



# The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns  
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

September, 2021

## It's September! Back to...

**Sunday School**—Sunday School will begin with Rally Day on September 12. All teachers will be installed at the 8:00 a.m. service that day. Classes will run from 9:15—10:15 a.m.

**Release Time**—The school decided to cancel the usual Wednesday morning program again this year due to COVID concerns. They're discussing other options.

**Confirmation**—7th and 8th grade confirmation students will begin class on Wednesday, September 22 at 3:30 p.m. A confirmation orientation meeting will be held Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall.

### **Bible Studies**

**Sundays, 9:15 a.m. starting September 12** Pastor Neubauer will continue "Cultural Marxism" in the social hall. Pastor Newton will lead the youth group (grades 8-12) in the youth room. See page 4 for more details.

**Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. starting September 7** Pastor Neubauer will lead a class titled "Christ is the Key to the Old Testament."

**Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. starting September 9**— Pastor Newton will lead a study on "The Benedict Option," by Rod Dreher. You can sign up for a new paperback book at 14.99, or look at cheaper options used for both paperback and hardcover, if you'd rather order it yourself.

**Thursday, 7:00 p.m., September 30** Sarah Newton plans to continue the women's Bible study at the Newton home. She will send out a messages to the group if the plan changes.

**Evening Guild** will resume monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the social hall.

**Ladies Aid** will meet Thursday, September 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the choir room.



**Lutheran Laymen's League** will meet Thursday, September 9 at church at 5:30 p.m.

### **Choir Practices**

Bell Choir will begin practice Wednesday, September 8 at 5:00 p.m. in the bell room. Senior Choir practice will also be held Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room beginning September 8.

**Wednesday Noon Communion Service** will continue also through November.





## Ponderings from the Pew



“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen,” (Hebrews 11:1)

We had very thick fog the other morning. When I stopped at the intersection of I4 and Hwy 71, I wondered how I was going to turn onto the highway safely. The visibility was so bad. I basically looked as hard as I could and turned quickly with nothing but a prayer. It was a leap of faith.

When I was young, I had a poster with a mouse hanging from a thin blade of field grass. The poster said, “Take a leap of faith.” I read that poster often enough that still today I can see it in my mind like a picture in a photo album.

“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice... By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death... By faith Noah... constructed an ark for the saving of his household... By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out... not knowing where he was going... By faith he went to live in the land of promise... By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age... By faith Abraham... offered up Isaac... By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau... By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph... By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites... By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden... By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter... By faith he left Egypt... By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood... By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land... By faith the walls of Jericho fell down... By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient” (Hebrews 11:4ff) “And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,” (Hebrews 4:39). What? God’s people followed Him by faith, suffered for that faith and did NOT receive what was promised? They did not personally witness the fulfillment of God’s promise – Jesus.

We are different from unbelievers. We walk by faith, not by sight. But even that faith is a gift from God and not from ourselves. “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Our heritage is planted firmly in the examples of our forefathers who, by God’s grace, took their leaps of faith to follow an unchanging God through hell and high water. What challenges do we face that God is not able to overcome? What trials do we have that are bigger than God? There’s nothing greater than Him. Yes, life is hard. Yes, we do suffer heartache, illness, death. But our hope is in Jesus! Our salvation is established. “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death,” (Romans 8:2). Therefore I am convinced that nothing “else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:39)

Embrace your leap of faith!

To God alone be the glory!

**Renee’ Anderson**



Now faith is  
**confidence**  
in what we  
**hope** for  
and **assurance**  
about what we  
do not see.

HEBREWS 11:1, NIV



## Welcome, Katy! The Newtons' New Addition

Katherine Ann Michelle Newton entered the world on August 3. She was 9 lbs. 9 oz and 21 inches long. Mom, Sarah, and Katy are doing well and the family is adjusting their schedule.

Katy will be baptized on Sunday, September 5. Everyone is invited to an open house at the Newton home, 19616 End of the Day Dr., Park Rapids from 1:00-3:00 p.m. that afternoon to join in celebrating the Lord's work in Katy's life. There will be cookies, snacks, and lawn games!

## Time for A Baby Shower!

The Fellowship Board is holding a gift card shower for Sarah and Pastor Newton on **Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall to welcome baby Katy. Gift cards will make it possible for them to purchase necessary baby supplies or a much-needed "Date Night." We will make a bouquet of gift cards, so please keep the gift card separate from your greeting card.



