



# *The* **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

June, 2019

## **Bi-Annual Voters Meeting Set for June 4**



June means it's time for our bi-annual Voters meeting which will take place on Tuesday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. Much of the church business, practice and policy is decided at these meetings. Agenda items include electing new board members and kitchen renovation. Check out the list of board nominations on page 6.

All confirmed members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. If you are a voting member and can't attend, please call the church office to be excused. We hope to have a great turn out!

## **Youth are Invited to Biking, Mini Golf and Ice Cream**

All youth in grades 5-12 are invited to bike to Dorset on Sunday, June 9. We will meet at Heartland Park at 1:30 p.m. and bike to Dorset and play mini golf, enjoy ice cream, then bike back to Heartland Park. The Youth Board will pay for mini-golf. Bring money for ice cream. Any questions contact Pastor Newton or the church.



## **St. Johns is Catching Fire**



A bonfire! Every other Tuesday, you're invited to join us at 6:00 p.m. We'll have the bonfire if it's nice or games inside if it's not, along with supper together and a devotion. This is geared for families, and everyone's invited and encouraged to bring friends. Mark your calendars for June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23 and maybe August 13.

## **Cindy's Leaving a Staff Opening**

After 17 years as assistant church secretary, Cindy Yliniemi is resigning to focus on her full time job in their family business. We'll miss her calm, quiet strength, can-do attitude and amazing ability to stay focused. It has been such a blessing to have her as part of our staff all these years.

Now we have to begin the search for a replacement. This position requires someone who likes working with a computer, greeting people in person and on the phone, paying attention to details and maintaining confidentiality. If you're interested in a part time position that offers variety, flexibility and a friendly work environment, please stop into the office or talk to one of the pastors.





## Ponderings from the Pew



We've had our grandson, Owen, in church with us a few Sundays. I like to stand him on the back of the pew ahead of me so he can see what's happening and I don't have to support all his weight. When he does this, he tends to wiggle which causes me to move back and forth. I was catching some flak about this from someone near and dear to me. The kid was quiet for the most part, so I really didn't see the issue. My response was something about how we should all be dancing in the pews. And shouldn't we be? Lutherans are so proper, reserved and controlled, aren't we? What's wrong with God's word moving us physically as well as emotionally and spiritually?

There's an old Sunday School song about the lame beggar from Acts 3, "Silver and gold have I none. But such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth stand up and walk – He went walking and leaping and praising God, walking and leaping and praising God ..." Verses 9-10 tell us, "And all the people saw him walking and praising God and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him." His 'dancing' for joy at his healing proclaimed the awesomeness of our God.

Luke 1:41ff records pregnant Mary's visit to Elizabeth, "And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'" Mary responded with her own exclamation of faith which we call the Magnificat, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." These are examples of faith resulting in physical, vocal and spiritual responses.



When Jesus entered Jerusalem with the crowds shouting praises to Him and laying palm branches in His path Luke 19:39-40 records, "And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.'" If even the stones would proclaim the glory of God, why aren't we dancing for the joy of our salvation which we are blessed to hear about regularly? Shouldn't receiving the blessings of worship, the means of grace and the living word of our God, move our hearts to be so overflowing that our bodies literally move?



2 Samuel 6 tells of King David bringing the Ark of God to Jerusalem. "And David and all the house of Israel were making merry before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals." Verses 14-15 say, "David danced before the Lord with all his might. So, David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn." This was certainly not a quiet, reserved, controlled procession. This was boisterous, joyful celebrating and praising God. When Michel, David's wife, took issue with his display, David told her, "It was before the Lord, Who chose me above your father (Saul) and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel the people of the Lord – and I will make merry before the Lord."



Matthew 19:14 tells us that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Maybe it would do us good to behave a little more like the children we bring to the Lord's house. They do wiggle, and they do make some noise. But their hearts are open, and their spirits are filled with wonder. Psalm 149 tells us, "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre! For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their throats...Praise the Lord!"



To God alone be the glory!

**Renee' Anderson**

## We're Still Planning to Remodel the Nursery

The nursery renovation project is still very active. The last trivia event generated \$2,218 as a starting point for the budgetary needs. The committee will soon be stepping up its attempt to increase funds for this project by way of various fundraisers at St. Johns. We ask that you prayerfully keep the nursery in mind when contemplating memorial designations, acknowledging special birthdays and anniversaries, as well as any thank offerings. Simply earmark your check "Nursery."

(No, it probably won't be self-cleaning.)

