



The St. Johns Servant

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

March, 2019

Our Lenten Focus is “The Sermon on The Mount”

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6. This year's theme focuses on the Sermon on the Mount. Each week a different pastor from our circuit will preach on one part of Jesus' "sermon on the mount." Join us for worship each Wednesday at noon with lunch served by the Ladies Aid after the service or come at 5:00 p.m. for a meal and worship at 6:00 p.m. Here's the themes and preacher for each week:



March 6 - Ash Wednesday - "Blessed are You" - Pastor Neubauer

March 13 - "Salt and Light" - Pastor Newton

March 20 - "Prayer and Fasting" - Pastor David Walsh, Redeemer, Menahga and Christ, Wolf Lake

March 27- "Do Not Worry" - Pastor Matthew Vrudny, Immanuel, Walker

April 3 - "Judge Not" - Pastor Chris Davis, First English, Dorset

April 10 - "Build on the Rock" - Pastor Neubauer

Pastor Newton is Taking the Plunge



When we were interviewing candidates at the seminary, one of the questions was, "are you willing to do the polar plunge?" Pastor Newton's response wasn't "No," so in keeping with the tradition started by Pastor Heinecke, Pastor Newton and some of the youth will be jumping into the frozen East Battle Lake as part of the polar plunge at Lutheran Island Camp on March 2 at 2:00 p.m. They are collecting pledges to help send five youth to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July.

We're planning to video the event and show it between services on Sunday, March 10 in the social hall. The Board of Parish Fellowship will serve some frosty root beer floats to go with the video.

Lutheran Island Camp Jamboree

On March 10 between services in the social hall. Louis Blocker will be visiting our congregation to share information, answer questions, and register our children for summer camp. Our congregation has scholarships available and the camp also provides some camperships so every child can go to camp at least once this summer. The camp theme in 2019 is "Forgiven" and is based on Jesus' words in Luke: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34a).

Our goal is to have many of our children ready to sign up for camp on March 10. When we do that, we will be able to help each other with rides, encourage children to go to the same camps, and help the camp plan for the summer. So, pick up a brochure at church, decide which camps you are interested in and get ready to sign up.



Ponderings from the Pew



We took a ten day bus trip to New Orleans recently. A few days on the road, I noticed that Arch and I were holding hands a lot of the time on the bus. Quarters are tight, and you are naturally into each other's space.

As the trip went on, I started to realize how connected that simple gesture made me feel. We didn't need to say anything but felt close together, comfort, love, a bond.



I started to ponder the power of the human hand. We can do all kinds of physical things with two hands; feed ourselves, comb our hair, build houses, fix things, plant seeds, milk cows, wash dishes, write books, and countless other things. But think about the emotions our hands can convey - applause for approval and praise, anger with a fist, love with a tender touch, comfort, encouragement, etc.



Jesus used His hands to heal the blind, raise the dead, cast out the moneymakers from the temple, to pray, to bring Peter out of the water, to break bread, and to calm the storm. Matthew 8:3 says, "And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I will; be clean.' And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Matthew 8:15 tells us, "He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve Him." And again in Matthew 14:31 we read, "Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him (Peter), saying, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'"



Jesus established the Lord's Supper with His hands simply in breaking the bread, passing the wine, and speaking the words of institution we still use today. His hands washed the feet of His disciples, helped bring His words to life, and folded in prayer to our Father in heaven. His hands worked good for those He loved.

With our hands we show concern for one another, encourage each other, and impart unspoken sentiments. Set the world aside and hold hands a bit. Think about the hands of our Savior nailed to a cross in unimaginable agony taken on Himself for us. Think of His hands holding you close and rest there a while.

To God alone be the glory!

Renee' Anderson



Get Your Trivia Team Together for March 10!

The Board of Evangelism is sponsoring our third annual trivia competition Sunday, March 10 at 4:00 p.m. and wants you to be there. Find a diverse group of up to eight people who are willing to share the cost (\$100) of securing a table in the social hall for trivia play. You can also be assigned to a team if you don't want to put together one yourself. Enjoy a barbeque sandwich meal for \$5, too. Please sign up by the church office. Proceeds generated by this event will be used to renovate the nursery. There's a special focus on the movie, "Gone with the Wind" but there will be questions on lots of other subjects, too.



Have You Heard...?



A committee of your fellow St. John parishioners has met twice to begin a conversation concerning the renovation needs in the church kitchen. We are accessing what structural problems need to be addressed and what can be done to make the kitchen more user friendly. Cost is always a concern, and nothing will be done without the backing and support of the voters. Information will be disseminated to the congregation as we move forward.

