



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

August, 2020

Worship Update

Our Sunday worship schedule is the same, with worship services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and Bible study between services. Per Governor Walz's recent mandate, if you are planning to attend worship, please wear a mask. We are still asking that you check in as you enter the building but we won't be taking temperatures. The 8:00 a.m. service will be live streamed.

The Wednesday Noon Communion service will also continue.

Please wear a mask
during worship.

For you were called to
freedom, brothers. Only
do not use your freedom
as an opportunity for the
flesh, but through love
serve one another.
Galatians 5:13



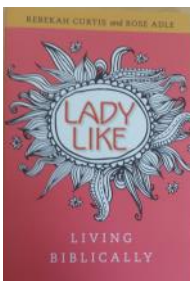
Join Us for Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School will take place Sunday, August 2 through Thursday, August 6. This year we're doing VBS in the evening from 5:30—8:00 p.m. VBS is open to all kids age 4 through 6th grade. All activities are planned to take place outside. There is a \$5 registration fee with a cap of \$10 per family. You can register online at our website, www.stjohnspr.org, call the church office at 732-9783 or pick up a registration form at church.

Ladies Aid Meeting This Month

Ladies Aid will meet Thursday, August 13. Instead of the scheduled noon potluck they will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the social hall. Social distancing will be practiced. Pastor Knaack will present the topic. Remember to bring your mites.



Women's Bible Study Group

The women's Bible study led by Sarah Newton is meeting online through Google Meet to discuss the book, "Ladylike." Dates for this month are August 13 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. Copies of the book are available at church for \$12. Check out our website for more information and the meeting link.

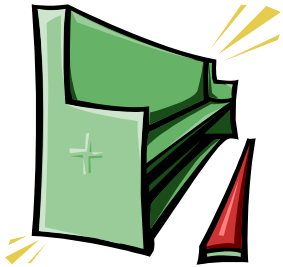
Bi-Annual Voters Meeting Scheduled for August 18

Our bi-annual Voters meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18 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.





Ponderings from the Pew



2020 sure hasn't gone like anyone expected has it? Overnight we went from a freedom loving, relatively care-free society to being fearful of an unknown illness, human interaction, and contact. Hugs are out, dinner parties are out, birthday parties are out, company is out, gathering is mostly out. Who could have predicted in February where we would be today? It is isolating, and scary.



We even stopped gathering in God's house together. A critical part of nurturing faith, we stopped coming together to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the word of God as delivered to our hungry souls each Sunday in our sanctuary. We are not accustomed to having our church attendance governed by the state. Having experience this portion of it, I can tell you I'm not interested in experiencing it further. However, we have received a tiny taste of persecution. We've had a glimpse into what it's like to have our lives controlled and found it rather unpalatable.

There is a book in the church library – at least there used to be a hundred years ago when I was a young teen – called, "Tortured for Christ." It is a quick read but packs a powerful punch. It's a true story about a Romanian Pastor who spent years in prison tortured for preaching. It's been a few decades since I read it. I remember wondering if something like that ever happened, would I suffer for my faith, or give it up? Would I stand firm in my belief, or would I deny Christ like Peter under duress? Most of us, I'm guessing, would like to imagine pounding our chests in defiance, and standing up for Christianity, declaring steadfast faith to the end. But would we? These are things I wonder about sometimes.



If 2020 has taught us nothing else, it has certainly proven that we are not in charge. Every month so far has brought some storm, virus, riots, protests, murder hornets or additional government regulations for us to process. Nope. We are not in charge. But our Father in heaven is ultimately in charge. What might seem like complete chaos to us, is a fly to be swatted away to Him. If you are struggling with all that has transpired so far in 2020, slow down, take some deep breaths, be still and know God is still in control. He will never leave us or forsake us. He may allow us to

wander around uselessly in our free will a while, but in the end, God has His finger on all of us and He will gather us in. We do not grieve as those with no hope. We also do not fear as those with no Defender. God is our fortress and strength.

To God alone be the glory!!

