



The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

November, 2019

For All The Saints



Halloween may still be fresh in your mind (especially if you have lots of candy to **remind you**) but **this Sunday we're on to the main reason for "All Hallows Eve"** which is All Saints Day. On Sunday, November 3, our worship will include a time of remembrance of those in our congregation who have passed away this year. A bell is rung as each name is read. It is a moving tribute to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have joined the church triumphant. Please join us this Sunday for this special worship service.

Let's Celebrate and Give Thanks!

The kitchen remodel project is 99% completed. The committee is inviting the congregation to gather in the social hall on November 3 between services for a celebration of thanks. We wish to acknowledge our appreciation for the **congregation's patience and support and give thanks to God for His continued** guidance this past year as we worked through the remodel. The committee members will provide a brief synopsis concerning the changes and additions that occurred during the course of the project as well as update the congregation on the specifics of the financial piece. Please plan on joining us on November 3!



Welcome, New Members!

Over the past year a lot of new members have joined our St. Johns family. You're invited to get to know them and welcome them into our church family at a reception between services in the social hall on Sunday, November 24.

We hope you can be there.

Voters Meeting—November 24

Our bi-annual Voters Meeting will take place on November 24 after the 10:30 a.m. service in the social hall. We will have a potluck lunch first. The 2020 work program, kitchen remodeling, financial and board reports are some of the regular items on the agenda.

All communicant members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. If you are a voting member and will not be able to attend the meeting, please call the church office to be excused. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.





Book Club is Back

Pastor Neubauer is starting a second round of the book club on Monday, November 4 at noon. *The Screwtape Letters* is the book we'll be discussing. If you have a copy, you can use it. Pastor Neubauer is also ordering copies. **The plan is to meet each Monday at noon for four weeks. If you're interested, please talk to Pastor Neubauer.**



Blood Drive This Month

United Blood Services is now Vitalant. Have you ever donated blood? The process is easy, usually takes less than an hour, and most donors find it a painless and heart-warming experience. **Take a few minutes to donate blood...and invite a friend to join you.** St. Johns will sponsor a blood drive on Monday, November 4, Noon to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 5, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 255-4865 or go online to www.vitalant.org, sponsor code: parkrapids. Walk-ins are also welcome. Please help us with this important, life-saving effort!

Put an MP3 Bible Stick in the Hands of a Veteran



The Military BibleStick is a digital audio player that is pre-loaded with a dramatized recording of the entire New Testament along with 65 minutes of selected Psalms. They are distributed to members of the military and veterans through chaplains. Interested in being **a part of this ministry? One BibleStick costs \$25. Your donation earmarked "Military BibleStick" may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off or mailed to the church office through November 10.**

Thanksgiving Services

Wednesday, November 27, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 28, 9:00 a.m.



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- ◆ 11/03 **"Stranger Danger"**
- ◆ 11/10 **"For Such a Downer"**
- ◆ 11/17 **"The Dawn Wall"**
- ◆ 11/24 **"God Is Love"**

◆ 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.

◆ St. Johns LLL sponsors the program each week on KPRM at a cost of \$52.50 per Sunday. If you would like to help support this ministry, your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked **"Local Lutheran Hour."**



Come Sing Christmas Songs with The Senior Choir

Do you love to sing Christmas songs? We would love for you to join our Christmas Choir this year. We will have a Christmas Music Sunday along with our Sunday School's Christmas Program on December 22 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Rehearsals will start on Wednesday, November 13 from 6:00-6:30 p.m. and then every Wednesday til our Christmas program. It's going to be a lot of fun!!!



Adopt-A-Chap Update



The boxes that were sent to Chaplain Bain in October were greatly appreciated by all the soldiers that he shared the contents with. We are now ready to prepare for our Christmas packages to Kuwait. Chaplain Bain has communicated via email concerning the items that would be well received for Christmas. Due to the uncertainty of travel time and shipping care, we have decided to limit the amount of homemade Christmas cookies to be sent. Please check the sign-up list by the church office for requested items. Items should be brought to church by November 24. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

A Note of Thanks from Chaplain Bain

Greetings from Kuwait!

