



# *The* **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

February, 2021

## Vision Problems? We'll Be Seeing Clearly in Lent

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17. This year's theme is "Vision Problems" based on Hebrews 12:2. Join us for worship each Wednesday at noon or 5:30 p.m. The services will also be live streamed. Due to COVID there will not be meals at the services. Here's a look at our focus for each week.

- February 17 Ash Wednesday—Astigmatism - *Sin's Curve*
- February 24 Far-sightedness - *The Twelve*
- March 3 Near-sightedness - *Judas*
- March 10 Macular Degeneration - *The Jewish Leaders*
- March 17 Glaucoma - *Pilate*
- March 24 Cataracts - *Peter*



## Bring It Home—Life of Christ



The Life of Christ is the newest edition of the Bring It Home devotional series put out by the Minnesota North District. This is a 30 day devotional on the life of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to use the devotion during Lent. If you do a devotion every day except Wednesdays and Sundays (church days), it will work out to about 40 days. All you need is your Bible and the booklet which you can pick up here at church or download and print on your own at [www.mnnlcms.org/bring-it-home](http://www.mnnlcms.org/bring-it-home).

If you have young children who are learning to read, there is even an "Arch Book" option. A set of 30 Arch books that follow the devotions can be ordered directly from Concordia Publishing House for \$45 shipped (regularly \$90) using the promo code "ARCHSET." You can call them at 1-800-325-3040 or order online at [www.https://www.cph.org/p-34811-life-of-christ-arch-book-set.aspx](https://www.cph.org/p-34811-life-of-christ-arch-book-set.aspx).

Stop in to church to pick up your copy and "Bring It Home" during Lent.

JOIN US FOR THE COMEBACK TOUR  
February 17, 2021 | Ash Wednesday

## ST. JOHNS CHOIR

REHEARSALS IN THE SANCTUARY  
AFTER EVERY WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE



PLEASE WEAR A MASK\*  
SOCIALLY DISTANCED  
30 MINUTE REHEARSALS



\*Please contact Sarah Kaufenberg if you would like a singing mask



## Ponderings from the Pew



I had a bug to re-paint our master bathroom. Of all the rooms in the house, I believe bathrooms are the most difficult to paint. Yes, they are smaller than other rooms generally, but they have so much extra stuff to move, and paint around, and tight spaces to get into, and itty-bitty spaces between door trim and counters, cabinets and shower stalls to be neatly painted. So, for whatever reason, I thought it would be fun to spend all day enclosed in this small space with my husband. He still lives and that's all I have to say about that. I still live as well even though I stepped just a teensy bit on the toilet tank to reach a high corner and wouldn't you know, the toilet started leaking! "Oh honey, where's that water coming from?" (insert eye roll).

So, what you need to know about this project is that the first time I painted this room, was when we had just built the house. I didn't want to move out here, and I didn't really care about careful painting. I put almost all auction and oopsie paint on the walls and I wasn't all that worried about dusting new sheetrock or sanding mud bumps in the bathroom. Now I just say the house has character. Arch figured we should smooth some of these "character" marks out before we painted again. I did some sanding, but it seemed to me I probably wouldn't see the same marks with fresh paint on the walls. Ha! They don't just magically disappear with new paint. They aren't as visible probably owing more to the color than the fact it's a new coat, but they are still there.



When God looks at us, He does not see our imperfections. We are covered in white robes of righteousness through Jesus' death and resurrection. Does it strike you as odd that our robes are white even though they are washed in blood? Blood is red and stains. Yet we are made white as snow. Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, 'Let us reason together,' says the Lord; though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." We are not clumsily covered. We are pure in God's sight through our Savior, Jesus. As Hebrews 10:9-10, 14 says, "...Behold, I have come to do Your will...and by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of Jesus Christ once for all.... For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." We don't ever need to be re-painted or re-cleansed. Jesus died once for all.

What an amazing gift we have received by grace from God. What a mind-blowing act of purely unconditional love. "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are," (1 John 3:1).

To God be the glory.

**Renee' Anderson**

Though your  
**SINS**  
are like  
**SCARLET**,  
they shall  
be **WHITE** as  
**SNOW**

Though they  
are **RED**  
— as —  
**CRIMSON**,  
they shall  
be **LIKE**  
**WOOL**.

