



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

May, 2019

Confirmed in Christ



On Sunday, May 5 at the 10:30 a.m. service thirteen of our young people will publicly confess their faith through the Rite of Confirmation. The confirmation process includes two years of study and learning about being a communicant member of the congregation through service as acolytes.

The confirmands will display the knowledge they've learned over the past two years at an oral exam on May 1 at 5:30 p.m. The Board of Parish Fellowship will fortify the confirmands and their families with a good meal before the exam.

This year's confirmands are Caleb Arola, Natalie Backmann, Coley Girtz, Coby Hagen, Hunter Harrison, Isaac Hartig, Haley Kerr, Hailey Kimball, Naomi Knaack, Sam Leckner, Jillian Neubauer, Jordyn Novak and Emma Ravnas. May God bless and keep these young people in faith everlasting.

Congratulations, Graduates!

This month marks a milestone for eight young members of St. Johns as they graduate from high school. A reception will be held for them between services on May 19. Our graduates are Emilee Borders, Janesa Felt, Miles Harju, Jack Hensel, Nicole Kramer, Tristin Persons, Olivia Ulvin and Jacob Witt. Please keep them in your prayers as they head out into the world.



Memorial Service for Mary Hutter

A memorial service for Mary Hutter will be held Saturday, May 18, 11:00 a.m. with visitation one hour before the service. Mary passed away January 10 in Arizona.

Vacation Bible School Moved to August

Usually this month we'd be encouraging you to sign up for Vacation Bible School but this year instead of having it in June, VBS will take place August 5-9 from 8:30 a.m.—noon. Registration forms are being sent home with Release Time, Sunday School and ABC students. You can also register online at our website, www.stjohnspr.org.

Help of all kinds is needed—leaders, helpers, crafters, snacks, games, decorations and more. If you're interested in being a part of VBS, please talk to Sarah Kaufenberg.





Ponderings from the Pew



Do you ever feel like there must be a hole in your gas tank? Seriously, most of the time, I just go to work and back home, go to work, go home, repeat. But the gas tank seems to always be low. So Arch fills it up for me, and before I know it, there it is reading low again.

When we go to church, we are refueling to be better prepared to face life. We are recharging our batteries, topping off our fluids, fueling up for the days ahead. We are washing off the dirt and grime, the stress and worry that life in a broken world throws at us. As Titus 3:4-6 explains, “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” Church renews us in the Spirit. We pray, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me,” (Psalm 51:10). We come to seek the gifts of grace, the forgiveness of our sins, the restoring of our souls. We are weary of running on empty, so we come to Him.



Think of all the things you automatically take care of as a part of your every day life. There are bills to pay, groceries to buy, food to prepare, dishes and clothes to wash, appointments to keep, kids to take care of, work, to-do lists, pets to care for. The list could go on and on. We do so much, we often fail to take care of the most important thing – our relationship with God. If we don't put gas in the car, it won't take us where we need to go. If we neglect to renew our spirits with God, they weaken, becoming subject to open attack by Satan.

Life is hard work. Everything of the world aims to tear us down. Everything of God seeks to build us up, strengthen us, love us to eternal salvation. The Lord “...Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's,” (Psalm 103:3-5) is the Savior Who meets you at the communion rail. He meets us where we are--in such great need of refilling our hearts with the joy of His salvation. He meets us there.

Come – be filled.

To God alone be the glory.



Renee' Anderson

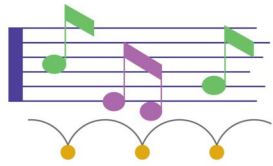


Call for Volunteers

Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP) invites you to volunteer for "A Minnesota Lumberjack Experience." From July 10-15, CSP will be hosting nearly 10,000 youth and leaders for District Events during the National Youth Gathering. Joy-filled volunteers are needed for checking people in, serving food, way-finding, and more. Register to volunteer to www.ave.csp.edu/nygvolunteers. Email questions to districtevents@csp.edu.



