



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

December, 2020

Advent Services

Our Advent services this year are based on the book of Micah.

Advent services will be at noon and 5:30 p.m. Note the time change for the evening service. The noon service will be live streamed. Sorry, no meals due to Covid.



12/2 "The Advent of Our God" - Micah 1:1-4

12/9 "Forever" - Micah 4:1-5

12/16 "Glory to God in the Lowest" - Micah 6:1-8

Christmas Eve services will be held on Thursday, December 24 at 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The 3:00 p.m. service will be live streamed. You must sign up to attend a service on Christmas Eve. You can do this on website, www.stjohnspr.org or by calling the church office. We will have one service on Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. ***Worship Christ the newborn King!***

Help Make Christmas Special for A Child



The Evangelism Board is again coordinating a gift collection for Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots. Like last year, blue ornaments on the tree in the Narthex are for specific children and list gifts that child or their parent asked for. The program is really short on donors this year, so if you are willing to contribute a specific gift for a child it would be appreciated. If you prefer to pick out another gift, the red and green ornaments offer some gift suggestions for different age groups of girls or boys, or you can come up with a gift idea of your own. If you take a blue ornament, please attach it to the gift so we know what child it is for.

If you can't come to church to pick out one, call the church office and Ginny will pick one for you based on your preferences. You will have to bring in your gifts to the church though. When you drop off the present, she will attach the ornament to it. Bring in unwrapped gifts to the box under the tree at church by December 6.

Bid on A Basket

Place your bid on one of the many baskets displayed in the social hall. Proceeds from the baskets go to kitchen remodeling. You can bid in person or online. Bids will be taken until December 20 so be sure to check back frequently and make sure someone hasn't outbid you.





Luminaries

The youth will be selling luminaries again this year. You may purchase (free will donation) a luminary in honor or memory of someone. Deadline to submit a form is December 20. The luminaries will be lit for our Christmas Eve services.

Christmas Eve Luminary Form

Please write your name as you would like it to appear in the booklet:

Phone Number: _____ Freewill Donation: \$ _____ Paid: Yes No

I would like my Luminary: In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Name(s)

Personal message to person(s) you are buying Luminary for: Ex: Miss you, Love you, Proud of you, etc.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 12/6 "Seek My Face"
- 12/13 "The Prophet's Paradox"
- 12/20 "Experience God"
- 12/27 "Welcome to the Family"

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.

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."



† Funerals

- 11/04 Curt Gwynn
- 11/30 Anna Johnson





Voters Approve Canopy/Lobby Expansion

The voters approved plans to expand the front lobby in conjunction with replacing the car port which was damaged in March. Here's the approved motion: *The voters of St Johns approve the recommendation to use the money from the insurance company (approximately \$49,000) to replace the damaged (and now removed) canopy and provide additional funding (approximately \$133,000) to add a 19 x 36 addition to the entryway as shown on drawings provided by Eric Smith and in conjunction with proposal from HAATAJA Construction dated 9/24/2020. The exact financing for this project is to be coordinated by the PPC.*

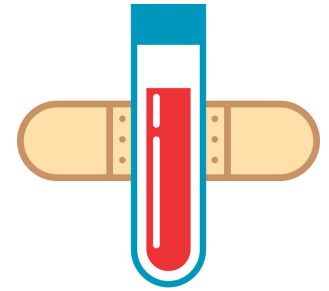
These detailed drawings from architectural designer, Eric Smith, gave the voters an idea of how the expansion would look. Watch for updates in the coming months. The full minutes from the meeting will be published in next month's newsletter.





Successful Blood Drive

Blessed are the volunteers, for without them, what would we do? I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered to make the blood drive possible and especially those who donated blood during our blood drive on November 2 and 3. The donors were able to successfully donate a total of 148 blood products. This wonderful outcome could not be accomplished without the help of our volunteers and donors. Thank you so much, everyone, for your support!



