



# The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns  
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

May, 2021

## Confirmed in Christ



On May 2 at the 10:30 a.m. service 17 of our young members will confirm their faith through the rite of confirmation. Confirmands Emma Berghuis, Natalie Berghuis, Maari Clark, Abby Eskola, Vivian Harju, Draydin Johnson, Laura Kaufenberg, Leo Kaufenberg, Olivia Kimball, Isaac Knaack, Madison LaFerriere, Talen May, Brandi Novak, Jordyn Ostland, Kale Ravnaas, Rachel Ulvin.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

The Class of 2021 will be recognized May 16 at the 8:00 a.m. service and at a reception following in the social hall. Our graduates are Jaynine Borders, Brody Hagen, James Hartig, Brooke Knutson, Chaise Persons, and Ellie Ulvin. Please keep them in your prayers as they head out into the world.



## Construction Update

The weather hasn't been very cooperative for our canopy/entry project but the construction crews have been making progress. The footings are in and backfilled. By the time you read this we're hoping to have concrete poured and maybe even some exterior framing. Watch for updates!



Pouring concrete into footings on one of the nicer days.



Compacting after the footings were backfilled. It's noisy!



Materials staged and waiting to be installed. Looking forward to walls and windows!



## Ponderings from the Pew



I was giving my grand-goat a bottle one day. He's so excited about bottle time, he wags his tail just steady. He wagged it so fast, I thought he might very well wag it right off. Clearly, he appreciates his milk. We had the story of the lame man that Peter healed in the temple around the same time. He also was very excited and went leaping around, praising God. I heard the Sunday School song in my head, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. He went walking and leaping and praising God. Walking and leaping and praising God. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Excitement bursting out unchecked – in the temple – from a beggar. As Pastor Neubauer said, this isn't proper temple behavior. But why not?



Every Sunday, we feed on the word of God for the renewal of our spirits. We are reminded of God's faithfulness and mercy. We hear of His forgiveness, His grace towards us, and His unfailing love for each of us; for you, for me. It doesn't take long, maybe not even until the sound of Monday's alarm clock, for us to slide right back into our routine sinful condition. We grumble at the new coat of snow after we have had a glimpse of grass in the spring. We complain that we have work, rather than being grateful for employment. Maybe the baby didn't sleep well, and it's going to be a long, tiring day. Maybe the coffee pot broke, or the utility bill is past due, the kids are cranky, and the car needs repair. How easy is it to forget the fantastic news we just heard on Sunday? Why aren't we more excited both when we hear the amazing promises God bestows on us, and as we reap the benefits of being God's precious children? Where is our JOY in the salvation won for us?

"Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation..." We sing these words often in response to the sermons we are blessed to hear. Does your heart leap for joy when you sing them? Or are you thinking about what time the game starts, what's for lunch, or maybe writing your shopping list in your head? Sometimes, I want to smack myself when I realize my thoughts have wandered off yet again. I think, 'Seriously, could you not focus for just one hour on the one thing needful?' I've often thought adult sermon notes wouldn't be a bad thing.

The liturgy we recite and sing every Sunday is rich in meaning. Our hymns are packed with God's word, and messages of love, and forgiveness to soothe our aching hearts. They mean something. In a world full of online jokes and memes, we have the bountiful gift of these hymns and pieces of scripture to cherish weekly together. Church is not an obligation. Church is a privilege we fail to appreciate; a place where we gather with each other, share our heartaches and joys, receive the gifts God lays on us, and renew ourselves for the day to day of life. Life is hard. God is good. Feel the JOY! Christ is Risen!

To God alone be the glory!

**Renee' Anderson**





## Main Street Living for May

Main Street Living—This 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 KVRR Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1. This month’s programs are:



May 2:

Rev. Nathanael Biberdorf, Zion Lutheran Church, Browns Valley, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Claire City, SD, presents the message “True Vine Connection,” based on John 15:1-8. This is the Life: “A Dream of His Own.”