Children's Choir Mini Concert



The Children's Choir will present a mini concert Sunday, May 12 between services in the social hall. They'll be performing a selection of their favorite songs. There will be a special recognition of choir members who are moving on to confirmation next year. Come and enjoy!

Sneaky Squirrel Still at Large

We love to have visitors here at St. Johns but a couple weeks back one showed up that was not so welcome and it appears he may still be here. The visitor was a red squirrel. He was in the front of the sanctuary. We've seen him in the offices and social hall, too, so he's learned his way around. Janitor Mike Riewer has set a couple live traps and a "not live" trap along with a couple of mouse traps but so far the squirrel has eluded capture. Mike has caught a couple of mice though. We've been trying to find the spot where he may have come in but so far no luck with that either. Stay tuned!

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 5/05 "The Good Fisherman"
- 5/12 "Home"
- 5/19 "Up Close and Personal"
- 5/26 "Sculptor Spirit"

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."



† Funeral

4/29/19 Robert Buckley





Stewardship Corner—Giving God-pleasing Gifts



Scripture provides us with many examples of faithful people, who by God's grace, made God-pleasing gifts. A short list of some of those givers is as follows: the Poor Widow, who gave her last two coins (Luke 21:4), Zacchaeus, who gave half of all his money to the poor (Luke 19:1-4), Mary, who anointed Jesus with an alabaster flask of pure nard, (Mark 14:3-9), and the Macedonians, who gave beyond their ability (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

We can also cite the faithful Philippians who gave gifts to the Apostle Paul. Paul had spent time with the people in Philippi sharing the Gospel. He loved them and they loved him as a brother in the Lord. Paul's thank you for their gifts is found in his letter to the church in Philippi. Their financial gifts to him expressed their love and gratitude for him and his ministry among them. They had concern for his physical welfare and for his ongoing ministry of sharing the Gospel.

When Paul received the gift from the Philippians, he "*rejoice[d] greatly in the Lord...*" (Philippians 4:10 NIV). He was lavish in his thanks. The church in Philippi was the only congregation to send financial support for Paul. What a joyful surprise it must have been for Paul to receive their support especially during his time of need while he was in prison in Rome. Paul was deeply grateful for the Philippians for their compassion and for their gifts. He commended their desire "*to share*" his troubles. He knew that the Philippians who decided to give gifts were people who felt Paul's afflictions as if they were their own.

Even though the Philippians were poor because of economic distress caused by droughts, their personal compassion could not stop them from giving. They put Paul's needs ahead of their wants. Their giving demonstrated loving and giving hearts. We are told that the Philippians gave multiple gifts. As generous as their gifts to him were, Paul reminded the people in Philippi that the important thing about any gift is not the gift itself but the heart of the giver. The people in Philippi demonstrated compassionate and generous spirits. Their gifts was a "*fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God*" (Philippians 4:18). May God grant us compassionate and generous spirits as well. Thanks be to God for giving us His grace, so we can be faithful givers.



Have you Tried Our New Giving Options?



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.



Stewardship Review—March

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **193**

Total Offerings: \$41,604	Total Offerings, March, 2018: \$46,916
Total Expenses: \$37,210	Total Expenses, March, 2018: \$31,981
Difference \$4,394	Difference \$14,935

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$10,401	Budget/Week \$9,497
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$9,303	Budget/Month \$41,152
Difference \$1,098	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 03/31/19: \$62,951
Less Dedicated Funds \$1,823
Available Funds \$61,128

Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Raised so far \$39,887
Still need \$34,113



Here's a Few Offering Pointers

St. Johns is a generous congregation and the bulk of our contributions come through the offerings given at worship services. Here are a few tips to remember when you're preparing your offering that will make things easier for you and for our offering counters:

