



# The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns  
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

October, 2020

## Celebrating LWML Sunday, October 4



*Kingdom people produce*  
**KINGDOM FRUIT**

"The kingdom of God will be... given to a people producing its fruits" (Matthew 21:43).

*Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit* is the theme for this year's LWML Sunday. On this day we recognize the work of the LWML in spreading the Gospel message across the world.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an active and mission oriented organization that encourages women to use their talents and gifts in promoting the Lord's ministry to people of the world, community and church. Through the LWML they support projects at the international and district level with mite box offerings.

We have two LWML groups, the Ladies Aid and the Evening Guild. New members are always welcome. The Ladies Aid meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the choir room. Contact Ruth Knaack for more information at 255-0891. The Evening Guild meets the second Tuesday of the month, September to May, at 6:00 p.m. in the church library. Contact Sandy Phillips for more information at 732-7501.



## We're Collecting Gift Cards for Cedar Rapids, Iowa

On August 10 a destructive storm hit Cedar Rapids, Iowa causing massive damage. Trees and crops were destroyed and many people were without power for two weeks. Clean up crews began work but many of the disaster response teams and machinery moved to the Gulf Coast to assist with Hurricane Laura. King of Kings Lutheran Church (LCMS) was engaged in a new construction project which was completely destroyed.

We are collecting gift cards from Menards, Lowes, Home Depot, Casey's, BP, Walmart and Hy-Vee to send to King of Kings Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. If you would like to help, please bring in gift cards by October 5.



## Confirmed in Christ



On Sunday, October 25 at the 10:30 a.m. service, seven of our young people will publicly confess their faith through the Rite of Confirmation. The confirmation process includes two years of study and learning about being a communicant member of the congregation through service as acolytes.

This year's confirmands are Eli Burton, Kasen Girtz, Jacob Lof, Jack Moses, Matthew Neubauer, Kilea Persons and Ali Roberts. May God bless and keep these young people in faith everlasting.



## Ponderings from the Pew



Sometimes, I think we too easily cast stones at the disciples for their doubts. I mean isn't your reaction to Peter's denial of Christ one of amazement that he could even think about doing that once much less three times? He is the one who proclaimed with such confidence, "You are the Christ!" (Mark 8:29). How could he then deny Him? It seems like every time Jesus asked them to trust Him, they doubted. 'We only have three loaves and five fish – send the people away.' When the storm came on the sea they cried, "Master, Master, we're going to drown." And Jesus asked them, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:24). When Jesus tried to tell them what was going to happen, Peter rebuked Him. (Mark 8:31-33) They travelled with Him, witnessed His miracles, heard His teachings, and yet, they had doubts.



But don't we also have doubts? When life is hard, beating us up, pushing our limits – don't we wonder if God is real? Don't we ask, "Why us?" Don't we falter in faith? I know I do. Don't we think to ourselves, "I would never deny You, Lord?" And then we do just that when we fail to speak of Him to others, and when we let worry and stress overcome us. When we proclaim in song, "On Christ the solid Rock I stand..." (LSB #576) is it by our own strength and faith that we stand there? Even this God does for us because we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Him or come to Him. "Lord, keep us steadfast in Your word." (LSB #655). Proverbs 3:26 assures us, "for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught."



"STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE!"  
JOHN 20:27, NIV

The world is certainly messy these days, but this is not our permanent home. Here there is hate, deceit, violence, war, brokenness. However, "I'm but a stranger here, heaven is my home. Earth's but a desert drear; heaven is my home. Danger and sorrow stand round me on every hand; heaven is my fatherland; heaven is my home." (LSB #748). Here there is uncertainty at every turn. We have no idea what covid, the election, the weather or anything will bring next. But we know when it comes right down to it, beyond any doubt, "Jesus lives! I know full well nothing me from Him shall sever. Neither death nor powers of hell part me now from Christ forever. **God will be my sure defense;** this shall be my confidence!" (LSB # 490).

To God alone be the glory.