## Stewardship Review—July

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 187

Total Offerings: \$34,911	Total Offerings, July, 2020: \$38,678	Total Offerings, year to date: \$259,659
Total Expenses: <u>\$35,648</u>	Total Expenses, July, 2020: <u>\$34,867</u>	Total Expenses, year to date: <u>\$259,973</u>
Difference - \$737	Difference \$3,811	Difference - \$314

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,728	Budget/Week \$9,855	CNB Checkbook Balance: \$84,858
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$8,912</u>	Budget/Month \$42,705	Less dedicated accounts - <u>\$1,596</u>
Difference - \$184		Difference \$83,262

Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000	Kitchen Payable \$14,143
Raised so far <u>\$50,891</u>	Front Entry Payable \$51,836
Still need \$19,109	





## Sunday Morning Youth Bible Study: What It Means to Be a Christian

All 8-12th graders are invited to join Pastor Newton for Bible study in the youth room each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. starting September 12.

We'll explore how Christians should understand themselves, their responsibilities, and their tasks in our time. Delving into examples from Scripture and American culture, we hope to gain a fuller understanding what it means that Jesus is Lord - Lord over all Creation and Lord over our individual lives as well. We'll look at what other Christians have written in order to explain the notion from Galatians 3 that "the righteous shall live by faith," we'll consider the current situation of the Church and the World, and we'll chart a course for Christian living oriented toward our Savior Jesus the Christ.

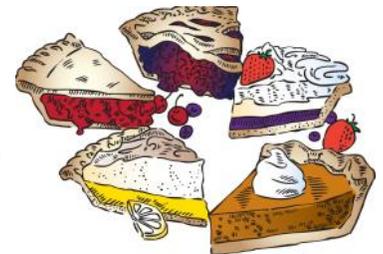


## Youth are Invited to Biking and Mini Golf

All youth in grades 5-12 are invited to bike to Dorset on Sunday, September 12. We will meet at Heartland Park at 1:00 p.m., bike to Dorset, play mini golf, then head back to Heartland Park by 4:30 p.m. The Youth Board will pay for mini-golf. Any questions contact Pastor Newton or the church.

## But Wait! There's More

Youth events coming up this fall, that is. On October 10, join us for a fall festival from 4:30—7:00 p.m. November 21, we're getting together from 4:30—7:00 p.m. to make pies for the Community Thanksgiving meal.



## What's On The Lutheran Hour

- ◆ 9/5 "Living, Mighty, Active Faith"
- ◆ 9/12 "Who is my Neighbor?"
- ◆ 9/19 "Scrapped Gifts"
- ◆ 9/26 "Seek the Welfare of the Neighborhood"

◆ 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."

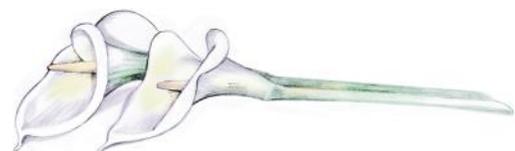
## † Baptism

08/22 Blake Donald Gartner  
Brandon and Shannon Gartner



## † Funeral

08/25 Matthew Harju





## Main Street Living for September

“Main Street Living” 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 and archived on [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) (click on “North (Fargo)” under the picture). Depending on your cable provider you might be able to watch Main Street Living out of the Twin Cities instead. You can check this option out on their website, too.



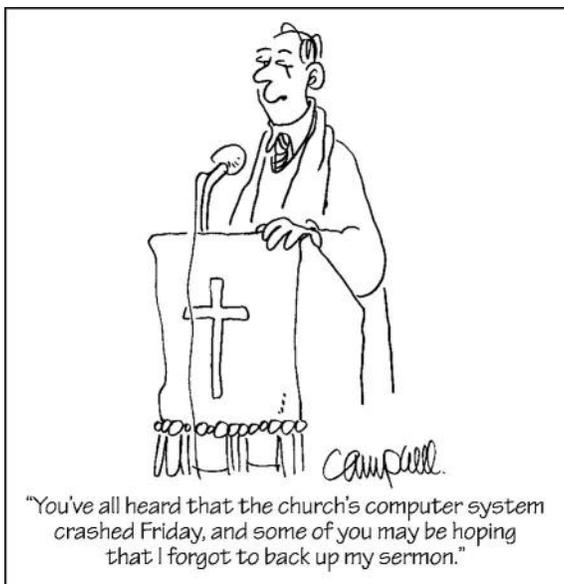
Here’s the schedule for “North” for September:

Sep 5: Rev. Jim Meyer, member at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN, presents the message “SUPER, OVER-THE-TOP, AMAZING!” based on Mark 7:31-37. “This Is The Life” episode: “The Sound of Doors Closing” - A man's mid-life crisis and the effect it has on his family.

