



# The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns  
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

May, 2020

## COVID 19—Are We Done Yet?

It seems like ages ago since “sheltering in place” became our new normal. We learned how to live stream, do online meetings, make and wear face masks, home school while working from home, and how to get along with family members while we’re all together all the time. But now, the novelty and can do attitude is kind of wearing off. We’re ready to get back to our normal lives, especially with summer coming. As of right now, we’re waiting to see if the stay at home order is lifted. If it is, hopefully we will be able to worship together again, although with modifications. If the order is extended we will continue as we have been until the order is lifted.



Once again, if there’s anything we can help you with, please give us a call (732-9783) or email. Hoping to see you soon!

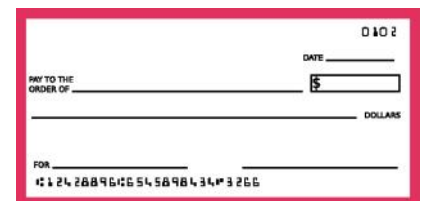
## DVDS Available



DVDS of worship services are now available. If you know someone who would like to watch worship on DVD please give us a call or email. We can mail them or they can be picked up. We also have a few portable DVD players. These are all in one. You watch the service right on the player. No need to hook anything up to your television!

## What Are You Doing with Your Stimulus Check?

One of our members is planning to donate theirs to the church so it can be used to help people who are struggling financially right now, especially our fellow members. If this sound like something you would like to do, please give us a call, stop in or email. On the other hand, if you’re dealing with financial issues, please let us know. We have funds available to help.



## Congratulations, Graduates! Maybe



The Class of 2020 is waiting to hear if and when they will graduate. Our graduates are Gabriel Arola, Dominik Backmann, Keegan Heegard, Kora Just, Autumn Mitchell, Keegan Moses, Daniel Neubauer, Kaden Safratowich and Kayla Sowers. Please keep them in your prayers as they head out into the world.



## The 40 Days of Easter

We started a new Bible Study on Sunday, April 26 which looks closely at the 40 days from the resurrection of Jesus to His ascension. There are many questions we will address such as:

- \* How many women went to the tomb?
- \* How many angels were present?
- \* In what order did the events of that first Easter happen?
- \* Who saw Jesus first?
- \* How do the Gospels all fit together?
- \* How do we deal with the variations?

*The 40 Days - The Gospel Accounts in Parallel*

In order to have all the events of those 40 days in one place, Pastor Neubauer made a pdf with the Gospels in parallel. You can download a copy on our website, stop into the church to pick one up or call and we will mail one to you. In preparation for the Bible Study, he asks that you read each Gospel account all the way through carefully. You might want to have some paper with you to make notes and write down questions that come up as you read them. If you want to try your hand at putting together the events, especially of Easter morning, go ahead. Don't be surprised if you run into some hiccups!

*Here is the basic outline for the Bible Study:*

### Reading the Bible

- Eyewitness accounts
- Objective Truth
- Clear Details, Assumptions, and Things Unspoken

### Pulling it Together

- Resurrection Morning
- Resurrection Evening
- The Rest of the 1st Week
- The Rest of the Appearances

To join the class on Sunday morning go to our website and click the *Sunday Morning Bible Class* tab. You can also watch a live stream on our Face Book page.



## Confirmation On Hold Until Fall



Confirmation classes were put on hold in March. The pastors considered different options to continue confirmation instruction but decided to end classes for the year and pick up where they left off in the Fall.

The Rite of Confirmation is planned in October on Reformation Sunday.



## Main Street Living for May

Main Street Living—This 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 KVRr Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1. This month’s programs are:

May 3: Rev. Chris Waldvogel, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: “Our Suffering Shepherd” based on I Peter 2:18-25. This Is The Life program is “The Big Little Lie.” Curiosity and a little “white lie” results in very serious unintended developments for the Fisher family.

May 10: Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Perham, MN, presents the message: “A Life of Worship” based on I Peter 2:2-10. This is the Life program is: “To the End of Time.” A physicist working on nuclear weapon development is confronted with the reality of the weapon, the utility of radiation and the blessing of Christian hope.

May 17: Rev. Matt Tooman, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton, ND, presents the message: “You Need the Holy Spirit,” based on John 14:15-21. This Is The Life program is: “A Face from the Past.” A man struggles to come to terms with the memory and feelings of guilt with his estranged father.