I S A I A H 1 : 1 8



## Main Street Living Programs This Month



Have you checked out Main Street Living? Programs are broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on KVRP Fargo-Moorhead. Here's the "North" programs for February:

Feb 7: Rev. Daniel Suelze, Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message "The Everlasting God," based on Isaiah 40:21-31. "This is the Life" episode: "The Point of No Return." This color presentation discusses God's limitless grace.

Feb 14: Rev. Jeffrey Lee, MN North District of the LCMS, Brainerd, MN, presents the message: "Boldly Proclaiming Jesus," based on 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6. "This is the Life" episode: "Mr. Big."

Feb 21: Rev. David Suelze, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "It Just Doesn't Make Any Sense," based on Genesis 22:1-3. "This is the Life" episode: Social Responsibility and Christian witness are the topics in "The Day We Lost Ella Mae."

Feb. 28: Rev. Don Fondow, President, MN North District – LCMS, presents the message: "A Life Worth Living ... A Savior Worth Believing," based on Mark 8:27-38. "This is the Life" episode: "Out of Bondage" examines the Christian approach to alcoholism.

If you don't get KVRP you can watch the Minnesota South District version of Main Street Living on WFTC Channel 29 at 9:00 a.m. You can also watch all of the archived programs at any time online. To reach the website for archived programs go to [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) and then click on "North (Fargo)" or "Twin Cities."

### What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 2/7 "Stories Around the Table"
- 2/14 "Shines and Saves"
- 2/21 "Do You See Anything?"
- 2/28 "Where a Kid Can Be a Kid"

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).

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."

**LHM Sunday  
February 7, 2021**

Celebrating over 100 years  
of bringing Christ  
to the nations

Go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)  
for more info or check out  
the insert in the bulletin on  
February 7.



## No Ladies Aid, Evening Guild or Lutheran Laymen's League meetings this month due to COVID.

### But the Ladies Aid and Evening Guild Could Use Your Help

The Evening Guild and Ladies Aid send monetary contributions to various LCMS and/or local service organizations each month. COVID restrictions and precautions have cancelled many of our monthly meetings at which time we gather dues to assist with the finances for our contributions. We have not been able to engage in any types of fund raisers (bake sales, Sunday coffee time, etc.) which also help to make these donations possible. If you would like to support the Guild or Aid in their efforts to continue to make their commitment to any of these organizations, we would be very appreciative. You may use a "Designated Offering" envelope or simply leave your gift in the church office. Please indicate, in some way, if you wish your offering to be given to one of the specific organizations listed:

#### Ladies Aid:

January - Adopt a Seminarian  
February - Bethesda Home  
March - Mission in Mexico  
April - Dakota Boys Ranch  
May - LAMP



#### Evening Guild:

January - Fort Wayne Seminary Food Shelf  
Adopt a Seminary Student  
Helping Hands (Century School)  
February - Lutherans for Life  
MN North New Mission Start  
Adopt a Seminary Student  
March - Hubbard County Food Shelf  
Kinship  
Adopt a Seminary Student  
April - District Deaf Ministry  
Living at Home  
Adopt a Seminary Student  
May - Lutheran Blind Ministry  
Heartland Homes  
Adopt a Seminary Student

## Stewardship Review - December, 2020

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 90

Total Offerings: \$42,622	Avg. Weekly Offerings \$10,655	Budget/Week \$9,768
Total Expenses: <u>\$49,887</u>	Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$12,472</u>	Budget/Month \$42,329
Difference - \$7,265	Difference - \$1,817	

#### Yearly Summary:

Total Offerings: \$489,630\*  
Total Expenses: \$458,781  
Difference \$30,849

#### Yearly Summary, 2019:

Total Offerings: \$439,739  
Total Expenses: \$459,111  
Difference - \$19,372

\*includes \$60,000 PPP loan  
which was forgiven

CNB Checkbook Balance	\$85,015	Our Healthy Balance Goal	\$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts	\$ <u>784</u>	Raised so far	<u>\$48,048</u>
Difference	\$84,231	Still need	\$25,952