The committee welcomes questions and input. Feel free to contact any of the following committee members: Rod Helm, Brad Dahn, Mike Poole, Elayne Luiken, Pat Stearns, Connie Fondow, Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 3/03 "Is God Everybody's Father?"
- 3/10 "Through Another's Eyes"
- 3/17 "Ba-a-ah"
- 3/24 "Death Doesn't End the Story"

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 133 on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and any time on 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."

A Big Bake Sale Thanks!

A big "Thank You" to everyone who brought and bought for the Death by Chocolate Bake Sale! We raised \$656 for St. Johns music ministry!





Stewardship Corner—Building Relationships

Relationships need to be built; they don't just happen. Even in families where blood relationships exist, emotional relationships must be built. How do we go about doing that? What are the criteria? Let's look to the master of relationships: our Lord Jesus.



Jesus, the incarnate Christ, lived in a relationship with His earthly family. In the Gospel of Luke, we are told that, when His parents became separated from their son on the return from Jerusalem where they had attended the Feast of the Passover, they were distraught. When they were reunited, Mary asked, "Son, why have You treated us so?" He gave His well-known reply: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Then, we're told, "He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them...And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:48-52). The Son of God, the Savior of the World, lived in obedient relationship with the earthly parents His Heavenly Father gave Him.

It is in the early days of His ministry that Jesus starts gathering to Himself His disciples, the Twelve who would sleep at His side, share their food with Him, endure the variances in the weather (as they were often outdoors), hear and try to understand His words, and seek to emulate Him, their Rabbi and Master. From Jesus we learn about being stewards of relationships. The criteria include quality time together, the opening of hearts to one another, trust and forgiveness, and interdependence.



Just as He called His disciples into relationship with Himself, so He initiates that closeness with us. He calls us with His Gospel words, "Come to me...and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He invites us, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). He abides with us (John 15:4); He shares His Heavenly food with us (Matthew 26:26-28); He speaks to us by His Word, Jesus Himself, and through His called servants (Hebrews 1:1-2); He presents us to His Father as holy in His sight (Colossians 1:22).

Secure, then, in our relationship with Jesus, we come to understand both our identity and purpose as His stewards. Equipped by His Word and empowered by His transforming love, our stewardship is no longer limited to specific acts occurring here and there but encompasses our entire lives. With a growing awareness of Christ's redeeming love, we are motivated to express our faith by the way we live our lives.

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 Ranisate and she will give you details.



Stewardship Review—January

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 204

Total Offerings: \$26,824	Total Offerings, January, 2018: \$29,914
Total Expenses: <u>\$38,954</u>	Total Expenses, January, 2018: <u>\$29,968</u>
Difference - \$12,130	Difference - \$54

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$6,706	Budget/Week \$9,497
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,739</u>	Budget/Month \$41,152
Difference - \$3,033	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 01/31/19: \$62,973	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts - <u>\$960</u>	Raised so far <u>\$39,530</u>
Difference \$62,013	Still need \$34,470

March is Food Share Month

March is the Minnesota Food Share Campaign. St. Johns is working with the local food shelves to raise food items and dollars for our local families. Each week in March, please bring in different items for the food shelf. There will be a collection table in the narthex.



- Week One (March 3-9) is Souper Week...bring in cans of soup, vegetables, tuna, etc.
- Week Two (March 10-16) is Lend a Helping Hand Week. Please bring in boxes of mac and cheese, hamburger helper, pasta meals, etc.
- Week Three (March 17-23) is Be a Sweetheart Week. We are asking for items that can be shared in a sweet way... cake mixes, frosting, pancake mix, muffin or bread mixes, cereal, etc.
- Finally, on Sunday, March 24, we will be hosting a "Noisy Offering" during coffee fellowship to collect cash for local food shelves.

Thank you for your supporting of our families in need! If you have questions, please contact Michelle Koch (218-732-5099).

We Have New Options for Giving

Now you can give with a credit/debit card on our website or on your phone. Just go to our website, www.stjohnspr.org and click on the "Give" tab on the top right of the home page. From there you'll reach a page where you can give securely by entering the requested information. You can create an account or give as a guest.



To donate using your phone, download the "GivePlus" app from your app store. You can search for St. Johns, then create an account and start giving.

Please let us know how it works for you. Comments, questions, suggestions are welcome!



