



The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

July, 2020

We're Back to Normal Worship (mostly)

On Sunday, July 5 we will return to having worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. **with Bible study between services. You don't have to sign up in advance but some** of the other protocols are still in place. Masks are strongly encouraged until you are in your pew. Temperatures will be checked at the door and you will be asked to sign in. You can sit where you want in the sanctuary as long you observe the social distancing guidelines (only sit in the pews with green tape and avoid getting too close to your pew neighbors). Extended family and friends who ride together can sit in the same pew. Communion will be at the 10:30 a.m. service on the first and third Sunday and 8:00 a.m. service on the second and fourth Sunday. Live stream will continue at the 8:00 a.m. service. We are working hard to improve the sound and video quality. Please bear with us until we find the right solution.

You can also attend Sunday Bible study in the Social Hall between services. Once again, we ask you to please observe social distancing. Bible study will also be live streamed. However, there will not be coffee and treats.



We are so excited to return to (almost) normal and looking forward to seeing you all in worship!

Another Option for Worship and Communion



We will also continue our noon Wednesday communion service. As with the regular worship service, you do not have to sign up but the other protocols will be observed. This is a short service intended for those who prefer a smaller group.

We Need Ushers

Here's an update from Jerry Grudem. We still need men to volunteer for several usher openings for both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services. Please contact Jerry Grudem at jerrygrudem@gmail.com or 218-252-2007 to let him know which month(s) you are willing to serve.



Where Are The Pastors?

Pastor Neubauer and Pastor Newton will be helping to fill in for worship services at Gethsemane, Snellman and St. Johns, Height of Land over the next few months, which means only one of them will be here most Sundays.



July Board Meetings

The July monthly board meetings are planned for Tuesday, July 7 at 6:00 p.m. We do plan on meeting in person. If you are on a board, please check with your director to make sure they are planning to meet at this time.



Ladies Aid Meeting

Ladies Aid plans to meet Thursday, July 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the social hall. Social distancing will be practiced. Prepackaged treats and bottled water will be served. Pastor Neubauer will present the topic focusing on hope and comfort. Everyone is welcome!

Bi-Annual Voters Meeting Moved to July 14

Our bi-annual Voters meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Items on the agenda include reports and carport project. All confirmed members age **18 and over are eligible to become voting members. If you are a voting member and can't attend, please call the church office to be excused. Sorry, no coffee and treats this time!**



Women's Bible Study Group

Sarah Newton has been leading a Bible study for the Sunday School teachers and they decided to open it up to all women of the congregation. They are currently meeting **online through Google Meet to discuss the book, "Ladylike."** Scheduled dates for this month are July 16 and 30 at 7:30 p.m. Copies of the book are available at church for \$12. Check out our website for more details and information.

Vacation Bible School Planned for August

We're still planning to have VBS! This year we're moving to an evening VBS, Sunday-Thursday, August 2-6. We'll start at 5:00 p.m. and wrap up each evening around 8:00 p.m. You can register online by going to www.stjohnspr.org, and clicking the Rainforest Explorers VBS tab or stop by the church to pick up a form. VBS is open to 4 year olds through 6th grade (just completed). There is a \$5 registration fee per student with a \$10 cap per family.

Help of all kinds is needed—leaders, helpers, crafters, games, and more. Our next VBS planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **July 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the social hall. If you're interested in being a part of VBS, please talk to Sarah Kaufenberg at 651-260-3350.**





“Main Street Living North” for July

“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 KVRR Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1. Or you can watch archived episodes any time on their website at www.mainstreetliving.com (then click on “North (Fargo).”



Here’s the programs for July:

July 5:

Rev. Brian Shane, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: “Yoked to Christ by the Mighty Works of God,” based on Matthew 11:25-30. *This Is The Life*: “The Reluctant Witness.” An angler’s well planned fishing trip is interrupted when he becomes a witness to crime and struggles with the aftermath.

July 12:

Rev. Matthew Meyer, Beautiful Savior, Callaway, MN, presents the message: “Sowing the Seed In Season,” based on Isaiah 55:10-13. *This Is The Life*: “Harrietts Wedding Day.” The storm precedes the calm when a groom nearly cancels wedding plans due to the fear of the unknown.

What’s On The Lutheran Hour

- 7/05 “Unhelmed”
- 7/12 “Perfection Welcomes Failure”
- 7/19 “TBD”
- 7/26 “TBD”

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.

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.”

