



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

April, 2021

Holy Week and Easter

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

Good Friday, April 2, Services at noon and 5:30 p.m.

Easter, April 4

- * Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m.
- * Communion Services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.—Please sign up for these services online at our website or by calling the church office (732-9783)
- * Easter Breakfast orders available for pick up from 7:00—8:00 a.m. and 9:15—10:30 a.m.
- * Coffee and treats at 9:15 a.m. in the social hall
- * Sunday School Easter Activities at 9:15 a.m.
- * Bible study at 9:30 a.m. in the social hall
- * If you purchased Easter lilies, they may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. service

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



Front Entry Construction Scheduled to Begin after Easter

Our canopy replacement/front entry expansion project is set to start right after Easter. Our contractor, Eric Haataja, of Haataja Construction estimates the project will take 6-8 weeks. This means the front entry will be closed. We ask that you please use the east entrance or park in the back lot and use the back door during the construction.

We're looking forward to the new expanded space!





COVID Questions

With the latest easing of restrictions by Governor Walz and more people receiving vaccines, we've been asked questions regarding worship and activities at St. Johns. Here's some of the most common ones and current answers. Of course, things are always subject to change quickly as we've discovered over the past year.

Q: The State says there are no occupancy limits for churches. Why are we still limiting seating at worship services?

A: Although the state says "no occupancy limits" they're also saying social distancing of six feet is still required. Back when restrictions first went into place we measured the spacing in the pews and the current seating arrangements are based on the six foot distancing. So even though our total occupancy could be up to 400 (if everyone was packed in the pews like sardines) 80 is still our limit to maintain social distancing. If guidelines are reduced to three feet, we will revisit the seating plan.

Q: I've heard from other people that at their church they can remove masks once they are seated in the pew. Can we do this, too?

The CDC is still saying everyone should wear a mask so we plan to continue the policy until their guidelines change.



Q: When can we use the hymnals again?

A: We're planning to bring back the hymnals at worship services on April 11. They will be on a cart and worshippers will pick them up on the way into church, then return them to the cart following the service. There will be a separate cart for each service. The decision was made to use carts instead of placing hymnals in the pew racks because currently we spray the pews with a disinfectant mist between services which could damage the hymnals.

Since we are returning to hymnal use we will discontinue the printed order of service and replace it with the readings insert we used to have. The order of service will not be posted on the website anymore either. Pastor Neubauer did a survey and only three people responded that they use them.

Q: What about the noon communion service?

A: At this time we plan to continue the Wednesday noon communion services through April and then re-assess depending on attendance.

If you have any questions or concerns about COVID policies at the church, please talk to one of the pastors. We hope and pray that you all stay healthy and safe!

Groups are Getting Together

The Ladies Aid will meet Thursday, April 8 at 1:00 p.m. All ladies are invited to join them in preparing May Day cards for shut ins.

The Lutheran Laymen's League will meet Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

The Evening Guild will meet Tuesday, April 13 at 3:00 p.m. Pastor Newton will present the topic.





A New Face in the Office

If you call the church office you might hear a new voice on the phone and if you stop in you'll probably see Lori Griess at the desk. Lori took on the position of assistant secretary the middle of March. Even though she's new to the office, she's been active in a lot of other ways at St. Johns over the years and is also currently serving as the Director of the Board of Christian Education.

We welcome Lori in her new role and are glad to have her working with us. Stop by and say "hi!"



Minute to Win It

All 5-12 graders are invited to join us for the ever popular "Minute to Win It" contest on Sunday, April 18 from noon—2:00 p.m. We'll have pizza for lunch. Friends are welcome. Please sign up outside the church office.

Interested in Going to the National Youth Gathering in 2022? Come to This Meeting

The 2022 National Youth Gathering will be held in Houston July 9-13. We will have an informational meeting for 8-11th graders (of the 2020-2021 school year) on Sunday, April 18 right after Minute to Win It. The meeting should last about a half hour. Please attend with parent/guardian. Sign up outside the office.



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 04/04 "Fear...Like Onions, You Know?"
- 04/11 "What It Means to Be a Family"
- 04/18 "One Greater Than Mrs. McCalliter"
- 04/25 "Replace or Repair?"

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."

