



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

**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

October, 2019

## **Celebrating 86 Years of Shepherding!**

Pastor Appreciation Sunday will be held on October 13. We will be thanking Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton, and Pastor Neumann for all that they do for our St. Johns congregation and its members. This year both Pastor Neubauer and Pastor Neumann are celebrating special ordination year anniversaries. Each has been a faithful servant of the Word and God's people for 25 and 60 years respectively. After the 8:00 a.m. worship service on October 13 we will acknowledge the service of our pastors in the social hall. Please join us for special coffee time treats and a brief program.



## **Thank You, Cindy!**



Back in May, our assistant secretary, Cindy Yliniemi, told us that she needed to concentrate on their family business so she was resigning. She graciously offered to work until we found someone and that turned out to be all summer. Her last day at work was September 12.

We want to say a huge "THANK YOU" to Cindy for her seventeen years of dedicated service. We will miss her quiet, steady presence and especially her amazing ability to stay focused amidst distractions. We wish her all the best as she concentrates on the family business and getting caught up on all those projects she hasn't had time for over the past seventeen years.

P.S.—She is not retiring! She will be just as busy working, just not here at St. Johns and she has agreed to substitute if needed.

## **Welcome, Julie!**

Meet Cindy's replacement, Julie Warmbold. We had some excellent applicants for the position so it was a tough decision to decide who to hire. Julie has previously worked in a church secretary position which gave her the edge. She started here on September 4 and is catching on fast.

Julie is originally from Durand near Eau Claire, Wisconsin (but says she's not into football so not loyal to the Packers). She and her husband, Warren, have two daughters in college and a cute little pug puppy.

And another plus for Julie, she and Ginny sound nothing alike on the phone!





## Ponderings from the Pew



Have you noticed how much easier life is because we are Christians? It's all rainbows and sunflowers right? The grass is always greener on our side of the fence. There's no stress and worry. Life's a beach when you're a Christian! Right? What's that? It doesn't seem that way for you? Well, it isn't for me either. But isn't that what God promises us? All we need to do is follow Him on the extra smooth sailing highway to heaven? No, in fact, that's not what God promises.



What about Matthew 11:28, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"? Well, let's consider what it's saying. "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened..." Weary and burdened? If Christians are supposed to live a stress free life, why would we be weary and burdened? "I will give you rest." I'm not feeling rested so is God lying? No. We rest in God; knowing God is with us all the way through the good and the bad. Shared weight is lighter weight. John 12:27 tells us, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you." Life isn't all peaceful though is it? John goes on to say, "I do not give to you as the world gives." We expect God's ways to be our ways. We expect to understand Him. God is beyond our understanding. Our expectation is that we are protected from death, sickness and tragedy in this world. But God is not of this world and we aren't supposed to be either. Our peace is when we get to finally see our Savior face to face. "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."



Apparently, we will know trouble and fear in this life. But, we also know God in this life, and He will be there with us and for us. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you," (Deuteronomy 31:6).

God never says we won't know trouble. In fact, He indicates repeatedly that we will suffer, and experience grief as everyone else. What sets us apart is that we also know God's love. Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Do not fear your struggles here. Do not shun your grief. Grieve – for grief is love unfinished. But grieve with hope that Jesus will return with those who left too soon. And the whole time remember that Christ died for us. He walks with us. Our victory is in Him!

To God alone be the glory.

**Renee' Anderson**

### † Baptisms

**9/15/19 Nakova June Eskola**

Andrew and Jennifer (Hanisch) Eskola

**9/22/19 Norah Elizabeth Rose Newton**

Pastor Joel and Sarah (Ludwig) Newton





## Someone You Know

Someone you know doesn't go to church anymore. Someone you know just found out they have cancer. Someone you know is going through tough times and is feeling depressed. Someone you know just moved into your neighborhood. Someone you know claims they are "spiritual, but not religious" and aren't really into churches. Someone you know isn't a Christian. We all know someone who either isn't connected to church or doesn't believe in Jesus as their Savior at all. Someone you know needs peace and forgiveness in their life - the peace that we have, right now, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So how do we approach them? It seems a little scary! What if they say "no" - what if they chase me off - what if I mess up?