Elayne Luiken, Blood Drive Coordinator

Don't Bring In Your Used Ink Cartridges Anymore



Immanuel Lutheran School in Walker is no longer collecting used ink cartridges. This means we are also no longer collecting cartridges for them. You can take them to the Hubbard County Transfer station for recycling. You can also check to see if Walmart accepts them for recycling. Thank you for supporting this program over the years!

Covid Cancellations

Due to Covid the following Christmas activities have been cancelled:

Evening Guild Caroling
Ladies Aid Potluck
Cookies and Carols



Be a Prayer Chain Leader

Anna Johnson's passing has left us with an opening for a prayer chain leader. The prayer chain leaders (Bev Spoor is our other one) receive the prayer chain requests, then call the first person in each of the groups. There are twelve groups so each leader contacts six of them. If you are willing to serve as a leader, please call the church office.

We're also reconsidering email and text prayer chain options. If you're interested in being part of an email prayer chain or text prayer chain, please call the church office.





Stewardship Review—October

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **113**

Total Offerings: \$27,774	Total Offerings, October, 2019: \$34,452	Budget/Week \$9,768
Total Expenses: \$35,868	Total Expenses, October, 2019: \$35,981	Budget/Month \$42,329
Difference - \$8,094	Difference - \$1,529	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$6,943	Total Offerings, year to date: \$347,795	Kitchen Payable \$30,272
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$8,967	Total Expenses, year to date: \$368,691	
Difference - \$2,024	Difference - \$ 20,896	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 10/31/20: **\$93,478**
 Less dedicated accounts - \$ **899**
 Difference **\$92,579**

Our Healthy Balance Goal **\$74,000**
 Raised so far **\$47,369**
 Still need **\$26,631**

Running Out of Things to Do? Make a Prayer Shawl

Our prayer shawl ministry continues to be a blessing to those who make the shawls and those who receive them. If you're interested in making prayer shawls, please contact Marion Town at 699-3300. We have yarn available for you to use.

Even if you've never been able to get the hang of knitting or crocheting, you can still help the ministry by donating yarn or funds to purchase yarn. Once again, contact Marion if you would like to help in this way.



Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21

11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1 ,

22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13 ,

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1 , 25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15 25 14 10 12 14 ,

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V



Sunday School News

Christmas Program

We're still planning to have our annual Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Practices have been scheduled for Wednesdays, December 2, 9 and 16 from 3:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for all 1st through 6th grade Sunday School students. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 19 from 10:00 - noon for all grades.

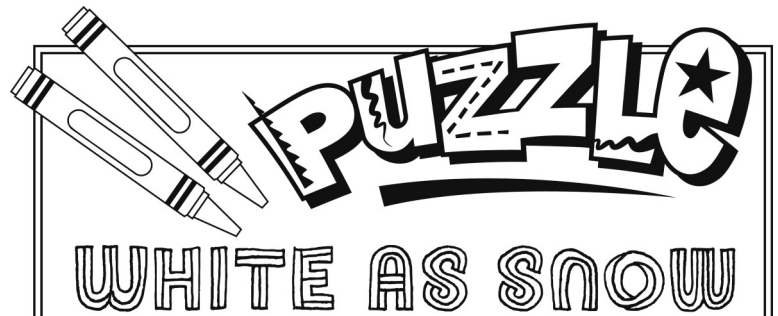
We plan to pick up children from the Century School on Wednesdays for practice. Please contact Sarah Kaufenberg and let her know if your child is coming or for any questions at 651-260-3350, kaufenbergssarah35@gmail.com.



12/08 Maxwell Harju
12/09 Grace Hockett
12/15 Shae Halbasch
12/24 Owen Christensen
12/28 Theodore Komppa
12/30 Gavin Smith

Baptismal Birthdays

12/04 Alex Lof
12/05 Zachary Harju



Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace

EXIT

"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
_____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

Lessons this Month

12/6 The Passover Promise—*The Passover*
12/13 Food from Heaven—*God Cares for His People*
12/20 Christmas Program Rehearsal
12/27 No Sunday School



Main Street Living North Programs for December

“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 and archived on www.mainstreetliving.com. Click on “North (Fargo)” under the picture.



