



The **St. Johns Servant**

St. Johns
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

January, 2021



Christmas Undecorating

We plan to take down the Christmas decorations on Monday, January 4 starting at 9:00 a.m. All help is welcome!

It's Time to Renew...

...your Lutheran Witness subscription. The cost is \$22.56 for a one year subscription. There is a special Lutheran Witness envelope in your offering packet. Please put your name and address on the back of the envelope to help us double check for correct information. Deadline to turn in subscriptions is January 31.



Sign Up for Altar Flowers in 2021

The 2021 Flower Chart is posted in the front lobby. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on one or more Sundays, please sign up on the chart. You will receive a reminder call the week before you are scheduled to provide flowers.

Life Sunday

Sunday, January 17 is Life Sunday. We believe that life is a precious gift from God from conception to old age and on this Sunday we especially focus on life. We will also have a special door offering for our local Pregnancy Resource Center.



Join A Bible Study

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. - Pastor Neubauer leads a class that follows the Sunday School lessons in the social hall. You can attend online or in person.

Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. - Pastor Neubauer continues his class on the book of Luke. This class is also online and in person.

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - Pastor Knaack's topic is "The Big Lie." This group meets in person in the social hall.

Last Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Sarah Newton continues the women's online study of "Our Way Home." Contact Sarah to get a copy of the book.



Confirmation Mentors Still Needed

There are 3 boys and 3 girls in the new 7th grade confirmation class who began their study of God’s Word and LCMS doctrine in November. At this point in time, we have been able to secure one male mentor. The Board of Evangelism asks that you please give prayerful thought and consideration to becoming a 2-year mentor to one of these students. They need to know that they are an important part of the ministry at St. Johns. An extra connection to our church can become very integral as they work to build a permanent relationship with their Savior and the Church.



Contact one of the pastors, Ginny, or Connie Fondow (732-9236) if you would like to discuss confirmation mentorship.



Thank You for Christmas Toys

Thank you, St. Johns parishioners who contributed to the Park Rapids Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots program. You helped to make Christmas brighter for about 186 families and over 600 children by purchasing and donating gifts.

And to Our Basket Builders and Bidders

A huge thanks also goes out to everyone who donated a basket and to the successful bidders. Over \$1600 was raised to help with the kitchen remodeling expense!



Stewardship Review—November

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **87**

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Total Offerings: \$39,279 | Total Offerings, November, 2019: \$35,227 | Budget/Week \$9,768 |
| Total Expenses: \$40,298 | Total Expenses, November, 2019: \$37,124 | Budget/Month \$42,329 |
| Difference - \$1,019 | Difference - \$1,897 | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Avg. Weekly Offerings \$7,856 | Total Offerings, year to date: \$387,008 |
| Avg. Weekly Expenses \$8,060 | Total Expenses, year to date: \$408,894 |
| Difference - \$204 | Difference - \$21,886 |

| | |
|---|--|
| CNB Checkbook Balance as of 11/30/20: \$93,382 | Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000 |
| Less dedicated accounts - \$1,187 | Raised so far \$47,588 |
| Difference \$92,195 | Still need \$26,412 |

Kitchen Payable **\$27,757**



Main Street Living Programs This Month



Main Street Living is a great option if you can't make it to worship in person. Programs are broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on KVRR Fargo-Moorhead. If you don't get the Fargo station, look for the Twin Cities option WFTC channel 29/9-2 in your cable line up. Or you can watch all of the archived programs at any time on line! To reach the website for archived programs you will first need to go to the MSL Network site at www.mainstreetliving.com to reach the Main Street Living site.

Jan 3: Rev. Kevin Zellers, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND, presents the message based on Luke 2:52. This is the Life: "A Friend in Deed" explores the Christian's duty to forgive those who have done us wrong.

Jan 10: Rev. Lester Wolfgram, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: "Set Free In Christ" based on Mark 1:4-11. This is the Life: "The God of Love" illustrates that we, as Christians, all have responsibilities. It is a cross we bear. This award-winning program is in black and white.

Jan 17: Rev. Bernie Worral, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "I Am Known" based on Psalm 139. This is the Life: This episode, "Adrift," discusses the effectiveness of children who witness for Christ.

