



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

September, 2019

Welcome, Norah!

The Newtons welcomed Norah Elizabeth Rose into their family on Friday, August 16, right on the date she was due. She weighed 9 lbs., 8 oz., 21.5 inches long. She's absolutely beautiful! Sarah and Norah are healthy and everyone is adjusting to life with a newborn in the family.



Polka Fest Returns!



Chuck Thiel and the Jolly Ramblers will be back at St. Johns on September 8 to play a polka service. Then they'll continue playing polka favorites for an hour during the dinner following. The service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Please note that this is a half hour later than our usual 10:30 a.m. service.

This year we're having potluck for the meal so bring your favorite potluck dish. Please sign up on the sheet by the office with what you're planning to bring.

Back to School...

The start of the school year is a great time to get back into learning and studying God's Word. There's plenty of learning opportunities for all ages starting this month.

Sunday School

Our fall Sunday School will begin with Rally Day on September 8. All teachers will be installed at the 8:00 a.m. service that Sunday, too. Classes will run from 9:15—10:15 a.m. then we'll have some fun and games until 10:45 a.m. ending right before the polka fest. We'd love to see you in Sunday School. Check out page 10 for more information.

Bible Studies

Sundays, 9:15 a.m. starting September 8 Pastor Neubauer leads a class on the Catechism in the social hall. Pastor Newton will lead the youth group (grades 8-12) in the youth room. Sarah Newton will lead a women's Bible Study, "Pew Sisters" in the library.

Tuesdays, 8:15 a.m. starting September 17 Pastor Neubauer leads a class on Luke in the library.

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. starting September 18 you can join Pastor Knaack in the library for a study on "Forgiveness in the Age of Rage."

Wednesdays, 6:30—8:00 p.m., from September 18 to October 23, Pastor Neubauer will lead a six week adult instruction course. This class is for anyone wanting to learn more about the Lutheran faith, but is especially geared toward new members. Please sign up on the sheet by the church office.





Choir Changes Coming This Year

September is our usual start up for choirs here at St. Johns. This year some things are changing.

No Children's Choir - Due to the small number of children available for the Children's Choir, we will not have it this year. We still plan to have the Sunday School sing for worship and the annual Children's Christmas program.

The Senior Bell Choir is celebrating their 40th year and will begin practice on Wednesday, September 11 at 5:00 p.m. If you're interested in joining the Bell Choir, contact director, Vickie Helm (who's also been director for 40 years!), at 732-5874.



The Senior Choir will begin practice on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. Since Sarah Kaufenberg is not directing the Children's Choir she has offered to direct the Senior Choir this year. We're looking forward to hearing previous director, Mike Poole's, voice back in the tenor section. If you're interested in joining the Senior Choir contact Sarah Kaufenberg 651-260-3350.

Hey, Guys! Come and Grill!

On Thursday, September 12, the men of St. Johns Lutheran Laymen's League will hold their annual steak fry/membership drive beginning at 5:30 p.m. Any men who would like to join the group should bring a steak to grill and enjoy an evening of fellowship and Bible study. The LLL meets on the second Thursday of each month and welcomes new members. Anyone wishing more information about this event or about the LLL should call Dave Vik at 732-0475.



Confirmation Mentors Needed!



Confirmation mentors are needed for the new 7th grade class. Potentially the class may include eleven girls and six boys. Please contact one of the pastors or Connie Fondow (732-9236) if you have questions or would like to consider becoming a mentor.

The time commitment is minimal and the reward is maximum! Some of the reward are pizza and great conversations!

Gluten Free Communion Wafers Now An Option

If you've been avoiding communion or suffering the effects after eating the communion wafer you now have a new choice. Gluten free wafers are available. If you prefer the gluten free version, please let one of the pastors know.





You Can Still Bring in Shoes for Lutheran Island Camp

Lutheran Island Camp is still collecting shoes (any kind except flip flops). Shoes for the Mission provides the camp with several thousand dollars each year while at the same time providing work for people with disabilities and helping street vendors in third world countries to support their families by selling our Minnesota shoes.

There's a collection box in the front lobby for shoes. If you get them here by September 8, the pastors will take them to camp when they go to the Fall Pastors Conference.



Youth are Getting Locked In



We're have a youth lock in September 13-14, beginning on Friday at 6:30 p.m. 5-8th graders are welcome until 10:00 p.m. High school activities will continue until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Pizza, movies, games, and devotions are on the to-do list. Possible activities include but are not limited to: video games, movies, bonfire, camping out back, board games, card games, ghost in the graveyard/capture the flag or other outside night games, group games in the social hall, 9 square, etc.

