



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

July, 2019

The Germans are Coming!

Summer is officially here, and lots of exciting things are on the horizon—including the National Youth Gathering! Our own youth have been preparing for and eagerly awaiting this event for months, and they aren't the only ones. As you may know, youth from all across the country are planning to attend, but did you also know that several international groups attend as well? This year, one of these, a group of youth from Germany, will be spending time in Park Rapids prior to the gathering! Pastor Jörg Ackermann has brought several groups to the NYG in past years, often planning for the youth to spend some extended time experiencing the United States.

Why Park Rapids? I crossed paths with Pastor Ackermann in the summer of 2012 while studying abroad in Lüneburg, Germany, where he was serving at the time. While there, I worshiped with his congregation and got to know him and his family a little. When we were called to St. Johns, Pastor Ackermann reached out to me about hosting the group. The Lord's foresight is amazing! Who knew that I, who wasn't even planning on going into church work at the time, would one day be called to Park Rapids and that St. Johns would have this tremendous opportunity to host an international youth group? God knew!



So get excited; in just a two short weeks, we'll all have the opportunity to meet Pastor Ackermann and the five youth traveling from Germany! Pastor Ackermann will be preaching at both services on July 7, and all the youth will be in attendance. Let's make them feel welcome!

Deaconess Sarah Newton



And The Youth are Going

We're sending eight people down to Minneapolis for the National Youth Gathering! Five of our youth are participating, as well as Brandi Backmann and Pastor Newton as chaperones, and Sarah Newton is serving as a district volunteer!

They're going to share a ride with a few other youth groups on a charter bus from Perham, and departing from there for Minneapolis the morning of Wednesday, July 10. They'll spend some time exploring the city, then join up with about 25,000 other people from the Missouri Synod and around the world for the first mass event Thursday night at US Bank Stadium. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday the group will attend Bible studies, participate in sessions with various different speakers, hear concerts from Christian artists, and join in activities and service projects, all in the Minneapolis Convention Center. The gathering will conclude with a worship service, then the group will head to Concordia, Saint Paul for our district's Lumberjack Experience. After that, they'll return home, well-prepared (after a little sleep, of course) to put what they've learned into practice and to continue growing closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Pastor Joel Newton



Time for a Baby Shower!

Pastor and Sarah Newton will soon be welcoming George's little sister into their family, so the fellowship board is hosting a shower for them! Please join us on Tuesday evening, July 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and gifts for the new little baby girl.



Tubing on the Crow Wing



The youth in grades 5-12 are invited to go tubing on the Crow Wing on Tuesday, July 23. We will meet at church at 1:30 p.m. and return around 5:00—5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to just stay with us through the bonfire until 8:00 p.m.

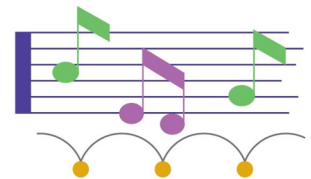
Wear your swimsuit and aqua socks, put on your sunscreen, bring your towel and plan on a fun float. Friends are welcome and the youth board is covering the cost so it's free but space is limited.

Contact the church office (218-732-9783) or Pastor Newton (815-222-1359) to sign up!

July Noon Lunch Concerts

July 11 Sarah Carlson and Craig Swartz will play various selections from Bach to Beethoven on piano, organ, and trumpet here at St. Johns. Carlson is organist at First Lutheran Church, Bemidji. Swartz is an instructor at Grinnell College in Iowa and a member of the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra.

July 25 Jazz vocalist Téa Renee will perform such jazz classics as "Autumn Leaves" and "Summertime" at Calvary Lutheran. She is currently studying songwriting and vocal performance at Berklee College of Music.



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

Counting Down to A Miraculous Mission Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School 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. Kids—watch for a special mailing coming soon.

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.