Baptism

03/07/21 Lincoln Jett Ferris
Adrian & Tonya (Yliniemi) Ferris





Main Street Living Programs This Month



Here's the Main Street Living "North" programs for April:

April 4: Rev. Tom Eckstein, Concordia Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND, presents the message "Trust God's Word and Witnesses!" based on John 20:24-31. *This is the Life*: "No Place to Hide" - A pastor, who has to face the death of his wife, cannot find comfort.

April 11: Rev. Sam Pitsch, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN, presents the message: "Those Who Have Not Seen," based on John 20:19-31. *This is the Life*: "Dead End" - Because of frustration with his life, a man turns to drinking and another woman.

April 18: Rev. Steve Schulz, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "Open Minds, Open Mouths," based on Luke 24:36-49. *This is the Life*: "The Main Event" - A boxer who is hit by a car becomes embittered until he meets a cheerful 8-year-old girl.

April 25: Rev. Tom Batchelder, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Evergreen Township, MN, presents the message: "A Little While," based on John 16:16-22. *This is the Life*: "The Prisoners" - An elderly woman is attacked by a teenage gang.

Main Street Living is broadcast Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on KVRN Fargo-Moorhead or you can watch it online any time at www.mainstreetliving.com, "North (Fargo)."

A Big Blood Drive Thank You!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and donors who helped make our blood drive a success. We were able to collect 134 blood products.

Elayne Luiken, Blood Drive Coordinator



Stewardship Review—February

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 99

Total Offerings: \$32,908	Total Offerings, February, 2020: \$38,844
Total Expenses: <u>\$36,724</u>	Total Expenses, February, 2020: <u>\$39,763</u>
Difference - \$3,816	Difference - \$919

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,227	Budget/Week \$9,855	Kitchen Payable \$21,587
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,181</u>	Budget/Month \$42,705	
Difference - \$954		

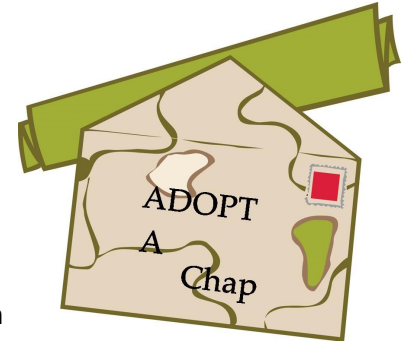
CNB Checkbook Balance as of 02/28/21: \$75,627	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts - <u>\$1,681</u>	Raised so far <u>\$48,557</u>
Difference \$73,946	Still need \$25,443



Adopt A Chap Update

Greetings from Fort Leonard Wood, MO!

I am pleased to report all is well in beautiful Missouri. We seem to have safely made it through the last major cold snap of the season and spring is now right around the corner. I do realize that spring is still probably a few more weeks over the horizon in Minnesota. Take heart! It is on the way.



As for religious support on the base, we are actually doing quite well given our continued COVID prevention and mitigation measures. We are still able to offer a full range of worship services to our trainee population. We might be a little more distanced than previously, but our soldiers have adjusted nicely. Since most of them were never here before the pandemic became ever-present, what we are doing now is normal to them.

We are well stocked with Christian resources at this installation. It is nothing like being deployed and scrambling to find what you need for worship services and devotions. I certainly appreciate you asking. If some need arises which appropriate for the congregation to help with, I will most definitely let you know.

I am still actively engaged with the traditional Christian worship service on the base. In the past few weeks I have received a growing number of requests for individual communion. Since there is not a regularly scheduled Lutheran worship service on the base, I adjust accordingly so I may provide individual Word and Sacrament ministry to those Soldiers who are requesting it. It almost reminds me of being back in the parish and doing home visits. That has been a refreshing addition to more normal weekly routine.

We are hopeful to have a robust Easter Morning Worship Service in just a few more weeks. I think we are better equipped to conduct this festival service this year than we were last year, as we were all trying to frantically respond to the changing guidance about social gatherings. By the grace of God, we should be able to gather in a responsible manner to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we strive to fulfill our calling to provide Christ centered religious support to our young soldiers as they prepare to serve God and country.

Thanks again for your continued support from the land of 10,000 lakes!

Chaplain Bain





Sunday School Page



Perfect Attendance—March

PK3	Fletcher Eidsmoe
PK4	Kellan Eidsmoe
Kdg	Thatcher Eidsmoe
2nd	Sawyer Eidsmoe
3rd	Alex Lof, Sophia Neubauer
4th	Zach Harju, Khloe May
6th	Max Harju, Aiden May

March Offering—\$30.95

Great job!



