



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

November, 2020

COVID Update

The predictions were correct that COVID was going to hit our area this fall. As the number of cases surge, our thoughts and prayers go out to those who are dealing with the virus and to the loved ones of those who have passed away. We pray for patience to deal with the restrictions and changes to our routines and activities. We pray that a vaccine will become available and that the virus will be stopped from continuing its spread.



What does the rise in cases mean for St. Johns? The Parish Planning Council met on October 27 and discussed this. Possibilities ranged from closing the church for the month of November, going to one service, returning to signing up for worship, or continuing as we have been and adjusting as the situation changes. At this time, we plan to continue with worship, Sunday School, Bible studies, etc. If this changes, we will send a notice through our various communication channels (postcards, emails, Facebook, phone calls, etc.)

Here's what Advent and Christmas are looking like right now. Advent services will be held at noon and 5:30 p.m. on December 2, 9 and 16. Sorry, no meals! Christmas Eve services will be at 1:00, 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. and sign up will be required. Christmas Day will be one service at 9:00 a.m.

Stay tuned for updates and keep praying!

For All The Saints



On Sunday, November 1, our worship will include a time of remembrance of those in our congregation who have passed away this year. A bell is rung as each name is read. It is a moving tribute to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have joined the church triumphant. Please join us this Sunday for this special worship service.

Voters Meeting—November 24

Our bi-annual Voters Meeting will take place on November 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The 2021 work program, carport project (see page 4 for more info), and the district convention are some of the items on the agenda. We plan to live stream the meeting, too.

All communicant members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. If you are a voting member and will not be able to attend the meeting, please call the church office to be excused.





Blood Drive This Month

St. Johns is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, November 2, 11:30 a.m.—5:45 p.m. and Tuesday, November 3, 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 waiting and donation areas will be continually sanitized and spaced out. 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, sponsor code: parkrapids. Please help us make a difference!



Evening Guild Moving to Afternoon

The Evening Guild has decided to change their meetings to 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. This month they will meet November 10. They have also decided they will not be going Christmas caroling this year but if someone knows what they could do for shut ins please let Sandy Phillips know (218-616-4332).

Confirmation Mentors Needed

A new group of 7th grade students will soon begin their Confirmation journey here at St. Johns. The pastors will start classes via in person instruction as well as Zoom/Google Meet (if necessary) in early November. The COVID situation will make mentorship a bit different, but the board hopes to be able to give mentors a list of possible suggestions for connecting with these young people effectively. We will need 3 female mentors and possibly 4 male mentors. Contact one of the pastors, Ginny, or Connie Fondow if you have any questions or would like to consider assisting with this important program.



Thanksgiving Services

Wednesday, November 25, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 26, 9:00 a.m.



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 11/1 "Some People Never Change?"
- 11/8 "Tied into the Same Lifeline"
- 11/15 "Bigger"
- 11/22 "Politics in Perspective"
- 11/29 "Magnum Opus"

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.

St. Johns LLL sponsors the program each week on KPRM at a cost of \$52.50 per Sunday. If you would like to help support this ministry, your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour."



Christmas Decorating

You're invited to come and help decorate the church for the Christmas season on Monday, November 30, starting at 9:00 a.m. You'll have plenty of room and opportunity for social distancing. We'll have to see about treats as the date gets closer.



Build and Bid on a Basket



It's that time of the year again for our silent auction basket fund raiser. Look for a sign up sheet in the social hall. You may bring your baskets for bidding on Sunday, November 22. The auction will be complete on Sunday, December 20. These baskets make great Christmas gifts!

Generous Response to Gift Card Collection for Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Board of Evangelism expresses abundant appreciation to all who participated in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa tornado relief effort. Your overwhelming response to the needs of God's people at King of Kings Lutheran Church was incredible. We sent the congregation gift cards with a total value of a little over \$1000 as well as \$1,298 from cash donations. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" Matthew 5:16.



Help Continue Coffee

As long as we continue to have in person worship services and Sunday Bible class we plan to have coffee time but help is needed to serve. 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 by the kitchen.