Come to the Tuesday Bonfires



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. Bring your hot dog roasting sticks if you've got them and a dish to share. This is geared for families, and everyone's invited and encouraged to bring friends. Mark your calendars for July 9 and 23.

Kitchen Coming Along

Have you checked out the progress in the kitchen? Most of the demolition has been done. Next up is wiring and plumbing, then new glass board, lighting, ceiling, flooring, counters, appliances and some new cabinets. Can't wait to see the finished project!



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 7/07 "A Time to Talk"
- 7/14 "Turning Point"
- 7/21 "Relationship"
- 7/28 "You Have No Right to Be Angry"

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

6/01/19 Alfred (Al) R. Kable

† Baptism

6/30/19 Ellise Rae Parks
Tyler and Mikieala (Mischke) Parks





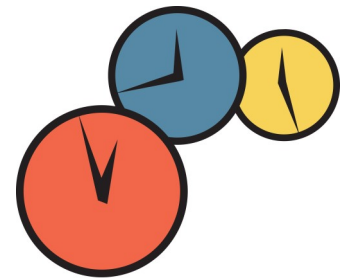
Stewardship Corner—*Glorifying God with Our Time*

It seems that, as we grow older, we can better understand what James was saying in chapter four, verse 14 of his letter: *“For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”* Time does go by quickly, especially as we age. James is telling us that, in the span of eternity, our time on earth is rather insignificant. We are a mere dot on the calendar of time.

In reading God’s Word, it is clear, however, that God is more interested in what we do with our time than the length of time that He gives us. As God’s children, our focus shouldn’t be on asking God for longer lives, but, rather, we should be more interested in asking Him and ourselves the question: “What can I do with my time that will please Him and give Him the glory that He deserves?” First and foremost, God wants us to spend our time in serving and glorifying Him. In speaking to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul wrote, *“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:30). We can give God glory by dedicating our daily tasks to Him. Our hands and feet can be doing routine and mundane things, but our hearts and minds can be focused on the Lord. To the Colossians Paul wrote, *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men”* (Colossians 3:23). In all that we do, God is to be part of our activities.

Paul exhorted the people in Philippi to *“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God Who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure”* (Philippians 2:12-13). God equips and enables us through the working of the Holy Spirit to use our time in doing His will. We demonstrate God’s grace at work within us as we do His will by serving Him through serving others.

God wants us to make the most of our time. In the words of the psalmist, we pray *“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom”* (Psalm 90:12). With God’s wisdom, we can use well the time God has given us. As Paul wrote, *“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil”* (Ephesians 5:15-16). By wisely using our time to the glory and honor of God, we can live this life abundantly.



Have You Tried our Online Giving Option?



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.

Or if you’re not an online person, try automatic offerings. This option is great for those who are gone a lot, work weekends or just need to beat the rush of heading out the door on Sunday morning. You can choose a frequency that works for you. Stop in or call the church office for details.





Stewardship Review—May

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **282**

Total Offerings: \$30,009	Avg. Weekly Offerings \$7,502	Total Offerings, May, 2018: \$32,053
Total Expenses: \$36,762	Avg. Weekly Expenses \$9,191	Total Expenses, May, 2018: \$31,633
Difference - \$6,753	Difference - \$1,689	Difference \$420

Budget/Week \$9,497	Total Offerings to date: \$175,963
Budget/Month \$41,152	Total Expenses to date: \$188,730
	Difference - \$12,767

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 05/31/19: \$61,779	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts \$366	Raised so far \$40,720
Difference \$61,413	Still need \$33,280

Adopt-A-Chap Update

The following email was received from our Army chaplain, Vince Bain, from Fort Campbell, Kentucky:

Thanks for your email. I would honored to be "Adopted" by the St. Johns congregation at Park Rapids. It will be a wonderful blessing as am I deployed.

My unit is set to depart from Fort Campbell in the middle third of July. We will be headed to a number of locations in the Middle East supporting a range of missions.