May 9:

Rev. Jared Nies, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Corliss Township (Rural Perham), MN, presents the message: “Blood and Water = Forgiveness and Peace,” based on 1 John 5:1-6. This is the Life: “A Will to Live.”

May 16:

Rev. Chris Brademeyer, St. John Lutheran Church, Oakes, ND, presents the message: “Endure in Christ,” based on John 15:26-16:4. This is the Life: “Home Free” - A family learns the real meaning of love and that it comes free.

May 23:

Rev. Jacob Wagner, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Vergas, MN, presents the message “Living Life in the Spirit,” based on Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Acts 2:1-21. This is the Life: “Man in the Middle” - Two men are left with a “secret” when one tells the other that he has terminal cancer.

May 30:

Rev. Brock Schmeling, Peace Lutheran Church, Barney, ND, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend, ND, presents the message “God in Trinity” based on John 3:1-17. This is the Life: “Return Trip” - The modern-day story of a prodigal daughter.

If your cable doesn’t have KVRR, you can watch a different version (different pastors, mainly from Minnesota South) on WFTC out of the Twin Cities, on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

### What’s On The Lutheran Hour

- ◆ 05/02 "Laughed At"
- ◆ 05/09 "Seriously?"
- ◆ 05/16 "Gain A Heart of Wisdom"
- ◆ 05/23 "Wisdom Knows When "
- ◆ 05/30 "Before Kings"

◆ 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.”

### † Baptisms

- ◆ 04/03 Lincoln Robert Hall  
*Robert & Amanda (Grambart) Hall*
- ◆ 04/18 Madison LaFerriere, Taylor Arola,  
Hannah Arola  
*Tina Amiot*
- ◆ 04/25 Walter Isaac Hahn  
*Isaiah & Elizabeth (Holzhueter) Hahn*

### † Funeral

- ◆ 04/24 Sue Schroeder



## Aprons and Bracelets at this Month's Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the social hall. They will be making witness bracelets to share. For roll call, please bring an apron (perhaps your mother's) with a story of it's origin.

## Help Keep Sunday Coffee Going

Help is needed to serve coffee on Sunday mornings between services. You may bring individually wrapped homemade treats or serve the treats that are available at church. You will be responsible for making the coffee, putting out treats and cleaning up. There are instructions in the kitchen. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the social hall.



## Singers Needed for Blended Worship Team

Sarah Kaufenberg is looking for singers to join the blended worship team. Time commitment is minimal-one practice a month and one Sunday a month. If you'd like to join the group, give Sarah a call or text at 651-260-3350.

## Choir Continuing through the Summer

The Senior Choir is planning to continue through the summer. Practices will be on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and they will sing at worship once a month. New members are welcome. Call or text Sarah Kaufenberg for details at 651-260-3350.



## Come Play Kickball

The youth board has scheduled a family kickball event on Sunday, May 16 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Anyone who wants to play is invited to come and have some fun. Watch for more details.

## Memorial Day Plunge Replacing Polar Plunge

The weather and COVID conspired to cancel the annual polar plunge at Lutheran Island Camp so instead Pastor Newton and a group of youth are planning to jump into an area lake on Memorial Day weekend. Watch for pledge sign up info in the coming weeks. Proceeds will go to the 2022 National Youth Gathering in San Antonio.





## Stewardship Review—March

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 128

Total Offerings: \$50,108	Total Offerings, March, 2020: \$39,178
Total Expenses: <u>\$38,949</u>	Total Expenses, March, 2020: <u>\$37,259</u>
Difference - <u>\$11,159</u>	Difference \$1,919



Avg. Weekly Offerings \$12,527	Budget/Week \$9,855	Kitchen Payable \$21,587
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,737</u>	Budget/Month \$42,705	
Difference \$2,790		

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 03/31/21: \$85,262	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts - <u>\$1,159</u>	Raised so far <u>\$49,591</u>
Difference \$84,103	Still need \$24,409

## Easter Breakfast Roll Recipe

We received lots of compliments on the caramel and cinnamon rolls the youth made for Easter breakfast. Brandi Backmann was the head chef and based her rolls on this recipe from her mom, Lori Griess. Lori received the recipe from Sandy Rowland who got it from her mom, Ethel Hughes Massie.

