



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

St. Johns  
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

January, 2020

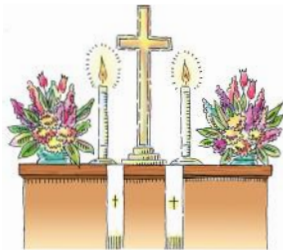


## **Christmas Undecorating**

We plan to take down the Christmas decorations on Monday, January 6 starting at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and rolls will be served. The decorations went up. Come and help out to take them down!

## **It's Time to Renew...**

...your Lutheran Witness subscription. The cost is \$22.56 for a one year subscription. There is a special Lutheran Witness envelope in your offering packet. Please put your name and address on the back of the envelope to help us double check for correct information. Deadline to turn in subscriptions is January 26.



## **Sign Up for Altar Flowers in 2020**

The 2020 Flower Chart is posted in the front lobby. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on one or more Sundays, please sign up on the chart. You will receive a reminder call the week before you are scheduled to provide flowers.

## **Life Sunday**

Sunday, January 19 is Life Sunday. We believe that life is a precious gift from God from conception to old age and on this Sunday we especially focus on life. We will also have a special door offering for our local Pregnancy Resource Center which provides assistance for those who are facing an unplanned pregnancy.



## **Ladies Aid Moves Meeting Date and Time**



The Ladies Aid has moved their monthly meeting date and time to the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. instead of the first Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Their next monthly meeting will be Thursday, January 9 at 1:00 p.m.



## Ponderings from the Pew



It was a cold and blustery winter's night. The chill burrowed deep into her soul as she stared out at the snow-covered landscape... (record needle scratching across the surface!)

We interrupt this program to bring you yet another repeat of every article before this one. Yes, folks it's true, I'm about to tell you yet again how much God loves and cares for us. There's nothing new in the message here. It's the same message we hear every Sunday. And why? Because we are humans who seem to forget who we are faster than butter melts on hot pancakes.

Even those of us who've learned the hard lessons of how fragile our lives are from the most difficult life experiences, from the death or serious illness of loved ones, or any number of life's twists that force us to face our frailties, we still quickly revert. We complain about insignificant stuff. We take our families – children, parents, spouses and friends for granted. We say hurtful things. We fail to be grateful. We don't savor the moments and people that matter because we believe they will always be there. Cancer, death, car accidents, the horrible – it all happens to other people, not us. Except it does. It does happen, and then we stand in shock wondering how we got here. When it does fall apart, we are changed, and we see everything differently, but too soon, we are right back to overlooking the blessings in front of us.

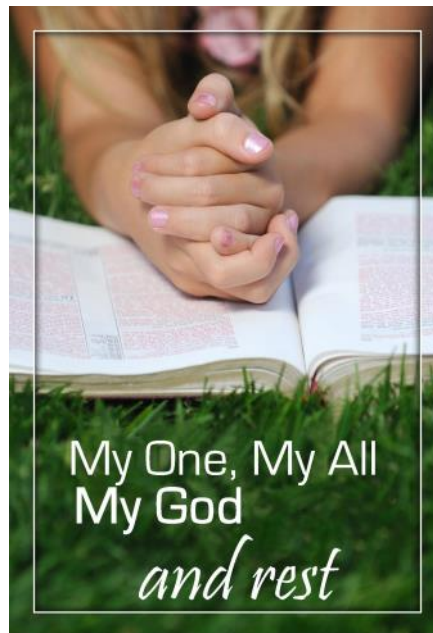
Through it all, God never leaves us. Through it all, He never ignores our prayers. God never steps away. Even though we forget Him, He doesn't forget us. Even when we are angrily railing at Him for not doing what we think He should, God does not turn away. When we are happy, God is there. When we are content, God is there. When we stumble, God is there. When we wail, **God. Is. There.** Take your refuge in Him. Take your joy in Him. Guard your hearts and minds in Him and look for the blessings that surround you even in the dark.

One thing's needful – God. Psalm 73:26 declares, “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Life is hard for everyone, but God is our hope. Isaiah 49:4 says, “But I said, ‘I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.’” Put yourself in God's care in whatever you experience. When you are happy, thank Him. When you are grieving, grieve with Him. Ups, downs and in betweens – do it knowing and recognizing God's presence in it all.

