



The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

March, 2021

Our Lenten Focus is Seeing Clearly

Lent continues this month with the theme “Seeing Clearly” 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.

- March 3 Near-sightedness - *Judas*
- March 10 Macular Degeneration - *The Jewish Leaders*
- March 17 Glaucoma - *Pilate*
- March 24 Cataracts - *Peter*



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, March 28, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, noon and 5:30 p.m. with stripping of the altar at the 5:30 p.m. service,

Good Friday, April 2, noon and 5:30 p.m., special music by the Senior Choir

Easter, April 4, 6:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. - Festival Worship Services with communion

9:15 a.m. coffee time, Bible study and Sunday School



Missing Lenten Meals and Easter Breakfast? Here’s Some Options



Soup To Go (Fundraiser for Order (by the quart) by March 7 on the sheet by the office. Cheesy Potato and Chicken Wild Rice are the options. Your soup will be ready to pick up March 10. Freewill donations accepted toward the National Youth Gathering, 2022 in Houston, TX.

Easter Breakfast Take and Bake

Menu: Cinnamon Rolls, Caramel Rolls (with or without nuts--your choice), and Egg Bake (one pan serves 4). Place your order by Wednesday of Holy Week, March 31. You can pick up your breakfast Easter morning. Freewill donations accepted toward the National Youth Gathering trip.





Ladies Aid Meeting This Month

The Ladies Aid plans to resume their monthly meetings on Thursday, March 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the social hall. All ladies are invited to join them.



Evening Guild and Lutheran Laymen's League have decided to wait to resume meetings. Watch for updates.

Youth Video Game Tournament Scheduled

All 5th-12th graders are invited to join us here at church on Sunday, March 14 from noon to—2:00 p.m. for a video game tournament. We'll be serving pizza for lunch. Friends are welcome! Sign up by the office.



Give Blood Here



St. Johns is hosting the March blood drive in Park Rapids. Have you ever donated blood? The process is easy, usually takes less than an hour and most donors find it a painless and heart-warming experience. Take a few minutes to donate blood...and invite a friend to join you. Our blood drive will be **Monday March 15, 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 16, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 255-4865 or go online to www.bloodhero.com, sponsor code: parkrapids. **Walk-ins are also welcome.** Please help us with this important, life-saving effort!

March is Food Share Month



This year is the 40th anniversary of the Minnesota Food Share Campaign. Donations received this month through April 11 are important because they are used to calculate future allocations to our local Hubbard County food shelf. Total donations are measured by the pound so heavier items are good choices to donate this month. Think soups, peanut butter, canned vegetables, tuna, etc. rather than lighter items like noodles, cereals, etc.

Cash donations are also especially great this month since allocations are calculated on total cash raised.

You can bring in your non perishable food items to the church all this month. There's a cart in the back lobby for them. Drop off your cash donation at the office or into the offering plate. Make sure to add "Food Shelf" on the memo line. Thank you for your generous gifts to help those in our community who are struggling.



Stewardship Review— January

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 104

Total Offerings: \$29,105	Total Offerings, January, 2019: \$29,210	Budget/Week \$9,855
Total Expenses: <u>\$36,081</u>	Total Expenses, January, 2019: <u>\$38,954</u>	Budget/Month \$42,705
Difference - \$ 6,976	Difference - \$12,130	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$7,276	CNB Checkbook Balance: \$78,725
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,020</u>	Less Dedicated Accounts <u>-\$1,218</u>
Difference - \$1,744	Difference \$77,507

Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000	Kitchen Principal Payable \$22,629
Raised so far <u>\$42,766</u>	
Still need \$31,234	



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.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 3/07 "A Place to Belong"
- 3/14 "Widow's Mite"
- 3/21 "But He is Strong"
- 3/28 "TBD"

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 133 on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and any time on 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."



Victoria Harju received the Boy Scouts Lutheran Lamb award (10 years of service) and Dustin and Shelley Lof received the Lutheran Servant of Youth award (5 years of service) on February 7.