**Renee' Anderson**



### † Baptisms

09/02 Elijah LeRoy Williams  
Keith and Belinda (Schmid) Williams

09/13 Elena Rose Bradow  
Roselyn Bradow

### † Wedding

09/26 Jason Schmidt & Rebecca Blowers



## Car Port/Bell Tower Update

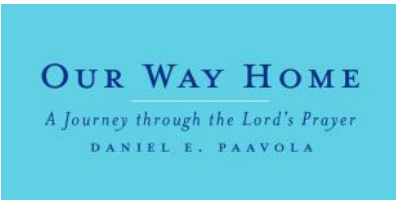
Jack Ellefson has been making great progress applying the new stucco finish to the bell tower. He's obviously not afraid of heights! We can't wait to see the finished project.

The insurance company has agreed that replacing the car port is the most cost effective solution instead of repairing it. Expect to see a crew here in the next few weeks taking it down. If you're coming into church during that time you will need to use the north entrance. The car port replacement probably won't begin until next spring. Thanks to Brad Dahn and the car port committee for keeping this project moving!



## Changes Coming to the Women's Online Bible Study

Due to busy schedules, the women's online Bible study group has decided to meet once a month instead of twice a month. They plan to meet the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. You can join the group by clicking the link on our website.



They're also starting a new study, "Our Way Home." This study invites you on a vivid journey through the Lord's Prayer to dispel your hesitancy and to discover the power and depth of the world's most famous prayer. Please contact Sarah Newton to obtain a copy of the book.

## No Lutheran Laymen's League Until January

With the uncertainty surrounding the COVID situation, the Lutheran Laymen's League has decided to wait until January to begin meeting regularly again. Watch for an update in future newsletters.

The LLL sponsors the Lutheran Hour program on KPRM at a cost \$52.50 per Sunday. Since they have not been meeting they haven't been able to raise funds for the program. Your support would be much appreciated. Your gift can be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour." Thank you for supporting this great program!



- What's On The Lutheran Hour**
- ◆ 10/04 "Victory in Defeat"
  - ◆ 10/11 "Unscaled Heights of Empathy"
  - ◆ 10/18 "What I'm Looking For"
  - ◆ 10/25 "No Boasting, Just Belonging"
- ◆ 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).



## Youth Hayride

All youth in grades 5-12 are invited to join us for a hayride here at church on Friday, October 23 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. There will be snacks, too. Friends are welcome!



## Life with Live Stream Isn't Always Easy



When COVID shut down in person worship services, Pastor Neubauer got a crash course in live streaming services since he's the staff person most interested in "techy" stuff. It's not something they teach you about in seminary although he did learn computer programming in college. Over the past several months our live streaming has had some ups and downs. It works and then it doesn't. Some people say the sound is great and others can't hear anything at all. It appears that the sound issue may be due in part to what kind of device you're watching the service on.

The problem of why our live stream doesn't work reliably has kept Pastor Neubauer awake at night. He has tried several different solutions but none have fixed the issue. There are a couple more ideas we're looking at but they will take some time, effort and, of course, money. We're also still waiting for our new camera with no definite delivery date.



In the meantime, please bear with us and expect that the live stream might not work. If you get bumped off during the service, try reloading Face Book. If we were able to do a complete live stream of the service, they are archived and you can watch them any time by clicking the "past services" link on our website.

You can also attend worship in person—Sundays at 8:00 a.m. (usually has the most people attending) and 10:30 a.m. (less people than 8:00 a.m. but more than Wednesday) or Wednesdays at noon (great option for those avoiding crowds, usually around eight people and only lasts about a half hour).

## Help Continue Coffee



It's great to have coffee time back but help is needed to serve if it is to continue. You don't have to bring anything, just make coffee, put out treats and clean up.

If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the social hall on the card cupboard or call the church office.



Without volunteers we might end up with this option. ➡➡➡

"It says to join them for coffee and donuts at [www.fellowship.com](http://www.fellowship.com)."