Remember always Whose you are. “Wilt thou find this one thing needful, turn from all created things unto Jesus and be heedful of the blessed joy He brings. For where God and Man both in one are united, with God's perfect fulness the heart is delighted; there, there is the worthiest lot and the best, my One and my All and my Joy and my Rest” (The Lutheran Hymnal #366.)

To God alone be the glory!

**Renee Anderson**





## Main Street Living Programs This Month



If you haven't checked out Main Street Living, this month is a great time to do so. Programs are broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on KVRP Fargo-Moorhead or you can watch all of the archived programs at any time on line! To reach the website for archived programs you will first need to go to the MSL Network site at [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) and then click on "North" to reach the Main Street Living site.

January 5: Rev. Bernie Seter, Zion English Grafton, ND, Trinity Lutheran Church, Drayton, ND, St. John Lutheran Church, Crystal, ND, presents the message: "Who is in Charge Here?" based on Ephesians 1:3-14. "This Is The Life" program is: "A Friend in Deed," which explores the Christian's duty to forgive those who have done us wrong.

January 12: Rev. John Bumgardner, St. John Lutheran Church, Red Lake Falls, MN, presents the message: "To Fulfill All Righteousness," based on Matthew 3:13-17. "This Is The Life" program: "God of Love," illustrates that we as Christians all have responsibilities to bear.

January 19: Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Niagara, ND, Grace Lutheran Church, Lakota, ND, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND, presents the message: "Jesus Revealed," based on John 1:29-42. "This Is The Life" program is: "Adrift," which discusses the effectiveness of children who witness for Christ.

January 26: Rev. Thomas Puffe, St John's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Warren, MN, presents the message: "Matthew 4:16," based on Matthew 4:12-25. "This Is The Life" program: "The Hand of God" deals with making opportunities from problems.



### What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 1/05 "Mercy In This Dojo"
- 1/12 "People are Treasure"
- 1/19 "Unforgettable"
- 1/26 "Call It a Comeback"

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).

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."

### † Funeral

12/12/19 Melvin Noeske

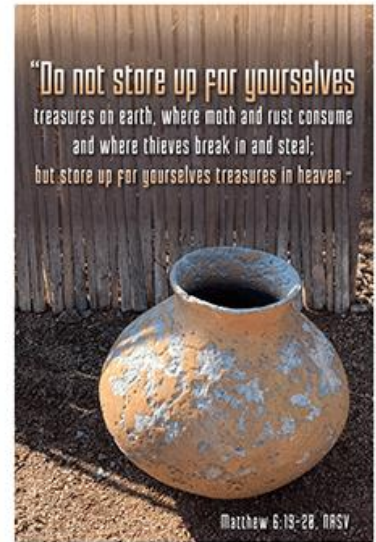




## Stewardship Corner —*Eternal Treasures*

An old epitaph reads, “What I gave, I have; what I spent, I had; what I kept, I lost.” Obviously, this person had much wisdom. He realized that, during his life, only that which was given to the Lord had any lasting value. The things he had purchased while alive were used up and gone, and the possessions he owned at death were of no good to him then.

Speaking to this subject, Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21, “*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*” Jesus said that treasures on earth would not last. The cars we buy will become dented and end up in the junkyard. The clothes we wear will wear out. Jesus said that we are to store up treasures in heaven or as the epitaph reads, “What I gave, I have.”



Jesus tells us how to store up treasures in heaven. “*Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail...*” (Luke 12:33). This is a radical call to use our goods not only for ourselves but also to help other people. Giving to those in need is a way that we store up treasures in heaven. What are these treasures? Well, what is the only thing that goes to Heaven? Is it gold and silver? Maybe stocks and bonds? How about that car or mansion? No! The treasure is people! God is blessed and honored through our faithful giving. Through our giving, the Gospel is preached and taught, and souls are saved.

In a quote from Joe Seaborn we read:

*In a real sense, giving to the cause of Christ is nothing more or less than laying aside eternal investments so that when we stand before Christ in heaven, we have gold, silver, and precious stones that we have been laying at His feet all along. The crown that we talk about laying at His feet will just be one more thing that we give, our final offering, in a long string of offerings that began long before.*

May God grant us the wisdom and then the strength to store up for ourselves treasures in heaven rather than treasures here on earth.

## We Need Offering Counters



Are you good with numbers? Love to use an adding machine? Detail oriented? Then we could really use you! We need more offering counters. Each team of two usually counts the offerings one Sunday a month. It's an interesting and sometimes challenging job but vitally important to our congregation. What good are all those offerings if they aren't organized, counted, credited to contributors and deposited to be used for the work of the church? If you feel the call to crunch some numbers, please talk to Ginny and she will give you details.