4/03	Dylan May
4/04	Will Sanquist
4/08	Eastyn Walker
4/11	Vivian Harju
4/17	Khloe Harrison
4/24	Clinton Koch
4/26	Natalie Tretbar

Baptismal Birthdays

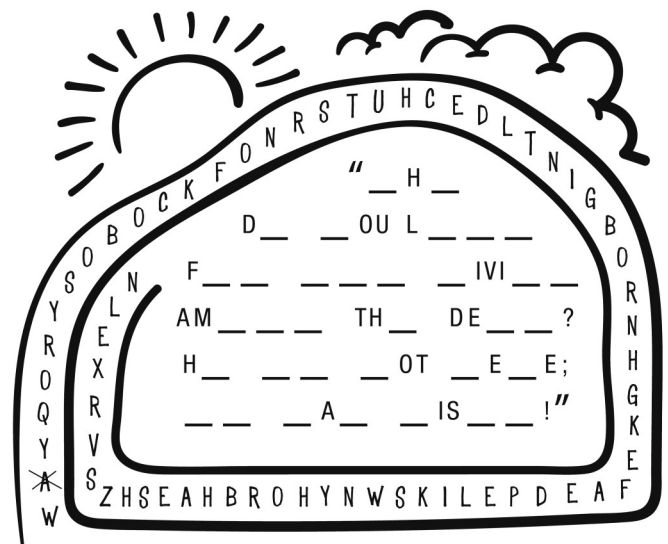
4/9	Everett Bergerson
4/10	Kolt Safratowich
4/26	Grace Hockett
4/27	Hunter Schroeder
4/30	Shae Halbasch



EASTER MORNING message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

Lessons this Month

April 4	Easter Celebration!
April 11	The Wise King—Solomon Prays for Wisdom
April 18	The Unwise King—Solomon Builds the Temple
April 25	Provided-For Prophet—God Provides for Elijah



Someone You Know...

Needs to hear about Jesus. We often think of missions and outreach as being “out there”.... Like missionaries in foreign countries and specially trained pastors and church workers. But God has given us this job, too, and there’s plenty of people who need to hear the Good News of the Gospel right in your neighborhood.

But, it’s scary to witness to other people. In answer to that “but” here’s another “but.” You have help. Pastor Monty Meyer from the Minnesota North District has put together these handy little cards. Stop by the church and pick some up. Then think about someone you know who could use the hope and forgiveness we have in Jesus Christ. Write their names on the card. Next, pray for God to give you an opportunity to invite them to church or talk to them about Jesus - then act on it.

May the Lord be with you and someone you know!

Need Help Getting Started?

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” ~ Matthew 7:7-8

- ◆ Pray for an **OPPORTUNITY**.
- ◆ Look for the opportunity - **God will give it to you.**
- ◆ Act on the opportunity - **BE BOLD AND COURAGEOUS.**
- ◆ Tell them about **JESUS CHRIST** and **INVITE** them to church with you.

SOMEONE
you know

Someone I Know Needs Jesus

My neighbor - children - spouse - friend - co-worker - clerk at the store - mailman/UPS/Fed Ex driver, etc... write their names down below:

Pray for them

Lord God, heavenly Father, **SOMEONE I KNOW** needs Your grace and mercy in their life. Give me an opportunity, this week, to talk to _____ who needs to hear Your love. Keep my eyes open for the opportunity I know You will give me. Make me bold and courageous in my witness or invitation. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Lutheran Island Camp Is Planning a Full Summer of Camping Opportunities

Last year due to COVID Lutheran Island Camp was closed but this year they’re back and have a full summer of camps for all ages and interests. There’s Classic Camps, Horse Camps, Family Weeks, Science, Performing Arts, Splash Camps and a Survivor Camp! There’s week-long camps and weekend camps so you can enjoy the island as it fits into your schedule. Go to their website, islandcamp.org, to check out all the different camping opportunities.

St. Johns has some scholarship funds available. If you’re interested in a scholarship, please call the church office at 7332-9783.

**FOLLOW
ST. JOHNS ON
INSTAGRAM**

STAY UP TO DATE AND ENJOY WEEKLY DEVOTIONS!



STJOHNSPARKRAPIDS





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton

Pastor Bill Knaack



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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