Renee' Anderson





Stewardship Review—June

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **81**

Total Offerings: \$34,818	Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,705	Total Offerings, June, 2019: \$33,387
Total Expenses: \$34,426	Avg. Weekly Expenses \$8,607	Total Expenses, June, 2019: \$34,655
Difference \$392	Difference \$98	Difference - \$ 1,268

Total Offerings, year to date: \$215,742	Budget/Week \$9,768
Total Expenses, year to date: \$228,158	Budget/Month \$42,329
Difference - \$12,416	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 06/30/20: \$101,575	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts \$609	Raised so far \$45,682
Difference \$100,966	Still need \$28,318

Kitchen Payable **\$33,558**

Card Cupboard Gets Some Cosmetic Surgery

Jerry Eischens and crew outfitted the card cabinet with a shelf for the audio equipment and trim to finish it so it looks like a built in unit. Now it looks like it was custom made for its new location. Check it out next time you're at church. Thanks to Jerry for his excellent work!



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 8/2 "Christ's Resurrection Makes Everything New"
- 8/9 "Over The Darkness, God Hovers"
- 8/16 "A Wrong Comparison"
- 8/23 "Fear and Faith"
- 8/30 "It's Not Over 'till Jesus Says It's Over"

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."

† Funeral

07/25 Marilyn Hjermstad





Parish Planning Council Minutes July 7, 2020

Present --- Present via Google meet and some in person--Elayne Luiken, Jerry Grudem, Brad Dahn, Lori Griess, , Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton, Mike Poole, Rod Helm, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter

Opened with prayer – Pastor Neubauer

Pastor Neubauer gave update on how services went this past weekend.

SUNDAY was the first worship that we had both 8:00 am and 10:00 am services since the start of COVID19. Approximately 55 attended 8:00 am and 40 at second service with communion

All went well – disinfection after service went well

Apologized for the hiccup in Live stream at 8:00 am. Audio did not work as the audio cord did not get plugged in. So, the 10:30 service was live streamed instead also.

Wednesday noon communion service continues

Temperatures will continue to be checked.

There is a possibility wearing masks could be mandated by government.

Canopy --- not much has happened since we last met

Voters meeting has been postponed to August 18th
--- info will be posted on website, emailed and announced at services this week.

Closed with doxology

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Potter
Secretary





“Main Street Living North” for August

“MAIN STREET LIVING” is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute Lutheran Hour program (normally “This Is the Life,” along with occasional church season specials). Programs are broadcast at 9:00 a.m. central time on FOX station KVRP Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1. 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 August:

August 2: Rev. Jonathan Durkopp, Trinity Lutheran Church, LaMoure, ND, & Trinity Lutheran Church, Adrian, ND, presents the message: “God’s Care,” based on Matthew 14:13-21. This Is The Life program is: “The Visit” - During war time, a Christian’s response to tragedy becomes a witness to others.

August 9: Rev. Ron Hobbie, Zion Lutheran Church & St. John’s Lutheran Church, Ada, MN, presents the message: “Have You Comprehended?” based on Job 38:18. This is The Life program is: “One Hour to Live” - Divine forgiveness for the truly penitent assures a man --and in the nick of time.

August 16: Rev. Richard Biberdorf, Grace Lutheran Church, Carrington, ND, Zion Lutheran Church, Binford, ND, & Grace Lutheran Church, Cooperstown, ND, presents the message: “Choking Us with Cream,” based on Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32. This Is The Life program is: “Trial By Fire” - When an unexpected tragedy strikes...pray, forgive, and move forward. Do not allow the past to embitter the future. When one door closes, another will open.

August 23: Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & School, Perham, MN, presents the message: “What’s the Point,” based on Romans 11:33. This Is The Life program is: “Red Trap” - A loving father’s son became conflicted and lost. Fortunately, he was surrounded by people who cared.



August 30: Rev. Paul Preus, Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale, ND, presents the message: “In the Likeness of Our Father,” based on Matthew 5:38-39. This Is The Life program is: “Run Away” - Away we go, back to where we started from.

