



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

March, 2020

Our Lenten Focus is “Letters from God”

This Lenten season instead of sermons the pastors will read us letters from God, more specifically six of the Epistles. In place of the usual scripture readings, we'll hear some background on each letter. During the usual sermon spot, the pastors will read the letter to the congregation. This is how the original recipients would have received it. There will also be an outline that includes info to take home for further study. Join us for worship each Wednesday at noon with lunch served by the Ladies Aid after the service or come at 5:00 p.m. for a meal and worship at 6:00 p.m. Here's the letters for each week:

February 26 **I Thessalonians**—Watchfulness
March 4 **James**—Living Faith
March 11 **Philippians**—Rejoice
March 18 **Colossians**—Christ Alone
March 25 **I Timothy**—Be Faithful
April 1 **Ephesians**—Saving Faith



March is Food Share Month



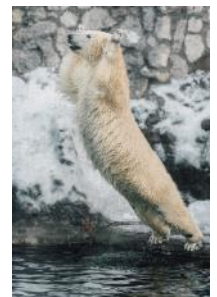
March is the Minnesota Food Share Campaign. St. Johns is proud to be working with the Park Rapids Area Food Shelf to raise food items and dollars for our local families. For three weeks in March, we will be asking the congregation to please bring in different items for the food shelf. There will be a collection table in the narthex.

- Week One (March 8) is Souper Week...bring in cans of soup, vegetables, tuna, etc.
- Week Two (March 15) is Lend a Helping Hand Week. Please bring in boxes of mac and cheese, hamburger helper, pasta meals, etc.
- Week Three (March 22) is Be a Sweetheart Week. We are asking for items that can be shared in a sweet way... cake mixes, frosting, pancake mix, muffin or bread mixes, cereal, etc.
- Finally, on Sunday, March 29, we will be hosting a “Noisy Offering” during coffee fellowship to collect cash for local food shelves.

Thank you so much for supporting of our local families! If you have questions or concerns, please contact Michelle Koch (218-732-5099).

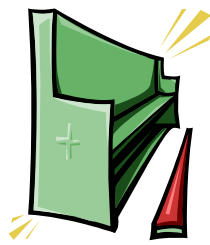
Pastor Newton Still Plans to Plunge

The annual polar plunge at Lutheran Island Camp has been officially cancelled but Pastor Newton and some youth still plan to jump into some frozen water. They are collecting pledges to help send our youth to the 2022 National Youth Gathering. We're also planning to video the event and show it between services on Sunday, March 15 in the social hall. The Board of Parish Fellowship will serve frosty root beer floats to go with the video.





Ponderings from the Pew



There's a meme that regularly makes the social media circuit. It says, "When you feel you're drowning in life's situations, don't worry, your Lifeguard walks on water."

We've been swimming recently with Owen and Ella (in a hotel pool of course – it's Minnesota, people!) It is so much fun to see them thoroughly enjoying themselves. Initially, Ella didn't have floaties and was held in our arms. It took her a while to warm up to the idea of being in the pool. Then it took three pairs of supposedly responsible adults' eyes to keep her out of the pool! She decided she loved it as much as Owen. The second time we went, we purchased a set of arm floaties for her. In short order, she was bobbing in the water just as comfortable and relaxed as she could be. She didn't have a doubt in the world that two silly looking inflatable ducks would keep her head above water. Ok, so maybe the logic isn't quite there for a one year old to have that doubt but still – it was pretty impressive how calm she was. So, this got me thinking about the meme mentioned above.



"When you feel you're drowning in life's situations, don't worry, your Lifeguard walks on water." Well, yes, He does; literally in fact. In Matthew 14:28-33 we read, "And Peter answered Him, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately

reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'" That's a good question for us when life's situations overwhelm us. We tend to thrash around, looking for a way to save ourselves. As it turns out, the way to save ourselves is to look to Jesus Who is always right there with us in the storm. Hebrews 13:6 reminds us, "So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" And Isaiah 41:13 states clearly, "For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the One who helps you.'"