Jan 24: Dr. Michael Salemink, Executive Director for National Lutherans for Life, presents the message: "From Invisible to Indispensable" based on I Corinthians 12:22. This is the Life: The Hand of God" - This black and white presentation deals with making opportunities from problems.

Jan 31: Rev. Ed Borchardt, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Frazee, MN, presents the message: "God comes into our space and shakes us up" based on Mark 1. 21-28. This Is The Life: "The Point of No Return." This color presentation discusses God's limitless grace.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 1/3 "Too Much"
- 1/10 "The Back story Behind a Bible 'Contradiction'"
- 1/17 "Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise!"
- 1/24 "Why Jesus Told Parables"
- 1/31 "Under the Impression"

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."

† Funeral

12/ 15 Kelly Hagen



**Voter's Meeting Minutes****November 24, 2020****Call to Order – Rod Helm****Opening Devotion – Pastor Neubauer****Roll Call of Voting Members** --17 in person ---21 online. Eight (8) confirmation students in attendance.**Receiving of new voting members.** *Motion, Jerry Grudem to accept Stacey Kimball as a voting member. Second - Larry Hetrick, motion carried.***Signing of the Constitution and Bylaws by New voting Members****Approval of the Minutes of August 18, 2020 Voters meeting.** *–Motion by Larry Hetrick to accept minutes as printed in newsletter, second, Mike Poole. Motion carried.***Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate**

Our income so far this year is \$380,544 and expenses are \$395,708 with expenses exceeding income by \$15,164. Last year at this time our income was \$387,422 and our expenses were \$398,494 with expenses exceeding income by \$11,072.

The PPP loan forgiveness application has been submitted. Per Kathy Henry at Citizens, all applications are being approved. If our application is approved as expected this would increase our income by \$60,000.

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| CNB Checking Account | 100,298 |
| Less Dedicated Funds | -1,175 |
| Available Funds | 99,123 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| CNB Dedicated Funds Savings | 80,267 |
|-----------------------------|--------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| LCEF Current Fund | 113,071 |
| Less Parsonage Proceeds | -18,548 |
| Less Healthy Balance | -47,578 |
| Less Endowment Fund Interest | -1,855 |
| Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest | -21,605 |
| Less T. Haberer Trust | -19,065 |
| Less R. Haberer Memorial | -1,166 |
| Available Funds | 3,254 |

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Kitchen Payable | \$27,757 |
|-----------------|----------|

Motion to approve treasurer's report – Jody Yliniemi, second – Larry Hetrick, motion carried.

Board Reports**Elders – Jerry Grudem** –continue to assist the pastors when needed.**Evangelism – Connie Fondow**

- Small bags were delivered to members of the congregation who live in assisted living facilities, Heritage Living Center, and those at home who are unable to attend church services. These bags contained lip balm, hand



sanitizer, mints, hand cream, a small devotional booklet, a crocheted cross, and a bookmark.

- St. Johns members were once again extremely generous when called upon to assist the members of King of Kings in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Gift cards and monetary donations exceeded \$2,200.00!
- Doug and Julie Kingsley are coordinating the Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots community Christmas gift project again this year. Please note the tree with ornaments and the directions for contributing posted in the entryway.
- The new 7th grade confirmation class consists of 3 boys and 3 girls. We are in need of mentors ASAP. Only one male mentor has been secured. Please contact Ginny, one of the pastors, or me if you would consider becoming a mentor to one of these students.
- Trivia in 2021 is a definite possibility. The planning will begin as soon as the COVID situation is abated and it appears safe to proceed with this event. (Hint: While you are resting at home this next month, be sure to watch “It’s A Wonderful Life”.)

Education – Lori Griess

(Lori was not present – Rod read her prepared report)

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 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 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.

Pre School

Thirty (30) kids are attending. We have 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.