Dec. 6:

Rev. Matt Thompson (our former pastor), Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “Prepare the Way of the Lord” based on Mark 1:1-8. Lutheran Hour Animated Series: “The Stableboy’s Christmas” - A family experiences the excitement of the holidays, while trying to keep the true meaning of Christmas at the center of their preparations.

Dec. 13:

Rev. Justin Woodside, Bethel Lutheran Church and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “Preparing the Way” based on John 1:6-8, 19-28. Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series: “Red Boots for Christmas” - One shop in the small town of Friedensdorf doesn’t have any Christmas decorations, and no Christmas spirit inside the store.

Dec. 20:

LCMS President Matthew Harrison will present the Christmas Sunday message. Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series: “Christmas Is” – Journey back in time to the first Christmas with Benji and Waldo to rediscover the feeling and message of this significant day.

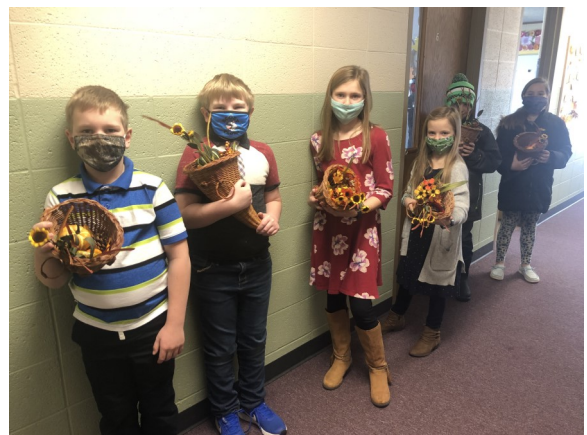


Dec. 27:

Rev. Roger Paavola, President, Mid-South District, presents the message: “On the Other Side of Christmas” based on Luke 2:22-40. Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series: “The Puzzle Club Christmas Mystery” – It’s Christmas, and some mysterious events have occurred which require some special investigative talents.

Sunday Schoolers Craft Cornucopias

The 3-4 grade Sunday school class made cornucopias on November 22 to have as a Thanksgiving centerpiece and reminder of God’s blessings He has given us.



**Parish Planning Council Minutes**
October 28, 2020

CALL TO ORDER - Rod Helm. Attending the meeting via Zoom: Rod Helm, Ginny Ranisate, Connie Fondow, Lori Griess, Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton, Jerry Grudem, Elayne Luiken, Mike Poole, Brandi Backmann, Brad Dahn, Shirley Potter. Absent -Pam Heeren

OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Neubauer

APPROVAL OF THE PPC MINUTES OF July 28, 2020 MEETING

Motion – Lori Griess to approve minutes as printed in newsletter. Second Connie Fondow. Motion carried

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ginny Ranisate

Motion – Elayne Luiken to approve treasurer's report. Second Lori Griess. Motion carried

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2019	351,208	361,101	-9,893
2020	347,690	360,595	-12,905
Difference	-3,518	-506	

Income is down and expenses are about the same compared to last year at this time.

CNB Checking Account as of 10/27/20	101,810
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>-900</u>
Available Funds	\$100,910

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 10/27/20	\$80,216
---	-----------------

LCEF Current Fund as of 10/27/20	112,849
Less Endowment Fund Interest	- 1,855
Less Parsonage Proceeds	- 18,548
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	- 47,369
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	- 21,601
Less T. Haberer Trust	- 19,061
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>- 1,166</u>
Available Funds	\$3,249

Kitchen Payable	\$30,272
------------------------	-----------------



PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Newton highlighted things that he has been doing lately. Including, youth hayride, scavenger hunt, pumpkin carving, confirmation testing, video devotions on YouTube, updating on his Grad School status, as well as normal pastoral duties.

Pastor Neubauer – Confirmation of 7 students last Sunday, they were a good class. Decided to move confirmation back to May 2021 as the first 6 weeks of school in the fall is quite busy for high school students. Confirmation starts November 11th with a parent meeting on November 4th. Pastor Neubauer will be lead teacher with Pastor Newton assisting. Seventh and eighth graders will study the Lord's Prayer and 10 commandments.

