



The St. Johns Servant

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

January, 2022

Christmas Undecorating

We plan to take down the Christmas decorations on Monday, January 3 starting at 9:00 a.m. All help is welcome!



You Probably Have a New Offering Envelope Number for 2022



This year we renumbered offering envelopes because we dropped the number of boxes we ordered. This means your envelope number probably changed. Sorry for the inconvenience. Hopefully we won't renumber them again for several years.

It's Time to Renew...

...your Lutheran Witness subscription. The cost is \$22.56 for a one year subscription, the same price as last year. There is a special Lutheran Witness envelope in your offering packet. Please put your name and address on the back of the envelope to help us double check for correct information. Deadline to turn in subscriptions is January 31.



Sign Up for Altar Flowers in 2022

The 2022 Flower Chart is posted in the front lobby. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on one or more Sundays, please sign up on the chart. You will receive a reminder call the week before you are scheduled to provide flowers.

Life Sunday

Sunday, January 23 is Life Sunday. We believe that life is a precious gift from God from conception to old age and on this Sunday we especially focus on life. We will also have a special door offering for our local Pregnancy Resource Center.





Youth Activities This Month

We have two major activities for our young people this month. First, all high schoolers are invited to a lock-in here at church from 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 14 to 8:00 a.m. Saturday, January 15. Bring a snack, snow gear and a friend. Sign up by the church office.



On Sunday, January 23 all 5th-12th graders are invited on a trip to Sky Zone. We will meet at church at noon and return around 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$13 which includes lunch.

We hope you can join us for one or both of these fun events!



Thank You for Christmas Toys

Thank you, St. Johns parishioners who contributed to the Park Rapids Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots program. You helped to make Christmas brighter for about 45 children and 18 families by purchasing and donating gifts.

And to Our Basket Builders and Bidders

A huge thanks also goes out to everyone who donated a basket and to the successful bidders. Over \$1,500 was raised for the National Youth Gathering trip!



Stewardship Review—November

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **174**

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Total Offerings: \$39,750 | Total Offerings, November, 2020: \$39,729 | Budget/Week \$9,855 |
| Total Expenses: \$39,429 | Total Expenses, November, 2020: \$40,298 | Budget/Month \$45,705 |
| Difference \$321 | Difference - \$1,019 | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Avg. Weekly Offerings \$9,938 | Total Offerings, year to date: \$420,642 |
| Avg. Weekly Expenses \$9,857 | Total Expenses, year to date: \$409,767 |
| Difference \$81 | Difference \$10,875 |

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|---|--|
| CNB Checkbook Balance as of 11/30/21: \$92,254 | Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000 |
| Less dedicated accounts - \$904 | Raised so far \$52,287 |
| Difference \$91,350 | Still need \$21,713 |

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|-------------------------------------|
| Kitchen Payable \$27,757 |
| Front Entry Payable \$56,227 |



Main Street Living Programs This Month



Main Street Living is a great option if you can't make it to worship in person. Programs are broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on KVRP Fargo-Moorhead. If you don't get the Fargo station, look for the Twin Cities option WFTC channel 29/9-2 in your cable line up. Or you can watch all of the archived programs at any time on line! To reach the website for archived programs you will first need to go to the MSL Network site at www.mainstreetliving.com to reach the Main Street Living site.

January 2: Rev. Brian Shane, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "The Little Solomon in Us All," based on I Kings 3:4-15. Lutheran Television Special: "The Other Wiseman" - Another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way.

January 9: Rev. Bruce Noennig, Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN, presents the message: "Who Are the Wisemen?," based on Matthew 2:1-12. "This Is The Life" program: "Money for Marriage" - A woman's decisions at work put strain on the new couple's marriage.

January 16: Rev. Adam Harvala, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, presents the message: "In the Eye of the Beholder," based on Isaiah 62:1-5. "This Is The Life" program: "Burden Made Light" - A housekeeper helps a family through the struggle of an increasingly sick child.

January 23: Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director, Lutherans for Life, presents this year's "Life Sunday Message", based on John 15:12-17. "This Is The Life" program: "Like Father Like Son" - A father's example leads to his son making questionable choices at school.

January 30: Rev. Jacob Wagner, St. John's Lutheran Church, Vergas, MN, presents the message: "Love as We Have Been Loved," based on I Corinthians 12:3b-13:13 and Jeremiah 1:4-10. "This Is The Life" program: "Twisting Road" - A young man and his wife deal with life, the future, and regrets of things left unspoken.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 1/2 "Gospel Power for Personal Patience"
- 1/9 "Facing Rejection"
- 1/16 "Hazed and Confused"
- 1/23 "Caught"
- 1/30 "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 lhm.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."