Help is coming through Minnesota North District's "Someone You Know" project. On Sunday, October 6, our congregation, along with other congregations in the Minnesota North District is going to pray for someone we know who either doesn't know Jesus as Savior, or who doesn't have a church home. Each month we'll have a special bulletin insert that includes prayers and tips to help you reach out to "someone you know" with the Gospel message. You can also go to the "Someone You Know" tab on the district website, [mnnlcms.org](http://mnnlcms.org), and watch a short video featuring a pastor who will give you more tips and hints on how to reach out.



## BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it!

Remember the "Bring It Home" program from last year? It's coming back with a new twist. Starting October 13, each week for fourteen weeks we'll get a sheet that takes participants through five books of the Bible and encourages them to highlight some important/key verses in their personal Bibles. It also includes a few discussion questions and a short prayer. At the end of the fourteen weeks your Bible will have verses highlighted in all the books of the Bible.

There's a couple ways to get your weekly inserts. You can go online to [mnnlcms.org](http://mnnlcms.org) and click the "Bring it Home...And Highlight it!" link to sign up for weekly e-mails with the insert attached that you can download or you can pick up a paper copy of the weekly insert from the counter by the church office.

Whichever method you choose, be sure to stop by the counter and pick up a free nifty highlighter. It's wax based and won't bleed through the pages of your Bible. Neat!



### What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 10/06 "Homeward"
- 10/13 "Faith Unafraid"
- 10/20 "Lamp of the Body"
- 10/27 "Walk with Me"

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).



## Stewardship Corner—*Robbing God and Ourselves*

In the last book of the Old Testament, God uses the prophet Malachi to tell the people that they were robbing God by not giving their tithes and offerings. Malachi asked the people, “*Will man rob God?*” (Malachi 3:8). This was more an accusation than a question. The people’s hearts had turned away from God, and, because of their hard hearts, they gave blemished animals to sacrifice. Giving animals that were sick, lame, and blind was dishonoring God. God commanded the people to bring the whole tithe into God’s house. Then, God promised, He would “*open the windows of heaven for [them] and pour down for [them] a blessing until there is no more need*” (Malachi 3:10). God promised an abundance of blessings for their faithful giving.



Just as it was clear that God’s people were robbing Him then, so it is today that we rob God when we don’t give Him our first and best. Being thankful for who God is and what He has done and continues to do for us, we show our gratitude by giving generously and cheerfully.

We can make the case that, when we don’t give faithfully, we are also robbing ourselves. The people during Malachi’s day were not prospering as they withheld from God. God’s message through His prophet Haggai is very similar. The people were dwelling in paneled houses while God’s house lay in ruins. And were they flourishing in their beautiful homes? No, God pointed out that He put holes in the people’s pockets so their money disappeared (Haggai 1:6).



God who created us and owns all things does not need our gifts. Giving is for our benefit rather than His. God uses our ability and desire to give to help those in need and to extend His kingdom. Thus, the recipients of our gifts are blessed and we, as givers, are also blessed. Giving is God’s way to help us grow spiritually and to enrich us. The Apostle Paul wrote, “*You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God*” (2 Corinthians 9:11). Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35). In the words of Solomon, “*Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine*” (Proverbs 3:9-10). Throughout Scripture, we find God’s special blessings to those who give faithfully and generously. Don’t rob God and yourself.

## We’ve Got Two Birthday Open Houses This Month

Two of our members are having big birthday parties here at St. Johns this month.

On Sunday, October 6 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the social hall, come celebrate Roy Barten’s 80th birthday. Then come back on Sunday, October 13 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to celebrate Madeline Yliniemi’s 90th birthday.