Give Blood Here



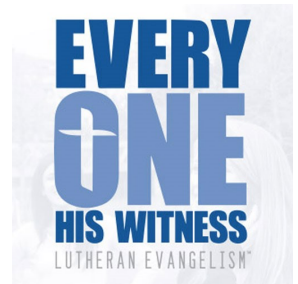
United Blood Services is now Vitalant. Have you ever donated blood? The process is easy, usually takes less than an hour, and most donors find it a painless and heart-warming experience. Take a few minutes to donate blood...and invite a friend to join you. St. Johns will sponsor a blood drive on Monday, March 18, 1:15 – 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday March 19, 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 255-4865 or go online to www.vitalant.org, sponsor code: parkrapids.

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

Please help us with this important, life-saving effort!

Every ONE His Witness Workbooks Available

The Every ONE His Witness Workshops in February were full of great information on how to share your faith through the LASSIE method (Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, Encourage.) If you weren't able to make to every session, you can purchase a workbook for \$13. The workbook includes a code you can use to register and gain access to more modules in the series dealing with specific witnessing areas.



Stop by the church office and talk to Ginny if you would like a workbook.



Bring It Home is Almost Done

Have you been following the "Bring It Home" Bible reading program? We're almost done. This 24 week program will end March 24.

If you didn't get started back in September, you can still do it any time. Just give us a call, e-mail or stop by and we'll print you off copies of the reading plan for all 24 weeks or we can e-mail them as attachments.

The Lunch Bunch Is Taking a Break Due to Downsizing

The winter weather has caused the number of attendees at the Lunch Bunch meetings to dwindle down to three for now so they're taking a break/setting up lunch by phone. They'll see how things are when the snow melts and it warms up. In case you're wondering, this is a group of widowed people that gets together on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at West Forty at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. If you're interested in joining them, watch for notices in future newsletters/bulletins that they're meeting again.





Bible Study Just for High Schoolers

In response to their requests, Pastor Newton is starting a Bible Study/Devotion just for high schoolers. They will meet Tuesday mornings at 6:45 a.m. at Great Northern starting March 12 for breakfast and Bible study.



And Another Bible Study for Young Adults



This new Bible study group is geared toward those who are out of high school and under 40. This will be a monthly Bible study beginning Monday, March 18. Meet at the Newtons' (19616 End of the Day Drive) at 6:00 p.m. They're cooking dinner, too!

But Wait! There's More for High Schoolers!

High School students are invited to the Newtons' house (19616 End of the Day Drive) on Thursday, March 21 at 5:00 p.m. for supper and throwback video games. We'll have a meal at 5:00 p.m. and then play *Mario* until 8:00 p.m.



Three Bears Water Park

To help break up the winter, all St. Johns Youth in grades 5-12 are invited on our annual trip to Three Bears Water Park in Brainerd on Sunday, March 24. We will meet at the church at noon and return around 6:45 p.m. Cost will be \$5.00 per person which includes admission, food and transportation. Space is limited so you should sign up in the front lobby at church as soon as possible.

Found in the Archives

One of our members found this gem in some of her mother's papers;

Parish Arithmetic (from Peace Lutheran, Rockdale, Tex.)

Our Church Membership	1400
Non resident membership	-150
Elderly folk	-25
Sick and shut-in folk	-25
Members who do not pledge	-350
Christmas and Easter members	-325
Members tired and overworked	-300
Members too busy doing something else	<u>-223</u>
Balance left to work	2



Just YOU and ME—and you'd better get busy, for it's too much for me.



Board HIGHLIGHTS

Christian Education Elders, Public Relations and Stewardship: did not meet.

Church Properties: Continued working on back entry project, cross lighting project and various electric issues.

Evangelism: The March 10 trivia event needs were discussed:

The price of the lunch plates will continue to be advertised with a \$5 suggested minimum donation. Free popcorn will be brought out to the tables midway through the event. Kathy Henry will provide us with the available cash needed for the winning payout and change. Kathy Henry and Deb Luther will be the judges. Doug and Julie Kingsley will serve as sign in attendants. We will once again provide other participation “games” at various times during the event. Doug will facilitate the Power Point allowing Pastor Neubauer to participate in the event. Pastor Newton will provide an opening and closing. Linda Leckner will organize the bars for the lunch. Teams and assigned table numbers will be posted (Connie Fondow).

The mentor/confirmand pizza party will take place on April 24.

No names were given to the board by the pastors for sending cards to parishioners.

Parish Fellowship: Old Business:

Kitchen renovation—Elayne Luiken reported the kitchen remodeling committee is in the process getting input for work on the flooring, cabinet makeovers, electrical, plumbing and venting updates, along with other layout changes. More information will be forthcoming.