(Continued on page 7)



Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance—December

- PK3 - George Newton
- PK4 - Kellan Eidsmoe
- Kdg. - Thatcher Eidsmoe
- 1st - Gavin Etter
- 2nd - Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 3rd - Clinton Koch, Alex Lof
- 4th - Nevaeh Etter, Zachary Harju
- 6th - Max Harju
- 7th - Grace Etter



Total Offering— December: \$23.75



- 1/7 Ava Kimball
- 1/11 Peightyn Walker
- 1/24 Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 1/28 Bria McMahon
- 1/27 Emma Quinn
- 1/30 Lilah Forbes

Baptismal Birthdays

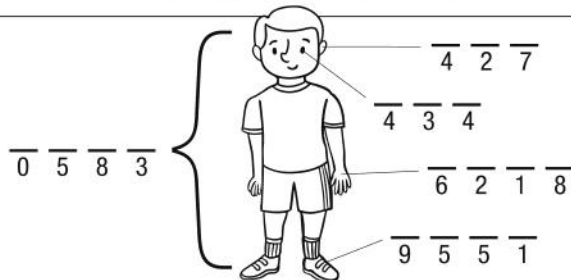
- 1/04 Sawyer Harvey
- 1/10 Adelynn DeVore
- 1/11 Maxwell Harju
- 1/24 Thatcher Eidsmoe



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the _____₂₀ should say, "Because I am not a _____₁₇, I do not belong to the _____₁₆," ... And if the _____₁₃ should say, "Because I am not an _____₁₁, I do not belong to the _____₁₆," it would not for that reason stop being part of the _____₁₆. If the whole _____₁₆ were an _____₁₁, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole _____₁₆ were an _____₁₃, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one _____₁₆.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 16, ear = 11, car = 13, hand = 13, foot = 20

Sunday School Thanks

A BIG THANK YOU to all the kids, Sunday School teachers and staff who helped make our "Radio J-O-Y" a great Sunday school Christmas program! You can still watch it on our website.





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Young People – Brandi Backmann

September/October

- Pastor Newton - Hayride, scavenger hunt, pumpkin carving

November

- Youth Board met in person November 3rd for future planning
- Pizza and a Movie - Cancelled

December

- Advent meals are cancelled
- Cookie Marathon - Paused as we plan how to safely hold event
- 9th - College Event over Christmas break - TBD
- Luminaries -Sell during Sunday and Wednesday Advent Services up to Christmas Eve

Church Properties – Brad Dahn

(Brad attended via online – Rod read his prepared report)

- The repair and stuccoing of the bell tower is completed. The right steps were taken to ensure it was done correctly and should last a good many years. The project was done right on budget of \$15,500.00 with no overage encountered.
- We have settled with the insurance company to have the canopy replaced and done whichever way we would like to proceed. The canopy has been removed by Haataja Contracting to make it safe for the winter season. This will give us time to make plans to do the work come spring.

Stewardship – Pam Hereen - they met online to work on budget for 2021

Parish Fellowship – Elayne Luiken

(Elayne was not present – Rod read her prepared report)

- 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.
- Christmas decorations will go up on Monday, November 30 and taken down Monday, January 4, 2021.
- Cookies and Carols will not be held this year due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Public Relations - no report

Motion, Larry Hetrick to approve board reports, second Jody Yliniemi, motion carried

Pastors/Deaconess Reports

Pastor Neubauer

Updates:

- Continuing with regular worship on Sunday
- Thanksgiving Wednesday Noon and 5:30pm and Thanksgiving Day 9:00am
- Advent Services, Wednesday's Noon and 5:30 pm No meals - one service will be livestreamed
- Christmas Eve services 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm – plans are to livestream the 3:00 pm service
- Sign up online or call in to reserve a spot for Christmas Eve services

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- Christmas Day 9:00 am with communion

Teaching times:

- Sunday morning Adult bible class is following the Sunday School Lessons
- Tuesday morning Gospel of Luke
- No Release Time this year

Confirmation:

- Combined classes total of 23 students
- Hybrid/Distance Learning
- Confirmation is the First Sunday in May

Visits:

- Set a goal of 12 significant phone calls each week and 2 home visits – I failed

Future:

- Set a goal of 12 significant phone calls each week and 2 home visits
- Will be setting up a 4th round of phone calls to each member

Substitute Teaching:

- Last year I applied for a subbing license
- Interact with the kids in a different setting
- Help where there is a significant need.
- Sub on Fridays on my day off.
- I have subbed 4 full days and two ½ days
- Only one on a Friday.
- I can accomplish some of my regular church work while subbing
- Spend extra time outside of normal hours
- Vacation days
- Problems/concerns please talk to me

Pastor Newton

Youth

Bible study for this year is The Story of Everything. We are learning about the stories that are told in the world and in our lives, as well as the stories we tell by the way we live our lives and the stories we most identify with. We are learning most of all about the story the Lord tells us in his Word about the world and its relationship to God, especially what that means for each of us individually and all of us together.