1. Please use your offering envelopes if you have them. It makes it much easier for the offering counters if they don't have to check to see if you have an envelope number. If you haven't picked up your envelopes, stop by the church office and we'll get them for you.
2. For special offerings, please make out your check to St. Johns. We can't deposit checks made out to other organizations (like the Food Shelf, Pregnancy Resource Center, etc.). These checks will be sent directly to the organization.
3. You don't have to put a separate check or cash in each weekly offering envelope if you are giving monthly or twice a month. You can write one check and use one envelope for the month.
4. If you really want to be nice to the counters, don't fold your cash or check. Just slip it right into the envelope.
5. Consider automatic offerings. You can set up an automatic withdrawal from your account to St. Johns. You decide the amount and frequency. It's easy to set up and there's no extra charge to you. Stop by and see Ginny Ranisate if you're interested. You can also give online at our website www.stjohnspr.org or with your phone. Check out the article to the left for details.
6. If you're good with numbers, detail oriented and available one Sunday a month, consider becoming an offering counter. We usually have teams of two counters and it takes about an hour to count. Once again, stop by and see Ginny or give her a call at 732-9783 if you're interested.



Parish Planning Council Minutes March 26, 2019

Meeting called to order by Executive Director, Dr. Rod Helm.

Present: Jerry Grudem, Ruth Knaack, Brandi Backmann, Brad Dahn, Cliff Branham, Elayne Luiken, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter, Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton; Absent: Connie Fondow.

Opening devotion led by Pastor Neubauer.

Approval of the PPC Minutes from January 22, 2019

Motion by Cliff Branham second Elayne Luiken to approve minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate

Motion by Jerry Gruden to approve Treasurer's report. Second Cliff Branham. Motion carried.

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2019	97,430	100,757	-3,327
2018	94,693	83,308	11,385
Difference	2,737	17,449	--

Income and expenses are up compared to last year at this time. Bad weather and low worship attendance may have affected offerings so far this year. Increased expenses are mainly due to the addition of the Newtons to our staff.

Citizens Bank Checking	\$72,352
Less Dedicated Accounts	<u>-1,631</u>
Difference	\$70,721

CNB Dedicated Savings	\$34,511
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LCEF Current Fund as of 03/26/19	\$163,740
Less Endowment Fund Interest	-1,038
Less Parsonage Proceeds	-18,548
Less R. Haberer Annuity	-1,435
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	-21,304
Less T. Haberer Trust	-78,596
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	<u>-39,887</u>
Available Funds	\$2,932

LCEF Endowment Fund	\$22,200
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Pastors' Reports

Pastor Newton

Preached at Wolf Lake/Menahga February 17 while Pastor Walsh was visiting family. Attended the following sessions at Best Practices in Ministry conference February 21 and 22: Museum of the Bible Presentation; A New Song – New worship practices from St. John's Bakersfield; Ministry as Teamwork; Men and the Church; Scouting; When the Saints Go Marching In. Applied for the Masters of Sacred Theology Program. Plan to further explore preaching, teaching, cultural issues and outreach. I am halfway through the program because of dual credit with my MDiv. March – Homebound communion visits. Dartball – tried it out with the LLL, looking to schedule a time again soon. Started Young Adult Bible Study on March 18. Only one person showed up, interested in talking about the cultural background of Jesus' trial and crucifixion. Going to try again in April.

Youth activities: February – Snow tubing (20 students); Lunch with high schoolers. March – began Tuesday morning High School Bible study at 6:45 a.m.; Hosted game night for high schoolers and did the Polar Plunge; Three Bears Waterpark (14 students).

Personal – found out we're having a girl. New due date is August 13, 2019. We are heading to Norfolk, Nebraska to visit friends this weekend.

Pastor Neubauer

Continue with day to day activities. Teaching Confirmation and Release Time. Much time has been spent on confirmation curriculum this year. Next year it will be easier. Coordinated Circuit Round Robin Lenten worship schedule. Did some home visits.

Membership Changes

Motion Jerry Grudem, second Cliff Branham to approve into membership by transfer Daniel Schultz, Glory of Christ, Plymouth, MN and Tyler Schwichtenberg, The Alley, Cottage Grove, MN. Carried.