I am writing to express our thanks for your thoughtfulness and support as we are away from home. Knowing that there are those, such as yourselves, who are willing to give of themselves to light our burden and brighten our days is a great blessing. We certainly appreciate your generosity, especially the coffee creamers. They are much appreciated.

We shall continue to pray for all of you that God's blessings always remain with you as you faithfully serve Him at home and your ministry to our Soldiers down range!

With joy in Christ,
Ch. Vince Bain

Youth Trip to Sky Zone

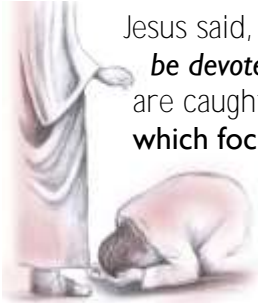
All youth 5th - 12th grade plus ONE friend are invited to join us for a trip **to Sky Zone in Fargo, Saturday, November 30. We'll meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and return approximately 3:00 p.m.** Cost is \$10 per youth **plus \$3 for bounce socks if you don't already have a pair. (Only Sky Zone socks are permitted - not regular socks)**



All parents need to go online to www.fargostore.skyzone.com prior to November 30 and sign the waiver. Please forward a copy of the completed waiver to Pastor Newton, or print a copy and bring with. Only those youth with waivers on file will be allowed to board the bus!!!!



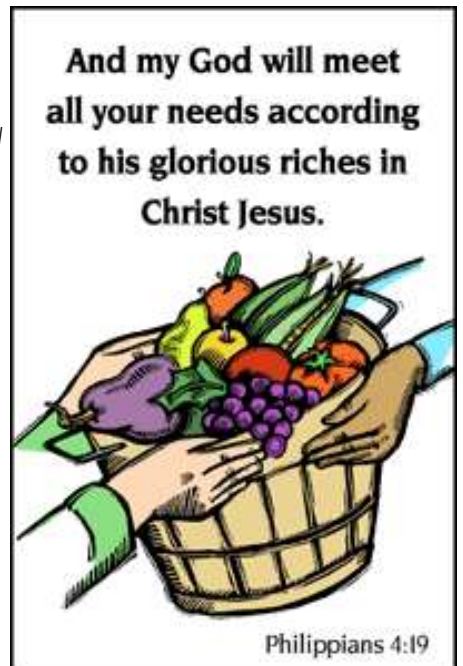
Stewardship Corner—*The Pull of the Heart from God and from the World*



Jesus said, **“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money”** (Matthew 6:24). We are caught between two masters and two distinct, opposing ways of life, the ways of the world **which focus on money and what money can buy and God’s ways. The world builds life on the** accumulation of material possessions for today, whereas God wants us to have a loving and devoted relationship with Him through Jesus and to develop relationships with others.

God’s Word does not condemn the possession of material stuff, but Scripture reminds us that these are gifts of God to sustain our lives and to help those in need and to extend God’s kingdom. Our possessions are to be accepted with thanksgiving and used wisely. Our Christian faith draws us away from the self-oriented values of our society. God calls us to abandon self-centered lives and value systems, as we recognize ourselves as managers of all that He has given to us. God admonishes waste and careless destruction of His resources by pollution and injustice caused by people. While sin brought destructive forces into our lives such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, these remind us to stay close to God and depend on His grace, love and mercy for our needs. They are all reminders of the brevity of life and that we are foreigners on earth and that heaven is our true home. People who make possessions and money their security and who desire more than they need will be disappointed: **“Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days”** (James 5:2-3). Their riches gave evidence to their greed for which they were judged.

The attractiveness of the material world makes us blind to the glory of God all around us which fills heaven and earth. Some have nothing left to quiet their own worries and feelings, except chemicals or alcohol which drug their minds from reality. The consumer world is a tempting merry-go-round that makes no sense. The world promises things that only God can provide and give! No matter how dazzling the things of this world appear, they offer no long-lasting peace, joy, and hope. God alone meets our needs by the riches of His glory (Phil.4:19), and we need to remember the warning that Luke shared in his Gospel: **“For what good does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”** (verse 9:25).