## Stewardship Review—November

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **238**

Total Offerings: <b>\$35,227</b>	Total Offerings, November, 2018: <b>\$35,531</b>	Budget/Week <b>\$9,497</b>
Total Expenses: <b>\$37,124</b>	Total Expenses, November, 2018: <b>\$36,575</b>	Budget/Month <b>\$41,152</b>
Difference - <b>\$1,897</b>	Difference - <b>\$1,044</b>	

Avg. Weekly Offerings <b>\$8,807</b>	Total Offerings, year to date: <b>\$395,794</b>
Avg. Weekly Expenses <b>\$9,281</b>	Total Expenses, year to date: <b>\$408,021</b>
Difference - <b>\$474</b>	Difference - <b>\$12,227</b>

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 11/30/19: <b>\$15,831</b>	Our Healthy Balance Goal <b>\$74,000</b>
Less dedicated accounts - <b>\$869</b>	Raised so far <b>\$42,497</b>
Difference <b>\$14,962</b>	Still need <b>\$31,503</b>
Kitchen Remodeling Payable + <b>\$46,727</b>	
<b>\$61,689</b>	

## Thanks from Chaplain Bain

Back in the first part of December we sent five boxes of snacks and Christmas booklets to Chaplain Bain. Here's a letter we received from him.

*We received the boxes you sent. They were greatly appreciated. Shortly after opening them, I penned a letter and sent it off to the church. There seems to be a bit of a lag in mail heading back that direction. Hopefully it arrives soon. Rest assured, your ongoing support has been a huge morale booster this season. For many of our Soldiers, this is the first time they have been deployed over the holiday season or deployed as a married Soldier or now deployed and married with children. We are a collection of unique individuals with just as many unique stories. The time and effort you and the congregation have invested in touching our lives over the past couple of months has been a blessing for all of us.*

*I pray that God continues to pour His blessings upon all of you as we journey once again, by faith, to a small stable in an out-of-the-way village, to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!*

*Have a blessed day.*

**CH (CPT-P) Vince Bain**  
 TF Hellhound  
 184 OD BN (EOD)  
 Camp Arifjan, Kuwait  
 "For God and Country"





## Voters Meeting Minutes—November 24, 2019

Meeting called to order by Executive Director, Dr. Rod Helm. Roll call showed 49 voters in attendance as well as a number of confirmands. Motion, seconded and carried to reinstate Pam Heeren and Carol Sievers into voting membership. Motion, seconded and carried to accept Carol Dahn and Victoria Harju into voting membership.

Motion, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the June 4 and June 23, 2019 voters meetings as printed in the newsletter. Opening devotions led by Pastor Neubauer.

Treasurer's Report was read by Ginny Ranisate.

Our income so far this year is \$387,422 and expenses are \$398,494 with expenses exceeding income by \$11,072. Last year at this time our income was \$374,055 and our expenses were \$354,631 with income exceeding expenses by \$19,424. We are \$31,503 short of our goal of \$74,000 for Healthy Balance. \$60,000 has been transferred from the T. Haberer Trust in the LCEF account to a certificate of deposit at Citizens National Bank. The interest rate is the same. This was done to secure a lower interest rate on our loan for the kitchen remodeling. At this time no funds have been used from the loan but I plan to move the current amount payable (\$47,361-less any contributions made before then) by the end of the year. We will have to start making payments including interest in January. The financial aspects of the kitchen remodeling will be discussed further later in the meeting.

CNB Checking Account	16,044
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>- 791</u>
Available Funds	15,253
Kitchen Remodeling Payable	<u>+ 47,361</u>
	62,614
CNB Dedicated Funds Savings	36,456
LCEF Current Fund	107,062
Less Parsonage Proceeds	- 18,548
Less Healthy Balance	- 42,497
Less End. Fund Interest	- 1,393
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	- 21,453
Less T. Haberer Trust	- 18,928
Less R. Haberer Memorial	- <u>1,158</u>
Available Funds	3,085

Motion, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

### Board Reports

#### *Elders Report* – Jerry Grudem

Everyone is getting older so the elders continue to assist the pastors with the administration of their congregational duties and also assist with communion.