Motion Jerry Grudem, second Cliff Branham to approve into membership by Affirmation of Faith Teresa Etter, Grace, Neveah and Gavin, Bethany, Menahga, MN and Neal and Carol Holter, Calvary, Park Rapids, MN. Carried.

Motion by Elayne Luiken, second Mike Poole to approve removal from membership due to relocation Nina Raschke and Tanner and Patricia Larson. Carried.

Board of Elders – Jerry Grudem

The Elders assist the pastors with communion and continue to monitor activities of the pastors for the congregation.

Board of Evangelism – Connie Fondow

Approximately 30 congregational members attended the sessions for "Every ONE His Witness" in February. Crosses with informational tags regarding the dates and times of Lenten and Easter services were distributed to St. Johns members, ABC families, and Release Time students. We will investigate the

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possibility of having them available for Food Shelf recipients. The trivia event on March 10 generated funds for nursery renovations (about \$1,700). Evening BINGO at Diamond Willow began in March. We will attempt to continue this monthly program. Volunteers are needed. The board remains open to receiving college student addresses. We wish to maintain a caring contact with these members.

Board of Christian Education – Ruth Knaack

Release Time: All Easter lessons have been updated to fit with ESV Bibles. We may need to draw up a behavior rules system. We have two new students; grades 4 and 6.

Sunday School: Will sing in church on Palm Sunday.

VBS: Sarah Kaufenberg will serve as director. Dates August 5–9, set up on August 4. Theme is 'Miraculous Mission.' Next planning meeting June 23.

Preschool: Enrollment is 43 students; two new students. Preschool Committee met February 20. Tuition and registration fee will remain the same. Sessions offered and staff needed will remain the same. Preregistration forms have been sent to current students. Preregistration will be opened to the public on April 1.

Other: Gathering information about a possible service project. Will be looking for two board members, board director, and a Sunday School superintendent for next year.

Young People Report – Brandi Backmann

Recent events: February – Tubing at Detroit Mountain, March – Served first Lent meal, Polar Plunge, Game night at Newtons, 3 Bears Water Park.

Upcoming events: Second Lent meal, Easter breakfast, senior recognition.

Church Properties - Brad Dahn

The cross in the front of the church has been redone with LED lights by Marchell Electric and looks very good. Nice and bright and very evenly lit. Marchell Electric also fixed a few other electrical issues, outlet in entry added, a couple of ceiling lights fixed, etc. Heater in the back entry has been replaced, and with the doors being redone should keep the coat area warmer! Now we are in the process of fixing the wall and the carpet. Starting to look at spring projects that may be needed and also church clean up. Please let us know of anything that should be looked into. Special thanks to all those involved in snow and ice removal around the church this winter - Todd Sanquist, Archie Anderson, Mike Riewer, Jody Yliniemi and others. What a job it was to do! Also thanks to Virgil Eskola and his business partner Terry DeYoung for bringing in the big ladders to work on the cross.

Board of Stewardship – Cliff Branham

Electronic offering option was discussed and approved. Media purchases were reviewed with committee by Pastor Neubauer. Dick Haberer gift will be used for these purchases. Also gave

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Board

HIGHLIGHTS

Christian Education: Minutes of the March 5 meeting were approved.

Reports:

Release Time: Laurie Kimball reported that everything has been going fine. The last day of class will be May 1. We learned later that the last day actually will be April 24. On the last day ice cream sundaes will be served for an end of the year treat. Laurie will work one day a week in May to clean up and put things away and will start to order supplies and run off lessons in September.

Sunday School: No report this month.

VBS: No report this month.

Preschool: Kim Neubauer reported that enrollment is currently 43 students. So far 11 have registered for next year. Parent teacher conferences will be held April 9 and 11. Closing program and graduation will be in mid-May. The last day of school will be May 24.

Old Business: Lori Griess had some information about a service project and she and Kim will gather information about how a similar project is set up and run in another county. We will also get numbers from Hubbard County regarding needs here.

New Business:

-We would like Brandi Backmann to attend our next meeting or send us a report on how the new Sunday School curriculum has been working now that it has been used for a year. Ruth Knaack will contact her about this.