### Caramel Rolls

1 c. milk  
 1½ c. lukewarm water  
 2 pkg. yeast  
 ½ c. sugar  
 4 tsp. salt  
 2 eggs  
 ¼ c. shortening  
 8 c. flour



Scald milk. Melt shortening in milk and let cool. Crumble yeast in warm water and let set for about 10 minutes until foamy. Put sugar, salt, egg, and cooled milk mixture in bowl of a stand mixer. Add 2 cups of flour, mixing well. Add water/yeast mixture and gradually add the rest of the flour. Mix well to achieve a soft dough. (If you are using a stand mixer, mix with a dough hook for about 8 minutes.)

Allow dough to rise until double. Punch down. Divide in half. Roll each half into a rectangle, spread with butter and then sprinkle with a mixture of sugar and cinnamon. Roll and slice into 1 inch pieces. Place in buttered 9 x 13 pan for cinnamon rolls or in a 9x13 pan with prepared caramel mixture on bottom. Allow to rise until almost the top of the pan. Bake in 350° oven for 20-25 minutes.

Caramel mixture: For each pan melt together 6 tbsp. butter, ¼ cup white karo syrup, 1 cup brown sugar, and ⅓ cup cream.



**Parish Planning Council  
March 23, 2021**

Rod Helm called meeting to order.

Present: Rod Helm, Pastor Newton, Pastor Neubauer, Lori Griess, Ginny Ranisate, Pam Heeren, Jerry Grudem, Brandi Backmann, Shirley Potter, Mike Poole (attended via Zoom)

Absent: Connie Fondow, Elayne Luiken, Brad Dahn

Opening prayer by Pastor Neubauer

**Approval of the Parish Planning Council Minutes** for January 26, 2021. Motion to approve as printed in newsletter – Pam Heeren, Second – Lori Greiss, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** - Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2020	107,261	116,861	-9,600
2021	104,720	99,274	+5,446
Difference	-2,541	-17,587	

2020 figures are through the end of the month. 2021 figures are to date. We still have one more week of offerings and end of month payroll for this month.

CNB Checking Account as of 03/23/21	84,113
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>-1,071</u>
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>\$83,042</b>

**CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 03/23/21      \$142,736**

LCEF Current Fund as of 03/23/21	114,214
Less Endowment Fund Interest	-1,956
Less Parsonage Proceeds	-18,548
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	-48,566
Less Ted Haberer Memorial/Interest	-21,623
Less Ted Haberer Trust	-19,081
Less Richard Haberer Memorial	<u>-1,166</u>
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>3,274</b>

Kitchen Payable	\$21,587
-----------------	----------

Approval of treasurer's report—Motion to approve – Jerry Grudem, Second – Bandi Backmann, motion carried.



## Pastors' Reports

### **Pastor Newton**

Teaching Wednesday Bible class at 10:30 am – “Keeping the Story,” considering the story of God’s relationship with his people in light of the questions, “Who I am? Why am I here?” and how we might share that story with the people God has entrusted to us.

Working on involving the congregation’s Instagram account a little more. Follow us if you haven’t already --- scan the QR code on the signs!

Task force exploring ways to connect families to Christ and his body, the Church. Using a few resources for our exploration:

- Sticky Faith, by Powell and Clark
- Households of Faith, by the Barna Group
- The Spiritually Vibrant Home, by Don Everts

If you would like to participate, let me know.

Underway with the final seminary course (Theology after the Death of God) and studying for the comprehensive exam, after which the work will be completed.