† Baptism

10/11 Cooper Lee Charmoli

Brianna Weckwerth and Kyle Charmoli

† Wedding

10/23 Daniel Pike & Kellyn Schulz

† Funerals

10/10 Grant Nunn

10/11 Tom Vogtman



The Carport is Gone and the Bell Tower Has a New Look

If you've driven by lately, you've probably noticed the drastic change in our front entrance. Back in August the Voters Assembly approved a new stucco finish for the bell tower. Due to the shape of the tower and freezing/thawing cycles, the brick was flaking off. The interior of the tower is structurally sound. The stucco serves two purposes. It sealed the bricks which will stop the flaking and also improved the tower's appearance. Our stucco expert, Jack Ellefson, spent the past couple months assembling scaffolding, climbing up and down on the scaffold, mixing and plastering while working around the carport and the weather conditions. It was worth it as the bell tower looks wonderful!

The insurance company decided that it would be more cost effective to replace the carport and canopy instead of trying to repair it. The carport was removed on October 23 so we weren't facing the possibility of a collapse this winter with the wind and snow. The plan is to start the replacement project in the spring.

As long as we are replacing the carport, the idea of expanding the front lobby has been brought up. The carport committee asked the designer who did the original carport plans to work up some renderings showing what an expansion would look like. A couple of the drawings are included below. Haataja Construction also gave us a rough cost estimate for the project. This will be one of the agenda discussion items at the Voters Meeting on November 24. Your input is welcome!





Stewardship Review—September

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **120**

Total Offerings: \$25,674	Total Offerings, September, 2019: \$41,648	Budget/Week \$9,768
Total Expenses: \$33,914	Total Expenses, September, 2019: \$37,429	Budget/Month \$42,329
Difference - \$8,240	Difference \$4,219	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$6,419	Total Offerings, year to date: \$319,687
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$8,479	Total Expenses, year to date: \$332,823
Difference - \$2,060	Difference - \$13,136

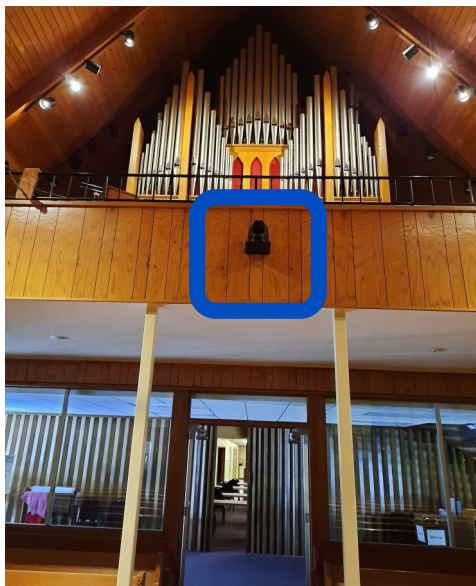
CNB Checkbook Balance as of 09/30/20: \$100,896	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less dedicated accounts - \$ 651	Raised so far \$47,134
Difference \$100,245	Still need \$26,866

Kitchen Payable **\$31,429**

The New Camera Is Up and Running

It was a long wait (we ordered it back in June) but our new camera is installed. We think the picture is a great improvement! This camera can switch between the words on the screen and the chancel area with a press of a button. A big thank you to Pastor Neubauer for doing all the prep and planning to get the camera ordered and in place. Please let us know what you think. We're still working on the sound quality.

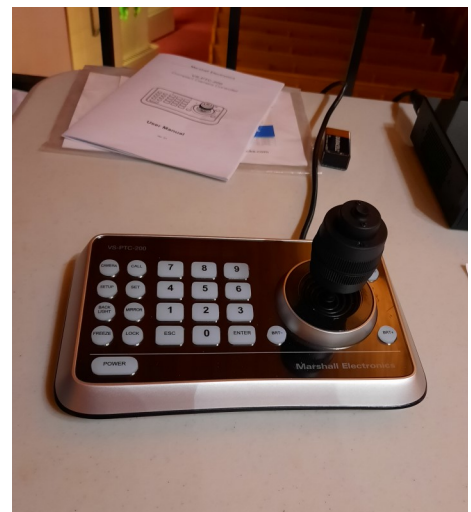
Now that we have this great new camera, we're looking for a few good camera operators. We'd love to have four—one for each week. It's pretty easy to learn how to run it. If you're interested in being on the film crew, please talk to Pastor Neubauer.