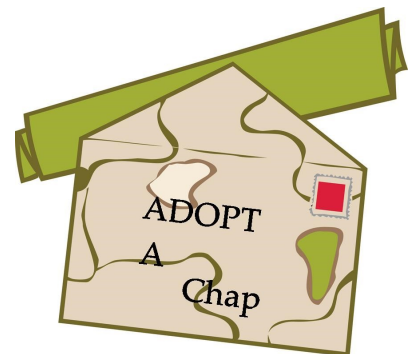
I am presently serving the Soldiers of the 184 OD BN (EOD) out of Fort Campbell, KY. This is an explosive ordnance disposal unit. For most people, images from the movie "The Hurt Locker" come to mind when they hear EOD. While there may be some truth in the movie, it might be a bit enhanced. Either way, it is a support operation that has a significant amount of inherent danger. All the prayers and encouragement will be greatly appreciated.

As soon as we have our deployed address I will share the information.

Thanks for reaching out and have a blessed day!

V/R,

CH (CPT) Vince Bain
184 OD BN (EOD)
Fort Campbell, KY
"For God and Country"



As soon as Chaplain Bain sends us his new address, the congregation may begin sending messages of encouragement and support.



Parish Planning Council Meeting—May 28, 2019

Meeting called to order – Rod Helm.

Opening Devotions – Pastor Neubauer.

In attendance – Jerry Grudem, Ruth Knaack, Brandi Backmann, Brad Dahn, Cliff Branham, Elayne Luiken, Ginny Ranisate, Pastor Newton, Pastor Neubauer, Shirley Potter. – Connie Fondow absent.

Approval of PPC Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2019 – Motion to approve as printed in newsletter Elayne Luiken, second Brad Dahn – motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate – Motion to approve treasurer's report – Cliff Branham, second Elayne Luiken. Motion carried.

Income and Expenses:

	2018	2019	Difference
Income	178,024	175,933	-2,091
Expenses	148,798	178,312	29,514
	29,226	-2,379	- -

Income is lower and expenses are higher compared to last year at this time. The bad weather this winter resulted in lower attendance which affected offerings. Expenses are higher due to the addition of the Newtons to our staff. We are \$33,280 short of our goal of \$74,000 for Healthy Balance.

CNB Checking Account as of 5/28/19 \$72,427
Less Dedicated Funds----- \$1,066
Available Funds \$71,361

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 5/28/19 \$35,078

LCEF Current Fund as of 5/28/19 \$164,900
Less Endowment Fund Interest ----- \$1,155
Less Parsonage Proceeds----- \$18,548
Less R. Haberer Annuity ----- \$1,438
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest ----- \$21,340
Less T. Haberer Trust ----- \$78,730
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000) ----- \$40,720
Available Funds \$2,969

LCEF Endowment Fund \$22,200

**Pastors' Reports**

Pastor Neubauer—Regular duties. Busy with Easter and spring events .Confirmation (13 students) was moved to the first Sunday in May which was new this year. Upcoming 6th and 7th grade classes are good sized. Involved in ABC Preschool field trip to the airport as well as the end of the school year closing program.

Pastor Newton—General: Led Bible Study for LLL and Evening Guild. Led Preschool chapel. Taught confirmation on the 2nd Article. Attended two Minnesota Concerned Citizen's for Life meetings. Attended the MN North Pastors Conference at Maddens. Speakers covered pollical issues facing the Church, especially how the Church ought to deal with the issues and talk about them. Was accepted into the Master of Sacred Theology program at Concordia, St. Louis.

Youth: Shoveled off Dawn Lachmiller's roof as a fundraiser. Youth Bible study – concluded the school schedule, working on summer mode. Last time there were seven attending – 3 youth and 4 adults. Great conversation. Family Night Bonfires are coming, Tuesdays-June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, and August 13. Supper, games, devotion. Rain or shine. Anyone and everyone is invited.