## Stewardship Review—August

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **113**

Total Offerings: <b>\$39,583</b>	Total Offerings, August, 2019: <b>\$34,441</b>
Total Expenses: <b>\$35,884</b>	Total Expenses, August, 2019: <b>\$36,618</b>
Difference <b>\$3,699</b>	Difference <b>\$36,618</b>

Avg. Weekly Offerings <b>\$7,917</b>	Budget/Week <b>\$9,768</b>	Total Offerings, year to date: <b>\$294,012</b>
Avg. Weekly Expenses <b>\$7,177</b>	Budget/Month <b>\$42,329</b>	Total Expenses, year to date: <b>\$298,909</b>
Difference <b>\$740</b>		Difference <b>- \$4,897</b>

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 08/31/20: <b>\$109,344</b>	Our Healthy Balance Goal <b>\$74,000</b>
Less dedicated accounts <b>- \$538</b>	Raised so far <b>\$46,834</b>
Difference <b>\$108,806</b>	Still need <b>\$27,166</b>

Kitchen Payable **\$31,749**

## Comfort Bags Coming

The Board of Evangelism was working on a project to deliver these cute little bags to our shut-ins and older members but due to COVID, many of the places they planned to visit were closed to visitors. Pastor Knaack, our visitation pastor, has been able to visit some people so he accepted the job of distributing the bags.



Each bag, decorated by Laurie Kimball, contains a variety of comfort items—hand lotion, lip balm, mints, hand sanitizer—along with a mini prayer cloth, also made by St. Johns members. There is a card attached with the following prayer: “As you look at this cross, may you be surrounded by God’s love. May He walk before you to guide you, beside you to give you courage, behind you to keep you safe, beneath you to give you strength, above you for blessing, and within you to give you His peace.”

We have extra bags in the office. If you know someone who would enjoy one, you’re welcome to stop in and pick one up for them.

## November Blood Drive Scheduled



St. Johns is hosting the **Vitalant Blood Drive on Monday, November 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., and Tuesday, November 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The need for blood donors is even greater at this time. To protect the donors and workers, all the areas for waiting and donating will be continually sanitized and spaced out so there will be at least six feet of space between donors. Everyone will be masked, including the donors. To make an appointment, please call Elayne Luiken at 218-255-4865 or go online to [www.bloodhero.com](http://www.bloodhero.com), sponsor code: parkrapids. **Please help us make a difference!**



## Members Use Their Talents for Our Children

We are blessed to have many talented members who have used their skills to make things for the children of St. Johns. Here are a few examples.

If you've been in the social hall, you've probably noticed the "Thank you for making me God's child" board hanging on the north wall. On the board is a bunch of flowers and below each is a tag that lists one of the children on our cradle roll. The cradle roll is St. Johns' youngest members—newborn to three years old. They have become members through baptism. When the child turns three, they are sent a birthday card, along with the tag and the flower as well as an invitation to join Sunday School. Darlene Wallick and Mary Warble made the first batch of flowers and Darlene just made us a new batch. Each piece is cut out and the heart is hand sewn on to the flower.



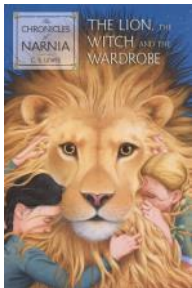
When a child is baptized here at St. Johns, they receive a gift bag. Inside is a medallion, candle, hooded towel, a St. Johns picture book and a sweater. Toni Burgau loves to knit and has been making us these beautiful sweaters for the bags. Each one is unique and a work of art, a soft and cuddly gift for the newest little members of our church family.



When we decided to start Fall Sunday School, masks for the students was one of the considerations. The idea was to get masks and have the kids each decorate their own. Turns out masks are expensive! Vickie Helm, Linda Leckner and Shari Sanquist came to the rescue, sewing us some great masks in different sizes at a fraction of the cost. And each student was able to personalize theirs.



There are many members who use their time and skills in various ways here at St. Johns. These are just a few examples. We thank God for all of you!



## Join the Monday Book Club in Person or Online

The Monday noon book club started up again September 28 but you can still join the group. They're discussing the classic, "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe." Books and a study guide are available in the front lobby.

Please talk to Pastor Neubauer if you have questions.





## Main Street Living North Programs for October

“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 and archived on [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com). Click on “North (Fargo)” under the picture. You can watch them any time online.



Oct. 4:

Rev. Mike Suelzle, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Niagara, ND, Grace Lutheran Church, Lakota, ND, and St. Peter Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND, presents the message: “Made His Own,” based on Philippians 3:12. This Is The Life program: “The Missing Ingredient” - Bob (Jack Nicholson) and his fiancée Lynn (Susan Crane) are planning their wedding when she overhears her parents planning to separate after the wedding. Suddenly, Lynn has some reservations.

