029</u>
Available Funds	2,895

Motion Mike Poole second Brad Dahn to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastors' Reports

Membership changes – None

(Continued on page 8)



Seventh Grade Sunday School Class Helped Foster Care Kids

Imagine this. You're twelve years old. You live with your mom and younger brother and sister in a small apartment. You haven't seen or heard from your dad in years and your mom's got a problem with drugs. She's gone a lot and you and your siblings fend for yourselves. One night, your mom doesn't come home at all. Instead the cops show up and tell you you're all going to foster care because your mom's in jail. You have to leave with just the clothes you've got on.



This does happen to kids here in Hubbard County and our seventh grade Sunday School class used their offerings to provide a little comfort to these kids. They went shopping for socks, toothbrushes, shampoo, blankets, etc. along with backpacks to put everything in. The backpacks were taken to Social Services and they give them out to kids who need them.

The idea was suggested by Michele Werder. Husband, Jerry, teaches the seventh grade class. The Sunday School staff is thinking about expanding the project to all classes.

What's That Blue Thing in The Social Hall?



It's a dart ball board. Dart ball is a cross between darts and baseball. Pastor Newton was on a league and is introducing it here at St. Johns. The Lutheran Laymen's League will get a tutorial on how to play at their March meeting. From there they hope to form a team (open to men of all ages) and practice. Once they figure out how to play and get good at it, they'll invite other congregations to join them in forming a league. If you want to find out more or are interested in playing, talk to Pastor Newton.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 2/03 **"Slow Solution"**
- 2/10 **"Where Heaven Meets Earth"**
- 2/17 **"Arise"**
- 2/24 **"Not by Bread Alone"**

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."

Baptisms

1/6 Ella Mae Christensen
Mike and Chelsie (Anderson) Christensen

1/13 John Arnold Ricke
Derek and Callie (Perry) Ricke

Funeral

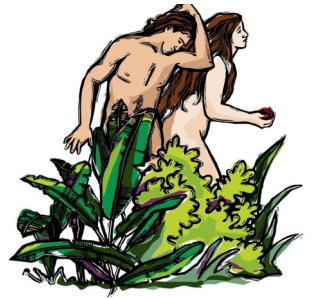
1/5 Joe Stein





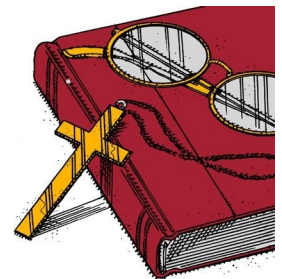
Stewardship Corner—Be Imitators of Jesus

God created man and announce His creation to be “very good” (Genesis 1:31), but, because of self-will and pride, Adam and Eve sinned, causing man to be separated from God. To bridge that separation, God rescued us with the greatest gift of all: His very own Son. In Christ, God speaks to us, reaches out to us with forgiveness, and receives us into fellowship. All we have has been freely given to us, not because of who we are or what we do, but because of Whose we are. Through faith, we see God’s redemptive grace in Jesus, and we are motivated to live our lives for Him (Ephesians 2:8-10).



In Jesus, we see the attributes of God. In Hebrews 1:3-4 we read, “[The Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His Power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.” God the Father has revealed the light of His glory in His Son, Jesus. As true man, Jesus lived the life of a perfect steward for the glory of His Heavenly Father. Just as Jesus put aside his own interests and desires -- “Not as I will, but as You will” -- (Matthew 26:39), we are called to be obedient through faith to God’s ways rather than the ways of the world and our own natures. As God’s stewards, we also receive joy and encouragement in knowing that we are obediently serving the Lord.

Jesus is always to be our preeminent model for our lives as stewards. We have a Savior Who lived the perfect life in our places. With an attitude of gratitude and joy in what God in Christ has done for us, we read and adopt the Apostle Paul’s admonition, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Through the working of the Holy Spirit, our goal is to “Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you” (Colossians 3:5). By God’s grace, we fix our eyes on Jesus, Who is the “founder and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). To that end, we should saturate our minds with the truths in God’s Word rather than the teachings of the world. “Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15).



Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.
Hebrews 12:2

Check Out Our Church Library



Have you checked out the books in our church library? There’s a great selection for all ages and interests as well as videos. New and featured books are on the shelf on the back wall to your left. We have lots of fiction to your right and great books for kids, too!

It’s easy to use the library. Just make your selections, write the date and your name on the card and place it in the basket on the desk. There is no strict deadline to return your books but a month or so is usually about right. Come in and get a great read today!



Condensed Annual Financial Report Ending 12/31/18

	12/31/17	12/31/18
Current Assets	276,916	295,456
Fixed Assets	<u>1,221,915</u>	<u>1,230,448</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,498,831</u>	<u>1,525,904</u>
Liabilities/Dedicated Funds Payable	200,790	200,525
Equity	<u>1,436,492</u>	<u>1,325,379</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>1,498,831</u>	<u>1,525,904</u>
Income:	449,905	449,851
Less Expenses:		
Missions	75,000	75,000
Voters	190,038	228,660
Board of Elders	42,978	43,013
Board of Christian Education	15,599	21,427
Board of Church Properties	55,501	56,447
Board of Evangelism	1,207	956
Board of Parish Fellowship	87	473
Board of Stewardship	1,102	1,086
Board of Young People	1,124	1,468
Board of Public Relations	<u>1,682</u>	<u>2,494</u>
Total Expenses	<u>384,318</u>	<u>431,024</u>
Income Less Expenses	<u>+65,587</u>	<u>+18,827</u>

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.





Board



Christian Education: Did not meet.

Church Properties: Did not meet.

Elders: Did not meet.

Evangelism: "Every One His Witness:" Ginny Ranisate will order workbooks as signups indicate the need. Dawn Lachmiller will take care of the snacks.

Connie Fondow will order 400 Cross the World crosses to be used during or prior to Lent.

BINGO at Diamond Willow: Deb Luther and Connie Fondow will facilitate this first-time event on March 7.

Trivia will take place on March 10 as a fundraiser for the nursery renovations. Debbie Luther will make the flyers and contact Thrivent for funding. Linda Leckner will organize the bars for tables. The Board of Parish Fellowship has volunteered again to handle the supper. Connie will write a newsletter article and informative bulletin paragraph.

Kathy Henry will organize a group for assisting at Ruby's Pantry one of the Saturdays in the next several months.

The board will investigate the possibility of reviving the live nativity to take place in December of 2019. We will make a decision concerning taking on this event after reviewing the interest and volunteerism demonstrated by congregational members as committees are attempted to be formed.

Parish Fellowship: Did not meet.

Public Relations: Did not meet.

Stewardship: Did not meet.

Young People: Our January event is tubing. We are asking the kids to pay \$12 plus bring extra money if they want to purchase concessions. We will have a room (that is typically free of charge). They will have free hot chocolate. We will consider bring cookies and snacks, they have done that in the past and it went over well. We will leave the church at 12 PM and tube from 1 to 3.

Our February event is dinner and a movie. We are planning for Friday, February 15. The kids can walk over after school. Pastor Newton will have games set up. The movie will start later and we will order pizza. There will be no charge for this event.

In March we are going to the waterpark in Brainerd. Dee Persons is planning this. She is requesting March 24. We will ask Larry Hetrick if he will drive the bus. Pastor Newton and Dee will be the adult chaperones. We should take pictures again.

Other items:

We should get gifts for Larry Hetrick and Jerry Grudem for driving our bus.

We will have another National Youth Gathering meeting at Pastor Newton's house soon.

We earned \$270 from the Christmas luminaries and \$438.50 from the basket auction for National Youth Gathering.

There is a Mercy Me concert in Bemidji in March. We considered doing it as a youth event however it would be nice to open it up to the whole congregation. Pastor Newton will look into it.