We hope you can join us for a fun overnigher!

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 9/01 "Begin Again"
- 9/08 "Play Your Art"
- 9/15 "The Dream Is Alive"
- 9/22 "Intervention"
- 9/29 "TBD"

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.

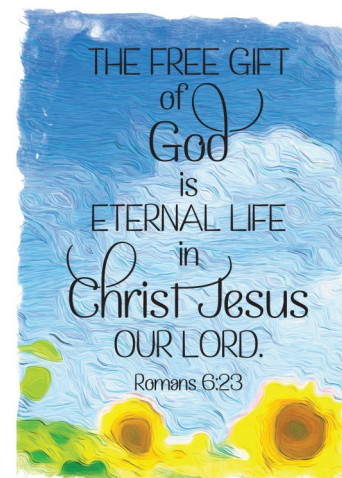
The Lutheran Laymen's League sponsors the program on KPRM each Sunday. If you would like to help sponsor the program your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour."

† Baptism

08/11/19 Clyde Lewis Kimball
Cory & Allie (Bade) Kimball

† Funeral

08/24/19 Olga Maki



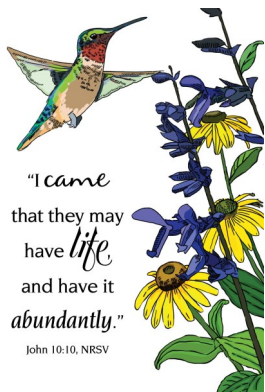


Stewardship Corner—*Living Life at its Best*

Jesus tells us that He came in order for us to have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Just as we as parents are pleased and thrilled to see our children thrive and do well in their careers, with their families, and in their churches, our Heavenly Father, in a much more profound way, is pleased that we are experiencing **life at its best** in the years, months, and days that God has given us. We are His children and His amazing love for us was shown to us on the cross where Christ won for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through faith in Him. This gift empowers us to live abundantly. It is God's desire that we live abundant lives. Just as we want the best for our children, He wants the best for us. He is so pleased when we walk by faith in ways of obedience, compassion, selflessness, and seek to follow His ways. By God's grace, we can be contented people who live **life at its best** aware of His presence and enjoying the intimacy of His companionship. **Life at its best** is the rich life that God wants for us.



In contrast to the abundant life that Jesus came to give us, we find Satan (thief) doing all he can to make us live life at its worst. *"The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy"* (John 10:10a). Satan comes to steal our joy, kill our faith, and destroy our hope. He attempts to separate us from Jesus, and he wants us to live lives of despair and gloom.



"I came
that they may
have *life*
and have it
abundantly."
John 10:10, NRSV

In this tenth chapter of John, Jesus tells us that He is our Good Shepherd. As our Shepherd, He feeds us, guides us, and takes care of our needs. He even lays down His life for us! What a humbling and staggering thought that Jesus the Creator of the universe wants to be our Shepherd! He wants us to be His children in spite of our sinful and evil ways. He invites us to follow Him and to receive His affection and attention. He tells us that we, His sheep, know His voice and follow Him. As part of His flock or family, we acknowledge His authority and seek to follow His direction. Out of gratitude we attempt to live lives that please him through our serving, witnessing, and giving. Because Jesus is our Good Shepherd we can live **life at its best**.

Options Instead of Offering Envelopes

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—July

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 249

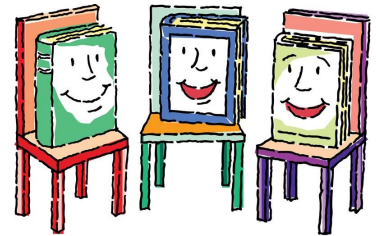
Total Offerings: \$40,213	Total Offerings, July, 2018: \$42,385	Total Offerings, year to date: \$249,771
Total Expenses: <u>\$38,078</u>	Total Expenses, July, 2018: <u>\$38,484</u>	Total Expenses, year to date: <u>\$260,868</u>
Difference \$2,135	Difference \$3,901	Difference - \$11,097

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$10,053	Budget/Week \$9,497	CNB Checkbook Balance: \$59,455
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,520</u>	Budget/Month \$41,152	Less dedicated accounts - \$ 189
Difference \$533		Difference \$59,266

Our Healthy Balance Goal	\$74,000
Raised so far	<u>\$41,551</u>
Still need	\$32,449

Interested in A Book Club?