Adult Bible Study: Six total in attendance for a meditation and discussion on Psalm 90.

Personal: Sarah and George are healthy as is Baby. We were excited that we got to host Sarah's dad, sister and sister's boyfriend for Easter. Thankful to be on a softball team for this summer.

Membership changes

Transfer Out: Kelly and Lonnie Hagen, Grace Lutheran, Sebeka, MN. Motion by Jerry Grudem to approve transfer, second Cliff Branham, motion carried.

Board Reports**Elders – Jerry Grudem**

Continue to assist with communion, scheduling of ushers and assist pastors when they request help.

Evangelism – no report**Christian Education – Ruth Knaack**

VBS is scheduled for August 5 – 9. Sarah Kaufenberg is the director. Theme this year is "Miraculous Mission." Release Time: Last day of class was April 24. Sunday School: CPH has new curriculum. We will be looking at it and decide if we should approve using it in June. We need a new superintendent in the fall. Preschool: Ended the year with an enrollment of 43. Parent teacher conferences were held April 9 and 11. Closing program for 3 & 4's was May 14. Preschool graduation was May 15. Last day of class was May 24. Nineteen enrolled for next year. Other: Still gathering information for the service project. Ann Endorf, Paula Eischens, and Jerry Werder have resigned from the board. We will need to find replacements. Approved 90 summer hours for preschool director.

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

Young People Report - Brandi Backmann

April: Easter Breakfast. May: Senior Recognition hosted by Junior Class. Upcoming Events: June – Bike Trip to Dorset, June – Game and Campfire, July – National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July – Crow Wing River Tubing.

Church Properties – Brad Dahn

In the process of replacing two rugs around the church and back entry carpet. A semi-truck damaged the parking lot, it has been fixed and bill was sent to the trucking company. The “squirrel” is down the road and has not been seen since! The board members will remain the same. Yard clean-up around the church went well. Our custodian, Mike Riewer, is doing a great job staying on top of many things around the church. Air conditioning units have been cleaned and ready for summer.

Stewardship – Cliff Branham – no report – they did not meet.

Public Relations – no report but Pastor Neubauer mentioned that there is an ad in the Cabin Digest.

Old/New Business

Board Elections – Voters meeting

Reviewed the list of church board member nominations to be presented at the next voters meeting. Motion made by Cliff Branham to approve the nominations as printed with a few minor additions/omissions, second Elayne Luiken, motion carried. There was some discussion on the Public Relations board as there are no members or director. Currently staff has been getting the information published. There was also discussion on having a presence on social media, specifically our Facebook page and the church website. Reviewed the agenda for the upcoming voters meeting, Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Kitchen Remodeling

Brad Dahn updated the Parish Planning Council on the kitchen remodeling project. Unfortunately, this will take longer than the committee hoped. Since there has not been approval from the voters, they could not commit to contractors earlier to get us on their summer work schedule. Since the work must be done during the summer break when preschool is not in session, it will be postponed until next summer with voter approval. More information on the entire project will be presented to the voters on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

Office Staff

Cindy Yliniemi has decided to resign her position as secretary after 17 years. Thank you for your dedication, Cindy. You will be missed. Unsure of her last day at this time but will be accepting applications to fill this part-time position soon.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Potter



Voters Meeting Minutes—June 4, 2019

Call to Order – Rod Helm.

Opening Devotions – Pastor Neubauer.

Roll Call of Voting Membership – 51 in attendance. Receiving of new voting members – Motion Jerry Grudem – Second Larry Hetrick to accept as voting members Pat Stearns, Sandy Phillips, Derek Ricke. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2018 Voters Meeting as printed in the newsletter. Motion Marty Steffel to approve – second Larry Hetrick – motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate

Income and Expenses:

	2018	2019	Difference
Income	191,610	185,231	-6,379
Expenses	159,772	189,288	29,516
	31,838	-4,056	- -

Income is lower and expenses are higher compared to last year at this time. The bad weather this winter resulted in lower attendance which affected offerings. Expenses are higher due to the addition of the Newtons to our staff. We are \$33,198 short of our goal of \$74,000 for Healthy Balance.