God holds us up when we are drowning. He is our Lifeguard, our lifeboat and our life saver. His faithfulness will never deflate or fail. He keeps us afloat – no matter what.

To God alone be the glory!

Renee' Anderson



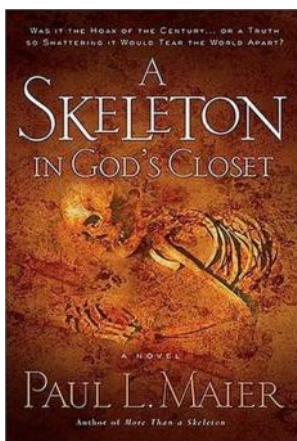


Get a Great Deal on Greeting Cards

Check out the greeting cards in the social hall. Prices went up to \$6 with our current order but you can still get the boxes we had before for \$5. This is a great deal! Compare getting twelve cards for \$5 versus one card at the store for that much. There's a great selection for all occasions. You can drop your payment in the slot in the cupboard or at the church office.

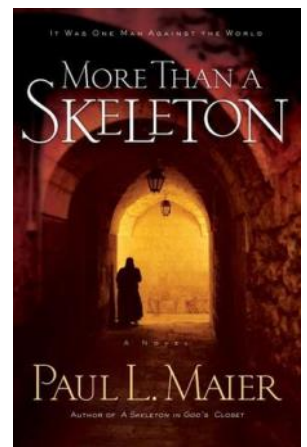


Next Noon Book Club is a Double Header



Pastor Neubauer's next noon book club is "A Skeleton in God's Closet" and it's sequel, "More Than A Skeleton" by Paul Maier. Here's the basic premise of "Skeleton" - When an ancient skeleton is discovered in Israel, will it shed new light on the life of Jesus or plunge the world into chaos? "More" explores the question, "What if Jesus made an unexpected appearance before His final coming?"

Pastor Neubauer is planning to have the group meet for four weeks on Mondays at noon, starting March 9 to discuss these two fictional books. If you're interested in joining the group, please talk to Pastor Neubauer.



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 3/01 "Singled-Out but Not Alone"
- 3/08 "Upon Further Review"
- 3/15 "Gracious Confiscation"
- 3/22 "They Bloom Later"
- 3/29 "Reckless, Raging Fury"

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 133 on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and any time on lhm.org/sentradio.

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

A Big Bake Sale Thanks!

A big "Thank You" to everyone who brought and bought for the Death by Chocolate Bake Sale! We raised \$750 for St. Johns music ministry!



Funeral

02/08 Carol Valtinson





Stewardship Corner—*Jesus Is Most Important*

In his book, *The Best Is Yet to Come*, John Kieschnick tells the story of Bob Buford. He writes, “Bob Buford owned a cable television company, and God richly blessed his business. Wealth and power, however, didn’t fill the hole in Bob’s life. He had a nagging sense of emptiness, so he went to a psychiatrist. Bob shared his dilemma, and the psychiatrist told him, “Bob, I want you to go home and take out a piece of paper and a pen. Draw a box, and in that box write the words that describe the most important thing in your life.”



What do you suppose Bob wrote in his box? What would you write in your box? What is your highest priority in life?

Before we put our answers in the box, let’s reflect on our thoughts in relation to Bob’s emptiness. As Christians, we understand that wealth and power do not fill our emptiness nor give us the security and happiness that Bob was seeking. As our faith grows, we learn that true riches have nothing to do with money. We can have very little money and be very rich or be very wealthy and be impoverished. True riches have to do with a right relationship with Jesus Who, through His death and resurrection, brings us happiness, contentment, joy, love, peace, and life everlasting. Material possessions do not constitute real riches.