Pastor Neubauer has been reading “Upside-Down Spirituality” and thinks it would be a great book for a book club discussion so he got the idea of starting a Monday noon book club. Here’s the plan. Let Pastor Neubauer know by September 11 if you want to join so he can order books (cost will be about \$12 per person). The group will meet for four weeks beginning September 16 at noon in Pastor Neubauer’s office. You can bring lunch to eat during the discussion. You don’t have to read the whole book before the first meeting. The author, Chad Bird, has an interesting back story, too. Once again, let Pastor Neubauer know by September 11 if you’re in.



Speaking of Books....

Check out our church library. There’s a great selection of books for all ages and interests, along with DVDs and even some retro VHS tapes. Stop in and browse the shelves, check something out and enjoy!





Vacation Bible School Was A “Miraculous Mission”

St. Johns was the site of a “Miraculous Mission” Vacation Bible School event August 5-9. It was a great week and even the weather was miraculously pleasant. We ended the event with a picnic lunch on Friday. Our offering of \$216 was sent to Concordia Gospel Outreach, an outreach ministry that shows the love and mercy of Christ by providing uniquely packaged Bible stories that teach about His amazing love to children who haven’t heard the Gospel. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers and to those who donated snack items!



Galaxy globe craft



Re-enacting the Easter story with Professor Schultz (aka Pastor Newton)



Snack time!



Getting moving in the morning with songs



Perfect weather for outside games





Kitchen Nearing Completion

The kitchen remodeling project is in it's final stages and it looks great! Deb Luther was the successful bidder for the freezer. We're hoping to have everything completed by the polka fest.



Darchuk Fabrication installed stainless steel countertops.



Virg Eskola and Terry DeYoung got into a tight spot installing glass board.



Jerry Eischens and crew updated our cabinets. The drawers pull out all the way!



Brad Dahn and Mike Poole went to great heights to install this rolling shutter door.

And the new flooring installed by Keith Blumberg is fantastic!



Board



Christian Education: July minutes were approved after the correction of adding Victoria Harju to the list of new board members.

Reports:

Release Time – No update

VBS – No updates. Ruth Knaack did mention that there were 48-49 students and that it was going well.

Sunday School—Approved the updated Sunday School Superintendent job description. Noted that there is a need of teachers for the upcoming year. Need to put a call out for teachers in the bulletin and in the newsletter.

Preschool—Kim Neubauer reported that we have 24 four year olds and 7 three year olds currently enrolled. We have openings for four three year olds and eleven four year olds. August 15 is the Open House and Registration Day. Shelley Lof will be helping. Preschool Committee will meet in August to discuss salaries and long range plans. Advertising is up, which include signs, banners, and posters. Postcards have been sent also. Scholarships are needed this year. We have had numerous requests. Would appreciate help from the congregation. Income guidelines have been adjusted.

Adult Education – No report

Pastor Report – No update

Old Business:

Service project updated. Lori Griess is trying to coordinate date with contact in Fergus Falls.

New Business

Fall Rally – Scheduled for September 8. Installation will be at the first service for staff.

Children's Christmas Service is scheduled for the second service on December 22.

Reviewed 2019-2020 proposed budget.

Discussed job description for teachers and possibly having a teachers meeting prior to Sunday School start.

Email address for Lori is rgriess70@yahoo.com if anyone has any questions or would like to forward updated reports prior to the next meeting.

Church Properties: Went over the kitchen remodel on what has been done so far and what is left to do, and what was found in the ceiling when old was removed. There were great results, and we are in much better shape with what was done, insulation, suspended ceiling, and no current leaks could be seen.

The bus brakes are in dire need of repair, we determined that the horn works good so there is no need to fix the brakes. Just kidding! They are expensive because they are big truck type brakes, but are being done.

The new rugs are in and look good, and Mike Riewer made great use of the old by cutting them down and using them in other areas.

There have been some electrical, door and lock fixes done.

We have an air conditioner that was given to us to possibly use in pastor's office and are looking to get it in before January 1.



Decided what to do with the old stove and freezer and they are gone, sold them.

Starting to work on next year's budget, it is closing in on us you know!

Elders: no report.

Evangelism: Board members should begin approaching members of the congregation concerning the possibility of becoming a mentor to 7th grade confirmands (at least three boy mentors and eight girl mentors needed).