Build and Bid on a Basket



It's that time of the year again for our silent auction basket fund raiser. Look for a sign up sheet in the social hall. You may bring your baskets for bidding on Sunday, November 24. The auction will be complete on Sunday, December 15. These baskets make great Christmas gifts!



Stewardship Review—September

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 260

Total Offerings: \$41,648	Total Offerings, September, 2018: \$34,600	Budget/Week \$9,497
Total Expenses: <u>\$37,429</u>	Total Expenses, September, 2018: <u>\$36,414</u>	Budget/Month \$41,152
Difference \$4,219	Difference - \$1,814	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,330	Total Offerings, year to date: \$326,111
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$7,485</u>	Total Expenses, year to date: <u>\$334,916</u>
Difference \$845	Difference - \$8,805

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 09/30/19: \$26,017	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less dedicated accounts - <u>\$700</u>	Raised so far <u>\$41,626</u>
Difference \$25,317	Still need \$32,374
Kitchen Remodeling Payable* <u>\$39,084</u>	
\$64,401	

*Kitchen expenses have been paid from general checking account so far to avoid paying loan interest. **Once the project is complete, we'll see how much we need to use from the line of credit. If you're considering a gift for the kitchen now is a good time to give it.**

Have You Tried our Online Giving Option?



Did you know 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.

Can't Get to Church? Watch it on DVD

If you or someone you know have not been able to come for worship services, St. Johns offers the DVD ministry. You can get a DVD of the worship service and even a small personal video player to use. Call the church office at 732-9783 for information.





Why We Do What We Do for Release Time Classes

This month I would like to share with you what we teach in Release Time classes and why. We run off copies of most of our materials instead of buying books to use. Why? Because so few schools have release time programs, there is not a lot of printed curriculum available. One option would be to use materials designed for Sunday school. Our Sunday School already uses one option available and another possible option was rejected after reviewing it. The books we used before were more of a devotional lesson that usually took about 20 minutes so they did not cover the full 45 minutes we have per class. Teachers had to come up with their own activities to fill the remaining time which made extra work for them.

Ruth Knaack and I, with the help of Pastor Heinecke, took the good things that worked from the lessons we had and formatted the material to be more visually friendly and interactive for kids. Then we added the best of the extra materials the teachers were using. Pastor Heinecke also supplied us with age appropriate material from Luther's Small Catechism and extra material for our 6th grade studies of Martin Luther and the Reformation. To this we added some memory work on the books of the Bible, Bible verses, the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. Now our lessons fill the entire 45 minutes and everything is in one book. The teachers are happier which makes them better teachers; and better teachers make it more enjoyable and informative for the students. It also makes it easier for our substitute teachers.

Since we have done this, I need to run off the lessons each week and have them ready for the teachers to use. I do this very willingly and I know that all the teachers greatly appreciate it. This year Lois Just has graciously agreed to help me with this task and it has greatly decreased the number of hours I spend doing this. I believe that God has called me to do it and I am simply trying to do it to the best of my ability.

Here's a look at what each class is studying:

1st grade—**Memorize the Lord's Prayer, John 3:16 and the New Testament books. They study Old Testament stories and make a few simple crafts throughout the year.**

2nd grade—Does the same thing but they study New Testament stories.

3rd grade—Studies on overview of the Bible. At the beginning of the year each student receives a Bible.

4th grade—**Memorizes the Old Testament books, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments while they study Old Testament stories.**

5th grade—Does the same thing but with the New Testament.

6th grade—**Memorizes the Apostles' Creed, Ten Commandments and a few select Bible verses while they study about Martin Luther and the Reformation.**

7th grade—Studies Genesis and creation with materials put together by Pastor Neubauer.

8th grade—Studies current issues. They use material from Concordia Publishing House.