Material things are transitory. What we possess materially is subject to loss in a variety of ways. Our wealth can be lost in the stock market or through rust, obsolescence, and thievery. No matter how much money we may have, we have no way of guaranteeing that it can be kept safe and secure. Money can be lost, stolen, or its purchasing power lost through inflation. Investments can decline in value and businesses can fail. Our property can be burned or robbed. All material things can be gone quickly. Even if our material things stay with us, we will eventually leave them, because, at the end, we can take nothing with us.

God had blessed Bob materially, but he was still feeling empty with no purpose. Through faith, we understand that what we need most is a relationship with Jesus Who is the only Person Whose love and forgiveness can give us all that we need. So, in response to the psychiatrist’s question as to what is the most important thing in our life, our answer in the box is “Jesus!”

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 Ranisate and she will give you details.





Stewardship Review—January

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 208

Total Offerings: \$29,210	Total Offerings, January, 2019: \$26,824	Budget/Week \$9,768
Total Expenses: <u>\$39,305</u>	Total Expenses, January, 2019: <u>\$38,954</u>	Budget/Month \$42,329
Difference - \$10,095	Difference - \$12,130	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$7,303	CNB Checkbook Balance: \$44,654
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,826</u>	Less Dedicated Accounts -\$999
Difference - \$2,523	Difference \$43,655

Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000	Kitchen Principal Payable \$37,577
Raised so far <u>\$42,766</u>	
Still need \$31,234	



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.



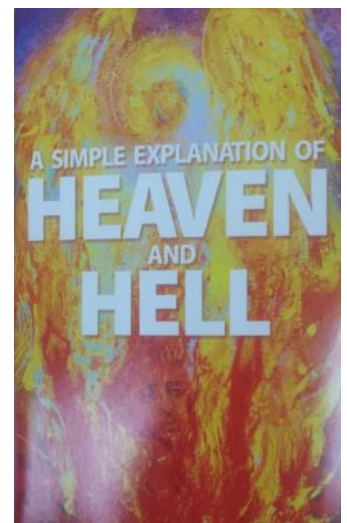
Or, if you’re not an online person, try automatic offerings. This option is great for those who are gone a lot, work weekends or just need to beat the rush of heading out the door on Sunday morning. You can choose a frequency that works for you. Stop in or call the church office for details.

A Simple Explanation of Heaven and Hell

Concordia Publishing House has come out with a new booklet all about heaven and hell. It’s a small booklet that covers in plain English topics such as heaven, hell, purgatory and the resurrection. You can pick one up from the tract rack in the front lobby.

If you’re looking for more quick reading and practical applications about a variety of topics, check out CPH’s “5Things...” series in the church library. They’re on the rack along the south wall. There’s also a lot of other great books and videos in our church library.

Check something out the next time you’re at church!





Give Blood Here



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, March 16, noon – 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 17, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 255-4865 or go online to www.vitalant.org, sponsor code: parkrapids.

We also need volunteers to help with the drive. If you can bring bars or cookies, work at registration, or help out in the kitchen, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex next to the church office, or call Elayne at the number above.

Please help us with this important, life-saving effort!

Adopt A Chap Update—Soldiers Love Coffee Creamers!

Greetings,

My latest mission has been completed and I am back at our HQ. I am very pleased to share that the coffee creamers have arrived and are a big hit with our formation. I am always amazed at how such a small gesture can make such a big impact on one's day.

We continue to remain thankful for the congregation's generous support throughout our deployment. It has been a true blessing.

You shall remain in my prayers as we begin the process to come home. Hopefully we will be back for the Easter celebration. That would be a great way to transition back to the home front. Please pray for us as we bring our mission to a close and redeploy soon.

Have a blessed day!

CH (CPT-P) Vince Bain
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
"For God and Country"



**Vacation Bible School
is coming in August.**

Watch for more information!