Stewardship Review - December, 2018

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 213

Total Offerings: \$50,675	Avg. Weekly Offerings \$10,135	Budget/Week \$9,201
Total Expenses: <u>\$49,319</u>	Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,864</u>	Budget/Month \$39,870
Difference \$1,356	Difference \$271	

Yearly Summary:

Total Offerings: \$449,851
 Total Expenses: \$431,024
 Difference \$18,827

Yearly Summary, 2017:

Total Offerings: \$449,905
 Total Expenses: \$384,318
 Difference \$65,587

CNB Checkbook Balance	\$73,891	Our Healthy Balance Goal	\$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts	\$ <u>1,150</u>	Raised so far	<u>\$39,029</u>
Difference	\$72,741	Still need	\$34,971

Trivia for Tots

The nursery at St. Johns is in need of a “facelift.” We are in the beginning stages of planning for new carpet, new toys, different lighting, fresh paint, and new furniture. The Board of Evangelism will be sponsoring another fun evening of Trivia on Sunday, March 10 to assist in the fundraising for the nursery project.



Here are just a few reminders about the logistics for our Trivia challenge: \$100 per table, teams of up to eight players, one mulligan per round at the price of \$1 each, eight rounds of ten questions, a light supper served at a reasonable price, AND LOTS OF FUN!

Start getting your teams together and watch for the signup sheet at church. If you can't come up with a team of 2-8 people, sign up anyway and we will place you on one. (Remember: You can also monetarily “sponsor” a team if you don't care to play on a team yourself.) More details about the time as well as some hints pertaining to the possible categories will be forthcoming. SEE YOU ON MARCH 10 FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUNDRAISING!

Get Ready to Give Blood



St. Johns will sponsor a blood drive on **Monday, March 18** from **1:15 9.m. to 6:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday, March 19** from **8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 732-3935.

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!



(Continued from page 2)

Pastor Neubauer reported:

Worship

Advent

Creative Software

Confirmation Classes

Teaching Combined 7th and 8th grade

Updating materials to ESV and redoing Power Point presentations

Pastor Newton will do the 2nd Article of Apostles Creed

Next school year the classes will be split again

Sunday School

Completed the entire year of Bible Posters ---Yeah

Adult Bible Class

Sundays we are studying about Angels

Tuesday mornings is on the book of Ephesians

Pastor Newton reported

Preparing to start a new Adult Bible study in March, probably last 1 month

Finished dartball board, introducing it to LLL then getting a group together

Post-seminary Applied Learning Support – talked about pastor's prayer and devotional life last week

Glad to spend some time with confirmation students at Lutheran Island Camp. Great time --- learned a lot

Involved in youth events – Brandi will report on what events took place

Youth Bible study – Exodus – redemption of God's people and God proving His power, keeping His promises. Hoping to start Wednesday night High School Bible Study soon.

Applying to Seminary in St. Louis to the distance program for Masters of Sacred Theology (studying practical theology to improve preaching, teaching and outreach). I already have 12 of the necessary 24 credits.

Sarah is pregnant --- please keep her and baby in your prayers.

Board of Elders – no report – Jerry Grudem absent

Board of Evangelism – Connie Fondow

Events since 10/23/18:

Confirmand/Mentor pizza party

Toys for Boys and Girls and Tiny Tots

Greeting/gift cards to two college students living away from home

Upcoming events:

“Every One His Witness” on the first three Tuesdays in February

BINGO at Diamond Willow - once a month sign-up beginning in March

Trivia on March 10th as a fundraiser for the Nursery renovations

Group assisting at Ruby's Pantry - Saturday TBD

“Cross the World” crosses to be distributed prior to or during Lent

Encouraging parents to submit college student addresses

Investigating the possibility of reviving the Live Nativity

**Board of Christian Education – Ruth Knaack****Release Time**

Sandy has been unable to teach so we have reorganized a bit. The 2nd graders have been put into one class taught by Sarah Newton with help from Betty Solberg and her 5th grade group is being taught by Pastor Bill Knaack.