Youth --- see the youth board report below

George and Norah are excited for warmer weather and the park! Sarah and baby are healthy, due August 8<sup>th</sup>, sister Brittany is getting married in Dallas in June.

**Pastor Neubauer** – review Covid issues and concerns with a few changes to current procedure. Agreed to return hymnals and not print the service handout --- After Easter, hymnals will be on a rack for members and guests to pick up and return. Two carts of hymnals, one for early and one for late service

Transfer in Ron and Lisa Bennett, Immanuel, Belvidere, IL

Motion to approve transfer in – Jerry Grudem – second by Brandi Backmann – motion carried.

## Board Reports

**Elders** – No report -Jerry Grudem

**Parish Fellowship** – no report - Elayne Luiken was absent

**Young People** – Brandi Backmann

- Video game tournaments
- Soup to Go went well over Lenten Season – Net \$200 for the National Youth Gathering
- Easter Breakfast – pre order your takeout breakfast
- Minute to Win It – April 18<sup>th</sup> with pizza lunch – noon to 2:30 pm
- Polar Plunge changed to Memorial Day Weekend Jump
- National Youth Gathering Meeting April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm after the Minute to Win It activity

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Sunday School Page



## Perfect Attendance—April

- PK3 Fletcher Eidsmoe  
George Newton
- PK4 Kellan Eidsmoe
- 2nd Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 3rd Clinton Koch  
Alex Lof  
Sophia Neubauer
- 4th Zach Harju
- 6th Max Harju  
Brooke Kimball  
Aiden May

April Offering—\$33.67



- 5/03 Emma Mayer
- 5/04 Ava Glatzmaier
- 5/04 Gavin Etter
- 5/08 Layla Arndt
- 5/09 Olivia May
- 5/11 Elsie Forbes
- 5/20 Camdyn Quinn
- 5/26 Bonnie LeGrand
- 5/26 Marcella Trandem
- 5/27 Brock Knutson



## Baptismal Birthdays

- 5/04 Sawyer Eidsmoe
- 5/04 Gemma Leckner
- 5/06 Clinton Koch
- 5/11 Eastyn Walker
- 5/13 William Sanquist
- 5/24 Elsie Forbes
- 5/24 Lilah Forbes
- 5/26 Wyatt Goodwater
- 5/26 Nicklaus Sowers
- 5/30 Walter Harrison III
- 5/31 Khloe Harrison



# PUZZLE



## A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.*

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

"But you will receive \_\_\_\_\_ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer: power

## Lessons this Month

- May 2 *Unwilling Prophet*—Jonah
- May 9 *Enduring Exile*—Israel Goes into Exile
- May 16 *A Fiery Marvel*—Three Men in the Fiery Furnace
- May 23 *Our Last Day!* Fun and games planned!





*(Continued from page 7)*

- Service Project for June at Lutheran Island Camp
- Family Softball game – May
- Volleyball ???
- June --Tubing the Crow Wing River, Kayaking with High Schoolers
- 30 Hour famine
  - Take pledges
  - Last day of school or lock in at the church
  - Task Force for Families and Youth
  - What is the goal?
  - Strategies and suggestions on how to accomplish this
  - Camping Family Event
  - Bike in Itasca

**Church Property** – no report - Brad Dahn was absent –

**Evangelism** – Connie Fondow was absent –her prepared report was read

The Board of Evangelism will resume in person meeting in April. Depending upon COVID restrictions and the general comfort level of the congregation, we hope to discuss plans for a Trivia event in the fall as well as some type of Christmas gathering activity in early December.

**Stewardship – Pam Hereen**

On March 14th, the committee received an email from Pastor Neubauer asking us to review the following: Grant Nunn had given \$61,000 to the church and it was our understanding that there were not specific uses for the money. The building committee has requested this money be used for the new entryway project. An email was sent to all committee members asking for their input. One member did not respond, two members enthusiastically agreed, two members suggested another use could be to pay off the kitchen debt first and use the remaining for the entryway but had no problems with the building committee request and one member was empathically against using the money for the entryway. So, it would be my conclusion that the majority of the committee agreed with the building committee request.