### What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 6/02 "Advocate"
- 6/09 "My Spirit Makes My People"
- 6/16 "Getting to Know Jesus"
- 6/23 "What Does God Love and Hate?"
- 6/30 "Who Is the God of Israel?"

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](http://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

5/18/19 Mary Hutter

### † Baptism

5/19/19 Erwin Lawrence Komppa  
Frank & Megan (Yliniemi) Komppa



## Stewardship Corner—*Faithful Giving Pleases God*

A young boy wanted to give a gift to his mom for Mother's Day. He didn't know what to give. He didn't have any money, so he was struggling and searching for ideas. On Mother's Day, he gave his mom a card, and, in the card, he stuck two of his favorite toy soldiers. What a happy mom, because she saw how much her son loved her by his willingness to give up his favorite toys. She didn't need the gift, but she loved receiving it.



God doesn't need our gifts, but He loves receiving them. Through our gifts, we express our love and gratitude. Through faith, we hold on to possessions loosely knowing all that we are and have are by God's grace. We own nothing. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God fills our hearts with a spirit of generosity. We stop seeing the money we have as just for our needs and entertainment. By grace, we understand that the money God entrusts to us has the potential to be used to support mission starts and missionaries, so they can share the life-saving Gospel in this land and overseas. Our money has the potential to help those who are hungry and homeless. It has the potential to support our Christian schools and agencies. It supports the mission and ministry of our church. God uses and multiplies the money we give in many wonderful ways.

Through God-given faith and new attitudes, we see that our generosity is made possible by and rooted in His generosity. We are empowered to give because of God's generosity to us. Knowing that He doesn't limit His gifts to us and experiencing His generosity at work in our lives, we respond to His appeal to give generously. God's people live with an abundant perspective trusting in His provisions. In Scripture, we see repeatedly how God's people demonstrated their trust in His abundance. Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, David, the Poor Widow, Zacchaeus, and Barnabas demonstrated their faith and trust. In 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, the Apostle Paul instructs the Corinthians to take up a collection for the Christian Jews suffering from famine in Jerusalem. Paul urges them to give generously because their generosity is rooted in God's ability to provide everything they need to be generous on all occasions. *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8). As our bounteous God richly bestowed on the Corinthians the capacity for generosity, He can do the same for us. In Jesus it is always more and never less. Even when things are tough, we will be given the opportunity to share because God's sufficiency will provide.

When we give generously from loving and cheerful hearts, we bring joy to our heavenly Father because we display His image and likeness. Filled with God's sufficiency, rather than our own, we become generous givers.

## National Convention Door Offering

On Sunday, June 16 we will have a special door offering for the LCMS National Convention which will take place July 20-25 in Tampa, Florida. These offerings will be used for "witnessing among new immigrants, reaching out and strengthening the faith of college students, empowering the missionaries of our partner churches, carrying the Gospel into spiritually abandoned urban areas, planting new churches in strategic locations both here and abroad, and more."







## Stewardship Review—April

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **290**

Total Offerings: <b>\$46,323</b>	Total Offerings, April, 2018: <b>\$44,579</b>
Total Expenses: <b>\$40,711</b>	Total Expenses, April, 2018: <b>\$32,671</b>
Difference <b>\$5,612</b>	Difference <b>\$11,908</b>

Avg. Weekly Offerings <b>\$11,581</b>	Budget/Week <b>\$9,497</b>
Avg. Weekly Expenses <b>\$10,178</b>	Budget/Month <b>\$41,152</b>
Difference <b>\$1,403</b>	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 04/30/19: <b>\$69,299</b>	Our Healthy Balance Goal <b>\$74,000</b>
Less Dedicated Accounts <b>\$2,178</b>	Raised so far <b>\$39,916</b>
Difference <b>\$67,121</b>	Still need <b>\$34,084</b>

## Good-Bye, Squirrel!

Maybe it was janitor, Mike's, new bait strategy in the live trap. Maybe it wanted to be caught. Maybe it just got careless. But when Debbie Luther came into the flower room the evening of April 30 to return some dish towels, there it was. Caught in the live trap and not happy. And neither was Debbie. She called friends, Brenda and Tim Huwe. Tim came and relocated the squirrel. We've heard tales of squirrels returning from miles away but so far it seems to have decided to quit the church. Can't say we're sorry to see it go.



## Vacation Bible School Coming in August



VBS will take place August 5-9 from 8:30 a.m.—noon. Registration forms were sent home with Release Time, Sunday School and ABC students. You can also register online at our website, [www.stjohnspr.org](http://www.stjohnspr.org).