We wish them both a joyous birthday celebration and God’s continued blessings!







## Stewardship Review—August

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **244**

Total Offerings: <b>\$34,441</b>	Total Offerings, August, 2018: <b>\$29,354</b>
Total Expenses: <b>\$36,618</b>	Total Expenses, August, 2018: <b>\$33,830</b>
Difference - <b>\$2,177</b>	Difference - <b>\$4,476</b>

Avg. Weekly Offerings <b>\$8,610</b>	Budget/Week <b>\$9,497</b>	Total Offerings, year to date: <b>\$284,207</b>
Avg. Weekly Expenses <b>\$9,155</b>	Budget/Month <b>\$41,152</b>	Total Expenses, year to date: <b>\$297,487</b>
Difference - <b>\$545</b>		Difference - <b>\$13,280</b>

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 08/31/19: <b>\$42,433</b>	Our Healthy Balance Goal <b>\$74,000</b>
Less dedicated accounts - <b>\$2,119</b>	Raised so far <b>\$42,612</b>
Difference <b>\$40,314</b>	Still need <b>\$31,388</b>

## Celebrating LWML Sunday, October 6

“Faith Like a Mustard Seed” is the theme for this year’s LWML Sunday 2019, based on Jesus’ words in Luke 17:6 that faith as small as a mustard seed can move a mulberry tree. We may long for a greater and more heroic faith, but what about the faith we have right now? LWML Sunday celebrates the power of a daily walk with Jesus to transform lives and multiply disciples. Little faith or great, there are mulberry trees to be moved!

What is the LWML? The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an active and mission oriented organization. It encourages women to use their talents and gifts in promoting the Lord's ministry to people of the world, community and church. Through the LWML they support projects at the international and district level with mite box offerings. These projects are adopted at international and district conventions. The international mission goal for the current biennium is over \$2,000,000.

You may wonder how the LWML meets its goal. Here at St. Johns, each member has a mite box, which is a deposit for spare change, and is brought to society meetings. 75% of mite box money is used for projects in the Minnesota North District and 25% is sent to International LWML. LWML members all over the world do the same thing and those mites really add up.

We have two LWML groups, the Ladies Aid and the Evening Guild. New members are always welcome. St. Johns Ladies Aid meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the choir room. The meetings begin with devotions and Bible study followed by a business meeting. Their members are divided into groups, taking turns serving for funerals, Advent and Lenten meals. Contact Ruth Knaack for more information at 252-4702. St. Johns Evening Guild meets the second Tuesday of the month, September to May, at 6:00 p.m. in the church library. Meetings consist of devotions, Bible study, speaker or video, followed by a business meeting. The guild serves Sunday morning coffee, weddings, funerals, Advent and Lenten suppers and other functions as needed. Contact Sandy Phillips for more information at 732-7501.





## Ready for Release Time



It is autumn again and that means the kiddos are back in school. With that comes Release time classes on Wednesday morning.

Each fall parents sign their children up to attend the church school program of their choice. Then starting the last week in September the children are bused to area churches to attend an hour of Christian religious instruction. The 5th through 8th grades come first from about 8:25 - 9:15 a.m. and then the 1st - 4th graders come from about 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. We have four videos throughout the year—the first day, Christmas, Lent and Easter. We memorize Bible verses, the Ten

Commandments, books of the Old and New Testament, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. We study the Old and New Testament, the Bible, Martin Luther, the beginnings of the Lutheran church, creation, and living the Christian life. We have a few snacks and the younger children make a few Bible story appropriate crafts. The older students sometimes play Bible trivia or Bible Jeopardy. In short, it is a lot of work but a lot of fun. This year our dedicated teachers are:

Laurie Kimball and Ruth Knaack teaching fifteen 1st grade students  
Sandy Phillips and Sarah Newton teaching seventeen 2nd grade students  
Pastor Neubauer and Pastor Newton teaching seventeen 3rd grade students  
Cheryl Breitbach teaching eleven 4th grade students  
Sandy Phillips and Cheryl Breitbach teaching fifteen 5th grade students  
Laurie Kimball and Ruth Knaack teaching fourteen 6th grade students  
Pastor Neubauer teaching eighteen 7th grade students  
Pastor Newton teaching twelve 8th grade students

Betty Solberg will return again this year as our classroom helper and we are happy to add Lois Just to our staff as office help.