Oct. 11:

Rev. Bruce Blocker, Immanuel Lutheran Church, McIntosh, MN, presents the message: “Rejoice in the Lord Always,” based on Philippians 4:4. This is The Life program: “The Visitation” - Pastor Andrew Burdick (Dick Sargent) is having problems keeping his congregation together. Bishop Smith (Parley Baer) visits him to identify some troubling leadership spots and to renew faith in his ability to get things done.

Oct. 18:

Rev. Bernhard Seter, Zion English Lutheran Church, Grafton, ND, presents the message: “Celebrating Luke,” based on Luke 1:1-4. This Is The Life program: “Happiness is Dirty Hands” - School teacher Kent (Daniel Travanti) lives and teaches high school in a troubled metro area. The decision for him and his wife (Ann Whitfield) to live in a poverty area is troubling their marriage. Kent’s friend Art (Mike Farrell), offers some help.

Oct. 25:

Rev. Michael Zeigler, Lutheran Hour Speaker, presents the message: “No Boasting, Just Belonging,” based on Romans 3:19-28. This Is The Life program: (to be determined).



If you don’t get KVRR, you can watch the Minnesota South District version of Main Street Living on WFTC Channel 29 at 9:00 a.m. These programs feature pastors from the Minnesota South District.

Have you become a regular viewer of Main Street Living? Please consider a donation for the ministry. Main Street Living receives no money from the Synod or any District budgets and is supported entirely by donations. You can send your donation to Main Street Living, 821 5th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103.



# Board

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Christian Education:** Reviewed the Voters Meeting Report.

Update on Sunday School:

Sunday School Rally will be September 13. Cards have been sent to those members with children of Sunday School age as a reminder. There will be ice cream, mask decorating, and music. Vickie Helm has volunteered to make masks for the children. Continuing to use the material from last year. Christmas Service will be December 20 during the 10:30 a.m. service. We are in need of new costumes, looking for material that would be appropriate to use for shepherds, sheep, angels, and wise men.

Preschool:

To date we have 28 children signed up. Cannot have more than twelve children per class. Class will begin on September 8.

Budget Proposal:

Will forward to review before next meeting.

New Business:

Busy bags are ready to be used again during services.

Confirmation will begin September 16, picking up where they left off.

Next meeting will be Tuesday October 6.

**Elders:** no report.

**Evangelism:** Kathy Henry will be delivering the Dawn's Room fund check to the Family Safety Network.

The Park Rapids Police Department's work and efforts were recognized by the people of St. Johns with a Subway sandwich/cookies delivery on August 21.

Shut in visits by board members to Heritage, Crystal Brook, Diamond Willow, and individual homes have been on hold due to COVID. We will place name tags on small individual gift bags and deliver them to these facilities for staff to distribute. We will ask Pastor Knaack to make home deliveries of the bags when he makes his visits.

The board will coordinate a gift card donation project for a congregation in Cedar Rapids, Iowa that incurred massive destruction due to the August tornado.

**Church Properties, Parish Fellowship, Public Relations, Stewardship and Young People:** did not meet.







## From Kuwait to Fort Campbell to Fort Leonard Wood

Greetings from Fort Leonard Wood, MO!

By the grace of God, our unit was able to redeploy from Kuwait to Fort Campbell the final day before the COVID-19 movement restrictions went into effect. The arrival back home was significantly different than we had expected. With the COVID prevention and mitigation measures, there was not large-scale celebration or welcome home event. We arrived on a bus late at night, had a medical screening and were driven straight home for an initial 14 day quarantine. Not exactly what we had been looking forward to. The next couple of months at Fort Campbell were interesting as we learned how to work in the COVID environment. It has been quite the learning process.



In late July, we were finally able to move to my new assignment at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. I am serving as the chaplain for the 3rd Chemical Brigade, one of the largest basic training formations in the Army. It is a noticeable change from my previous assignment. I am also serving at the Traditional Worship Service on the base and my wife is helping out on of the local LCMS congregations as an organist a couple of Sundays a month.

Through all of the changes and transitions, God continues to bless, protect and provide for our needs. We have been very fortunate during these unusual times. No one in our immediate family has been seriously ill or financially crushed. For that we are thankful. We continue to offer many prayers for healing, perseverance and persistence in our nation and world, knowing that God has it all under control.