Help of all kinds is needed—leaders, helpers, crafters, snacks, games, and more. If you're interested in being a part of VBS, please talk to Sarah Kaufenberg at 651-260-3350.

## Summertime and the Giving is Easy

Now you can give with a credit/debit card on our website or on your phone. Just go to our website, [www.stjohnspr.org](http://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.



## Newtons Hosting Third Young Adult Supper and Bible Study

If you're between the ages of 18 and 40, you're invited to join the Young Adult Bible study group which will meet Monday, June 17 at 6:00 p.m. The evening features supper, fellowship and, of course, Bible study. If you want to know more, please chat with Pastor Newton.



## Noon Concert Schedule for June

**June 6** Classic Chorale at Calvary Lutheran Church

**June 13** Matthew Lorenz, pianist at Hubbard United Methodist Church

**June 20** Unpolished, American bluegrass with three part harmonies at Faithbridge Church

**June 27** Caleigh, a Minnesota trio whose music is a blend of traditional and contemporary Celtic, and world and American folk. This concert will feature a Scottish lament, a set of Norwegian waltzes, along with a mix of traditional and contemporary songs and genres at Faithbridge

Concerts run from 12:15—12:45 p.m. You're invited to bring your own lunch to have before the concerts. Bars and beverages will be served. A free will offering is taken for the artists.



## Church Board Member Nominations 2019-2021

**Executive Director**—Dr. Rod Helm

**Assistant Executive Director**—Mike Poole

**Secretary**—Shirley Potter

**Board of Young People**

Brandi Backmann\*, Paula Eischens, Roger Hanson, Shelly/Dustin Lof

**Board of Elders**

Emil Burgau, Jerry Eischens, Jerry Grudem\*, Larry Hetrick, Roger Just, Sam Pike, Mike Poole

**Board of Church Properties**

Brad Dahn\*, Virg Eskola, Randy Griess, Tim Huwe, DeWayne Mead, Scott Olson, Ken Smith, Dean Walsh

**Board of Evangelism**

Connie Fondow\*, Jan Belshan, Kathy Henry, Doug Kingsley, Dawn Lachmiller, Linda Leckner, Debbie Luther

**Board of Stewardship**

Dick Bradow, Cliff Branham, Pam Heeren\*, Kelly Kimball, Michele Kimball, Jay Pike

**Board of Christian Education**

Ruth Knaack, Lori Griess, Shelly Hamblin, Victoria Harju, Kim Neubauer, Sandy Phillips

**Board of Parish Fellowship**

Elayne Luiken\*, Loree Grudem, Jan Pike, Renee Ahmann, Julie Kingsley, Betsy Vrudny

\* Denotes Director

**We will have installation of officers and board members at both worship services on Sunday, June 30.**



## “Main Street Living North” for June

“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 KVRP Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1. Or you can watch archived episodes any time on their website at [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) (then click on “North (Fargo).”



Here’s the programs for June:

June 2: Rev. Steve Schulz, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, presents the message: “I Am Coming Soon!” based on Revelation 22:1-6. “This Is The Life” program is: “A Different Way.”

June 9: Rev. Bruce Noennig, Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, presents the message: “The Source of REAL Comfort” based on John 14:23-31. “This Is The Life” program is: “Give and Take.”

June 16: Rev. Adam Harvala, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo presents the message: “Look Harder” based on John 8:58. “This Is The Life” program is: “No Tears for Bill.”



June 23: Rev. Thomas Batchelder, Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church, Evergreen, presents the message: “The Lord is Ready to be Found” based on Luke 8:26-39. “This Is The Life” program is: “Two Weeks to Eternity.”

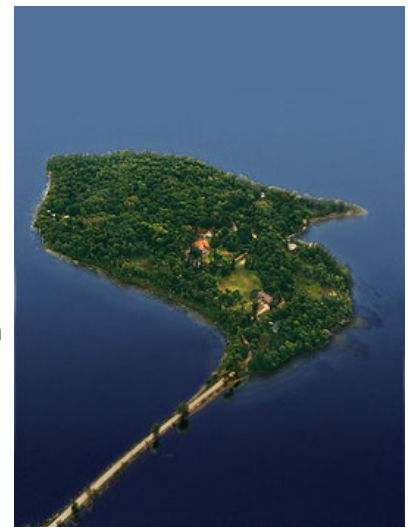
June 30: Rev. Scott Muehlberg, St. John’s, Height of Land and Gethsemane, Snellman presents the message: “Rejecting, Receiving, and Following Jesus” based on Luke 9:51-62. “This Is The Life” program not yet available.