-We discussed which members will be returning to the Board for the next term. We will need to replace at least two members and discuss who will serve as Director. We also need to find someone to serve as Sunday School Superintendent.

Church Properties: The cross is once again lit up and looks great. A few other electrical issues were also taken care of.

Going to replace the carpet at the back entrance now that the doors and heater are fixed.

Started planning spring clean up for the church for Saturday, April 27 at 8:30 a.m.

Talked about kitchen project that will be coming to the voters in the near future.

Elders: Worked on assisting elders and heard reports.

Parish Fellowship: Old Business:

We will serve the evening meal on Wednesday, April 10 at 5:00 p.m. Menu will be sloppy joes, chips, salads, and cookies. We'll each bring a large salad and two dozen cookies, and plan to serve at least 100 people. Elayne Luiken will pick up the groceries needed.

We will make and serve a meal for the confirmands, their parents and mentors, plus members of the Board of Elders on Wednesday, May 1 at 5:00 p.m. Ginny Ranisate will send out the invitations and Elayne will contact the elders. Menu: Taco bar, chips and salsa, fruit salad, ice cream sundaes. We'll meet at 3:30 p.m. to prepare the meal. Elayne will pick up the groceries.

New Business: We would like to host a baby shower for Sarah and Pastor Newton. Details will be worked out at a later meeting.

Young People: Dee Persons will be in charge of set up for Easter breakfast. Brandi Backmann will cover cooking, serving and clean up on Easter morning. Brandi will schedule a meeting with junior parents to organize senior recognition. Summer plans are biking in June, river tubing in July and a weekly or bi-weekly campfire.

Evangelism, Public Relations and Stewardship: did not meet.



Sunday School News

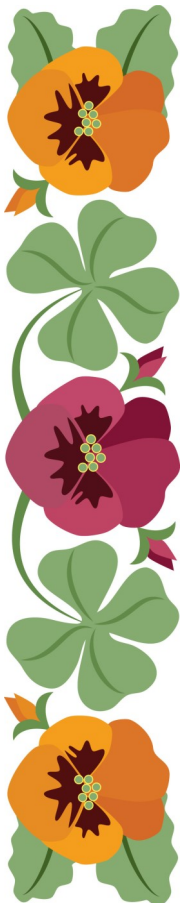
Perfect Attendance - March

PK3 Thatcher Eidsmoe
Kdg. Sawyer Eidsmoe
1st Clinton Koch, Sophia Neubauer
2nd Zachary Harju, Khloe May
4th Maxwell Harju, Aiden May

Perfect Attendance - April

1st Luke Eskola, Alex Lof,
Brayden Schroeder
2nd Zach Harju, Khloe May
4th Max Harju, Aiden May
6th Vivian Harju, Laura Kaufenberg,
Leo Kaufenberg
8th Natalie Backmann, Isaac Hartig

**Last day of Sunday School is May 19.
Thanks for a great year!**



Happy Birthday!

5/03 Emma Mayer
5/04 Ava Glatzmaier
5/04 Gavin Etter
5/09 Olivia May
5/11 Elsie Forbes
5/21 Elijah Benson
5/27 Brock Knutson
5/31 Kasen Girtz

Baptismal Birthdays

5/04 Sawyer Eidsmoe
5/04 Gemma Leckner
5/06 Clinton Koch
5/11 Eastyn Walker
5/13 William Sanquist
5/24 Elsie Forbes
5/24 Lilah Forbes
5/26 Wyatt Goodwater
5/26 Nicklaus Sowers
5/28 Jacob Lof
5/30 Walter Harrison III
5/31 Khloe Harrison



A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;



she provides _____ for her _____



Her _____ rise _____ and



_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

May Memory Verse:

Though you have not seen Jesus Christ,
YOU LOVE HIM.
Though you do not now see him,
YOU BELIEVE IN HIM
and rejoice with **JOY**
that is inexpressible
and filled with glory,
obtaining the outcome of your faith,
THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.