Thanks to Vickie Helm and the ladies who watch George Newton while Sarah teaches.

Thanks to Mike Riewer who sets up tables each week in the youth room and choir room which are used for classrooms.

Everyone had a small piece of cake and scoop of ice cream on the last day of class before Christmas break.

Fourth grade did not do a Christmas play this year because there was no one to direct it.

Sunday School

Christmas program practice began on Nov. 14 for students in grades 1-6.

The program 'King Jesus' was presented on Dec. 16 during the 10:30 service.

PreK-6th grade students began New Testament material on Dec. 2.

Seventh graders did a special service project for Christmas.

We continue to collect offerings for Hurricane Harvey relief.

Preschool

Enrollment is 43.

Licensing inspector was here October 25th – no citations.

Parent teacher conferences were held in November.

Christmas break began on December 19th.

Other

Looked into building a stage for Christmas program but found it not feasible.

Sent Christmas cards with thank you notes to Release Time and Sunday School teachers.

Created a VBS survey to be sent to members of the congregation having children eligible to attend.

Looking into possibly expanding the 7th grade service project.

Young People Report – Brandi Backmann

November—SkyZone and Pizza in Fargo - Pictures are posted on the Youth Bulletin Board.

December—Minute to Win It and Hot Cocoa Bar, Advent Meal - Served Mac and Cheese

January—Tubing at Detroit Mountain postponed due to frigid temperatures - rescheduled to February.

Replaced tubing with movie and pizza - Watched Jumanji 2 and talked about the importance of teamwork and valuing each other for their individual strengths.

Upcoming Events: Tubing at Detroit Mountain, Three Bears Water Park, Advent Meal, Polar Plunge at Lutheran Island Camp

Church Properties – Brad Dahn

Working on various small projects. Relighting the cross in the front of the church – plan to install LED lights as neon lights are no longer functioning. Working on the heater in the back entry. Several lighting issues are being worked on. Replacing heating lines in the attic above library and nurse's has been discussed. Starting the kitchen remodeling project to determine the scope of the project.

Stewardship – no report – Cliff Branham absent

(Continued on page 11)

Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance—January

Ist Clinton Koch, Sophia Neubauer

2nd Zach Harju, Khloe May

4th Max Harju


8th Natalie Backmann



2/01 Harlow Komppa
2/13 Brandi Novak
2/13 Kolt Safratowich
2/15 Laura Kaufenberg
2/23 Gunar Clark

Baptismal Birthdays

2/03	Theodore Komppa
2/04	Annie Mayer
2/08	Henli Maier
2/10	Ava Kimball
2/12	Kilea Persons
2/28	Ryan Maves



PUZZLE

WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

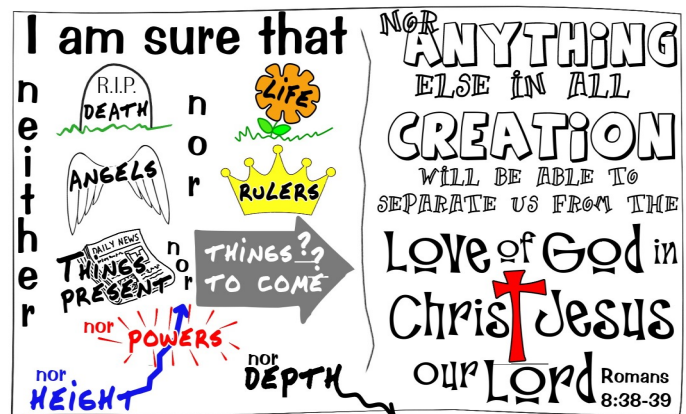
And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

February Memory Verse:





(Continued from page 9)

Parish Fellowship– Elayne Luiken (Ginny read due to Elayne's absence)

The Christmas decorations in church went up on Monday, November 26 and were taken down on Monday, January 7.

Cookies and Carols was held on Sunday, December 16 between services. Cookie trays were made up and delivered to shut-ins and other members that afternoon and the following day.