Parish Planning Council Minutes—January 26, 2021

Call to Order – Rod Helm

Opening Devotion – Pastor Neubauer

Attending --- Rod Helm, Pastor Neubauer, Pastor Newton, Ginny Ranisate, Shirley Potter, Brad Dahn, Connie Fondow, Pam Heeren, Elayne Luiken, Lori Griess, Brandi Backmann, Mike Poole. Absent – Jerry Grudem

Approval of the Parish Planning Council Minutes of October 27, 2020 meeting as printed in newsletter.

Motion – Mike Poole; Second – Lori Griess – motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report – Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2019	\$439,739	459,111	-(\$19,372)
2020 without PPP Loan	\$429,630	458,781	-(\$29,151)
2020 with PPP Loan	\$489,630	458,781	\$30,849
Difference without Loan	-(\$10,109)	-(\$330)	
Difference with Loan	\$49,891		

Income would have been down without the PPP loan and expenses were about the same compared to last year.

CNB Checking Account as of 12/31/2020	\$85,015	
Less Dedicated Funds		<u>784</u>
Available Funds in CNB Checking	<u>\$84,231</u>	

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 12/31/2020 \$141,803

LCEF Current Fund as of 12/31/2020	\$113,670
Less Endowment Fund Interest	1,956
Less Parsonage Proceeds	18,548
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	48,048
Less Ted Haberer Memorial/Interest	21,614
Less Ted Haberer Trust	19,073
Less Richard Haberer Memorial	<u>1,166</u>
Available Funds LCEF Current Fund	<u>\$3,265</u>

Kitchen Payable	\$23,585
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Motion to approve Treasurer’s report Elayne Luiken, Second – Mike Poole, motion carried.

**Pastors Reports****Pastor Neubauer**

Lenten Theme – seeing clearing 2020 - evening prayer order of service – confirmands will do their essays on “what Jesus means to me.” Phone calls – visits. Pastor Knaack – will most likely lose him as our visitation pastor as he may be accepting a call to Snellman. Watched a portion of a recorded zoom meeting regarding – bringing people back post covid. “Bring it Home” series – 30-day devotional – starting in Lent.

Pastor Newton

Starting up Daily Devotion again. Completed Idea of the Modern and Culture and Communications courses. One class to go, then a test, then graduation. The youth are continuing “The Story of Everything” for Bible Study, working on the book of Judges. Went sledding last Sunday, Broomball is next Sunday – thank you to Keith and Dustin. Looking forward to the National Youth Gathering in Houston Texas in 2022. On a personal note – George and Norah are healthy; Sarah and baby are healthy – due August 8th. My uncle Ken Krause died unexpectedly Sunday of a blood clot in his lungs. We would appreciate your prayers for our family, especially my Aunt Julie and cousins, Katie, Rachel and Sarah.

Board Reports

Elders – no report

Board of Evangelism – Connie Fondow

The Board of Evangelism coordinated St. Johns participation in the community Christmas program Toys for Boys and Girls and Tiny Tots”. Our thanks to Doug and Julie Kingsley for their organizational work and for transporting the toys to the central location at Abide Church.

Due to COVID constraints, Pastor Neubauer advised the board to wait until the fall of 2021 to make a decision on assigning mentors to the new confirmands. We may make some decisions, at that time, on whether we will be continuing the confirmation mentorship program.

The board is hoping to coordinate a trivia event in the fall of 2021 or early 2022.

Parish Fellowship – no report

Stewardship --- Pam Heeren

We have not met in person for some time but have been communicating via email. We are still looking for volunteers to do the offering counting.

Youth – Brandi Backmann

Youth events - January – Broomball and Fishing in February. Has been difficult to plan activities during COVID. Will need to prepare for Youth Gathering soon.

Education – Lori Griess

Preschool—Classes are going well. There is a total of 30 students, 10 in the 3-year-old class and 20 in the 4-year-old. Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended. The State Licensing Board held a phone interview on the 1st of December. Passed with no changes needed. Reviewed primarily safety policies. Christmas break was from December 19th through January 3rd. The school has been fortunate to have minimal disruptions in attendance due to COVID.