May 24: Rev. Jim Meyer (CRM), St. John’s Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN, presents the message: “Are You In?” based on John 17:1-11. This Is The Life program is: “Love is Not Enough.” A young couple struggles mightily with the decision to marry, exploring what truly is important.

### What’s On The Lutheran Hour

- ◆ 5/3 "Rescue, Test, Rest"
- ◆ 5/10 "Stand a Little Taller"
- ◆ 5/17 "Words Matter"
- ◆ 5/24 "Life After Rescue"
- ◆ 5/31 "Jesus Doesn't Babble"

◆ 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).

◆ 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.”

◆ May 31: Rev. Allen Kramp, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hope, ND, and St. John Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, ND, presents the message: “Rejoice in the Spirit of God’s outpouring in Jesus!” based on Acts 2:1-21. This Is The Life program is: “A Different Way.” In this Fisher Family episode, Cousin Stanley visits and creates a difficult situation with a neighbor.

◆ If your cable doesn’t have KVRr, you can watch a different version (different pastors, mainly from Minnesota South) on WFTC out of the Twin Cities, on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.





## The Carport Took A Hit

Back in March we had a successful blood drive. Everything went great until the blood drive team got ready to leave. The driver of the big truck misjudged it's height and ran into the carport causing some serious damage. A claim was filed with their insurance. It looks like the whole carport will probably need to be rebuilt. Currently we're waiting for a report from the structural engineer before any work can start. Watch for updates!



## We're Trying Something Different for Church Yard Clean Up



Typically in May we have a church yard clean up day. This year Church Properties Director, Brad Dahn, decided to try something new. He made a list of several jobs that need to be done. The list will be posted on our website and available here at church. Everyone is invited to check it out, pick one or two chores and come and do them when it works for them. That way we'll be able to "social distance" and still get everything looking great. We hope you'll check it out and find a chore or two to do.

## Update from Chaplain Bain

Greetings,

I am pleased to report that our unit has safely returned to Fort Campbell. We are now in a self-quarantine status, awaiting clearance from our medical providers.

Thanks be to God, everyone is healthy and doing well. We are certainly glad to be home.

Thanks for checking and have a blessed Easter season!

V/R, CH Vince Bain





## Stewardship Review—April

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 6

Total Offerings: \$36,415	Total Offerings, April, 2019: \$46,323
Total Expenses: <u>\$37,748</u>	Total Expenses, April, 2019: <u>\$40,711</u>
Difference -\$1,333	Difference \$5,612



Avg. Weekly Offerings \$9,104	Budget/Week \$9,768
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,437</u>	Budget/Month \$42,329
Difference - \$333	

Kitchen Payable \$36,967

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 04/27/20: \$43,642	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts - <u>\$882</u>	Raised so far <u>\$44,006</u>
Difference \$42,760	Still need \$29,994

## A Huge Thank You!

Thank  
You!



Our church family here at St. Johns is a group of generous souls. People have dropped off and mailed in their offerings. Several people have tried the online giving options. Because of you, our current financial situation is more stable than we had hoped. The Parish Planning Council was very concerned about the effect of COVID 19 and took steps to ensure that we would be able to pay our bills. You can read more about that in the PPC minutes in this issue.

In the words of St. Paul, “We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 1:2,3).

## Parish Planning Council Special Meeting COVID-19 – Payroll Protection Program, April 5, 2020

Meeting via goggle meet – in attendance – Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton, Jerry Grudem, Rod Helm, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter, Mike Poole, Brad Dahn, Connie Fondow, Brandi Backmann, Lori Griess, Elayne Luiken and Pam Heeren. Kathy Henry was asked to join later in the meeting

Call to Order --Rod Helm, Executive Director. Opened with prayer- Pastor Neubauer. Rod reviewed some of the information from the meeting in March.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss whether St. John’s Lutheran Church should apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) grant/loan at this time. The loan/grant is to be used towards Salaries, retirement, utilities ---Available April 3rd --- Synod suggest that we participate in the program Low interest loan --- Kathy Henry called Pastor Neubauer to let him know that the program was available and thought we should look into it.