CNB Checking Account as of 06/04/19	\$69,936
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>\$512</u>
Available Funds	\$69,424

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 06/04/19	\$35,530
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LCEF Current Fund as of 06/04/19	\$165,091
Less Endowment Fund Interest	\$1,155
Less Parsonage Proceeds	\$18,548
Less R. Haberer Annuity	\$1,439
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	\$21,361
Less T. Haberer Trust	\$78,799
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	<u>\$40,802</u>
Available Funds	\$2,987

LCEF Endowment Fund	\$22,200
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Motion Marty Steffel to approve treasurer's report– second Larry Hetrick – motion carried.

(Continued on page 11)



Sunday School Page

Happy Birthday!

7/03 Ali Roberts
 7/04 Kaelynn Hartig
 7/06 Annie Mayer
 7/08 Samantha Fiemeyer
 7/12 Emma Berghuis
 7/12 Natalie Berghuis
 7/20 Alex Lof

Baptismal Birthdays

7/06 Cash Luther
 7/12 Olivia May
 7/14 Ketch Luther
 7/27 Dylan May



"IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A= E= I= O= U=

k _ _ p my _ y _ s
 _ l w _ y s _ n th _ L _ RD.
 W _ th h _ m _ t my
 r _ ght h _ nd,
 w _ ll n _ t b _ sh _ k _ n.
 Ps _ lm 16:8, N _ V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV



"I know our pastor preached on family values, Johnny, but I'm sure he didn't mean raising your allowance."

**Check out our church library
 for some great summer
 reading and videos!**





(Continued from page 9)

Board Reports

Elders – Jerry Grudem

The Elders continue to assist with communion, scheduling of ushers and assist pastors when they request help.

Evangelism – Connie Fondow

The following is a list of events/activities that the Board of Evangelism has sponsored from December, 2018 – June, 2019:

Toys for Boys and Girls and Tiny Tots

Mailing cost incurred for the Advent/Christmas postcards indicating service times

Every One His Witness evangelism workshop in February

Crosses distributed to Release Time students, ABC students, and congregational members and visitors with a card attached indicating worship service times for Lent and Easter

BINGO once a month for Diamond Willow residents beginning in March

Trivia event with donated monies applied to upcoming nursery renovations

Mentor/Confirmand pizza party on April 24

Attempts made to acquire names and addresses of college students living away from home

New endeavor by the board:

Adopt-a-Chap

One of the long-standing ministries within the LCMS is the Ministry to Armed Forces. This extension of the LCMS is encouraging congregations to engage in a program called “Adopt-A-Chap.” Through this program congregations are assigned an LCMS chaplain. We are asked to pray for our assigned chaplain and send cards of encouragement and support. This is not meant to be a monetary commitment of any kind. Prayers and written contact are the main thrusts. After contacting the person in charge of “Adopt-A-Chap,” we were assigned the chaplain I had requested. He is a past pastor in our district serving most recently at Messiah Lutheran Church in Sartell. Chaplain Vincent Bain is an active duty Army Captain stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He is preparing for deployment this summer. Our board has not yet contacted him. I will include all pertinent bio info on Chaplain Bain as well as his mailing address in the next newsletter. Since he is being deployed soon, we may want to consider compiling small care packages in the fall and at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our board will keep the congregation up to date on these activities. As soon as you see the mailing address in the newsletter, please feel free to send your individual words of support to Chaplain Bain.

Board of Christian Education – Ruth Knaack

Release Time: Ended the year with over 130 students in grades 1-8. Last day of class was April 24. All curriculum has been updated to use ESV Bibles. Laurie Kimball will serve as director again next year.