## Lutheran Island Camp Scholarships Available

Lutheran Island Camp is a wonderful place located near Henning, Minnesota. It really is an island and they have a lot of great camps for all ages. We still have scholarship funds available that pay for up to half the cost. If you get to go to camp just once, you’ll be hooked and want to go every year!

Stop by the church office to pick up a brochure and scholarship form. Choose a camp, fill out the scholarship form and drop it off at the church office and register for camp. We send the scholarship funds directly to camp.

You can also check out their website and register online at [www.islandcamp.org](http://www.islandcamp.org).





# Board



**Christian Education:** The minutes of the April 2 meeting were approved.

Reports:

Release Time: No report this month.

Sunday School: We looked at new curriculum from CPH. Pastor Neubauer and Ruth Knaack will take a closer look at it and make recommendations about using it at the June meeting.

VBS: No report this month.

Preschool: Kim Neubauer reported that enrollment stands at 43 students. So far 19 are enrolled for next year. Closing program for 3 and 4 year olds will be on May 14. Preschool graduation will be on May 15. The last day of classes will be May 24.

Old Business: We need more information about our service project and will continue looking at ways it can be implemented in our church.

New Business: Ann Endorf, Paula Eischens, and Jerry Werder told us that they will not serve on the board after this term so we will be looking for three new members to take their places. We discussed several names to present to the Parish Planning Council. We also need to find a new Sunday school superintendent.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve 90 hours over three months, paid at aide salary, for the Preschool Director to do 'extra' work not allowed for during the school year.

Next meeting date and time: We will meet before June 15 on a date to be determined.

**Church Properties:** Church clean up went well.

Thanks to those who helped and also cub scouts that picked up trash.

The elusive squirrel has been captured and released miles away.

Discussed info on three new rugs for various areas.

Going to have AC units cleaned to get ready for summer.

Also installing shelves in flower room, wall in dove room patched and a few electrical issues.

Went over kitchen remodel project.

**Elders:** Worked on assisting elders. Discussed kitchen renovation. Heard reports.

**Evangelism:** Pizza party went well. An effort will be made, in the future, to bring confirmands and mentors together for ease of conversation and interaction.

The new 6th grade confirmation class in the fall will include 12-18 members. We should begin encouraging congregational members to consider becoming a mentor to one of these youth.

Encourage members you come in contact with to consider a once a month commitment to facilitating BINGO at Diamond Willow.

"Cross the World" left over crosses – Could they be made available at the Food Shelf or another location?

Adopt-a-Chap: We will receive the information concerning our chaplain from the LCMS Ministry

*(Continued on page 9)*





(Continued from page 8)

to the Armed Forces. The congregation will be apprised of this info via the newsletter, bulletin, and the June Voters' Assembly.

Jan Belshan will check with Ginny Ranisate on the list of 2019 high school graduates for possible college bound students and their addresses.

Current Nursery Renovation fund = \$2,218.00. Future trivia events may assist the growth of this fund.

Possibilities for future events: senior prom, live nativity, community fleece blanket project.

The board will not meet in July. June meeting: TBD.

Pastor Neubauer will be composing a letter to be sent to current inactive members. The letter will take the place of our caring cards for this month.

**Parish Fellowship:** Old Business: Confirmation dinner recap - We served approximately 85-90 people. We made a list of things we would change next time. This list will be included in Elayne Luiken's file.

New Business: Carolyn Sailor is going off the board. New board member will be Betsy Vrudny. Installation of all members will be Sunday, June 30. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 26 with a thank you dinner hosted by Elayne and Everett Luiken at their home.

The semi-annual voters meeting is Tuesday, June 4. The kitchen remodeling plans will be voted on.

Planning for the baby shower for Sarah and Pastor Newton will take place at our June meeting.

**Public Relations:** did not meet.

**Stewardship:** did not meet.

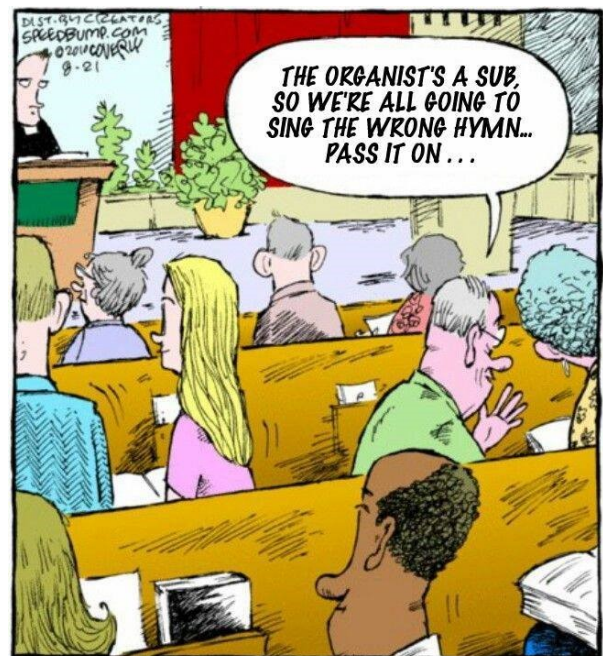
**Young People:** Brandi Backmann will order cake and gifts and decorate for senior recognition. Juniors and parents have been lined up to serve.