Our very dedicated teachers do their best to share the forgiveness and love of our Lord and Savior with these students each week. We have approximately 124 kids in two sessions. Most of our teachers teach both hours to keep this program running. This year, Faithbridge Church does not have 7th and 8th grade classes because of a lack of teachers. Pray that this does not happen at more churches in the area and the school decides to cancel all Release Time. In our church alone, that would be 124 children of God that no longer hear His word on Wednesday morning.

God's blessings,



Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes October 22, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Rod Helm, Executive Director. Members attending – Rod Helm, Mike Poole, Jerry Grudem, Connie Fondow, Lori Griess, Brandi Backmann, Brad Dahn, Pam Heeren, Elayne Luiken, Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter. Pastor Neubauer led devotion.

Approval of the PPC Minutes of May 28, 2019: Motion to approve by Elayne Luiken, second Brad Dahn - Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ginny presented treasurer's report. Motion to approve Jerry Grudem, second Lori Griess – Carried.

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2019	351,208	361,101	-9,893
2018	356,572	328,371	28,201
Difference	-5,364	32,730	--

Income is down and expenses are up compared to last year at this time. We are \$31,739 short of our goal of \$74,000 for Healthy Balance. The kitchen expenses have been paid from the general checking account. No funds have been borrowed yet to avoid interest charges.

CNB Checking Account as of 10/22/19	15,534
Less Dedicated Funds	439
Available Funds	15,095
Kitchen Remodeling Payable	<u>48,294</u>
	63,389

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 10/22/19—\$36,399

LCEF Current Fund as of 10/22/19	106,771
Less Parsonage Proceeds	18,547
Less Healthy Balance	42,261
Less End. Fund Interest	1,393
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	21,434
Less T. Haberer Trust	18,912
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>1,158</u>
Available Funds	3,066

Membership Changes:

Motion by Jerry Grudem to accept the following changes in membership – second Elayne Luiken - carried.
Affirmation of Faith: Robert Adkins, Ralph and Joanne Hanson, Elizabeth (Liz) Smith.

(Continued on page 12)



Board



Christian Education: September minutes were approved.

Reports:

Release Time Report was approved. Currently we have 124 students. All teachers returned from last year. Budget was reviewed and there is no need for change. This may have to be revised if the bus driver fee is increased. Note to congregation, we are always looking for helpers and substitutes. Thank you to Lois Just for the time she spends running off the lessons.

VBS – No report.

Sunday School – Connie Fondow/Melissa Koch would like to split class due to concerns of large size.

Preschool—38 students currently enrolled. (29-4 year olds, 9-3 year olds). There are five openings for the 4 year olds and one opening for the 3 year olds. State inspection is due anywhere from October – December. Seventeen of the children currently use the Heartland bus to facilitate either going to or from school. Seven of the children are on scholarship. Budget is being held at the same amount of \$16,500.00.

Adult Education – Classes are currently being held at various times and on various topics.

Pastor Report – Seven adults are currently attending the adult instruction class.

Old Business

Children's Christmas Program– December 22 during the 10:30 service time.

Fall Sunday School Rally went well.

Teacher Training classes are available online, free of charge for teachers, on CPH.org.

New Business

Sunday School - No Sunday school will be held on December 29. Additional help is still needed for substitutes and teachers.

Church Properties: Went over kitchen update on what is remaining to be done and how things are working. Mike Riewer fixed a roof leak in the boiler room. Discussed a few other minor repairs around the church and on equipment. Completed Church Properties budget for 2020.

Elders: Assigned communion assistants for open spots in November. Discussed budget items.

Evangelism: Six flat rate boxes of coffee creamers, cookies, snacks, crackers, and magazines were packed up and will be shipped to Chaplain **Bain's APO address this week.**

Confirmation mentors have been secured. Some mentors will be mentoring two or three students. Letters of information will be sent to confirmands and mentors prior to the October 23 Pizza Party.

Deb Luther will secure facilitators for the October BINGO event at Diamond Willow.