Adopt-a-Chap: We have received an APO address for Chaplain Bain. We are waiting to hear about any specific soldier needs. The address and list of supply needs will be posted in upcoming bulletins and the newsletter.

BINGO at Diamond Willow: Deb Luther will begin to fill in the monthly spots for BINGO facilitators. *Portals of Prayer* will be taken for those participants who would like to use them.

Jan Belshan will follow up on finding out if there are any St. Johns college bound students for the upcoming school year.

Linda Leckner will check on the tract rack needs.

The Board of Evangelism will furnish Pastor Newton with a seasonal pass to Panther sporting events.

The board will revisit the idea of becoming involved in a visitation schedule for shut in members of the congregation. The pastors will guide us.

The board will purchase Bibles for the county jail (\$300) and will continue to do so on a yearly basis beginning each January. The number of Bibles to be purchased will be determined in one of our upcoming fall meetings.

The board's budget request amount for 2020 will be discussed at the September meeting.

There are no caring cards to be sent out due to the fact that the pastors are discussing their approach for ministry to inactives.

Board members will assist with Pastor Appreciation Sunday in October as needed.

Parish Fellowship: Old Business:

Polka Fest is Sunday, September 8. The service will be at 11:00 a.m. with a potluck luncheon to follow in the fellowship hall. We'll have a sign-up sheet for the potluck out by the office starting Sunday, August 18. We'll decorate the fellowship hall and set up tables on Saturday, September 7, starting at 10:00 a.m. We will ask for additional help with set up, serving and clean up. Elayne Luiken will order the root beer keg from Hugo's and pick up napkins, cups for root beer, and large styro plates/trays. Ginny Ranisate will print posters for us to put up in the coming weeks and to send to area churches.

New Business:

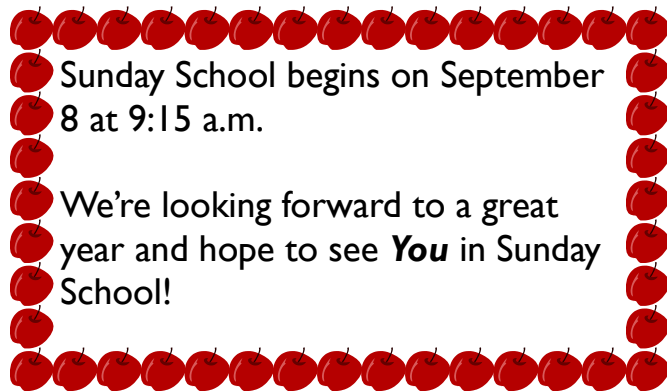
Pastor Appreciation Sunday, Sunday, October 13. We'll be recognizing Pastor Neubauer's 25th year ordination anniversary and Pastor Neumann's 60th year anniversary.

Public Relations: did not meet.

Stewardship: The first issue presented for discussion was the purchase of a tv for the confirmation classes. Pastor Neubauer stated that he could get a 42" tv from Target for \$265 plus tax (could possibly get the tax exempted). This purchase along with a previously approved amount of up to \$1200 for a projector will be paid from Richard Haberer annuity funds which has a balance of \$1,441. Any overage from the tv and projector will be paid from Thrivent Choice Funds.



Sunday School News



Sunday School begins on September 8 at 9:15 a.m.

We're looking forward to a great year and hope to see **You** in Sunday School!

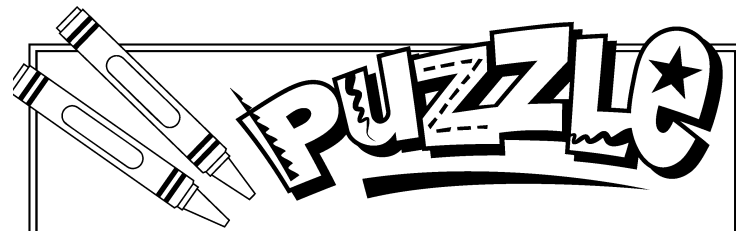


Happy Birthday!