If your cable doesn’t have KVRP, 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.

Sunday School Page



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/13 Maari Clark
8/18 Neveah Etter
8/24 Nicklaus Sowers
8/25 Brooke Kimball
8/30 Isaac Knaack



Baptismal Birthdays

8/03	Sophia Gauthier
8/12	Emma Berghuis
8/12	Natalie Berghuis
8/14	Khloe May
8/20	Andrew Rodriguez-Renskers
8/28	Bonnie LeGrand



Enjoy your last
month of
summer!

We're hoping to see everyone in Sunday School in September!



GOD'S MORNING ROUTINE

Every new day, we wake up to blessings from God.

Directions: Use the clues to fill in the words. Then write the boxed letters in order below to complete Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV.

Brush these daily

Do this to your shoes

This rises in the east

Cold breakfast food

Hot breakfast food

Talk to God

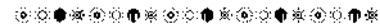
Morning meal

Extend your limbs

Fruit drink

Waffle machine

Eat these scrambled or fried



Because of the LORD's great love... ☐ ☐ ☐

□□□□□□□□ never fail. They are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23, NIV

Answer: teeth, he, sun, cereal, oatmeal, pray, breakfast, stretch, juice, iron, eggs; his compassions





ABC Preschool News

It's that special time of year where we look forward to heading back to school. This year things will look and feel differently in some respects. ABC Preschool has always had a somewhat "socially distanced" program with smaller classes and extra space available throughout the church to spread out! We are grateful for the wonderful outdoor spaces that allow for nature based learning. But, there will be some visible changes that will take place in order to help maintain a safe and healthy environment. Class routines from arrival to play to snack to projects have been adjusted. What hasn't changed is the content we teach and the manner in which all children are loved and cared for. The children still receive a Christian based education through structured and non structured activities. The word of God is taught and modeled every day!!



ABC is licensed as a Rule 3 child care center in Minnesota which means we are allowed to re-open under child care regulations. We know that children learn best through in person instruction - especially very young children. They need to see, hear, touch, smell and sometimes taste what is around them as they learn. We want to help build the important foundations of learning - social, emotional, spiritual, physical and academic - so they succeed as life long learners.

To proceed with our mission, ABC needs your financial and spiritual support. Please keep the school, families and children in your prayers as we teach and train young learners. In the past, St. Johns members have been very generous in providing school supplies to help reduce costs. Again this year, there is a school supply board up at church with tags that list items that are needed. There is also a list online. Back to school supplies this year are more than crayons and glue. Things that we don't normally budget for to ensure health and safety are necessary for a safe return to school. Please carefully read the tag that lists the exact item, amount and size desired. Please don't substitute!! If you cannot find an item, please let Kim know. Please return items to church before Sunday, August 23.

The COVID 19 pandemic has been hard on all people and especially hard on families with young children and their ability to financially afford a private school education. We want to be able to offer financial assistance to help cover tuition and transportation costs. Please consider donating to the scholarship fund so we are able to offer help. If you want to help with the general operations of the program, please make note of it on your donation as scholarship funds are different than operational funds.



With all the changes in place and with guidance from the health and safety boards, we are hoping to welcome children back in early fall.

ABC Open House will be held Thursday, August 20 from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. and 5:00—7:00 p.m. Come in to meet the staff, check out the classrooms and register.

Do you enjoy helping and being around children? ABC is looking to hire a part time (20 hours per week) teachers aide for the upcoming school year. Please contact Kim for more information or to apply.



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Knaack



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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Inside this issue:

Worship Update	1
Join Us for Vacation Bible School	1
Ladies Aid Meeting This Month	1
Women's Bible Study Group	1
Bi-Annual Voters Meeting Scheduled for August 18	1
Ponderings from the Pew	2
Stewardship Review	3
Card Cupboard Gets Some Cosmetic Surgery	3
What's On The Lutheran Hour	3
Funeral	3
Parish Planning Council meeting Minutes	4
Main Street Living for August	5
Sunday School Page	6
ABC Preschool News	7