A lot of time was been spent on updating technology for better quality Facebook live stream. A new camera was purchased and arrived a couple weeks ago. We are looking for volunteers to run the camera which is extremely easy to learn. Still working on sound of organ and congregational singing when watching live stream service.

BOARD REPORTS

Christian Education – Lori Griess

Sunday School

- 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. Closing Sunday School or 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 Cov-id 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 was 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 2021.

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

Pre School

- Twenty-nine (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 Harvala is doing very well as the new assistant.
- Discussed a raise in salary for Kim to correspond with 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.

Elders – Jerry Grudem – no report

Stewardship - Pam Hereen – no report

Parish Fellowship - Elayne Luiken

- On Wednesday, October 21, our board served pizza and ice cream to the confirmands, their parents and family members, and the elders before students were given their final questioning.
- Our board is planning to organize decorating the church for Christmas on Monday, November 30.

Youth – Brandi Backmann –no report

Church Properties - Brad Dahn

- The Bell Tower has recently been completed and looks great! It was done right on a budget of \$15,500 and none of the contingency money was needed. Jack Ellefson was great to work with, and we were able to work through the problems that arose as they came up, with great success. The committee met several times and made many decisions on the project, thanks to them!
- We received total payments from the insurance company on the canopy of \$48,872.67. So far, we have expenses of \$3,112.58 for engineer's report, drawings and temp bracing, for a balance of \$45,760.09. We have not received a bill for canopy removal at this time, soon I expect. We will be able to use the remainder of money on the project as we desire.
- We are having some drawings done and a structural engineer look at the entryway/canopy addition, so we can come up with some accurate cost estimates to make some very important decisions. So far it has been very ballpark type info we have gotten on the project. Eric Haataja Construction has been working with us to get this all accomplished, and do the work come spring. There will be some work done in the near future on the old canopy roof edge to make it look a little better and keep



water from running off.

- A 2021 budget was completed and given to Ginny.

Evangelism – Connie Fondow

- Pastor Knaack is in the process of delivering the gift bags that the board created for those unable to attend (shut ins). Ginny assisted with this task, as well, by giving bags to relatives to pass along to those that Pastor is unable to reach.
- The gift card donation project for King of Kings in Cedar Rapids, Iowa went very well. The value of the gift cards along with monetary donations totaled slightly over \$2,200.00.
- The board will coordinate St. Johns' participation in the Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots community program for Christmas.
- We will attempt to secure mentors for the new confirmation class which will begin next month.
- The board continues to wait for the opportunity to coordinate and safely host a Trivia event in 2021.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- **Canopy Update:** Brad Dahn is working with structural engineer, contractor, and draftsman to get information regarding plans for completing the canopy/entry project. He would like to present a proposal to the voters in November including quotes, drawings of the exterior and interior plans and what the options are for the voters
- **2021 Budget:** Reviewed the proposed 2021 budget. Jerry Grudem will review elders portion and get back to Ginny soon
- **Voters Meeting:** November 24, 2020 – 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The meeting will be live streamed
- **Circuit Forum:** Lay delegate representative for the Circuit Forum needed for– November 8th - 7 pm at St. Johns. Connie Fondow volunteered to be Lay Delegate. Pastor Newton is the Pastoral Representative.
- Pastor Neubauer asked the council for feedback regarding Covid and going forward with worship services. Discussion.

CLOSING PRAYER - Pastor Newton

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Potter



**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

Return Service Requested

Inside this issue:

Advent Services	1
Help Make Christmas Special for A Child	1
Bid on A Basket	1
Luminaries	2
Christmas Luminary Form	2
What's on the Lutheran Hour	2
Funerals	2
Voters Approve Canopy/Lobby Expansion	3
Successful Blood Drive	4
Don't Bring in Your Used Ink Cartridges Anymore	4
Covid Cancellations	4
Be A Prayer Chain Leader	4
Stewardship Review	5
Running Out of Things to Do?	5
Puzzle	5
Sunday School News	6
Main Street Living	7
Sunday Schoolers Craft Cornucopias	7
Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes	8