1 Peter 1:8-9

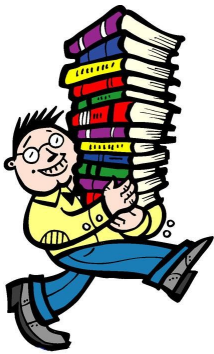


Thank You, Brandi!



Brandi Backmann has decided to turn over the Sunday School Superintendent reins to someone else now that both of her children are confirmed. She took over the job in 2013 and has done an excellent job these past five and a half years. She's lined up teachers, prepared curriculum, worked on Christmas programs, wrote newsletters and came up with tons of great ideas for our Sunday School program. We want to extend a huge thank you to her for all her hard work and wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

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!

Things They Don't Teach You at Seminary

Who says being a pastor is all preaching and Bible study? Pastor Newton got to catch paper airplanes recently. Bet they didn't have a class on that at seminary. The ABC students made the airplanes in class and then launched them off the balcony to see how they flew.





Release Time Wraps Up a Great Year

April 24 was the last day of release time for this spring. We had our largest number of students here this year in quite a few years and we are hoping that this continues to happen. We would love to have even more students next fall. Along with that we would certainly need a few more teachers or helpers. Our teachers this year were:

1st grade (2 groups) Ruth Knaack and Laurie Kimball

2nd grade Sarah Newton and helper, Betty Knaack

3rd grade Pastor Neubauer

4th grade (2 groups) Pastor Newton and Cheryl Breitbach

5th grade (2 groups) Pastor Knaack and Cheryl Breitbach

6th grade (2 groups) Ruth Knaack and Laurie Kimball

7th grade Pastor Neubauer

8th grade Pastor Newton

Sandy Phillips started out the year teaching but had to take time off for personal reasons and will return this fall.

Any of you that have considered being a classroom helper could talk to Betty to see what it is that you are expected to do. It is nice to have another adult in the classroom. You don't have to prepare any lessons, just make sure the children are listening and help any of them that need a little extra help. Connie Fondow was our only substitute teacher this year and we are very grateful that she was able to help out. Also Vickie Helm lined up a group of ladies that watched George in the nursery while Sarah and Pastor Newton both taught. Thank you to all of you for helping out. It takes a lot of dedication and help to keep this program running smoothly, with approximately 140 students here every Wednesday morning. We also need to give Mike Riewer (our janitor) a big thank you for helping set up extra tables and chairs in the youth room and choir room so we could use them as classrooms. That always saved me an extra trip to town to get those rooms ready. Thank You!

In closing I will pray that any one out there who is willing to come help in anyway.....please let someone know! I get a little worn down asking for help and being told NO so often, I sometimes get afraid to even ask. If you feel the Holy Spirit is guiding you to help spread the gospel to these children, please don't hesitate. I know it is a huge commitment to give up every Wednesday morning from October through April but it is also very rewarding. We try our best to have all your material ready for you and to make them as easy to teach as possible. I hear people say all the time, "where are all the young people?" Well.... a lot of them are here on Wednesday mornings, so let's do our best to keep them coming. In this world today, the children certainly need a safe place where they can learn about their Lord and Savior. If you can help in any way to help keep this program going, don't hesitate, I would love to hear from you.

God's love and peace,

Laurie Kimball, Release Time Coordinator



3rd Graders with their new Bibles.



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Ginny the approval to use undesignated memorials or Thrivent Choice to meet the need. The committee also gave approval on a projector cost up to \$1300. Pastor Neubauer and Ginny reviewed the Healthy Balance account as when/how much to move funds from our general account to the Healthy Balance account. It appears this area needs further refining of the process/policy for moving funds. After discussion decided to wait until July and revisit this after we've had a year of expenses with additional staff. Also the committee authorized the treasurer to move funds from Healthy Balance to general account if needed.

