



The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

November, 2021

For All The Saints



On Sunday, November 7, our worship will include a time of remembrance of those in our congregation who have passed away this year. A bell is rung as each name is read. It is a moving tribute to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have joined the church triumphant. Please join us this Sunday for this special worship service.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Honey Sale

The Evening Guild is sponsoring a Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch honey sale November 7 and 14. There will be inserts with order forms in the bulletin and a table set up in the front lobby where you can order honey. The suggested donation is \$10/bottle. Your honey will be sent to you directly from the Ranch.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Christ-centered residential treatment and educational center for children and their families. The Ranch gives children a safe place to live, learn, and heal by providing exceptional and innovative trauma-informed care to kids and their families through Residential Treatment Facilities, Outpatient Psychiatric and Psychological services, and Spiritual Life activities. In addition, Dakota Memorial School provides personalized education for kids who have psychiatric, behavioral, and trauma issues. You can find out more about them at www.dakotaranch.org.



Welcome, New Members!



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

If it seems like there's a lot of new faces here at St. Johns, you're right! Several people have joined our church family. You're invited to get to know them better at a reception on Sunday, November 21 between services. The Board of Evangelism will serve special treats. Come and join us!

Voters Meeting—November 23

Our bi-annual Voters Meeting will take place on November 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. The 2022 work program, front entry, and the district convention are some of the items on the agenda.

All communicant members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. If you are a voting member and will not be able to attend the meeting, please call the church office to be excused.





Blood Drive This Month

St. Johns is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, November 1, noon—6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 2, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To make an appointment, please call Elayne Luiken at 218-255-4865 or go online to www.bloodhero.com, sponsor code: parkrapids. Please help us make a difference!



Youth Are Making Pies for the Community Thanksgiving Meal

All 5th-12th graders are invited to come and bake pies for the community Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 21, 4:30—7:00 p.m. We'll also have supper. Friends are always welcome!

Build and Bid on a Basket

It's that time of the year again for our silent auction basket fund raiser. Look for a sign up sheet in the social hall. You may bring your baskets for bidding on Sunday, November 28. The auction will be complete on Sunday, December 19. Proceeds will go to the National Youth Gathering. These baskets make great Christmas gifts!



Christmas Decorating

You're invited to come and help decorate the church for the Christmas season on Monday, November 29, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Services

Wednesday, November 24, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 25, 9:00 a.m.



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- ◆ 11/7 "The Father of Solomon, by Uriah's Wife"
- ◆ 11/14 "Jesus Keeps Filling"
- ◆ 11/21 "Between Now and Eternity There is Much To Do!"
- ◆ 11/28 "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 131, Sundays at 9:00 a.m. or any time on SENTRadio at Ihm.org/sentradio.

◆ St. Johns LLL sponsors the program each week on KPRM at a cost of \$52.50 per Sunday. If you would like to help support this ministry, your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour."



Main Street Living North Programs for November

“**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. Click on “North (Fargo)” under the picture. You can watch them any time online.



Here’s the November schedule:

November 7: Rev. Rick Jones, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, presents the message “Your All Saints’ Day.” “This Is The Life” episode: “The Deadly Pen” - A businessman struggles with the guilt of another man’s death.

November 14: Rev. Timothy Stout, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Sawyer, ND, presents the message: “Birth Pains,” based on Mark 13:1-3. “This Is The Life” episode: “Transition” - A young boy reacts to the reality of the divorce of his parents and the new reality he now faces.

November 21: Rev. Daryl Rothchild, Bethlehem/St. John, Newburg, ND, presents the message: “God’s Salvation has Gone Out!” based on Isaiah 51:4-6. “This Is The Life” episode: “Senior Citizen” - A man struggles with purpose and a place in life after retirement.

November 28: Rev. Arie Bertsch, ND District President, presents the message “Are You Good Enough?” based on I Thessalonians 3:9-13. “This Is The Life” episode: “The Gift” - A daughter struggles with what to do with birthday gift money.

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, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Come Sing Christmas Songs with The Senior Choir

Do you love to sing Christmas songs? We would love for you to join our Christmas Choir this year. We will sing with our Sunday Schoolers at their Christmas Program on December 19 at the 10:30 a.m. service and at one of the Christmas Eve services. Rehearsals will start on Wednesday, November 3 from 6:00-6:30 p.m. (after church when Advent starts) and then every Wednesday until Christmas Eve. It’s going to be a lot of fun!!!

† Wedding

10/02 Brandon Anderson & Kellie Peterson



“THE TWO WILL
BECOME
one flesh.”
MARK 10:8, NIV



Release Time is Back

I am so happy to report that Release Time is back!!! Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

After a lot of emails and meetings, we had our first class on October 20, exactly the same time on Wednesday morning as it was back in 2019.



I have been talking to teachers, who are also excited to be back. Getting our supplies and lessons together, with the invaluable help of Ruth Knaack. One change we have made to the program this year is the addition of Bible memory verses, one a month for the children. What better thing is there to tuck away in a child's brain than God's word?

We all ask that you keep the children and teachers (Pastors Neubauer and Newton, Cheryl Breitbach, Paula Eischens, Ruth Knaack, Sarah Newton, Sandy Phillips and myself) in your prayers and thoughts as we once again have the opportunity to share the truth of the Bible with these students, and the love of Christ.

God's peace,
Laurie Kimball, Release Time Coordinator

Wondering What Release Time Is?