Doug Kingsley will transport the Recovery Bibles to the Hubbard County Jail.

After lengthy discussion concerning the mailing of monthly caring cards to inactive members, it was decided to revisit this ministry. The pastors will let us know how we can assist them when they begin to activate a somewhat different approach to ministry to inactives.



Parish Fellowship: Old Business: Pastor Appreciation Sunday is October 13. Laurie Kimball is making the refreshments and our board will take care of the beverages and clean up.

New Business:

Budget for 2020 was voted on and approved at \$550.

New member welcome will be held Sunday, November 24 between services. Julie Kingsley will check on the price of purchasing kuchen from the bakery in Nevis. Our board members will also each furnish two dozen cookies. Elayne Luiken will check with Ginny Ranisate to see if she will be sending invitations to the new members.

The November voters meeting will also be Sunday, November 24. Our board will facilitate and serve a potluck luncheon after the second service, with the meeting to follow after the meal.

Our board will prepare and serve the Wednesday night meal during Advent on December 11. We'll plan the menu at our November meeting.

Public Relations: did not meet.

Stewardship: did not meet.

Young People: We discussed keeping the budget the same as last year and reported that to Ginny.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will start again soon.

October Events:

10/4 Homecoming Tailgate

10/26 Movie and Pizza, 5-8:30 p.m.

10/27 Newsboys concert in St. Cloud

10/29 Thrivent food canvassing for the Food Shelf, 3:30-5:00 p.m. (putting out door hangers with instructions for people to put food outside for us to collect the following Saturday, November 2). *(Event cancelled.)*

November Events:

11/2 Food Drive, 10:00 a.m.-through lunch (collecting food that people put outside after seeing the door hangers) *(Event cancelled.)*

11/3 Food Drive at church, 8:00 a.m. -10:45 a.m. The youth will man a table in the Narthex, collecting non-perishables. *(Event cancelled.)*

11/30 Sky Zone -meet at church at 2:45 p.m., return around 7:30 p.m.. *(Time changed to 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.)*





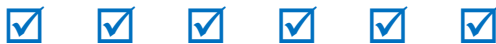
Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance—September

- PK3 Kellan Eidsmoe
- PK4 Thatcher Eidsmoe, Colton Nilson
- 1st Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 2nd Clinton Koch, Alex Lof, Sophia Neubauer
- 3rd Zachary Harju, Khloe May, Kolt Safratowich
- 5th Max Harju, Aiden May
- 6th Kolie Safratowich
- 7th Vivian Harju

October

- PK3 Kellan Eidsmoe
- PK4 Thatcher Eidsmoe
- 1st Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 2nd Alex Lof, Sophia Neubauer
- 3rd Zachary Harju, Khloe May
- 5th Maxwell Harju
- 7th Vivian Harju



Our Offerings:

- September \$68.44
- October \$51.67

This year our Sunday School offerings are going to Lutheran Island Camp.



Happy Birthday!

- 11/03 Khloe May
- 11/06 Kaitlyn Maves
- 11/15 Zachary Harju
- 11/15 Hailey Meier
- 11/20 Gemma Leckner
- 11/21 Thatcher Eidsmoe
- 11/28 Jedidiah Kruchowski
- 11/29 Ryan Maves

Baptismal Birthdays

- 11/18 Kolie Safratowich
- 11/20 Luke Eskola
- 11/20 Kiften Luther
- 11/26 Kale Ravnaas



A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3 **Hannah**

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" Luke 1:46-47 **David**

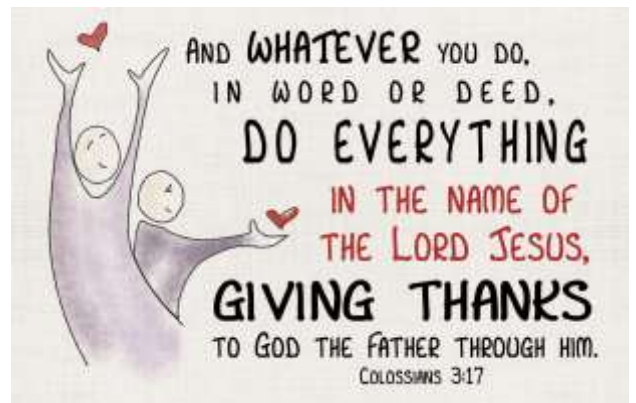
"He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2 **Mary**

"My heart rejoices in the LORD " 1 Samuel 2:1 **Paul**

"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30 **Moses**

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David

Memory Verse—November





Main Street Living North Programs for November

“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.