July 19:

Rev. Robert Hill, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Wimbledon, ND, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Woodworth, ND, and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pettibone, ND, presents the message: “The Good Seed,” based on Matthew 13:38. *This Is The Life*: “Tragedy Near a Small Town-Justice or Mercy?” Tragedy in a small town results in a loving father holding a grudge rather than forgiving as our Father has forgiven us.

July 26:

Rev. Ross Fritz, Grace Lutheran Church, Breckenridge, MN, presents the message: “The Fantastic Non-Fictional Fable of the Foolish Farmer Who Wouldn’t Whack His Weeds,” based on Matthew 13:44-52. *This Is The Life*: “Spite.” Negative emotions and grudges are destructive, but forgiveness allows people to move forward.

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, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.



Parish Planning Council Meeting—June 9,2020

Call to Order – Rod Helm, Executive Director. Present --- Present via Google meet – Pam Heeren, Connie Fondow, Elayne Luiken, Jerry Grudem, Brad Dahn, Lori Griess, Pastor Newton, Pastor Neubauer, Brandi Backmann, Mike Poole, Rod Helm, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter. Opened with prayer – Pastor Neubauer

Outside Groups Meeting Here – Pastor Neubauer – **TOPS have asked to meet at St. John's again** – discussion. Lori Griess made the Motion to allow TOPS to meet as long as they consent to disinfect any areas that they use starting in Phase III July 2020 – Elayne Luiken second – motion carried Pastor will let TOPS know our decision.

Bell Tower – Brad Dahn reported--- committee has been formed: Jerry Grudem, Rod Helm, Mike Poole, Connie Fondow Tim Huwe, Brad Dahn, Randy Griess, Virgil Eskola. Met with two contractors last week. Insurance company only wants to fix canopy unless necessary replacement is proved through recommendation of contractors. Requested estimates from 2 contractors for fix or replace the canopy and an additional estimate on the bell tower repair -Hoping to have the estimates in 2 weeks.

Pastor Neubauer – reopening plan -are we staying in Phase 2 or moving to 3?

Per requests from some members--- communion service with devotion possibly on Wednesday at 5:30 pm (subject to change) -- limit to 20 people. Sign up is necessary --- service will be in sanctuary.

76 people attended Sunday

Sign up starting Thursday – good neighbor policy – let someone else attend in person

Phase 3 --- Discussion on start both worship services July 5 - 80 at each service. Unless there is an overwhelming response there may be a possibility of having 2 services the last Sunday of June.

Bible Study and other small groups: Meeting face-to-face will resume, including Boards and Voters. 50% occupancy – sign up – 50 max capacity --- with social distancing.

Callers need to call members regarding changes in services. Pastor will get list to callers with information that needs to be relayed to members.

Ginny Ranisate stated that the PPP loan rules have been relaxed – changed from 8 weeks to 24 weeks to use the proceeds from the loan as well as 10 months to apply for forgiveness of the loan.

Employee Pay –have been paying organist as if they are play 2 services --- we will continue that practice. Mike Riewer--- returned to work last week --- he will be paid for hours worked.

Pew Cushion – discard the old pew covers --- \$2500 designated for new pew cushions ---purchase individual seats for those who want them.

Next meeting June 23rd. Pastor Newton closed with prayer. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully,
Shirley Potter



Sunday School Page




Ice Cream Social Check In

How are you doing with your discipleship card Bingo?

We're planning an Ice Cream Social (Distancing) Check In event on July 15 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited for ice cream. You can upgrade your ice cream depending on how many **spaces you've filled on your Sunday School discipleship card.**













WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.

 + e	Water changes to _____
	JOHN 2:1-11
 - k + d	Heals a man born _____
	JOHN 9
 - dp +  - w	Calms a _____
	MATTHEW 8:23-27
f +    - d	Catch of _____
	LUKE 5:1-11
 - ch + er	Walks on _____
	MATTHEW 14:22-33

©2015 by Park Rapids, Minnesota

Happy Birthday!

- 7/04 Kaelynn Hartig
- 7/06 Annie Mayer
- 7/08 Samantha Fiemeyer
- 7/12 Emma Berghuis
- 7/12 Natalie Berghuis
- 7/20 Alex Lof

Baptismal Birthdays

- 7/06 Cash Luther
- 7/12 Olivia May
- 7/14 Ketch Luther
- 7/27 Dylan May





Parish Planning Council Minutes—June 23, 2020

Call to Order – Rod Helm, Executive Director. Present --- Present via Google meet –Elayne Luiken, Jerry Grudem, Brad Dahn, Lori Griess, Pastor Newton, Pastor Neubauer, Brandi Backmann, Mike Poole, Rod Helm, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter. Opened with prayer – Pastor Neubauer.