### *Evangelism Report – Connie Fondow*

The Board of Evangelism has engaged in the following activities and has sponsored the following events in the past 6 months:

Nineteen new confirmation students were assigned to mentors from the congregation most of whom will be mentoring two youth. The first pizza party for confirmands and mentors was held on October 23.

Monthly BINGO sessions at Diamond Willow are continuing with the board organizing dates and facilitators. If you are interested in assisting us with BINGO please contact one of the board members.

Six flat rate boxes were sent to Chaplain Bain in Kuwait. Additional boxes will be packaged and sent tomorrow. Along with the snacks furnished by congregational members, we will be sending military devotional/prayer booklets that Chaplain Bain will be able to share with the soldiers he encounters. Release Time students made beautiful Christmas cards for the chaplain to distribute as well. Thank you to Laurie Kimball and the Release Time staff.

Recovery Bibles were purchased and taken to the county jail. The board agreed to make this purchase a yearly commitment as they are very positively received by inmates.

The board will spearhead St. Johns participation in the community Toys for Boys and Girls and Tiny Tots program. Please take notice of the tree with ornament requests at the front church entrance. Thanks to Doug and Julie Kingsley for taking care of the logistics for this project on a yearly basis. Please return items by December 8.

The board is discussing the possibility of sponsoring another Trivia event in March, 2020. If we find out that there is enough interest from the congregation for participation in a Trivia event, we will begin organizing. Please let a board member know if you are interested in either sponsoring a table or getting a table group together.

Bernice Hinds asked if we do anything with left over/used Portals of Prayer. At this time we do not. Doug Kingsley volunteered to take any leftover/returned copies to the jail for ministry there.

### *Board of Christian Education - Lori Griess*

Release Time: Started this year with a current enrollment of 138 students. All teachers from last year returned. Thank you to Lois Just for all her help with making sure all supplies are ready for the teachers. No class will be held on November 27, 2019.

Sunday School: Sunday School started on September 8. New CPH curriculum was approved for this year. As with all previous years, it is difficult to find a program that works for all grade levels. Currently Connie Fondow is adjusting her class program to work with her class. Shelley Lof accepted the position of superintendent. Children sang in church in October. Children's Christmas Service will be on December 22 during the 10:30 a.m. service. No Sunday School will be held on December 29.

*(Continued on page 12)*



# Board

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Christian Education:** Approval of November Minutes with the clarification of adding 1st and 2nd grade to the age group that Connie teaches for Sunday School.

### Reports:

Release Time, VBS, Adult Education, and Pastor- no reports or topics for discussion were presented.

**Sunday School:** Reviewed the upcoming class topics and the number of children involved with the Christmas Program.

**Preschool:** Enrollment numbers are staying consistent- Nine 3 year olds and 28 in the four year old class. Parent teacher conferences went well. Once again the classes designed the placemats for the Community Thank Meal. Forty different pictures were designed by the children and copied onto the placemats that are used. December 19 thru January 5 will be Christmas break.

### Old Business

Reviewed Children's Christmas Service and notes from the Voters Meeting.

### New Business

Discussed the low attendance in Sunday School and what we, as a congregation and board can do to increase attendance. We welcome any ideas that members of the congregation may have.

Christmas Cards will be sent to the teachers thanking them for all their hard work and help.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2020.

**Elders:** no report.

**Evangelism:** did not meet.

### Parish Fellowship: Old Business:

We serve the Advent evening meal on December 11. Loree Grudem will pick up the ingredients for two hotdishes, carrots, bread and dessert.

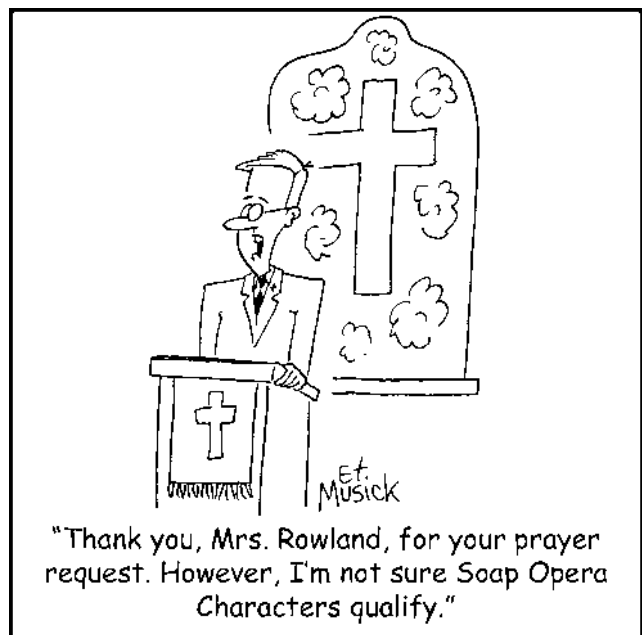
Cookies and Carols will be Sunday, December 15 between services. St. Johns members are asked to bring a dozen or two of their favorite Christmas cookies to share. Mike Poole will lead the singing and Cheryl Hilgemann will accompany. We will make plates of cookies to deliver to our shut-ins and other elderly members.