November 3: **Rev. Philip Beyersdorf, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Minot, ND**, presents the message: **“Saints Washed in the Blood”** based on Revelation 7:9-17. The **“This Is The Life”** program is: **“Cell of Hope”**- Flag Washington (Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs) gets a new cellmate Jimmy Stricklin (Richard Dinitri) who is obnoxious. Washington, who came to Christ while in prison, is tested and they come to blows.

November 10: Rev. Tom Marcis, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: **“Life out of the rut”** based on Exodus 3:1-12. The **“This Is The Life”** program is: **“Undertow”**-Harry (David Ogden Stiers) loses his daughter to drowning. In his grief, he blames the lifeguard, Jim (Gil Peterson). The loss turns to anger towards Jim who also is struggling with the loss of his wife, just a year earlier.

November 17: Vicar Chris Durham, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: **“Raise up your heads because your Redemption is drawing near”** based on Luke 21:5-28. The This Is The Life program is: **“The Healer”** -**Dave Forman (Gary Collins) is a dynamic “faith healer” who becomes** angered by the drowning death of his daughter. His grief becomes too great when a father asks him to heal his diabetic daughter.



November 24: Rev. Don Fondow, MN North District President, presents the message: **“Thanks for EVERYTHING!”** based on Deuteronomy 26:11 and I Thessalonians 5:18. The This Is The Life program is: **“Flames of Hate”**-Betty Blackwood (Angie Dickenson) is stuck between the man she loves, Art (Ed Kemmer), and her obsessive father, Nate (Edger Dearing) who disapproves of Art. But when they elope, her father cuts them off completely.

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice Starts Next Month

Sunday School Christmas program practices will take place on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 for kids ages Kindergarten-6th Grade. Sarah Kaufenberg will pick them up from Century School, give them a snack and then rehearse until 5:00 p.m. Please call or text Sarah at 651-260-3350 so she can add your child to the bus list. Preschool kids are invited to rehearse with us on Saturday, December 21 from 10:00 a.m.—noon. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 22 at the 10:30 a.m. service.





(Continued from page 7)

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Neubauer:

Currently doing an Adult Class. Started a book club – Upside down Spirituality by Chad Bird – that ran for four weeks. Plans are to do the same book in January. Confirmation – Seven 8th grade students. Release Time – 24 – 7th Grade students. Has been doing member visits.

Sarah Newton (Pastor Newton read in her absence):

Women's Bible study began again in September. We are going through a book called Pew Sisters, a compilation of stories of God's faithfulness in the lives of women in LCMS congregations across the country.

I am once again teaching a 2nd grade class for Release Time! We have another great and high energy group of kids this year. Many thanks to Vickie Helm and to everyone else who helps watch George and Norah during that time!

Sunday School Teachers small group Bible study is waiting to hear on details for when everyone is available, starting in January.

Young Adult Study - we hope to schedule something soon, now that we are into a good daily routine with the new baby.

Pastor Newton:

General—**Pastor of the Weekend:** - June 14-15 at Lutheran Island Camp. Held five family night bonfires. Attended Fall District Pastors Conference, September 8-11 at Lutheran Island Camp. Dr. Joel Heck **presented on Creationism. We're doing** *Bring It Home and Highlight It*. Attended Post Seminary Applied Learning Support, Brainerd – October 6-8.

Release Time—teaching nine 3rd graders (Bible) and twelve 8th graders (contemporary issues).