APPROVAL OF THE PPC MINUTES OF 06/09 MEETING --- motion to approve minutes as read Jerry Grudem – Lori Griess second -- motion carried.

Communion Wednesday services have been set for Noon (a change from the original 5:30 pm time) no sign up is necessary

Ginny gave a brief Treasurer's report.

There was 81 in attendance on June 14th and 85 June 21

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Worship Plan

Pastor Neubauer wants to confirm that we still want to start 2 services on July 5th

Some members are in favor of doing 8 and 10:30 and others like the 9:00 am

Cleaning crews to disinfect sanctuary and other areas will be needed

2 sets of ushering crews

No one has been turned away from attending in person services.

Concern with members not attending as regularly as they would with the guidelines that are in place.

Consider not having pre-sign up but rather sign in when you get church creating a record of who attended if there is a need to share that information with CDC

The social hall could be used if there is too many people to fit in sanctuary with social distancing guidelines

The July 5th date for 2 services has been publicized

After much discussion the plan is to have 2 services beginning on July 5th for the month of July at which time we will revisit this issue to decide whether or not to continue with two services or to change back to one service at 9:00 am.

Those wishing to attend in person worship services will no longer need to sign up in advance to attend. Rather you will be asked to sign in as you arrive at church. Temperatures will continue to be taken. Social distancing seating will continue.

Live stream 8:00 am service will continue – the quality of the audio and video was discussed. We are still waiting for the new camera and other equipment, as it has been on back order for a length of time.

Communion will continue to be at the end of the service during the exiting process.

COVID 19 Exposure Plan --- Pastor Newton asked if we need an exposure plan. What is the procedure if someone attends service that later tests positive? Brandi Backmann explained that if this does happen the county health contact tracers will contact us and most likely will want to know who was in attendance on that Sunday.



(Continued from page 6)

Usher Schedule - Jerry Grudem has been working on getting ushers signed up. There is still a need for more volunteers.

Canopy Update - Brad Dahn —no word from the two contractors, hoping to hear from them soon. Jerry, Rod, Mike and Brad met with Eric Haataja another contractor from Menahga last night.

There has been some thought about extending the entry at the time repair is done to canopy. Jerry Grudem shared that he has been doing some preliminary calculating of the cost for the project.

Next PPC meeting --- July 7th - 7:00 pm at the church. Voters meeting is scheduled for July 14th.

Meeting adjourned. Pastor Newton closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Potter, Secretary

Car Port Project May Expand into Front Lobby

The committee working on the carport/canopy repair is considering including expansion of the front lobby **as part of the project. The idea has been discussed before but wasn't pursued. Since we have to repair the canopy anyway this seemed like a good time to look at it again.**

The front lobby would extend out to where the concrete walkway is now. The current door/windows would be removed. A new door (possibly automatic sliding ones) would be installed where the blacktop starts. The reconfigured canopy would be higher. The project would also include refacing/repairing the bell tower. Watch for updates.

We Received A Gift of This Beautiful Picture

Missy (Walsh) Kramer is a talented photographer. One evening she happened to be outside with her camera just in time to catch this beautiful shot. She and husband, Jake, had a large print made, then beautifully framed and gave it to the church in honor of her parents, Dean and Joyce Walsh.

We're planning to hang it in the front lobby so it can be enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you, Missy and Jake, for the gift!





St. Johns
Lutheran Church

803 West First Street
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone: 218-732-9783
Fax: 218-237-9785
Website: www.stjohnspr.org

*Pastor James Neubauer
Pastor Joel Newton
Pastor Bill Knaack*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
Park Rapids, Minnesota
Permit No. 6

Address Service Requested

Inside this issue:

We're Back to Normal Worship (Mostly)	1
<i>Another Option for Worship and Communion</i>	1
<i>We Need Ushers</i>	1
<i>Where Are the Pastors?</i>	1
<i>July Board Meetings</i>	2
<i>Ladies Aid Meeting</i>	2
<i>Bi-Annual Voters Meeting Moved to July 14</i>	2
Women's Bible Study Group	2
<i>Vacation Bible School Planned for August</i>	2
<i>Main Street Living—July</i>	3
What's On The Lutheran Hour	3
<i>Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes</i>	4
<i>Sunday School Page</i>	5
<i>Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes</i>	6
<i>Carport Project May Expand into Front Lobby</i>	7
<i>We Received a Gift of This Beautiful Picture</i>	7