Test Your Knowledge about Lent

1. What biblical event does the time of Lent represent?

- A. The forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God (Exodus 24:18)
- B. Jesus retreated into the wilderness, where he fasted for forty days, and was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-2, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-2)
- C. The forty days and nights Elijah spent walking to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8)
- D. The forty days and nights of rain after Noah, his family and the animals went into the ark (Genesis 7)

2. Which is the first day of Lent?

- A. Ash Wednesday
- B. Valentine's Day
- C. Shrove Tuesday
- D. Maundy Thursday

3. What is the original meaning of Lent?

- A. Autumn
- B. Spring
- C. Fast
- D. Penance

4. Which is the last Sunday of Lent?

- A. Easter Sunday
- B. Whit Sunday
- C. Palm Sunday
- D. Pentecost Sunday

5. Lent is known to be 40 days long even though from Ash Wednesday to the last Saturday of the season it is 46 days. Why?

- A. Sundays are not included
- B. Mondays are not included
- C. Counting error
- D. Saturdays are not included

6. How is the ash for Ash Wednesday traditionally made?

- A. By burning palms used during previous Palm Sunday
- B. By burning logs
- C. By burning books
- D. By burning clothes

7. What color are the paraments (the cloths on altar, lectern, pulpit and pastors' stoles during Lent?

- A. White
- B. Green
- C. Purple
- D. Black

Find the answers on page 8.



Board



Christian Education: did not meet.

Church Properties: did not meet.

Elders: did not meet.

Evangelism: Boxes were mailed to Chaplain Bain in Kuwait containing coffee creamers, pocket flags, and 100 Easter Story booklets.

The total cost was \$124. Any congregational member wishing to contribute to this cost may leave a check with Ginny Ranisate. The board is grateful for any support for the project.

The board discussed the possibility of gifting the "Dawn's Room" funds to the Family Safety Network. They are the replacement for the Headwaters Intervention Center and provide assistance to women in domestic abuse situations.

The next Confirmation Mentor/Mentee gathering will take place on April 15.

The board plans to visit members who are unable to attend Sunday worship ("shut ins"). Linda Leckner and Vickie Helm will crochet small cloths with a cross pattern. An attached prayer message along with St. Johns info will be included in a gift bag. More details will be discussed at our next meeting.

Deb Luther continues to coordinate the Diamond Willow BINGO events. Next date set for February 25.

The board plans on organizing a Trivia event with a date TBD.

Parish Fellowship: Our board is scheduled to serve supper during lent on Wednesday,

March 4. Elayne Luiken will try and get extra help for serving.

The confirmand meal will be Wednesday, April 29. Menu will be: taco bar, fresh fruit salad, chips and salsa, ice cream sundaes, coffee and lemonade.

Public Relations: did not meet.

Stewardship: did not meet.

Young People: did not meet..

Handy Information:

Usual Office Hours:

Monday –Thursday 8:30 a.m-5:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.-Noon

Church Phone Number: 218-732-9783

Church Fax Number: 218-237-9785

Church Address: 803 West First Street,
Park Rapids, MN 56470

St. Johns Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor Neubauer: revneu@gmail.com

Pastor Newton: pastorjoelnewton@gmail.com

Sarah Newton: sarah.ludwig@cuw.edu

Sarah Kaufenberg: kaufenbergSarah35@gmail.com

Ginny Ranisate: stjohnsprrofficemanager@gmail.com

Julie Warmbold: asecstjohnspr@gmail.com

Prayer Chain: Bev Spoor 732-4308
Anna Johnson 573-2164

Lent Quiz Answers

1. B, 2. A, 3. B, 4. C, 5. A, 6. A, 7. C



Two Types of Tubing Trips for the Youth

Recently, our youth (and some adults) got to do some tubing in swimsuits and snowsuits. On January 26, a bus load of kids and adults went to Three Bears Water Park in Brainerd. They had a great time and enjoyed some pizza before heading home.

On February 23, the bus took another load of kids and adults to Detroit Mountain near Detroit Lakes for snow tubing. It was perfect weather for sliding and everyone had a great time.

A big thanks to our volunteer bus drivers, Larry Hetrick and Jerry Grudem, for driving us!