Huge thank you to all the teachers, helpers, and babysitters for their part in making a successful year.

Sunday School: Kids sang in church on Palm Sunday. Last day of class was May 19. Brandi Backmann will not serve as Sunday School Superintendent next year; we thank her for five years of dedicated service. We are looking for a Sunday School Superintendent; please let us know if you can help. CPH has come out with a new Sunday School curriculum; we are looking at it to decide if we will approve it for use next year.

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

Vacation Bible School: Sarah Kaufenberg will serve as director. Dates: August 5-9. Theme is "Miraculous Mission." Next planning meeting June 23.

Preschool: Ended the year with 43 students. Closing Program and Preschool Graduation were May 14 and 15. Last day of class was May 24. 25 have enrolled for next year so far. We have approved summer hours for the director to finish paperwork for this year and to prepare for next year. Other- Ann Endorf, Paula Eischens, and Jerry Werder have resigned from the board; we thank them for their many years of service. We still need one more board member and help finding a Sunday School Superintendent.

Young People – Brandi Backmann

December – Advent Meal, Luminaries, Minute to Win It.

January – tubing rescheduled to February – watched a movie instead.

February – Tubing at Detroit Mountain – Detroit Lakes.

March – Water Park, Lenten Meals, Polar Plunge.

April - Easter Breakfast.

May - Senior recognition hosted by junior class.

Upcoming Events –

June – Bike Trip to Dorset - Games and Campfire

July – National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis - starts in 37 days

Church Properties - Brad Dahn

The squirrel caper is over! Air condition units cleaned and serviced for the summer. Church cleanup was April 27. Great crew showed up and a lot was accomplished in a few hours. Cub Scouts were there and picked up several bags of trash around the property. Replacing two rugs throughout the church. The heater in the back entry along with the resetting of the inside door seems to help keep the coat area warmer. Several electrical projects, lights, receptables, lights on the cross and a few other items were done by Marchell Electric. Mike Riewer is doing a fine job of staying on top of all the miscellaneous things that need attention around the church. Thank you, Mike. Thanks also to Ginny – my "go to gal" with so many answers and always willing to help. Holes in parking lot fixed, shelves put up and many other miscellaneous projects done.

Stewardship - no report

Parish Fellowship – Elayne Luiken

We served the evening meal on Wednesday, April 10 at 5:00 p.m. before the Lenten service. We served 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. Carolyn Sailor is going off our board. New board member will be Betsy Vrudny. Installation of all members will be Sunday, June 30. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 26 with a thank you dinner for board members hosted by Elayne and Everett at their home.

Public Relations – no report – Ginny and the pastors continue to get necessary info to the public – i.e. newspaper.

Motion to accept board reports by Virg Eskola – second Ken Schroeder – carried.

(Continued on page 13)



Pastors'/Deaconess Reports

Deaconess Sarah Newton's Report

Women's Bible Study - Our group concluded for the year on May 19. We began the year with a study of the Lord's Prayer and finished with a look at the Proverbs 31 Woman. We will start up again with regular Sunday School in the fall (pending baby details).

Release Time: I helped with release time, teaching 2nd grade. They were a blast! Lots of good energy and enthusiasm for learning. Many thanks to Vickie Helm and to everyone else who helped watch George during that time.

Young Adult Study: Joel and I hosted the first Young Adult Bible Study last month. There were six in attendance, including us. Joel led us in discussion of one of the Psalms. The study currently meets once a month and the next meeting is Monday, June 17.

National Youth Gathering: Plans have continued to develop with the German youth group coming. They are flying in on the 4th of July and will spend a couple days in St. Cloud. The group will travel to Park Rapids on Saturday, July 6. We are looking for some families to host them from the evening of the 6th through the morning of the 10th. We are hoping to find three host homes, one that can take three high school girls, one for two high school boys (brothers), and one for Pastor Ackermann. Host families would mostly be responsible for housing, maybe for including students in a couple of meals. If you are interested in hosting, please let me or Pastor Newton know! We are hoping the whole congregation will have a chance to meet and interact with the group. They will be with us in worship on July 7 and unless plans change, Pastor Ackermann will be preaching (in English).