**Education** – Lori Griess

**Pre School** – Attendance has stayed the same. We have 1 child on the waiting list for the 3-year-old class. Rates for next year will be reviewed at the March preschool committee meeting.

**Sunday School** - Attendance is still low. Sunday School children played handbells on February 28th and will sing at the 2nd service on Palm Sunday. Sunday School teachers are working on activities for Easter Sunday. Confirmation is May 2, 2021.

**VBS** is still on schedule for August. Once again, we will hold it in the evening and encourage family members to participate.

We would also really like to encourage our younger adult members to consider volunteering their talents and ideas by serving on the Board of Education.

**Public Relations** – no report

*(Continued on page 10)*



*(Continued from page 9)*

## **New/Old business**

### **Entryway- canopy**

- Under contract with Haataja construction
- start shortly after Easter
- 2 to 2 ½ months to completion
- Brick to blend with existing building
- Looking at options for automatic doors
- Cornerstone relocation was discussed
- Carpet
- Financing options

Board Directors were reminded to poll current board members asking if they plan to continue to serve on the board. If there are vacancies on their board, find replacements as the nominating committee will recommend nominations for new board members at the June Voters meeting.

Closed with prayer – Pastor Newton

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Potter

## **God's Wonder Lab Vacation Bible School Planned for August**

At God's Wonder Lab VBS, your children will look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and discover that Jesus does the impossible, giving us eternal life with Him! Jesus shows that He is God with amazing miracles. And He shows us that He loves us by using His power to do marvelous things on our behalf!

Last year's evening VBS worked out well so we're planning to do it again this year, Sunday-Thursday, August 8-12. We'll start at 5:30 p.m. and wrap up each evening around 8:00 p.m. You can register online by going to [www.stjohnspr.org](http://www.stjohnspr.org), and clicking the God's Wonder Lab VBS tab or stop by the church to pick up a form. VBS is open to 4 year olds through 6th grade (just completed). There is a \$5 registration fee per student with a \$10 cap per family.

**Help of all kinds is needed—leaders, helpers, crafters, games, and more. If you're interested in being a part of VBS, please talk to Sarah Kaufenberg at 651-260-3350.**





## 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.

## Bible Quiz

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?



- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

## Worth Celebrating

While going through the so-called "daily grind," it's fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up! Although every day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life's concerns pile high, distracting us from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings. When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to [www.NationalDayCalendar.com](http://www.NationalDayCalendar.com). Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you'll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan ahead!).

These fun "occasions" can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.

Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4)

FOLLOW  
ST. JOHNS ON  
INSTAGRAM

STAY UP TO DATE AND ENJOY WEEKLY  
DEVOTIONS!



STJOHNSPARKRAPIDS





**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*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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

**Change Service Requested**

**Inside this issue:**

---

<i>Confirmed in Christ</i>	1
<i>Congratulations, Graduates!</i>	1
<i>Construction Update</i>	1
<i>Notes from the Balcony</i>	2
<i>Main Street Living for May</i>	3
<i>What's on the Lutheran Hour</i>	3
<i>Baptisms &amp; Funeral</i>	3
<i>Aprons and Bracelets at Ladies Aid Meeting</i>	4
<i>Help Keep Sunday Coffee Going</i>	4
<i>Singers Needed for Blended Worship Team</i>	4
<i>Choir Continuing Through Summer</i>	4
<i>Come Play Kickball</i>	4
<i>Memorial Day Plunge Replacing Polar Plunge</i>	4
<i>Stewardship Review</i>	5
<i>Easter Breakfast Roll Recipe</i>	5
<i>Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes</i>	6
<i>Sunday School News</i>	8
<i>God's Wonder Lab VBS Planned for August</i>	10
<i>Be on a Board</i>	11
<i>Bible Quiz</i>	11
<i>Worth Celebrating</i>	11