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Sunday School—Children's Christmas Service was held on December 20th. Numbers continue to be down in the classrooms, primarily due to reduced church attendance due to restrictions surrounding COVID transmission. Average attendance is 11 in the 1st – 6th grade and 5 in the Pre-K – Kindergarten. Discussion on Bibles for the 3rd grade class. Possible presentation January or February. Total of 8-10 children. Children will sing on Palm Sunday. Discussed having a celebration of life theme for Easter. Release Time—Cancelled due to COVID.

Confirmation—Being held on Wednesday. Pastor Neubauer is leading the class. Confirmation is scheduled for May 2, 2021.

Vacation Bible School—Theme this year is science. Planning on holding outside in the evenings again this year. Date is for the first week of August.

Church Properties – Brad Dahn

The board decided to replace the door going into the kitchen, Virg Eskola will order it and have Jerry Eischens stain it and then Virg will install it. That will fully complete the kitchen project.

We received the blueprints for the entryway and canopy addition from Haataja Construction. The board of Church Properties and the building committee have looked them over and have come up with questions. We met with Eric Haataja and discussed our questions and figured them out. The next step is to get new bids from various contractors now that they have actual blueprints to use. When the new bids come in, again we will reassess them and go from there. We started to look at spring dates to get on the calendar but it really depends on when spring actually arrives, and a timeline for project completion.

Old/New Business

Synod Convention Referendum – Motion by Mike Poole to adopt the following motion posed by LCMS. Shall the Synod add a year to the current 2019-2022 triennium, allowing districts to hold their convention in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod Convention from 2022 to 2023?
Second Brad Dahn. Motion carried.

Lenten Services – Discussion on time and whether to have meals for Lenten services --- Services will be at noon and 5:30 pm with no meals available.

Canopy Update – see Church Properties report above.

PureMist – Clean spaces - A representative from the PureMist company met with a few members of the Parish Planning Council earlier this winter. After discussion it was decided not to move forward on the purchase of this equipment.

Nominating Committee for Board – Directors were reminded to check with their board members asking if they will serve another term and find replacements for vacancies. New boards are elected at the June Voters meeting.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Newton. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Potter



Sunday School News



Perfect Attendance—February

- PK4 Kellan Eidsmoe
- Kdg. Thatcher Eidsmoe
- 1st James Trandem
- 3rd Clinton Koch, Alex Lof,
Sophia Neubauer
- 4th Zachary Harju, Khloe May,
Elsie Trandem
- 6th Max Harju, Aiden May

Great job!



- 3/01 Cash Luther
- 3/02 Hunter Schroeder
- 3/5 Kryton Nilson
- 3/07 Rachel Ulvin
- 3/12 Jordyn Hanisch
- 3/13 Wyatt Goodwater
- 3/16 Walter Harrison III
- 3/20 Sophia Gauthier
- 3/25 Ketch Luther

Baptismal Birthdays






- 3/01 Harlow Komppa
- 3/04 Anna Neyens
- 3/09 Hailey Meier
- 3/10 Eli Maves
- 3/10 Kaitlyn Maves
- 3/16 Mason McCarthy
- 3/20 Kelly Kimball
- 3/22 Gavin Smith
- 3/27 Gunar Clark



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.

-  VDEO _____ (Genesis 8:8)
-  LW0 _____ (Psalm 102:6)
-  GEELA _____ (Isaiah 40:31)
-  TOKRS _____ (Jeremiah 8:7)
-  APROSWRS _____

“Are not five _____ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many _____.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, sparrow, sparrow

Lessons this Month

- March 7 *The Chosen King*—Saul Becomes King
- March 14 *The Fearless Shepherd*—David and Goliath
- March 21 *The Faith-Full Friends*—David and Jonathan
- March 28 *The King of Glory*—David Worships God



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Lutheran Church**

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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

Change Service Requested

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