Pastor Neubauer's Report

Membership changes – Motion Jerry Grudem – second Larry Hetrick to accept into membership by transfer in Carol Paurus, Redeemer, Menahga, MN and Lorraine Wilmes, Redeemer, Menahga, MN. Motion carried.

Health Update: Ablation seems to have worked, no major Afib events since October. Cortisone shot in the knee.

Worship: Organized the Lenten Series for the Circuit.

Teaching times: Sunday morning finished "Angels"/In depth on the readings. Tuesday morning Ephesians/Jude.

Release Time: 3rd Grade (9), 7th grade (16). Confirmation 7th – 8th Grade (22 students). VBS is in August.

ABC Preschool: Devotions, closing program.

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

District/Regional Events: Confirmation Retreat - Helped organize, theme was First Article of the Creed.

Pastor Newton's Report

General—Youth events have been going well, thanks to Brandi Backmann and the Board of Young People. February – preached in Wolf Lake/Menahga, filling in while Pastor Walsh was visiting family. Attended a Best Practices for Ministry event. March -- homebound visits. May – Attending Post Seminary Applied Learning Support for new pastors in Brainerd; Minnesota North Pastors Conference; was accepted into the Master of Sacred Theology program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Young Adult Bible Study.

Youth – shoveled off Dawn Lachmiller's roof as a fundraiser – Thanks, Dawn! Youth Bible study breakfast (concluded the school schedule, taking a break for the summer). Last time there were seven attending – three youth and four adults. Great conversation. Family Night Bonfires are forthcoming - June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23 and August 13 -- supper, games, devotion, rain or shine, anyone and everyone is invited.

Personal – Sarah and George are healthy, as is Baby “Winifred.” Looking forward to spending time with the Newton family this summer for my parents 40th anniversary. Thankful to be on a softball team for this summer, hoping to improve my batting average.

Motion Larry Hetrick to accept Pastor/Deaconess reports – second Jody Yliniemi – carried.

Old/New Business

Board Elections – Presented the printed list of nominees of Church Board Members 2019-2021. Motion to accept/approve all nominations – Tim Huwe – second Marty Steffel. Motion carried.

Kitchen Remodel - Connie Fondow presented a detailed plan of the kitchen remodel project to the voters including estimates and/or bids from several businesses/contractors to complete the project. The kitchen remodel committee consisted of Connie Fondow, Chairman; Brad Dahn, Church Properties; Mike Poole, Lutheran Laymen's League; Pat Stearns, Ladies Aid; Elayne Luiken, Evening Guild; Rod Helm, Church Executive Director. After the presentation voters posed questions -- followed by discussion.

Motion by Connie Fondow – second Jody Yliniemi. St. Johns should follow the kitchen renovation plans as formulated by the committee and designated contractors. The congregation will utilize Citizen's National Bank of Park Rapids for a 5-year unsecured fixed loan at the rate of 4.125% for \$60,000.

Kathy Henry spoke about securing a loan from Citizens. She recommended that we apply for a line of credit up to \$60,000 at a rate of 4.125%. She also said that the congregation could move \$60,000 from our LCEF account to a 5 year Certificate of Deposit at Citizens at a rate of 1% (same as we are getting through LCEF) to use as collateral for the loan. This would drop the interest rate to 3%. If we found we needed the funds for some other purpose in the future, we could refinance the loan.

Jody Yliniemi suggested that we borrow the money from ourselves and pay it back at a rate of 3%. This option was also discussed.



Next, it was suggested that the voters approve the project and cost then have the kitchen committee and various financial people from the congregation decide on how to finance it. The general opinion expressed by the assembly was that this would be acceptable.