The new camera is mounted to the balcony wall.



It's controlled with this console—just like a video game.

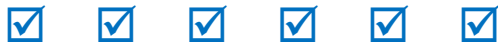




Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance—October

PK3	Kellan Eidsmoe
Kdg	Thatcher Eidsmoe
2nd	Sawyer Eidsmoe, Wyatt Goodwater, Dylan May
3rd	Sophia Neubauer
4th	Zachary Harju
6th	Maxwell Harju
7th	Grace Etter
8th	Vivian Harju



Our October Offerings: \$62.34


This year our Sunday School offerings are going to Lutheran Island Camp.



11/03	Khloe May
11/06	Kaitlyn Maves
11/15	Zachary Harju
11/15	Hailey Meier
11/20	Gemma Leckner
11/21	Thatcher Eidsmoe
11/29	Ryan Maves

Baptismal Birthdays

11/20	Luke Eskola
11/20	Kiften Luther

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
		found	broke	bread	acts	in
1	They	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
2	houses	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
3	ate	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
4	with	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
5	thanks	praising	Christian	God	river	
6	celebrate	good				

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
 Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
 Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
 Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
 Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
 Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
 Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

Lessons this Month

- 11/1 A Dreamer Rises—God Works Good for Joseph
- 11/8 A Family Reunites—God Helps Joseph Forgive
- 11/15 A Basket of Hope—Moses is Born
- 11/22 Signs of the True God—Moses and the Plagues
- 11/29 Waterworks—Water from the Rock



Board

HIGHLIGHTS

Christian Education:

Sunday School Update

Currently average about 25-28 kids per week. Would really like to have more input from parents. Sunday School Christmas Service will be December 20th during the 2nd service. We are in need of new costumes, so would appreciate any donations of material that would be appropriate for shepherds, sheep, angels, and wise men. Discussed having an Advent Party for the kids to encourage attendance. Advent begins November 29th. Discussed options if there is another shut down per the state. They were: Closing Sunday School, Continuing classes with the parents having the option of sending kids, or class information being mailed to them, Splitting the music time, so not all children are in the sanctuary at the same time. We are really hoping that this does not happen but, would like to be proactive in case it does.

Release Time

Currently there is no release time. We are hoping that it will resume once there is a reduction in the Covid cases. Pastor discussed the possibility having a four week class for the 3rd grade students and their parents and they would then receive their bibles at the end of this class.

Confirmation

Confirmation will be October 25th for the young adults who should have been confirmed last spring. Classes will begin on November 11th. November 4th is training for the acolytes and parent meeting. Confirmation is set for the 3rd Sunday in May of 2021.

Pre School

29 kids are attending. We have 1 opening in the 3 year old class and 2 openings in the 4 year old class. If schools are once again closed, preschool will close also. Tuition will be adjusted accordingly.

Mary is doing very well as the new assistant. We are trying new cleaning products to sanitize the classrooms. Discussed raise in salary for Kim to commensurate to the increase for the regular staff. This was based on a discussion by the preschool committee. The amount requested was 1200.00. The raise works out to about 4.00 per session or 3.5%. Motion was made and seconded and passed. This raise is scheduled to take in effect in January 2021.

Discussed the budget for the upcoming year. With, the exception of the preschool budget, we left all other areas at the same rate as last year. The preschool budget was increased from 16,500 to 19,500.

Next meeting will be November 3 at 6:00.

Church Properties: no report.

Elders: no report.

Parish Fellowship: Confirmand meal will be Wednesday, October 21 at 5:15 p.m.

The seven confirmands, their parents with two other guests each, and the elders will attend. Tables will be spaced out for safe distancing. Menu: Pizza, dessert pizzas, and ice cream bars.

“Cookies and Carols” - At Pastor Neubauer’s request, he would like to still hold a form of the event. We’re not sure yet how we will safely do this. Details will be forthcoming.

Decorating the church for Christmas will take place on Monday, November 30 starting at 9:00 a.m. Once again, we will try and make this a safe event, keeping everyone at a safe distance from each other, with everyone wearing masks.

Evangelism, Public Relations, Stewardship and Young People did not meet.



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Knaack



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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