This gives us a total of around 120 children that arrive here every Wednesday morning when there is school to learn more about their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a wonderful and joyous thing to see that bus pull up to the door and almost like a clown car, the students just keep coming off the bus and into the church. People ask me where the kids are. Why aren't they in church? Well, they are on Wednesday mornings, so let's do all we can to keep them coming. For many of the students this is the only Christian religious teaching they receive and we do our very best to make it as worthwhile and meaningful as possible with the short time we are given. As always we ask that you keep the program, teachers, helpers, and students in your thoughts and prayers. If you feel the calling to help with this worthwhile program in any way please come forward and let someone know, you won't regret it.

God's blessings,  
**Laurie Kimball, Release Time Coordinator**

### What is Release Time?

Release Time Classes are a unique program that have been a tradition here in Park Rapids for years. Minnesota statute states that children may be released from school for religious instruction for up to three hours a week. Parents must give their permission and the places of instruction must be maintained by a church, association of churches, or any Sunday School association. Our program is for 1st-8th grades and runs in two approximately 40 minute sessions on Wednesday mornings.



## Main Street Living North Programs for October

“**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](http://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.

**October 6:** Vicar Richard Daily, Bethel and Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “Christ Has Made Us His Worthy Servants” based on Luke 17:1-10. *This Is The Life—The Missing Ingredient* featuring Jack Nicholson.

**October 13:** Rev. Lester Wolfram, Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck, presents the message: “Be Strengthened” based on 2 Timothy 2:1-13. *This Is The Life - The Visitation* featuring Dick Sargent (Darrin from *Bewitched*).

**October 20:** Rev. Zelwyn Heide, Redeemer, Grassy Butte, ND, and Saint Peter, Belfield, ND, presents the message: “Pray Without Ceasing” based on 1 Timothy 1:12-17. *This Is The Life - Happiness is Dirty Hands* featuring Mike Farrell (Captain B.J. Hunnicutt from *M\*A\*S\*H*).

**October 27:** Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Director of the LCMS Center for Religious Liberty, and former Lutheran Hour Speaker will be the preacher. *This Is The Life - Destination Unknown* featuring Leonard Nimoy (Dr. Spock from the original *Star Trek*).

## You Can Still Join the Choir



Senior Choir is off to a great start but you can still join the group. Practice is on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Not sure you can commit for the long term? Consider singing for Christmas. We'll begin practicing our Christmas music on November 13. We'd love to have you join us at any time. Questions? Please contact Sarah Kaufenberg at 651-260-3350.

## Ladies Aid is Having a Silent No Bake Sale

The Ladies Aid is trying a new twist on an old fundraiser—a silent “no bake” sale. Each member is asked to put the amount of money they would have spent making a bake sale item into an envelope and bring it to their October 3 meeting.

All the benefit with very little effort! Yum!





# Board



**Christian Education:** August minutes were approved.

Reports:

Release time – No report. Start date is September 25th. Staffing is ok.

VBS – Sarah Kaufenberg reported that next year VBS is scheduled for the first week in August. Number of students attending was stable at 42-48. Eighty-one people attended the meal on the Friday closing. Overall it was a good week with good staff members. More adults are needed for next year and there was discussion of having a booth at the fair next summer to increase exposure to the community.