Release Time Classes are a program that has a long history here in Minnesota. Students are "released" from regular classes for about an hour on Wednesday mornings to attend religious instruction classes at area churches. We contract with one of the school's bus drivers to bring them to church and return them to school. We have two sessions. The 5th-8th graders arrive around 8:25 a.m. and head back to school at 9:20 a.m. The 1st-4th graders are here from 9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. Topics covered include stories from the Old and New Testament, the history of the Bible and how to use it, Martin Luther and the Reformation, creation and current issues. We have 51 students in the first group and 81 students in the second group. Release Time is a great opportunity to reach children who might not have a church home.



Bible Explosion for 4th Graders

Usually 3rd grade Release Time students receive a Bible and spend the year learning about it. Since Release Time was cancelled last year, Pastor Neubauer came up with "Bible Explosion." Fourth graders were invited to three weeks of lessons, food and fun. Here's the group on the first day receiving their new Bibles. We added about three more students the second week. Pastor Neubauer had so much fun he is considering doing more "Bible Explosions."



Stewardship Review—September

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **195**

Total Offerings: \$36,203	Total Offerings, September, 2020: \$25,674	Budget/Week \$9,855
Total Expenses: \$35,048	Total Expenses, September, 2020: \$33,914	Budget/Month \$42,705
Difference \$ 1,155	Difference - \$ 8,240	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$9,051	Total Offerings, year to date: \$341,165
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$8,762	Total Expenses, year to date: \$334,553
Difference \$ 289	Difference \$ 6,612

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 09/30/21: \$85,449	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less dedicated accounts - \$ 206	Raised so far \$51,762
Difference \$85,243	Still need \$22,238

Kitchen Payable **\$12,064**

We Need 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. 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.



GivePlus Mobile App Changing to Vanco Mobile



Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile starting October 1. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Search for St. Johns or Park Rapids. Select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please stop by the church office or call us at 732-9783.



Sunday School News

We appreciate our teachers!

PK-K

Ruth Knaack and Sandy Phillips

1st-2nd

Melissa Koch

3rd-4th

Shelley Lof

5th-6th

Tori Harju

7th

Staci Lee

8th-12th

Pastor Newton

You're great!!!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/03 Khloe May
- 11/15 Zachary Harju
- 11/15 Hailey Meier
- 11/20 Thatcher Eidsmoe
- 11/20 Gemma Leckner
- 11/29 Easton Eskola
- 11/29 Ryan Maves

Baptismal Birthdays

- 11/19 Addison Tretbar
- 11/20 Luke Eskola
- 11/20 Kiften Luther



GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.

e o r j
2 4 1 6 3 i

w y l a s a
3 5 2 4 6 a

continually,


p y r a
1 4 2 3

e g v i
4 1 3 2

in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

h n t a s k
2 4 1 3 6 5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV



Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

Lessons this Month

- 11/7 *A Water Wonder*—Jesus Walks on Water
- 11/14 *A Confident Confession*—Peter Confesses Christ
- 11/21 *The Seeing Sign*—Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind
- 11/28 *Lost and Found*—Jesus Seeks the Lost



Great Opportunity for Outreach

Do you have a friend, relative, neighbor, or work acquaintance who might enjoy inaugurating their 2021 Advent season by attending St. Johns' first "Breakfast in Bethlehem" event? If so, please invite them to church on December 4, at 9:00 a.m. A pancake breakfast will be served, followed by a brief Christmas story drama. Children will then have the opportunity to learn a Christmas carol on a kazoo and/or create a Christmas ornament to take home. Adults may enjoy viewing our Nativity Gallery in the sanctuary. A family or solo photoshoot, against a Bethlehem town backdrop, will be offered to all attendees. Each family will take home a Christmas mug as a remembrance of their Bethlehem experience. This event is estimated to conclude by 11:00 a.m.

"Breakfast in Bethlehem" is the perfect outreach opportunity for you to invite someone to a fun filled nonconfrontational morning event at St. Johns. Reservations are needed. You may call the church office (732-9783) or sign up on the church website (www.stjohnspr.org). If your plans change after having made a reservation, and you are not able to attend, please let Ginny know. You may also choose to transfer your reservation(s) to someone else. Please sign up by November 24.



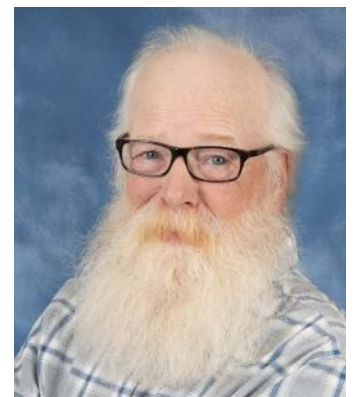
* "Breakfast in Bethlehem" is open to St. Johns members, as well. It is not exclusively an outreach event. We ask that members secure a reservation.

We're Being Used

Many people think not much happens at a church except on Sundays. If you take a look at our monthly calendars you'll see that's not the case. Here's a breakdown of what went on at St. Johns in October.

- 14 worship services
- 13 adult Bible studies
- 40 classes for children (Sunday School, Release Time, ABC Preschool, Confirmation)
- 3 youth activities
- 9 choir practices
- 20 various group meetings

November and December are shaping up to be even busier. During this month of thanksgiving, we are thankful for the building and grounds God has provided for us. We are also especially thankful for the hard work and dedication of our custodian, Mike Riewer. Every day he comes in to vacuum, empty garbage, clean bathrooms and make sure things are tidy for the next round of activities. He loves to troubleshoot problems and likes fixing things. He's willing to go up on the roof (but hasn't had an opportunity to check out the tunnel yet) and get rid of pests. He mows the lawn, blows the snow and keeps things in good shape. If you see Mike around, be sure to tell him thanks for everything!





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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