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*(Continued from page 5)*

Mike and Julie have not been working – Mike is on paid leave due to grandchild care and Julie has decided to resign her position. Sarah Kaufenberg --- is looking for direction on what to do about her job as director of music --- how can she help as she has less to do without Services, choir, and Sunday School

Ginny Review financial situation since last meeting

Citizens Bank Checking	44,887
Citizens Dedicated Savings	40,657
LCEF Current Fund	108,646
LCEF Endowment Fund	22,200
Citizens Certificate of Deposit	60,000

Income from Offerings –

March 22 3200  
March 25 1500  
March 29 2900

Online giving is up. Ginny thinks we are better than most business. March is down but not excessively from last year.

The question is ---if we want to participate in the government program. The unknown --- this would take a vote from the voters – but can't due to the stay at home order. 1% interest – must be paid back in 24 months --- 6 months are deferred – so actually 18 months if we defer monthly payments for 6 months. You can apply until June 30th. Of course, it is unknown whether the monies will run out if we wait.

Each director was called on to give their option, concerns, suggestions and questions on how to come to a decision regarding the financial stability of the congregation and whether the Payroll Protection Program was something we should apply for.

Below is a list of concerns/questions/remarks

if it is a loan or possibly a grant -- we are taking on cost that we should not have to bear. We are on our own. I don't see taking on a loan there will be questions from members either way – why did we take the loan --- or why didn't we apply for the loan. We (the PPC) are the branch of the congregation that makes the decision. Continue to trust the Lord

we should use what we have .... not take out the loan  
the hospital board meeting – Hubbard County is very aware – 6—8 weeks is when they think our big jump in COVID-19 ---

have taken out a SBA -loan-- not a fun process --- SBA has more power than Banks --- if you pay it off early you may not have a penalty but you may not get the same interest that you received at the start of the loan --so really there is a penalty

I am on the fence --- how many members won't be able to continue giving at the same rate.

Hearing some distrust in government

synod and district are going to apply

synod lawyers have reviewed the application – they said go for it

hesitant to how it is worded

Can apply until June 30th



Can we get a Local Bank Loan – Church extension fund --- LCMS Foundation Grants  
valid points by all --- for those members out of jobs it will take them awhile before they are able to give --- a  
lot of members with have a constant salary – referring to retired members  
should the elders be involved in this decision?

Do we need the loan to cover expenses? If we don't....don't apply

Google form is a way to vote –

trust is a challenging thing --- either way gambling with or without money from loan/grant.

google forms – anonymous vote

There is no revelation for this --- we had a good discussion. Prayerful consideration to do this or not. Not  
clear on vote with congregation --- long term good of the congregation. Above all we trust in God to provide.  
not a bad idea to apply for grant/loan

we are not unified enough so we need to meet again.

Kathy Henry joined the meeting – the “PPP” is a program to keep people employed...the loan is forgiven  
when you prove that monies went to the appropriate expense ( salaries, health benefits, utilities i.e.) and that  
you sustained your employees. This loan program is from the local bank not SBA– the monies are guaranteed  
by the government/SBA to the banks.

There are worksheets available to walk through the loan process and to better understand -- -Kathy will email  
to Rod --- interest rate 1% - must be paid in 18 months after a 6-month deferred payment. The timeline to  
receive the monies is relatively fast once the application is approved. No payback unless you don't keep  
employees.

Jerry will have a conversation with the Elders, so they are aware of what has been discussed regarding the PPP.

April 14th meet again Tues --- 6:30 pm

Kathy suggested that Ginny prepare a projected budget for the next 6 months, based on current expenses and  
if income stays the same as March 2020. Then the PPC can have a visual as to what could happen financially if  
we do not apply for the loan.

Since there was a lot of discussion and very good questions, concerns and information to think about, it was  
decided to postpone a vote on the issue and meet Tuesday, April 14th --- 6:30 pm.

Pastor Neubauer --- thanked the PPC for a good meeting with difficult decisions to make– and that he has  
been blessed with this congregation.

Adjourned.