Sep 12: Rev. Mark Chepulis, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cavalier, ND, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Langdon, ND, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Thomas, ND, presents the message: “Consider the Lilies,” based on Matthew 6:24-34. “This Is The Life” episode: “Tina” - Two lonely people, a woman and a child, come together through Jesus.

Sep 19: (Worship service information TBA) “This Is The Life” episode: “Look to the Mountain” - A hopeless situation becomes more hopeless when a down and out man kidnaps a young girl for ransom money.

Sep 26: Rev. Robin Fish, Sr., Immanuel, Barlett Township, MN, presents the message “God Is Serious and Hell Is Real,” based on Mark 9:38-50. “This Is The Life” episode: “Home Free” - A family learns the real meaning of love, and that it comes free.





# Sunday School News

Our Sunday School Meet and Greet on August 22 was loads of fun. We're looking forward to seeing **you** in Sunday School starting September 12!



### Happy Birthday!

- 9/2 Colton Nilson
- 9/11 Henli Maier
- 9/7 Addison Tretbar
- 9/9 Elsie Trandem
- 9/12 Sophia Neubauer
- 9/16 Cecilia Quinn
- 9/22 Kiften Luther

### Baptismal Birthdays

- 9/14 Gavin Etter
- 9/14 Brielle Knutson
- 9/25 Hadley Branstrom
- 9/27 Emma Mayer



## Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

*Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.*

party - t = p r A y (v. 1)

lady + i = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 3)

drab + e = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 5)

rod + o = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 7)

bask - b = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)

keeps - p = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)

define - ee = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)

shift - t = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)

sift + g = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seeks, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit

### Lessons this month:

- 9/12 An Angel Announces
- 9/19 The Temple Testimonies
- 9/26 His Father's House



# Board HIGHLIGHTS

## Christian Education:

Review of July Minutes—Approved with the correction of the VBS date to August 8-12th.

Review of calendar for upcoming events  
 VBS – August 8-12. Evening sessions.  
 Sunday School – Opening session is September 12.  
 Release Time – No release time will be offered this year.  
 Christmas Program is December 19 at 10:30 a.m.

## Reports

Sunday School—Will coordinate with Shelley Lof for an opening program. Continuing to use the series from last year. Discussed the order of the classroom/music schedule and how class time could be better utilized. The consensus was to have music at the end of the class time. Promptly at 10:00 a.m.. Will discuss with Sarah.  
 Release Time—It has been decided that there will not be release time offered this year. Pastor Neubauer talked to both the superintendent and a board member for information.  
 Pre-Sunday School Party—Suggestion for the party include: ice cream, balloons, bounce house, cotton candy, dunk tank. Lori Griess will check with R&R Rental. Board asked to have post cards sent to families of the congregation, put in bulletin, and on Facebook. Lori will send a email to the board on what is available from R&R and the cost.  
 Preschool Report—Enrollment is at 11 three year olds and 21 four year olds. Staff will remain the same as last year. Open house will be on August 18. School will start September 7.  
 Bibles for 3rd Graders—Pastor Neubauer set a date for the class this fall.

## Evangelism:

Park Rapids postal workers were recognized and thanked with a gift of bottled water, beef sticks and prepackaged snack items.

“My Church” books were ordered and received. They will continue to be included in the baptismal gift baskets.

The board will use the next three months to organize and prepare for the community outreach project “Breakfast in Bethlehem.” This event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 4.

## Parish Fellowship:

### Old Business:

Baby shower for the Newtons. A gift card shower will be held in the coming weeks, when Sarah Newton feels is a good time. Julie Kingsley volunteered to make posters for church and we’ll also announce it in the bulletin and newsletter. Instead of playing games, we’ll have the guests frost and decorate sugar cookies to be given to the Newtons.

Live Nativity. The Evangelism board is hosting “Breakfast in Bethlehem” on Saturday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Our board will be in charge of making and serving the breakfast. Tentative menu is pancakes and sausages.

### New Business:

Reception after the dedication service for the new entryway will be held Sunday, August 29. We’ll serve cookies and fresh fruit.  
 The new member welcome is tentatively planned for October or November.

**Church Properties and Young People:** no report.

**Elders, Public Relations and Stewardship** did not meet.

**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

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*Pastor James Neubauer  
Pastor Joel Newton*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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