## Condensed Annual Financial Report Ending 12/31/20

	12/31/19	12/31/20
Current Assets	285,012	
Fixed Assets	<u>1,230,448</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,515,460</u>	<u>0</u>
Liabilities/Dedicated Funds Payable	209,430	
Equity	<u>1,306,030</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>1,515,460</u>	<u>0</u>
Income:	439,739	489,630*
Less Expenses:		
Missions	75,000	75,000
Voters	254,688	252,976
Board of Elders	43,977	39,865
Board of Christian Education	18,617	22,835
Board of Church Properties	59,959	62,031
Board of Evangelism	1,705	593
Board of Parish Fellowship	178	236
Board of Stewardship	1,202	1,230
Board of Young People	1,420	1,713
Board of Public Relations	<u>2,365</u>	<u>2,302</u>
Total Expenses	<u>459,111</u>	<u>458,781</u>
Income Less Expenses	<u>-19,372</u>	<u>30,849</u>

\*includes \$60,000 PPP forgiven loan

### A New Newton is on the Way

Pastor and Sarah Newton are excited to announce that they're expecting their third child around the first part of August. No news yet on whether it's a boy or girl but Pastor Newton is campaigning for the name "Rudolph" if it's a boy.

Please keep the Newton family in your prayers as they await their new arrival!





# Sunday School News

## Perfect Attendance—January

These students have perfect attendance so far for the month:

PK4 Kellan Eidsmoe  
Kdg. Thatcher Eidsmoe  
2nd Sawyer Eidsmoe  
3rd Clinton Koch, Alex Lof,  
Sophia Neubauer  
4th Nevaeh Etter, Zachary Harju  
6th Max Harju  
7th Grace Etter



2/01 Harlow Komppa  
2/04 Everett Bergerson  
2/13 Kolt Safratowich  
2/23 Gunar Clark  
2/25 Tony Meier  
2/26 Kelly Kimball  
2/26 Vivian Komppa  
2/28 James Trandem

## Baptismal Birthdays

2/03 Theodore Komppa  
2/04 Annie Mayer  
2/6 Neveah Etter  
2/7 Owen Christensen  
2/08 Henli Maier  
2/10 Ava Kimball  
2/28 Ryan Maves

## PUZZLE



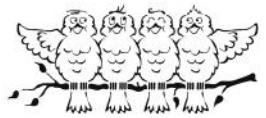
## A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O W B C O Z E E  
J E O O Z E' U N O J Q U O W  
B C O N L U O E J E O O  
N L U O' B C O O N W E N O W  
J E O O Z U F O  
N W E N O W U N O  
B C O O Z E O  
F O Z E O  
RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A	E	T
B	U	H	D
G	R	L	Y
N	S	P	M

my people and your God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

## Lessons this Month

2/7 The Downfall Wall—The Fall of Jericho  
2/14 The Palm-Tree Judge—Deborah  
2/21 The Weakened Judge—Samson  
2/28 The Faith-Full Family—Ruth



## Who Keeps the Church Going? You Do!

Volunteers are the heart of our ministry and our church. Here are some ways you can serve as a member of our St. Johns family.

### Join the Prayer Chain—Be a Leader

The prayer chain is a simple way that you can minister to those in our church family and even people you've never met. How does it work? People call our prayer chain leaders with a prayer request. They call the first person in each of 12 groups with the request and those people call the next person on the list in their group on down the line. The main point is that you then include the prayer request in your prayers. Bev Spoor is one of our prayer chain leaders. With the passing of Anna Johnson, we have a need for another leader. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry as a member or leader, please call the church office at 732-9783.



### Offering Counters



Are you good with numbers? Love to use an adding machine? Detail oriented? Then we could really use you! We need more offering counters. Each team of two usually counts the offerings one Sunday a month. It's an interesting and sometimes challenging job but vitally important to our congregation. What good are all those offerings, if they aren't organized, counted, credited to contributors and deposited to be used for the work of the church? If you feel the call to crunch some numbers, please talk to Ginny and she will give you details.

### Help Serve Coffee

You don't have to bring anything, just make the coffee, put out treats and clean up. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet by the kitchen.



### Be on a Board



The Parish Planning Council is currently working on the slate of candidates for board members which will be voted on at our June voters meeting. We would love to have you as one of our board members. There are eight boards—Christian Education, Church Properties, Elders, Evangelism, Parish Fellowship, Public Relations, Stewardship and Young People.

If you're willing to serve, please talk to one of the pastors, Rod Helm or Mike Poole or call the church office.



**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

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*Pastor James Neubauer*

*Pastor Joel Newton*

*Pastor Bill Knaack*

*Deaconess Sarah Newton*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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