Our board will help the evangelism board by serving refreshments for Trivia Night on Sunday, March 10.

We did not meet in January.

Public Relations – no report

Old/New Business

Nominating Committee – the committee consists of the PPC board members – directors are to ask their board members who is willing to serving another term and report back to PPC in March.

Kitchen Remodeling – Connie Fondow reported a committee has been formed and ideas are in the works. They plan to meet with Joe Samuelson (plumbing/heating), Virg Eskola (construction), Jerry Eischens (cabinets), Mike Marchell (electrician) and Keith Blumberg (flooring) for quotes on the project. However, before quotes can be finalized someone from the Health department needs to let us know what the remodeling requirements are for health safety reasons. When a plan is drawn up they will report to the voters. They would like this to be a special meeting prior to the regular June voters meeting.

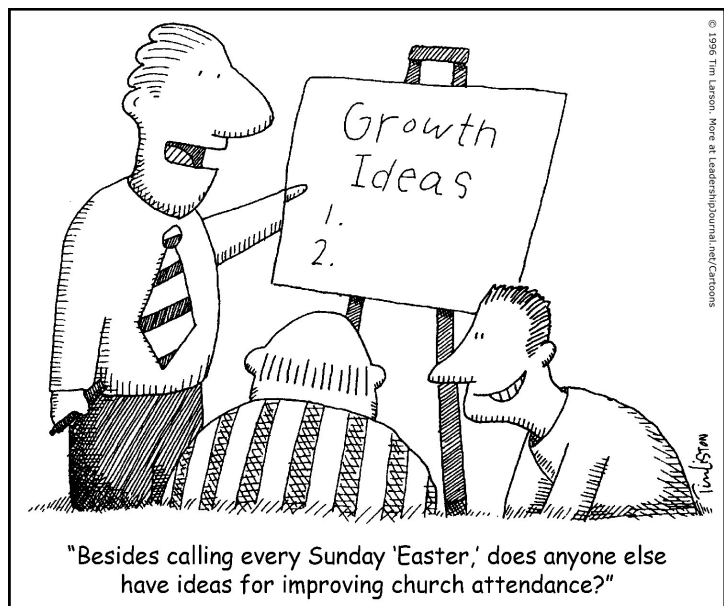
Church remodel – Pastor Neubauer reminded us on how we dressed up the church for the 50th anniversary of the building. He said there are still areas of the church building that need some much needed attention. Capital improvements – some of the items discussed were the sanctuary – dirty walls, broken floor tiles, windows. Also mentioned were the bell tower, front entrance (doors and windows are original), consider changing the front entrance completely.

Next PPC scheduled for March 26, 2019.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Potter





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Bill Neumann



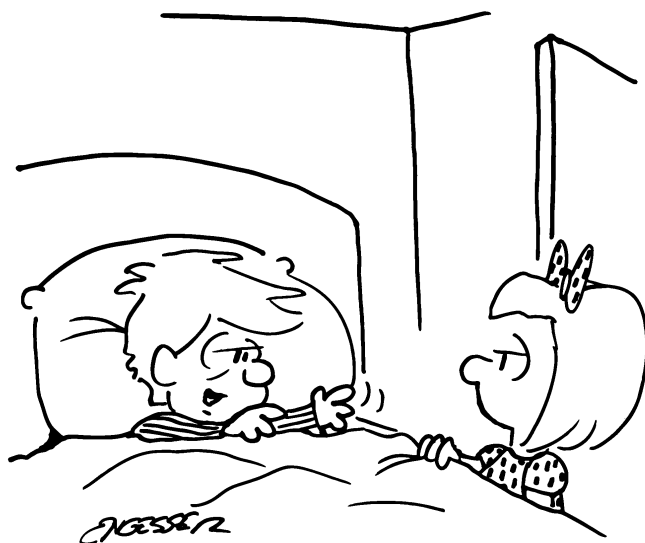
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**"Tell Mom I'll stay home today
and do Sunday school online."**