Events: Biking to Dorset, Evergreen Park, Hayride and Pumpkin Carving, both the movie nights we'd scheduled for November are canceled for COVID, and we're going to see if there's a way we can safely do the cookie bake.

COVID Projects

Youth: Figuring how best to minister to our young people when face to face interaction is what they tend to need most and is also what's most dangerous right now; planning (after restrictions are lightened) to break up events more into smaller groups to help alleviate that and to put more focus on specific age groups.

Daily Devotions: We quit recording our evening devotions for a while because George was getting to be too much of a hambone, but he's getting better about devotions again, so we're considering doing that once in a while again. But there is a devotion for each day of the week except Sunday. Monday and Thursday is video devotion; Tuesday is lunch time devotion with Sarah, George, and Norah; Wednesday is a longer Bible study option, which is done by an excellent teacher Dr. Reek (a favorite teacher from Concordia in Seward, NE); Friday and Saturday is a short textual devotion. If you have any feedback on what you would like more or less of, or something else to try, feel free to let me know.

Graduate School

I am finishing up two classes this semester: Culture and Communication, and Idea of the Modern. I'll have one more class in the Spring semester: Theology after the Death of God (God's not actually dead, obviously, but the class intends to study how to live and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in a world full of people who believe that he is dead); then I'll have a comprehensive exam to study for and take, and that'll be that. Graduation Spring 2022.



Family

Norah's walking and having a great time seeing what new things she can get into! George is having fun showing her things and trying to teach her to talk. He is enrolled in preschool and is loving every minute of it. The three of us enjoy wrestling and going up in the air when I come home. Sarah's doing well also and is a great help in keeping the home fires burning while I'm getting things done here, and just generally being a wonderful wife, mother, deaconess, and a sounding board and support for me. I'm enjoying fatherhood at this stage and looking forward to when Minnesota is open to sports again!

Sarah Newton

Women's Bible Study

- Sunday Morning Women's Bible Study has effectively been on hold since March, due to Covid-19. I had hoped to start back up this September, but the numbers just aren't there. We have books ordered for when we are finally able to meet again!

Midweek Women's Study

- This originated as a Sunday School Teacher's Group but was opened to all women of St. John's (please get in touch with me if you would like to participate!).
- We began this Spring with topical studies and began going through Our Way Home by Dr. Daniel Paavola this Fall.
- Meetings take place at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month via Google Meet. We met every other week during the summer but have moved to the final Thursday of each month now that the school year is underway.
- The study began in person but has been virtual since Covid restrictions went into place.

Devotions

- I assisted the pastors in developing weekly devotions when Covid restrictions went into place this Spring. This slowed down when in-person worship resumed but has picked back up with the recent directive from our Governor.

Parish Professional Collaboration

- This month, I participated in a virtual meeting with Rev. Monte Meyer (he works for the district office) and several other parish professionals from our district to bounce different ideas off each other, as well as provide some mutual encouragement.

Release Time

- Normally I help teach for release time, but that is also on hold for this school year.

Motion to approve Pastor/Deaconess Reports, Jerry Grudem, second Larry Hetrick, motion carried

Old/New Business

- A. Presentation and Action on the 2021 Annual Budget \$512,464 up from \$507,951 in 2020 (less than 1% increase)
Motion by Larry Hetrick to accept proposed budget, second – Mike Poole, motion carried
- B. District Office Nominations --- this item was removed from agenda – no nominations needed
- C. District Convention Delegate — Motion Larry Hetrick to nominate Roger Just as District Convention delegate for 2021, second Jerry Grudem – motion carried. We will need a volunteer to be the alternate delegate for 2021, past practice is the alternate will then become the delegate the following year – 2022. Mike Poole volunteered---
Jody Yliniemi made motion to nominate Mike Poole as District Convention delegate for 2021, second Jerry Grudem, motion carried
- D. Update authorized signers of various church accounts. Motion by Jerry Grudem to name authorized signatures for financial accounts to be Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer - currently held by Rodney Helm, Michael Poole and Virginia Ranisate respectively. The authorized signatures would change when new persons were appointed to above named positions. second Jody Yliniemi, motion carried.