Sunday School News



Perfect Attendance—February

1st	Wyatt Goodwater
2nd	Alex Lof, Sophia Neubauer
3rd	Zachary Harju
5th	Aiden May
7th	Laura Kaufenberg, Leo Kaufenberg


Great job!



3/01	Cash Luther
3/02	Hunter Schroeder
3/5	Kryton Nilson
3/07	Rachel Ulvin
3/12	Jordyn Hanisch
3/13	Wyatt Goodwater
3/16	Walter Harrison III
3/20	Sophia Gauthier
3/25	Ketch Luther

Baptismal Birthdays

3/01	Harlow Komppa
3/04	Anna Neyens
3/09	Hailey Meier
3/10	Eli Maves
3/10	Kaitlyn Maves
3/16	Mason McCarthy
3/20	Kelly Kimball
3/22	Gavin Smith
3/27	Gunar Clark



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.

A type of horn	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURTETP
Played by King David	<input type="checkbox"/>	PRHA
Plucked to make sound	<input type="checkbox"/>	IGSNSTR
Similar to a tambourine	<input type="checkbox"/>	MRBELIT
A type of harp	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELRY
Blown through to make sound	<input type="checkbox"/>	EPPI
A percussion instrument	<input type="checkbox"/>	YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Lessons this Month

March 1 A Hearing Aide—Jesus Heals A Deaf Man

March 8 A Mercy-Full Message—The Good Samaritan

March 15 A Prayer Lesson—The Lord's Prayer

March 22 A Shepherd Loves—The Good Shepherd

March 29 A Tree View—Zacchaeus



“Main Street Living North” for March, 2020:

“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 KVRN Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1.

Here’s the programs for March:

March 1: Rev. Adam Harvala, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, presents the message: “Sweet Merciful Relief,” based on Psalm 32:1-7. “This Is The Life” program is: “Man Adrift,” a Fisher Family episode that discusses the relationship of faith and works.

March 8: Rev. Jacob Wagner, St. John's Lutheran Church, Vergas, MN, presents the message: “Change !?!?!” based on Gen. 12:1-9, Rom. 4:1-8, 13-17, John 3:1-17. “This Is The Life” program: “Time Out for Bill.” What is proper when Christians face adversity?

March 15: Rev. Robin Fish Sr., Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (Verndale), MN, presents the message: “True Blessedness,” based on Luke 11:14-28. “This Is The Life” program is: “A Gift for Grandpa.” Freddie goes to great lengths to get a gift for Grandpa Fisher and learns valuable lessons along the way.

March 22: Rev. Steve Schulz, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: “Blinded by the Light,” based on John 9:1-14. “This Is The Life” program: “Boy on the Fence.” Young Tom is faced with a dilemma as he chooses new friends when his family moves to the city.

March 29: Rev. Kevin Mann, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Henning, MN, presents the message: “Life from Death,” based on John 11:1-53. “This Is The Life” program: “The Sin of Roy Baxter” deals with a man who is overcome with guilt, after making a decision that goes terribly bad.

If you don’t get KVRN you can watch the Minnesota South District version of Main Street Living on WFTC Channel 29 at 9:00 a.m. This month’s programs are:

March 1: Rev. Dr. Brent Klein’s (Trinity Lutheran Church in Northfield, MN) message is “Tempted for You,” based on Matthew 4:1-11.

March 8: Pastor Jesse Davis from Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN will preach on “Jesus Brings Life by New Birth,” based on John 3:1-7.

March 15: Pastor Jon Niebuhr’s (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe, MN) message is “Saved by His Life,” based on Romans 5:8, 10.

March 22: Pastor Doug Minton’s (Blaine, MN) message will be based on selected verses from John 9.

March 29: Pastor Robert Gehrke from South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake, MN will preach on “Grieving Sisters,” based on John 11:1-45.



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 and then click on “North (Fargo)” or “Twin Cities.”





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Knaack



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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**"To err is human, to forgive, divine,
and well, I've done my part."**