Parish Fellowship – Elayne Luiken

Our board prepared and served sloppy joes, baked beans and chips for the Evangelism Board's Trivia Night on Sunday, March 10. We served root beer floats between services on Sunday, March 24 as Pastor Newton showed the video of the youth taking part in the polar plunge. We will serve the evening Lenten meal on Wednesday, April 10 and the meal for the confirmands on Wednesday, May 1.

Public Relations – no report

Old/New Business

Nominating Committee: Board directors have asked their respective board members if they are willing to continue for another term on that board. There will be a need for replacements. If you are interested in serving on a board please contact a director. Nominations will be presented to the voters in June.

Kitchen Remodel Project: Rod Helm reported in Connie Fondow's absence. The committee has met. Bids for cabinets, plumbing/heating, electrical, flooring and carpentry have been requested. Some have been received. Looked at options for a new freezer at Harvala's Appliances. The question on how to finance the project was raised. Fundraising, memorials, and a loan were some options mentioned. The committee will get some preliminary information posted for the congregation. They hope to get a dollar amount and plans to the voters in June so that this project can move forward.

Long Range Building Committee: Pastor Neubauer requested that a committee be formed to look at what long range building projects should be addressed. Jerry Grudem and Mike Poole volunteered to be co-chairs of the committee. This committee should be approved by the voters in June. Some of the projects suggested but not limited to were: Front entry addition, reconfiguration of communion rails, sanctuary makeover. If you are interested in serving on this committee contact Jerry, Mike or the pastors.

Adopt a Chap: Ginny presented information on the "Adopt-a-Chap" program. This is a new opportunity for congregations to directly connect with our synod's Armed Forces chaplains, active and reserved, and veterans hospital chaplains, too. It is a program that links congregations with chaplains to promote mutual support and growth. It is a means through which we learn and support each other in military ministry. After a congregation is "matched" with a chaplain by the Ministry of the Armed Forces staff, the congregation and chaplain establish a relationship through regular communication with one another. Congregations will regularly keep the chaplain and his family in prayer and learn about his

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Scenes from St. Johns

Here's a few pictures from recent happenings here at St. Johns.



The weather during Holy Week wasn't great for an outside Easter Egg Hunt so ABC Preschoolers and Children's Choir hunted inside. It was still fun!



↑ The weather didn't cooperate for the Ladies Aid when they wanted to make Valentine cards for our shut-ins so they re-grouped and made May Day/thinking of you cards instead.

→ 7th and 8th grade confirmands and mentors enjoyed some tasty Pizza Ranch pizza (dessert pizza goes especially fast), fun and games while catching up on April 24.





Check Out the Kitchen Renovation Posters

The Kitchen Committee has come up with some great posters that show the proposed floor plan and explain what they hope to accomplish with the kitchen renovation. You can check them out in the front lobby, back lobby and social hall. They are planning to present final plans and costs at the Voters meeting coming up June 4 at 7:00 p.m.



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specialized ministry in the military and VA context. No financial commitment or aid is needed or expected. This is the Church working together, encouraging and supporting one another in mission to our men and women in our nation's Armed Forces and veterans hospitals. Connie Fondow and the Evangelism Board will be signing up for this program soon.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Potter, Secretary



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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Neumann



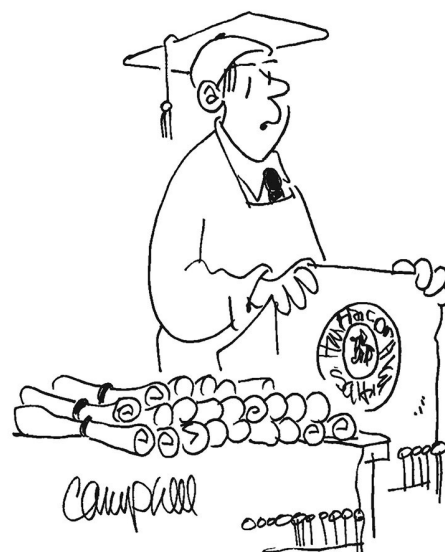
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**"You'll never forget your high school experience,
though grades indicate you've tried."**