### New Business:

Christmas decorations will come down Monday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m.

**Young People:** no report.

**Church Properties, Public Relations and Stewardship:** did not meet.







## Pastor Neumann Retires

December was Pastor Neumann's last month for visiting our shut-ins here at St. Johns. He has been faithfully doing these visits ever since he and Donna moved up here in 1999. In addition to monthly visits, he also taught the Wednesday morning Bible study and conducted worship services when needed.

Both he and Donna have been generous with their time and talents at St. Johns. They've also counted offerings and Donna has been a vital part of our music ministry over the years.

We are thankful for them both and wish God's continued blessings on them in the future.



## Celebrating Vickie Helm's 40 Years with the Bell Choir

At coffee time on Sunday, December 22, Vickie Helm got a surprise "thank you" for her 40 years directing St. Johns Bell Choir.

Pastor Fondow spoke about how it all started when he and Connie arrived at St. Johns in 1979 and suggested starting a bell choir. We received a bequest from the Ed Gamm family and other donations to purchase the handbells and Vickie became our director. Over the years, we've grown from three octaves of handbells to five octaves and hand chimes. Vickie has directed the Senior Bell Choir, Chime Choir, Junior Bell Choir and High School Bell Choir. She also became a representative for Malmark (the company that makes our bells) and traveled around the area, selling handbells and training several churches how to play.

Thanks to Vickie's hard work and determination, we've been blessed over the years with this beautiful gifts that has enriched our worship and life at St. Johns in so many ways!



The bell choir presented Vickie with an inscribed music box bell.



Vickie with present and past bell ringers.



# Sunday School News

## Perfect Attendance—December

- PK3 - Kellan Eidsmoe
- PK4 - Thatcher Eidsmoe
- 1st - Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 2nd - Clinton Koch, Alex Lof
- 3rd - Khloe May
- 5th - Max Harju, Aiden May

*Great job!*



- 1/7 Ava Kimball
- 1/11 Peightyn Walker
- 1/24 Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 1/25 Cody Cypher
- 1/28 Bria McMahon
- 1/29 Mason McCarthy
- 1/29 Anna Neyens
- 1/30 Lilah Forbes

## Baptismal Birthdays

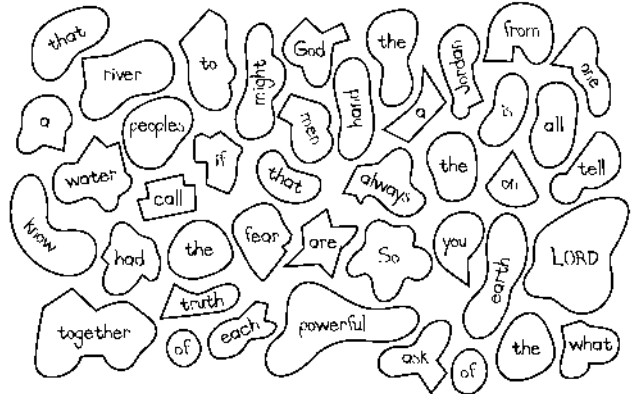
- 1/04 Sawyer Harvey
- 1/10 Adelynn DeVore
- 1/11 Maxwell Harju
- 1/24 Thatcher Eidsmoe
- 1/28 Abby Eskola



## Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

## Lessons this Month

- January 5 *Wise Men Worship—Magi*
- January 12 *Claimed and Tested—Jesus' Baptism & Temptation*
- January 19 *Fishers Follow—Jesus Calls Disciples*
- January 26 *The Wine Sign—A Wedding at Cana*



# THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS

The Sunday School students and Senior Choir did a wonderful job on “The Colors of Christmas” program December 22. Thanks to everyone who participated and attended!