Biking to Dorset is set for June 9. We will meet at Heartland Park at 1:30 p.m. Youth Board will pay for mini golf. Kids should bring money for ice cream.

Planning for river tubing the last week in July.

Pastor Newton will determine dates and times for summer campfires.

New Business: Discussed new fundraiser ideas—Bingo, puzzle competition. Roger Hanson brought up the idea of the youth making a nativity silhouette. We will research what is needed and the cost to adopt the section of Highway 34 in front of the church which is currently available. Pastor Newton will coordinate with any youth that are able to help the LLL with clean up at Greenwood Cemetery. Next meeting will be June 4 at 4:30 p.m.



Thanks to organist, Cheryl Hilgemann, for passing on this cartoon. 😊



# Sunday School News

## Perfect Attendance--May

PK3 Thatcher Eidsmoe, Marcella Trandem

PK4 James Trandem

Kdg Sawyer Eidsmoe

1st Clinton Koch

2nd Zachary Harju, Khloe May,  
Elsie Trandem

4th Maxwell Harju, Aiden May

6th Vivian Harju, Laura Kaufenberg,  
Leo Kaufenberg

# Great job!



## Happy Birthday!

6/01 Eli Maves  
6/02 Olivia Kimball  
6/07 Aiden May  
6/18 Grace Etter

## Baptismal Birthdays

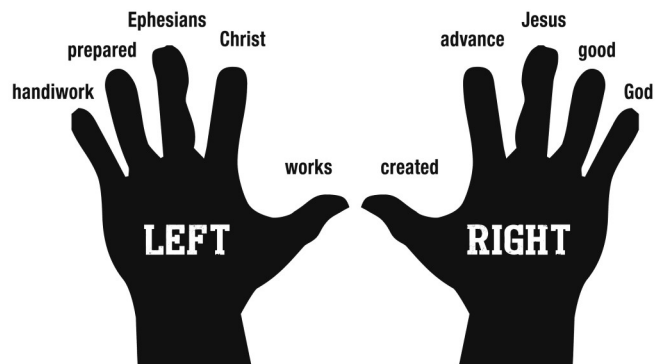
6/17 Elijah Benson  
6/24 Olivia Kimball  
6/28 Bria McMahon  
6/29 Natalie Tretbar



## Handiwork to do good works

God has a special plan and purpose for each of us.

*Directions: Use the finger-position clues under the blanks below to complete Ephesians 2:10, NIV.*



For we are God's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in  
L pinky R thumb  
\_\_\_\_\_ to do \_\_\_\_\_,  
L pointer R middle R ring L thumb  
which \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
R pinky L ring R pointer  
for us to do. \_\_\_\_\_ 2:10, NIV  
L middle

Answer: handiwork, created, Christ, Jesus, good, works, God, prepared, advance, Ephesians

Our offerings for the year were \$386.95. They went to help with rebuilding from Hurricane Harvey.

Thanks to all our students for their generosity!





## Scenes from St. Johns

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



Thirteen young members of St. Johns were confirmed on May 5.

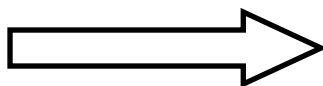


A reception and recognition was held on Sunday, May 19 for seven St. Johns members graduating from high school.



The Children's Choir performed a mini concert, Sunday, May 12. The last song was "Pizza!." They also sang for the Park Rapids Memorial Day Program at the high school.

Thanks to Bernice Hinds for this beautiful picture of the altar. She had given the altar flowers in memory of her husband, Lee, and son, Gregory, and in honor of all mothers.



On May 12 we also recognized and thanked Brandi Backmann for her five years of service as Sunday School Superintendent.





**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

803 West First Street  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone: 218-732-9783

Fax: 218-237-9785

Website: [www.stjohnspr.org](http://www.stjohnspr.org)

*Pastor James Neubauer*

*Pastor Joel Newton*

*Pastor Bill Neumann*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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