I certainly appreciate your reaching out. It is comforting to know the body of Christ still remains active in all of our lives. I will spend some time pondering some possible assistance we could use here at Fort Leonard Wood. I will let you know.

Thanks again for your email and have a blessed day!

CH (MAJ) Vince Bain  
Brigade Chaplain  
3rd Chemical Brigade  
Fort Leonard Wood, MO

"For God and Country"





# Sunday School News

## Perfect Attendance—September

- PK 3 George Newton
- PK 4 Kellan Eidsmoe
- Kdg. Thatcher Eidsmoe, Olivia May, Marcella Trandem
- 1st Gavin Etter, James Trandem
- 2nd Sawyer Eidsmoe, Wyatt Goodwater, Dylan May
- 3rd Sophia Neubauer
- 4th Nevaeh Etter, Zachary Harju, Khloe May, Elsie Trandem
- 6th Max Harju, Aiden May
- 8th Laura Kaufenberg, Leo Kaufenberg

September Offering—\$33.43



- 10/03 Brielle Knutson
- 10/06 Adelynn DeVore
- 10/14 Luke Eskola
- 10/21 Autumn Kvittem
- 10/24 Sawyer Harvey

### Baptismal Birthdays

- 10/02 Sophia Neubauer
- 10/09 Tony Meier
- 10/23 Kellan Eidsmoe
- 10/26 Tristan McCullough



## A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

*Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.*

**WORD BANK:** sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water . . . . .
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant . . . . .
3. To plant . . . . .
4. Sharp part of a plant . . . . .
5. What is harvested. . . . .
6. To dry up and shrivel . . . . .
7. Person who plants . . . . .
8. The earth a plant grows in. . . . .

“But the <sup>2</sup> falling on good <sup>8</sup> refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a <sup>5</sup>, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was <sup>3</sup> n.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, soil.

## Lessons this Month

- 10/4 A Merciful Substitute—*Abraham & Isaac*
- 10/11 A Servant's Mission—*Isaac & Rebekah*
- 10/18 Twin Troubles—*Esau & Jacob*
- 10/25 A Family Grows—*Jacob's Family*

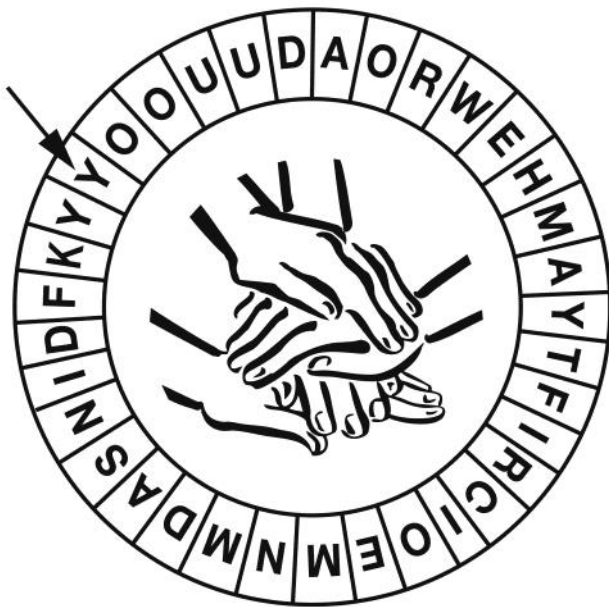


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Ginny ran out of news and inspiration. Here's some fun stuff to fill the page.

# Puzzle!

Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below to discover what Jesus says about his friends.



“ Y  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_”

JOHN 15:14, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV

## Aw-fall!

Share some laughs — or groans — with these autumn-themed jokes:



What did the tree say to autumn?  
“Leaf me alone!”

What did one autumn leaf say to another?  
“I’m falling for you.”

How do you fix a broken pumpkin?  
With a pumpkin patch.

Why are trees very forgiving?  
Because in the fall they “let it go” and in the spring they “turn over a new leaf.”



How do leaves get from place to place?  
With autumn-mobiles.

What’s the ratio of a pumpkin’s circumference to its diameter?  
Pumpkin pi.

**Why didn't anyone tell me about this?**

**It was in the bulletin.**





**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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