## Christmas Choir Thanks

Thanks to our Christmas choir members who sang this year during our Sunday School Christmas program this year! I had a great time working with you this fall and all your hard work paid off. Thank you so much!

*Sarah Kaufenberg*

## And Sunday School Thanks

A BIG THANK YOU to all the kids and Sunday School teachers who helped make our "Colors of Christmas" a great Sunday school Christmas program. We had a great time making ornaments each week, singing great songs and eating great snacks. Thank you,

*Sarah Kaufenberg*



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Vacation Bible School: Thank you to Sarah Kaufenberg for serving as director. There were 48 students who attended. 81 people attended the meal for the closing on Friday.

Preschool: Started the school year with 36 students, currently have 37-nine students in the three year old class and 28 in the four year old class. Parent teacher conferences were held on November 19 and 21. This year there was an increase in requests for scholarships. State inspection was held on October 24 and passed with no issues.

Other: There are numerous Bible studies available for the congregation, offered at various times during the week. Seven adults attended the adult instruction class. Added Tori Harju, Sandy Philips, and Melissa Koch as board members. Lori Griess will serve as chair. Many thanks to Ruth Knaack for her years in this position.

*Board of Young People – Brandi Backmann*

The last half year has been another active one for our youth. Here is a quick re-cap of what we have been up to.

June - Biking to Dorset with mini golf and ice cream.

July - We started by hosting a group of German students who were attending the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis - This was an amazing trip and we are looking forward to the next gathering to be held in Houston, TX July, 2022. Thank you again to the congregation for your amazing support that allows our youth to experience this event. We also went tubing down the Crow Wing River.

August - Kayaking and movie afternoon.

September - Lock-in with games and food.

October - Homecoming tailgating and an outdoor event with hayride

November - Sky Zone cancelled due to remodeling. It's been rescheduled to December. We will have a movie and pizza on November 30.

December – Sky Zone trip on December 22. Will do luminaries again.

*Board of Church Properties – Brad Dahn*

Kitchen remodeling project went very well and ended up very close to budget. One of the worries of remodel projects are the unknown things that you run into as the project evolves. The biggest one was the ceiling for us, it turned out to be as good as we were hoping. No visible current leaks and nice and dry. So there was insulation added and a new ceiling installed. A few more things to be done but is winding down.

The bus needed brakes and seals replaced late this summer. It cost more than what we figured because it is a heavy duty truck chassis. We are going to carry over the year end remaining budgeted balance for repairs into the next year to try to even this out.



We have been working on many small repairs around the church as needed. Mike Riewer does so many of these along with his other duties as church janitor. Thanks Mike!

A couple of new rugs have been added in the entry area.

*Stewardship Board – Pam Heeren*

The board hasn't met since June. They approved a request from Pastor Neubauer to purchase a television and projector. They discussed financial considerations for repairing the bus brakes. They went over the budget and increased their budget to cover additional cost for envelopes and online donation fees.

*Parish Fellowship Board – Elayne Luiken*

Our board hosted a baby shower for Sarah and Pastor Newton on July 16. We facilitated and served a potluck meal after the Polka Fest service on September 8. Our board served refreshments between services on October 13 for Pastor Appreciation Day. We served during coffee hour today for new member welcome and served the potluck meal before today's voters meeting. Upcoming events include Christmas decorating of the sanctuary and fellowship hall Monday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. and Cookies and Carols between services on Sunday, December 15. Dr. Helm thanked the board for organizing the potluck meal.

Elayne also reported that we had 117 donors who provided 147 blood products at our blood drive November 4 and 5. We exceeded our goals both days.

*Public Relations – no report. Most of this is handled by the church office.*

Motion, seconded and approved to accept board reports.

### **Pastor Neubauer's Report**

Membership Changes: Motion, seconded and carried to approve transfer in of Jim and Alice Sieving from Zion Lutheran of Avilla, Alexander, AR. Motion, seconded and carried to accept Megan Eskola by adult baptism. Motion, seconded and carried to accept Mackenzie Laferriere by adult confirmation. Motion, seconded and carried to accept Tina Amiot, Dee Dierks and Rhonda Eskola by affirmation of faith.

Health Update: Ablation seemed to work but the he had a bad Afib event in July and will be undergoing a more in-depth ablation some time in the future. He also had a cortisone shot in the knee.

Worship: Working on the Advent theme.