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- E. Pastor Parsonage Allowances — RESOLVED, that St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a parsonage allowance for Pastor Neubauer in the amount of \$ 24,000 and for Pastor Newton in the amount of \$25,500 per year. Motion by Larry Hetrick to accept resolution above, second Jody Yliniemi, motion carried. (this resolution is for tax proposes and does not increase the salary or budget).
- F. Larry Hetrick suggested cancelling the auto insurance for bus as it is not being used due to Covid, Ginny will check with insurance company on this.
- G. Carport/Canopy Update – Jerry Grudem went through a Power Point presentation of the project.

History

- We had a truck taller than 8 foot 0 inches unsuccessfully try to drive under the driveway canopy.
- The insurance company offered us about \$17,000 to rebuild the canopy.
- Brad Dahn, as Board of Church Properties director, had an engineer review the structure and concluded that replacement rather than rebuilding would end up safer.
- Brad then tried to get competitive estimates from several general contractors.
- The first proposal came in above \$80,000.
- Two other contractors first indicated interest then decided not to bid the project.
- A project team was put together to help Brad evaluate replacing the canopy.
- While considering the canopy replacement, the building committee thought it would be an opportune time to consider a lobby expansion.
- Brad was then given the name of Eric Haataja of Haataja Construction.
- Eric Haataja helped Brad work through the details of rebuilding the canopy and provided an estimate of \$49,000 which convinced the insurance company increase the insurance money.
- Eric Haataja also then put Brad in touch with Eric Smith an architectural designer.
- Eric Smith was hired by St Johns to draw up a set of plans so Eric Haataja could get competitive pricing from subcontractors. Proposals included electrical work from Marchell Electric and Samuelson Laney Mechanical.
- Eric Smith also made drawings so St Johns could make decisions on how to finish the bell tower with borders and crosses. (turned out great)
- At this point the project team has decided that the price from Haataja Construction would work for a starting point for a decision from St Johns voters. Final design input from a structural engineer to size structural components for the canopy and addition will give adequate information to Eric Smith to make a working drawing set.
- Mechanical and electrical drawings will be provided by those subcontractors.
- The project team recommends that the Voters approve the construction of the entry addition at the same time as the canopy replacement is done to optimize coordination and cost.

What’s the bottom line?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bid from Haataja Contracting | \$165,630 |
| Contingencies 10% | \$16,563 |
| Total project | \$182,193 |
| Money received from insurance company | \$48,872 |
| Loan Required with 10% contingency | \$133,321 |
| Loan without contingency | \$116,758 |



| <i>LOAN</i> | <i>YEARS</i> | <i>PAYMENT</i> | <i>ANNUAL</i> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| \$133,321 | 10 | \$1,349.81 | \$16,197.72 |
| \$133,321 | 20 | \$807.90 | \$9694.80 |
| \$116,758 | 10 | \$1,182.12 | \$14,185.44 |
| \$116,758 | 20 | \$707.53 | \$8490.36 |

Motion by Jerry Grudem member of the special building committee on canopy replacement project.

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 Parish Planning Council.

Second Jody Yiniemi, motion carried

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Services

- ◆ Wednesday, November 25th – Noon and 5:30 pm
- ◆ Thursday, November 26th – 9:00 am

Christmas Decorating

- ◆ November 30th – 9:00 am

Advent Service

- ◆ December 2, 9 & 16 – Noon and 5:30 pm

Basket fundraiser

- ◆ ends December 20 – 10:15 am

Sunday School Christmas Program

- ◆ December 20 – 10:30 am

Christmas Eve

- ◆ December 24 – 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm, sign up required

Christmas Day Service

- ◆ December 25 – 9:00 am

Sunday, December 27

- ◆ one service at 9:00 am, no coffee, Sunday School or Bible Class

Adjourned. Closed with Doxology.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Potter, Secretary





St. Johns Lutheran Church

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Park Rapids, MN 56470

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Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Neumann



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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

Change Service Requested

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