Sunday School - Classes are scheduled to start on September 8 with installation of teachers at the 8:00 a.m. service. Teachers are still needed both for leading classes and helping as subs. We would love to see more of the younger parents become involved in assisting with the Sunday School program, either as helpers or as teachers.

Preschool – Kim Neubauer reported that we have 28 four year olds and 8 three years olds registered for class. The registration on August 15 went well. Although there are currently sufficient funds for covering some expenses, due to the number of requests for scholarships and cost of bus fare, help from the congregation would be appreciated. Kim presented the budget from the August 26 staff meeting. Budget was approved.

Adult Education – Bible studies will start with classes available Sunday morning in both the social hall (Catechism) and Sarah Newton will have a class (Pew Sisters) in the library. Monday will be the book club (Upside Down Spirituality) at noon. Bring a lunch. Tuesday morning is Luke and Wednesday morning Forgiveness in the Age of Rage.

The Sunday School Teachers expressed that they would like to have a Bible study.

Old Business:

Childrens' Christmas Service is December 22. This year the Senior Choir will also be involved. The title of the program is "Colors of Christmas." Pastor Neubauer is ordering it.

Shelley Lof said that she is finalizing what she needs for the Sunday School classes. Children will have a busy morning, meeting teachers and class members, music, games, and root beer floats.

**Church Properties:** No report.

**Elders:** No report.

**Evangelism:** The new 7th grade confirmation class currently has 18 members with 3 additional students possibly attending. The board decided to ask each member to mentor two students. The pastors will pair the students after the first several confirmation class sessions have been completed. The first pizza party gathering has been set for October 23.

Debbie Luther will take care of the September date for BINGO at Diamond Willow. A request was made by one of the residents to have a specific date set each month for the BINGO evenings.

A bulletin insert on September 15 will explain the Adopt-a-Chap supply collection for Chaplain Bain. Those members who wish to participate in this program are asked to sign up on the sheet by the office and have their supplies delivered to church by September 29.

The jail ministry Bibles were ordered and have arrived. Doug Kinglsey will deliver them.





Pastor Newton intends on purchasing a Panther activities pass. The board will reimburse him.

The board continues to discuss ways to keep in contact with graduating HS students in an effort to assist them in maintaining a relationship with St. Johns or another LCMS church.

The board will keep members updated on ways to assist Hurricane Dorian relief efforts – either via LCMS national organizations or some sort of effort facilitated by St. Johns.

The board is requesting that the voters approve \$1,800.00 for our budget in 2020.

**Parish Fellowship:** We reviewed the final plans for Polka Fest on September 8. We expect to serve around 150 people for the potluck lunch.

Pastor Appreciation is Sunday, October 13 between services. We'll recognize Pastor Neumann's 60th anniversary of his ordination and Pastor Neubauer's 25th anniversary. Laurie Kimball will cater the food with our board helping with beverages and clean up.

**Public Relation and Stewardship** did not meet.

**Young People:** no report.

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## Adopt-A-Chap Update



We've been gathering items—tootsie rolls, cookies, crackers, coffee creamers, hunting and fishing magazines—for the soldiers under our adopted Chaplain, Vince Bain's, care and plan to send them out this month. Chaplain Bain and his unit are currently deployed in the Middle East. We plan to send another package before Christmas.

Personal letters/cards of support and encouragement may be sent to the following APO: CH Bain, V

184 EOD BN

CJTF-OIR

TF EOD

APO, AE 09366



## November Blood Drive Scheduled

Vitalant, Fargo, ND has set Monday, November 4 from noon—6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 5 from 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. for St. Johns to sponsor our annual blood drive. Elayne Luiken will coordinate the drive. Check future bulletins for details on how to schedule your appointment or volunteer to help.



## Sunday School News

Our Sunday School offerings are going to purchase items for Lutheran Island Camp in Henning. Ask your students about the "challenge."

We've been practicing a special song that we plan to sing on Sunday, October 27 (hint: it involves a giant and the senior choir men.)