Teaching: Did openings and closings for Vacation Bible School. Led adult instruction class this Fall. Sunday morning Bible study is going through the Catechism. Started a Monday noon book club. First book was Upside Down Spirituality. He would like to do another session with this book at a different time.

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*(Continued from page 13)*

Currently reading *The Screwtape Letters*. Tuesday morning class has made it through the first two Chapters of Luke. He teaches 3rd (9 students) and 7th grade (21 students) Release Time. He has seven students in 8th Grade confirmation.

He is working on doing more home visits/communion.

ABC Preschool: Helped with registration/open house and devotions.

District/Regional Events: Served as Pastor of the week at Lutheran Island Camp in July. Participating in a monthly online study of a Synod document *In Christ All Things Hold Together*. This is a video conference held once a month through the school year except for December and March.

### **Pastor Newton's Report**

General: He was "Pastor of the Weekend" June 14-15 at Lutheran Island Camp. Hosted five family night bonfires. Attended the Fall District Pastors Conference, September 8-11 at Lutheran Island Camp. Dr. Joel Heck presented on Creationism. Promoted *Bring It Home* and *Highlight It Two*. Attended Post-Seminary Applied Learning Support, Brainerd October 6-8. Teach nine 3rd graders and twelve 8th graders for Release Time. Teaching 7th Grade Confirmation Class with 18 students. Continued study for Masters of Sacred Theology in August. Intended completion is Winter 2021/22. Current classes: Contemporary Ethics, Reformation and Humanism, German.

Young People: Mainly covered under Young People report.

Personal: Attended Newton family 40th anniversary celebration (July 3-7), Galena and Rockford, IL. Norah Elizabeth Rose was born August 16 and baptized September 22. Thanks to everyone for your generous gifts! Sarah, George, and Norah are all doing well (Norah's sleeping through most nights!) Visited friends (the Freudenburgs) in Sioux City, IA, September 27-29 (5th Sunday). Got to go hunting this year (thanks, Roger Hanson, Jerry Grudem, and Keith Ketcher!)

He also extended special thanks to Dustin and Shelley Lof for going above and beyond to get their vehicle repaired and on the road again.

### **Deaconess, Sarah Newton's report**

Women's Bible Study began again in September. We're 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.

Sarah is 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 help to watch George and Norah during that time!

Sunday School Teachers Small Group is planned for the third or fourth Thursday of every month, beginning in January, at our house.



We hope to schedule something soon for young adult Bible study, now that we're into a good daily routine with Norah.

Motion, seconded and carried to accept pastors and deaconess reports.

### **Old/New Business**

*Kitchen Remodeling:* Connie Fondow reported that the kitchen project is almost complete. They plan to reconfigure the card cabinet instead of building a new one which will save some money. We may have Darchuk's do some modifications to the dishwasher counter. Other items left to complete are replacing the pocket door and extending the counter in the social hall to accommodate carts. Total cost so far was about \$57,600. We have received donations of \$10,239 (including sale of stove and freezer). Thank you to everyone for the donations. Please keep the project in mind for future donations. Connie thanked all the committee members who worked on the project.

*Budget:* Dr. Helm presented the proposed 2020 annual budget of \$507,951. He went over each section and explained the plan to pay \$500 each month for a total of \$6,000 per year on the kitchen loan. Any donations that come in for the kitchen will be applied to the principal (paid on loan in addition to budgeted amount of \$500/month). Motion by Ken Schroeder, second by Jody Yliniemi to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.

*Synodical Constitution Amendment:* Pastor Neubauer explained that the reason for the amendment was mainly to shorten the constitution by replacing a listing of all possible commissioned workers—director of Christian education, teacher, etc.—with the more general term, commissioned workers. His recommendation was to approve the amendment. Motion, seconded and carried to approve the amendment as presented.

*Pastors Parsonage Allowance:* Motion by Jody Yliniemi, second by Lori Griess to approve the following resolution for pastors parsonage allowances: *RESOLVED, that St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a parsonage allowance for Pastor Neubauer in the amount of \$24,000 and for Pastor Newton in the amount of \$24,000 per year.* Jerry Grudem suggested that the resolution should be clarified to indicate this is part of the pastors' regular salaries. Jody amended the motion to include: These amounts are included in the salary of both pastors. Motion carried.

Pastor Newton said a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned. Closed with Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Ranisate, Acting Secretary



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Lutheran Church**

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*Pastor James Neubauer  
Pastor Joel Newton  
Pastor Bill Neumann*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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**Return Service Requested**

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