7th Grade Confirmation Class—Eighteen students. Just began the Ten Commandments.

Continued study for Masters of Sacred Theology in August. Intended completion is winter 2021-2022. Classes include Contemporary Ethics, Reformation and Humanism, German.

Young People—Youth and a pastor from the S.E.L.K. (Independent Evangelical – Lutheran Church of Germany, with who the LCMS is in full altar and pulpit fellowship) joined us for some fun activities and service project at LIC – July 7-10. Thanks to Randy and Lori Griess for hosting, and all who helped welcome them! National Youth Gathering, July 10-15 with five high schoolers. Tubing on the Crow Wing, July 23. Lunch with high schoolers (5). Kayaking with the Ketchers, August 5 (Thanks, Keith and Diane!) VBS – August 5-9. Got to teach the Bible lesson time. Movie afternoon (rained out at Evergreen Park, 12 attended). Lock-in – September 13. Homecoming Tailgate, October 4. October 26 Fall Fun and Movie Night – pizza provided. Skyzone in November, looking to team up with Rev. Voigt and Trinity, Bemidji group.



Personal—Newton Family 40th anniversary celebration – July 3-7, Galena and Rockford, IL. Norah Elizabeth Rose born August 16, baptized September 22. Thanks to everyone for your generous gifts! Sarah, George, and Norah are all doing well (Norah is sleeping through most nights!) Visited our friends the Freudenburgs in Sioux City, IA – September 27-29 (5th Sunday).

Board Reports

Elders—Jerry Grudem

The Elders continue to monitor and assist the Pastors with the shepherding of our congregation.

Evangelism—Connie Fondow

The board has assigned 19 new confirmation students to mentors from the congregation most of whom will be mentoring two youth. One mentor will be in contact with three of these confirmands. The first Pizza Party for students and mentors will be held on Wednesday, October 23.

Monthly BINGO sessions at Diamond Willow are continuing with the board organizing dates and facilitators.

Six flat rate boxes were sent to Chaplain Bain in Kuwait. Plans are underway to send Christmas boxes at the end of November. Christmas booklets and military devotional/prayer booklets have been purchased and will be sent to Chaplain Bain to share with soldiers he encounters.

Recovery Bibles were purchased and taken to the county jail for inmates to use. The board agreed to make this purchase a yearly commitment.

The board will spearhead St. Johns participation in the community Toys for Boys and Girls program. Bulletin/newsletter info will be disseminated in the future.

The board has made the pastors aware of its willingness to be involved with a scheduled program for visitation of shut in members or those who would be appreciative of a regular visit.

Christian Education—Lori Griess

Release Time—At this time, we have approximately 135 students registered. Starting date was September 25. All teachers returned. Budget was reviewed and no changes are expected at this time. Note to congregation – due to number of students we can always use extra teachers and helpers.

Sunday School—New curriculum was approved. As with any program, additional class time would be helpful to cover all the material. Shelley Lof accepted the position of superintendent. As with Release Time, additional teachers, subs, and helpers are always needed. Need to encourage younger members

and parents to help with our educational programs. Children's Christmas Service will be held on

December 22 during the 10:30 a.m. service time. No Sunday School will be held on December 29.

Preschool—We have started the year with a total of 36 students. State inspection is due anywhere from October – December. Seventeen of the children currently use the Heartland Bus to facilitate either going to or from school. Seven children are utilizing scholarship program. Budget is being maintained at the same amount. Approved a pay raise as presented for the teachers and aide.

Adult Education —Classes are currently being held at various times and on a number of topics. Seven adults are currently attending the adult instruction class.

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

Other Business—New board members are Sandy Phillips, Melissa Koch, and Tori Harju.

Young People—Brandi Backmann – **see Pastor Newton's report.**

Church Properties—Brad Dahn

Kitchen project is pretty much completed and just tying up a couple of loose ends.

The bus brakes and a few other things that went along with that are fixed. Thanks Larry Hetrick for staying on top of that!

New rugs have been put down in front outside and in the east door inside.