Thank you for bringing your children to Sunday School! We also always appreciate any volunteers and would love to have you help make our Sunday School great!



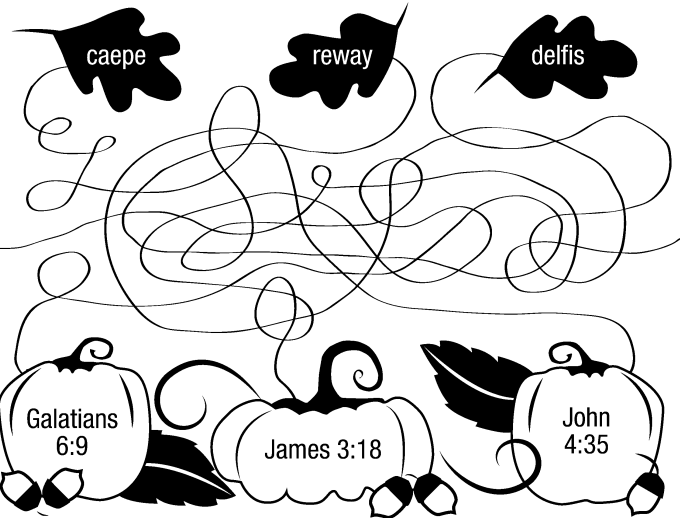
10/06 Adelynn DeVore  
10/14 Luke Eskola  
10/21 Autumn Kvittem  
10/24 Sawyer Harvey  
10/25 Andrew Rodriguez-Renskers

### Baptismal Birthdays

10/02 Sophia Neubauer  
10/09 Tony Meier  
10/23 Kellan Eidsmoe  
10/25 Laura Kaufenberg  
10/25 Leo Kaufenberg  
10/26 Tristan McCullough



Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.



Peacemakers who sow in \_\_\_\_\_ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become \_\_\_\_\_ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the \_\_\_\_\_!  
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields

### Lessons this Month

October 6 A Promising Dream—Jacob

October 13 Hope in Hardship—Joseph

October 20 Fiery Directions—Moses

October 27 The Egypt Exit—Exodus



## Easy Ways to Help ABC Preschool

### Coborn's More! School Rewards Program

Coborn's has replaced the "Labels for Learning" program with a digital service. If you are a More! Rewards member you can designate ABC Preschool as your school of choice. If you are a "More! Rewards" member already, you will need to designate ABC as your school. Here are the steps: Go to



[www.morerewards.com](http://www.morerewards.com) and login to your account.. Tap or click on "Manage my membership." Scroll down to "School Rewards" and tap or click. Enter "56470" in the zip code field and hit "search." Tap the "Select" button under "St. Johns ABC Child Development." That's it. When you check out at Coborn's using your "More! Rewards" membership, points will automatically be assigned to ABC. The more points we collect, will give us a bigger "piece of the pie" of Coborn's charitable donation toward education. There are 3,000 items that qualify for points. FYI: "More! Rewards," like many membership programs, tracks your purchases. Coborn's offers rebates and specials to you in exchange for the information gleaned about you and your shopping habits.

### ACS Internet School Partnership Program

If you have Arvig Communications as your internet provider, you can help ABC by simply designating St. Johns ABC Preschool as your school. Sign up online at [arvig.net](http://arvig.net).



### AmeriGas School Days Program

If you purchase your propane through AmeriGas you can help by simply turning your receipts in to ABC. AmeriGas will donate 1/2 cent for every gallon purchased.



### Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you may be eligible to designate ABC Preschool as the beneficiary of your Thrivent Choice Dollars. This is a donation made to the school by Thrivent that is used for larger projects and items for the preschool.



### Holiday Station Coupons

We can use the coupons in the flyer from the Enterprise to purchase milk. Please bring your coupons to the church office.



**Thank you all for your generous support of our ABC Preschool!**



**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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