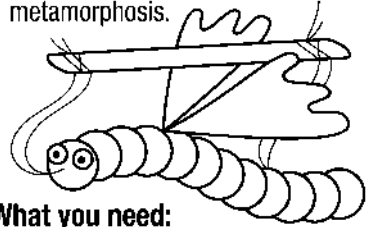
Respectfully  
Shirley Potter, Secretary



# Sunday School Page

## CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



### What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

### What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



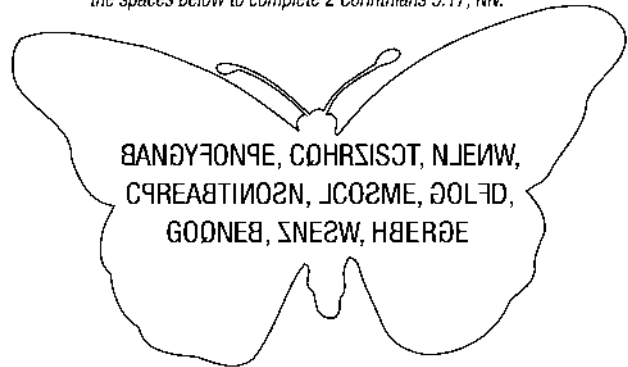
## Transformation POWER



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here



### Happy Birthday!

- 5/03 Emma Mayer
- 5/04 Ava Glatzmaier
- 5/04 Gavin Etter
- 5/09 Olivia May
- 5/11 Elsie Forbes
- 5/26 Bonnie LeGrand
- 5/26 Marcella Trandem
- 5/27 Brock Knutson

### Baptismal Birthdays

- 5/04 Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 5/04 Gemma Leckner
- 5/06 Clinton Koch
- 5/11 Eastyn Walker
- 5/13 William Sanquist
- 5/24 Elsie Forbes
- 5/24 Lilah Forbes
- 5/26 Wyatt Goodwater
- 5/26 Nicklaus Sowers
- 5/28 Jacob Lof
- 5/30 Walter Harrison III
- 5/31 Khloe Harrison





## PPC Special Meeting – April 7, 2020

Call meeting to order Rod Helm. Present via google meeting: Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton, Jerry Grudem, Rod Helm, Shirley Potter, Mike Poole, Brad Dahn, Connie Fondow, Brandi Backmann, Lori Griess, Elayne Luiken and Pam Heeren. Call to Order --Rod Helm, Executive Director. Opened with prayer- Pastor Neubauer

Shirley read minutes from April 5, 2020 - special meeting. Jerry Grudem – motion to accept minutes as read. Brad Dahn second. Motion Carried

Pastor Neubauer contacted Rod after a sleepless Sunday night and said that he felt we should act sooner than later. Recommending to apply for the loan at \$40,000.

Connie asked that Jerry speak to the issue that you don't want to take a lesser loan than what was available. Jerry stated --Can't imagine not taking out the loan for the maximum amount to cover payroll for the next 8 weeks. This is an application for a grant --- no cost to us --- -not applying for a loan. Connie --- if we adhere to the policy of the grant – feels we won't be paying anything --- it will be a grant. Jerry ---we are applying for grant- We (all US taxpayers) will be paying it back through our taxes not as a loan payment. We have concluded that there is no strings attached. Connie – it becomes an insurance policy. Use it if we need it.

Our monthly operating expenses are approximately \$33,000.

Pastor spoke on how he arrived at the \$40,000 --- thinking we could use the Healthy Balance to cover the other \$30,000. Another reason why not to take the full amount -- We shouldn't take any more than we need --- as we don't want to take away from anyone else applying. Only 10% of operating budget of the year. This is a onetime application – The govt may re-evaluate and offer more funds

Rod – I am not recommending being reckless – but I am for the grant. Connie is for it --- but is uncomfortable. There was much discussion in regard to calling the PPP a “loan” or a “grant”. It was the understanding of all the we will receive the loan, and that the loan would be forgiven. So therefore, a grant. Pastor Neubauer spoke regarding the Constitution of the Church

**Connie made the motion.** In light of the government restriction regarding meeting in groups of any size due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, we, the members of the Parish Planning Council of St. John's Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, MN authorizes Dr. Rod Helm to sign the application for a loan offered by the United States government to provide financial assistance to maintain employees and operating expenses. The amount of the loan requested would be \$60,000- plus or minus \$5,000 -initiated at Citizens National Bank under the Paycheck Protection Program in cooperation with the Small Business Administration. Second Lori Griess

Rod asked if there was any more discussion – no further discussion. Roll call vote – unanimous – motion carried Mike Poole, Jerry Grudem, Brad Dahn, Elayne Luiken, Brandi Backmann, Lori Griess, Connie Fondow, Pam Heeren, Rod Helm

To the voters, please know that this was not a decision that we the PPC made without much discussion and consideration.