- 9/2 Colton Nilson
- 9/02 Kolie Safratowich
- 9/11 Henli Maier
- 9/9 Elsie Trandem
- 9/12 Sophia Neubauer
- 9/15 Leo Kaufenberg
- 9/22 Kiften Luther
- 9/24 Tristan McCullough
- 9/25 Kale Ravnaas
- 9/30 Cort Cook

Baptismal Birthdays

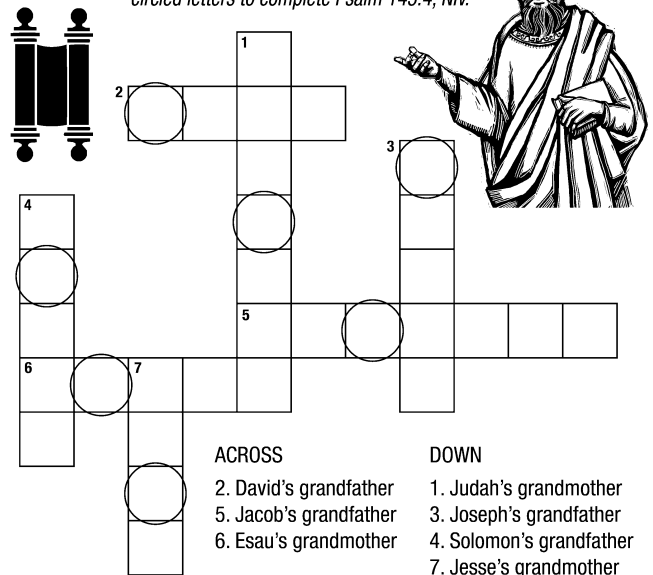
- 9/02 Maari Clark
- 9/11 Brandi Novak
- 9/14 Gavin Etter
- 9/14 Grace Etter
- 9/14 Brock Knutson
- 9/20 Brooke Kimball
- 9/25 Hadley Branstrom
- 9/27 Aiden May
- 9/27 Emma Mayer



Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.



ACROSS

- 2. David's grandfather
- 5. Jacob's grandfather
- 6. Esau's grandmother

DOWN

- 1. Judah's grandmother
- 3. Joseph's grandfather
- 4. Solomon's grandfather
- 7. Jesse's grandmother

One G _ N _ _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obad, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth. Generation

Lessons this month:

- 9/8 A Mighty Wonder—Creation
- 9/15 The Fall and a Promise—Fall into Sin
- 9/22 A New Beginning—Noah
- 9/29 A Call to Action—Abram



Main Street Living for September

“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 and archived on www.mainstreetliving.com (click on “North (Fargo)” under the picture).



Thank you for your much needed financial support! Checks may be sent to “Main Street Living NORTH,” 821-5th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by credit card or your PayPal account on the web site.

September 1: Rev. Terry Finnern, Mt. Calvary, Miliona, and St. Paul’s, Parker’s Prairie, presents the message: “Our Host for Eternity” based on Luke 14:7-11. *This Is The Life* - “Run Away.”

September 8: Rev. Paul Preus, Zion, Ellendale, presents the message: “Healed Through the Word” based on Mark 7:31-37. *This Is The Life* - “The Sin of Sue Bradley.”

September 15: Rev. Daryl Rothchild, Bethlehem, Upham, ND, Faith, Towner, ND, and Zion, Kramer, ND presents the message: “Abundant Grace” based on 1 Timothy 1:12-17. *This Is The Life* - “Old Smiley.”

September 22: Rev. Jonathan Walla, Bethel, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “The Debt is Cancelled” based on Luke 16:1-15. *This Is The Life* - “To Take a Life.”

September 29: Rev. Dennis Voss, Zion, New Salem, ND and St. Peter, Hannover, ND presents the message: “The Job of Angels” based on Matthew 18:10. *This Is The Life* - “Sharing the Gospel.”

(Continued from page 9)

The bus is in need of major repairs on the back brakes. The estimated cost of the repairs is \$2,500, possibly more. This matter was referred to the Church Properties Board for consideration and payment.

The 2020 budget for the Stewardship Board will be increased to \$1,350 from \$1,000. The additional monies are needed for bank costs associated with the online collection option.

Young People: We considered our budget, and it looks as though \$2,000 ought still to be enough for us to ask for next year.

Evergreen Park is scheduled for August 27 from 1-4:30 p.m. (grades 5-12). Cost is \$5/person.

Lock-in for September 13-14, beginning on the 13th at 6:30 p.m. 5-8th graders are welcome until 10:00 p.m. High school activities will continue until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Pizza, movies, games, devotions, etc. Possible activities include but are not limited to: video games, movies, bonfire, camping out back, board games and card games, ghost in the graveyard/capture the flag or other outside night games, group games in the social hall, nine square, etc.

We talked about doing a progressive dinner at some point, but decided that it's probably best done as a high school event, and maybe especially as a high school event during months that it's too nasty to be outside.

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Neumann



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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"Your sign said, 'Join the flock at Sunday school.'"