Due to the late hour and bad weather, the vote was finally called on the original motion. Paper vote was taken with 50 yes and 1 no --- Motion carried.

Motion by Connie Fondow -- second Jerry Grudem. The Board of Church Properties will be authorized to handle the logistics of the sale of the current range/oven and freezer at the appropriate time. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Potter

LCMS Synod National Convention Notes

- ◆ This is the 67th regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- ◆ It's being held July 20-25 in Tampa, Florida .
- ◆ Each circuit sends a pastoral delegate and a lay delegate. Ours are Pastor Matthew Vrudny from Immanuel, Walker and Charles Deustchmann from First English, Dorset. They were chosen at a circuit forum last fall. In case you're wondering our circuit also includes Gethsemane (Snellman), Christ (Wolf Lake) Redeemer (Menahga) and St. Johns (Akeley).
- ◆ Each congregation also chooses a pastor and lay person to vote for the synodical president. Pastor Neubauer and Roger Just were chosen to fill these roles. The voting process has moved online rather than by paper ballot and took place in early June. Pastor Neubauer and Roger cast their votes for Rev. Matthew Harrison who is the current president of the Synod. He has held the position since 2010. He has received the majority of votes and will continue as president for the next term.
- ◆ We're sending \$276.25 to the convention as our gift for the National Offering. These funds came from a door offering collected on June 16.
- ◆ If you're finding all this fascinating and want to know more go to www.lcms.org/convention.

JOY:FULLY
LUTHERAN
1 THESS 5:16-18
REJOICE / PRAY / GIVE THANKS



Thanks to Everett and Elayne Luiken for the new landscaping around the little church. Check out that cute stone path!



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Park Rapids, MN 56470

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Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Neumann



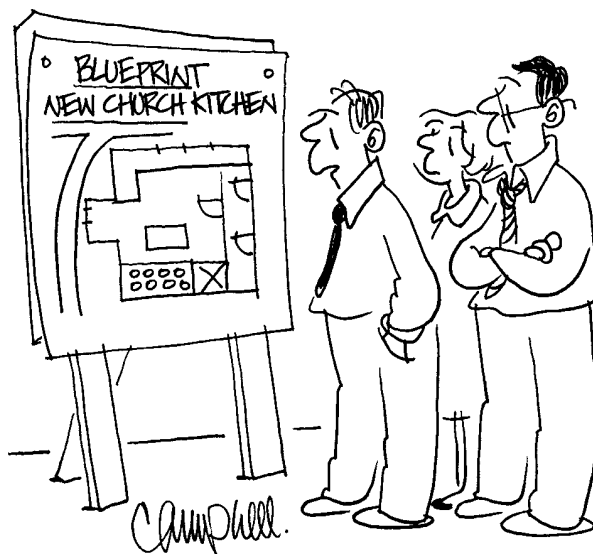
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Inside this issue:

<i>The Germans are Coming</i>	1
<i>And the Youth are Going</i>	1
<i>Time for A Baby Shower</i>	2
<i>Tubing on the Crow Wing</i>	2
<i>July Noon Lunch Concerts</i>	2
<i>Counting Down to A Miraculous Mission VBS</i>	2
<i>Come to the Tuesday Bonfires</i>	3
<i>Kitchen Coming Along</i>	3
<i>What's On The Lutheran Hour</i>	3
<i>Funeral and Baptism</i>	3
<i>Stewardship Corner—Glorifying God with Your Time</i>	4
<i>Have You Tried Our Online Giving Option?</i>	4
<i>Stewardship Review—May</i>	5
<i>Adopt-A-Chap Update</i>	5
<i>Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes</i>	6
<i>Voters Meeting Minutes</i>	9
<i>Sunday School Page</i>	10
<i>LCMS Synod National Convention Notes</i>	15
<i>Little Church Landscaping</i>	15



"Frankly, I think the drive thru window
defeats the purpose of the fellowship dinners."