Mike Riewer has fixed a small roof leak and replaced a stop sign, along with his other duties. Thanks, Mike!

Budget for 2020 has been completed.

Stewardship—Pam Heeren

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 \$1,441.22. Any overage from the TV and projector will be paid from Thrivent Choice Funds.

The bus needed major repairs on the back brakes. The estimated cost of the repairs was \$2500, 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 \$1350 from \$1,000. The additional monies are needed for bank costs associated with the online collection option.

Parish Fellowship—Elayne Luiken

Our board held an open house baby shower for Sarah and Pastor Newton on Tuesday, July 16. Polka Fest was Sunday, September 8. We served approximately 100 people at the potluck lunch after the service.

We sponsored a reception for Pastor Appreciation Sunday on October 13. There was a special **recognition program for Pastor Neumann's 60th ordination anniversary and Pastor Neubauer's 25th ordination anniversary.**

Public Relations – no report

Old/New Business

Kitchen remodel — There will be a celebration for the nearly completed kitchen between services on November 3. The loan for the project will become active in the next few days. The committee was able to save some interest by not drawing funds from the loan at the start of the project. Still asking for donations toward the project.



Budget — Reviewed the proposed 2020 budget. One additional line item was added to cover the loan payment for the kitchen remodel totaling \$6000 (\$500/month) in the Church Properties section. Total proposed budget is \$507,951 up from the current budget of \$493,825. Motion by Lori Griess to approve proposed budget to be brought before the voters. Second Brad Dahn. Carried.

Reviewed the agenda for the November 24 voters meeting.

Next PPC meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2020. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Potter

Are You Participating in Bring It Home and Highlight It?

We're four weeks into the fourteen week "Bring It Home and Highlight It" program. This program from Minnesota North District builds upon last year's "Bring It Home" program. Each week we 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. If you haven't joined in yet, there's still time to start. Each week's assignments are short so it's easy to catch up.

There's a couple ways to get your weekly inserts. You can go online to mnnlms.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. We have copies for the previous weeks also.



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!

A Bell for Jessanna

You could say that handbells have always been a part of Jessanna Goodwater's life. Her mother, Jackie, was in the bell choir while she was pregnant with Jessanna. Baby Jess came to practice with her mom and slept in a bell case while Jackie played. As Jessanna grew she played in the Children's Chime Choir and the Junior Bell Choir. As an adult, she joined the Senior Bell Choir. Recently, Jessanna had to retire from the Senior Bell Choir and we're sorry to see her go. To commemorate all her years as a "ringer," director Vickie Helm had the B6 bell handle inscribed, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Phil. 4:13—
Jessanna Goodwater.





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The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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Inside this issue:

<i>For All the Saints</i>	1
Let's Celebrate and Give Thanks!	1
<i>Welcome, New Members</i>	1
<i>Voters Meeting—November 24</i>	1
<i>Book Club is Back</i>	2
<i>Blood Drive This Month</i>	2
<i>Put an MP3 BibleStick in the Hands of a Veteran</i>	2
<i>Thanksgiving Services</i>	2
What's on the Lutheran Hour	2
<i>Come Sing Christmas Songs with The Senior Choir</i>	3
<i>Adopt A Chap Update</i>	3
<i>A Note of Thanks from Chaplain Bain</i>	3
<i>Youth Trip to Sky Zone</i>	3
<i>Stewardship Corner</i>	4
<i>Build and Bid on a Basket</i>	4
<i>Stewardship Review</i>	5
<i>Have You Tried Our Online Giving Option?</i>	5
Can't Get to Church? Watch It On DVD	5
<i>Why We Do What We Do in Release Time</i>	6
<i>Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes</i>	7
<i>Board Highlights</i>	8
<i>Sunday School News</i>	10
<i>Main Street Living North for November</i>	11
<i>Sunday School Christmas Program Practice</i>	11
<i>Are You Participating in Bring It Home and Highlight It?</i>	15
<i>A Bell for Jessanna</i>	15