Pastor Neubauer had made calls to brother-in-law in Wisconsin and the Church in Walker. They are both applying for this loan. The Synod and District are recommending apply for the loan

In the quandary we are in, this was a very difficult decision for all the PPC members in this extraordinary time. Much

*(Continued on page 10)*



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discussion was had regarding whether we would regret our decision and how the voters would react to our decision. Also, because of the uncertainty of how much the coronavirus will affect our members contributions.

Rod Helm will sign the loan application at Citizens National Bank as Executive Director of the church --- it was suggested that Brad Dahn and Randy Griess will sign for the church as trustees, Church Properties --per the Church Constitution.

Rod --- thank you all this was a difficult decision

Motion by Lori Griess second by Jerry Grudem to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted  
Shirley Potter, Secretary

Note --- please understand some of these minutes are partial statements made by the PPC members – not direct quotes.

## Parish Planning Council—April 14, 2020

Called to order – Rod Helm. In Attendance- via google meeting: Elayne Luiken, Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton, Brandi Backmann, Lori Griess, Mike Poole, Jerry Grudem, Connie Fondow, Ginny Ranisate, Rod Helm, Shirley Potter. Pastor Neubauer opened with prayer. Special meeting to discuss progress of Payment Protect Plan Loan and finances.

Minutes from the April 7th meeting -- Shirley Potter. Motion to approve minutes – Jerry Grudem – second by Mike Poole – Motion carried

Treasurers report -- Ginny –Motion to approve Treasurers report– Lori Griess – second Elayne Luiken – motion carried

Current Account Balances:

Citizens Bank Checking	\$64,731
Less Dedicated Accounts	<u>-1,232</u>
Difference	\$63,499
CNB Dedicated Savings	\$40,672
LCEF Current Fund	\$108,861
Less End. Fund Interest	- 1,635
Less Parsonage Proceeds	- 18,548
Less R. Haberer Annuity	- 1,163
Less T. Haberer Mem/Int.	- 21,542
Less T. Haberer Trust	- 19,008
Less Healthy Balance	- <u>43,781</u> (Goal is \$74,000)
Available Funds	\$ 3,184



CNB Certificate of Deposit \$60,000 (T. Haberer Trust)  
 LCEF Endowment Fund \$22,200

No comparison of income vs. expense since the bulk of expenses have not been paid yet.

Comparison of Lent/Holy Week offerings 2019/2020. This is only Lenten services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Doesn't include regular Sunday offerings.

	2019	2020
Lent	\$10,209	\$13,759
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter	<u>\$11,221</u>	<u>\$14,651</u>
	\$21,430	\$28,410

**Old/New Business**

Pastor Neubauer – shared concerns regarding Mike Riewer. Mike was unsure what was expected of him. Mike feels he may be breaking the law if he cleans. Hasn't been in for 3 weeks. Mike did come in today and do general cleaning. Pastor wanted clarification of the conversation between Mike and Brad. Brad - Spoke to Mike Friday or Saturday ---Brad asked him if he could come in maybe Monday to clean as there was a need and no one would be there as the office was closed. Mike did tell Brad that he had no intentions of leaving the job and that he enjoyed the work. Jerry – no details as to whether this is or is not breaking law.

Rod informed us that we have been approved for the loan – and will be signing the papers tomorrow.

Clarification on who is paid --- all employees working prior to the COVID pandemic social distancing and Shelter in Place order, are to be paid as if they are working, that is the purpose of the loan. With one exception, Elayne Luiken was planning to retire at the end of the school year. However, since the shutdown she retired in Mid-March.

Ginny says we should be able to meet the \$60,000 in 2 months. The loan can be used for ---Utilities 25% --- Salary 75%

Next meeting was set for April 28th 6:30 pm.

Brad Dahn updated us on the canopy repair--- Bernie Gartner will be doing the repair. Brad and Bernie will be meeting with a structural engineer this week. Pastor Neubauer --- we have talked about expanding the front entry --- do we have to repair the canopy now? Brad says we need to do something for safety issues but will not know the extent of the repair until after the meeting with the engineer. The insurance company will be sending us a check for \$17,000 initially and if the exact cost is more, they will send another payment for the entire cost.

Pastor Newton closed with devotion.

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted  
 Shirley Potter



“Ethel, take a leap of faith!”



**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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