New Business:

Trivia Night, Sunday March 10, 4:00 p.m.—Our board will make and serve sloppy joes, baked beans, chips and pickles. We’ll meet at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon to prepare the beans and sloppy joes. Elayne and Deb Luther will shop for supplies. Thrivent funds will pay for them.

Lenten meal—Our board is serving on Wednesday, April 10. At this point we plan to make sloppy joes, salads, and cookies. Further planning will be done at our March meeting.

Young People: Board Member Terms—discussed that the two year term is coming to a close and asked for members to consider if they would like to stay a part of the board.

Tubing—Plans are all set for tubing on February 17. Dee Persons and Pastor Newton will chaperone. Larry Hetrick will drive the bus.

Three Bears Water Park—March event for 5th-12th graders. Dee will confirm date and time.

Polar Plunge—Pledges will be taken by NYG youth before and after services. Plunge is March 2.

Brandi Backmann and Pastor Newton met to discuss ideas to engage the youth in our congregation. Upcoming plans include breakfast for all high school students before school, movie nights, March madness, Mario Cart tournament, dartball, event with youth from Bemidji, lock-ins, bowling, board game night, service projects, and more.



Perfect Conditions for Snow Tubing at Detroit Mountain



Sunday School News



Perfect Attendance—February

1st Clinton Koch, Alex Lof,
Sophia Neubauer
2nd Zachary Harju
4th Max Harju, Aiden May
6th Vivian Harju, Leo Kaufenberg
7th Jack Moses, Kilea Persons
8th Natalie Backmann, Jillian Neubauer

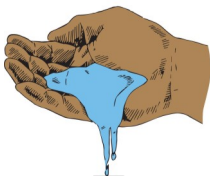
Great job!



3/01	Cash Luther
3/02	Hunter Schroeder
3/07	Rachel Ulvin
3/12	Jordyn Hanisch
3/13	Wyatt Goodwater
3/16	Walter Harrison III
3/21	Sawyer Torkelson
3/25	Ketch Luther

Baptismal Birthdays

3/01	Harlow Komppa
3/04	Anna Neyens
3/09	Hailey Meier
3/10	Eli Maves
3/10	Kaitlyn Maves
3/16	Mason McCarthy
3/22	Gavin Smith
3/27	Gunar Clark



Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.


Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1–2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.



Day 1 (light) _____ **Day 2** (waters) _____ **Day 3** (land and plants) _____ **Day 4** (heavenly bodies) _____
Day 5 (birds and water animals) _____ **Day 6** (land animals and people) _____ **Day 7** (God rested) _____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 5, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 9, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

March Memory Verse:



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



“Main Street Living North” for March 2019:

Now that the MSL NETWORK is broadcasting in six different areas in the upper Midwest, a decision was made to use just one central website address at www.mainstreetliving.com. On the home page you will then need to click on the link identified as “North (Fargo).” If you use the old address it will take you to a furniture store in Colorado.

A reminder of the matching funds offer from the Main Street Living NETWORK continues until \$16,000 of new donations are received! 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 on the web site. Thank you and God’s blessing in Christ!

Here’s the programs for March:

March 3: Vicar Brian Shane, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: “Artificial Intelligence?” based on Luke 9:28-36. Today’s This Is the Life program is “Man Adrift.”

March 10: Rev. Matthew Meyer, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Callaway, MN, presents the message: “Trust in the Lord” based on Deuteronomy 26:1-11. Today’s This Is the Life program is “Time Out for Bill.”

March 17: Rev. Thomas Eckstein, Concordia Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND, delivers today’s message: “Let the Children Come to Me!” based on Mark 10:13-16. Today’s This Is the Life program is “A Gift for Grandpa.”

March 24: Rev. Guy Roberts, Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN, presents the message: “Repent or Die” based on Ezekiel 33:7-20, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 and Luke 13:1-5. Today’s This Is the Life program is “Boy on the Fence.”

March 31: Rev. Jonathan Durkopp, Trinity English Lutheran Church, LaMoure, ND, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Adrian, ND, presents the message: “True Repentance” based on Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. Today’s This Is the Life program is “The Sin of Roy Baxter.”

“MAIN STREET LIVING” is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute Lutheran Hour program (normally “This Is the Life,” along with occasional church-season specials). Programs are broadcast at 9:00 a.m. central time on FOX station KVRR Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1. Or you can watch archived episodes anytime on their website at www.mainstreetliving.com (then click on “North (Fargo).”





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Lutheran Church**

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Pastor Joel Newton
Pastor Bill Neumann



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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