† Baptism

12/19 Thane Edward Ricke
Derek and Callie (Perry) Ricke

† Funerals

12/28 Joane Hanson
12/29 Leonard Hemmerich



**Voters Meeting Minutes, November 23, 2021**

Dr. Rod Helm called the meeting to order. Pastor Neubauer led the opening devotion. There were 33 voting members present and one confirmand. Motion, seconded and carried to accept Wayne and Beth Krueger as new voting members.

Motion, seconded and carried to approve minutes from the June 1, 2021 as printed in the newsletter. Secretary, Shirley Potter, is retiring from this position after many years of service. Thank you, Shirley! This means we need a replacement. If you are willing to serve as secretary, please see Rod.

Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate. Motion to accept treasurer's report, seconded and carried.

Our income so far this year is \$412,757 and expenses are \$398,716 with income exceeding expenses by \$14,041. Last year at this time our income was \$380,544 and our expenses were \$395,708 with expenses exceeding income by \$15,164.

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|----------------------|----------------|
| CNB Checking Account | 98,046 |
| Less Dedicated Funds | <u>- 1,363</u> |
| Available Funds | 96,683 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| CNB Dedicated Funds Savings | 39,475 |
|-----------------------------|--------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| LCEF Current Fund | 118,031 |
| Less Parsonage Proceeds | - 18,548 |
| Less Healthy Balance | - 52,032 |
| Less End. Fund Interest | - 2,249 |
| Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest | - 21,641 |
| Less T. Haberer Trust | - 19,097 |
| Less R. Haberer Memorial | <u>- 1,168</u> |
| Available Funds | 3,296 |

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kitchen Payable | \$11,171 |
| Front Entry Payable | \$51,836 |

BOARD REPORTS

Elders - Jerry Grudem. Elders continue to assist the pastors.

Evangelism – Connie Fondow

After prayerful consideration and much discussion, the board decided it is in the best health and safety interest of congregational and community members to cancel the Breakfast in Bethlehem outreach event scheduled for December 4. We look forward to doing the event December 2022 and extend our thanks to all those who volunteered their assistance. Reminder for the Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots program. Presents should be back to the church by December 12. The board hopes to host a trivia event in February or March, dependent upon COVID case numbers and intensity. Funds will go to new front entry furniture.

Education – Lori Griess

Release Time: Due to Cov-id we were unable to hold release time classes last year. This year, thanks to the recommendation of the Park Rapids School Board we are once again enjoying the presence of the kids in the classrooms on Wednesday mornings. Laurie Kimball has once again assumed the Director position for the program. We would like to extend a thank-you to all the teachers, helpers, and babysitters for their help. Our average weekly attendance is 135 students.

Sunday School: We held a "meet and greet" to start off the Sunday School year in August. The dunk tank was a huge success, considering how cold the water was. We had a bounce house, ice cream, balloons, and cotton candy. Fall classes started on September 12. We have an average of 25-30 students attend on a weekly basis. We have continued with the same series of lessons that we had last year. Pastor Neubauer led a class entitled "My Bible Explosion" for those students who should have received Bibles in the 3rd grade. This was a condensed class of what they learn in release time. It was held for 3 consecutive Wednesdays and the children received their Bibles at the end of the class. The children sang with the choir on November 21. The Children's Christmas Program, "One Night in Bethlehem" will be at the 10:30 a.m. service Sunday, December 19.

Vacation Bible School: Sarah Kaufenberg served as director. VBS was held August 8-12 in the evening. We had up to 55 children attend. The science theme was enjoyed by the students. Thank you to all the teachers and volunteers who made it a success.

Preschool: Open house for the 21-22 school year was held the third week in August. Enrollment is full. Classes started on



September 7. We have children on a wait list. Due to Cov-id we will not have out of building field trips. Kim Neubauer continues as director and Mary Harvala as aide. The request and proposal for pay increases for preschool staff was approved by the Board of Education. Discussed whether pay raises for preschool staff should take place at the same time as the other church staff in the future.

Other Information: Budget was reviewed and we adjusted different areas to try to keep it the same as in the previous year while making sure that we were able to cover expenses.

Young People – Brandi Backmann

Previous Events: Evergreen Park; Bike to Dorset; Lock-in, 9 attended; Fall Festival, 19 attended; Pie Bake, 21 pies made for the community thanksgiving meal.

Upcoming: Youth 7th - 12th grade dinners Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 starting in January; Sky Zone; Detroit Mountain; Movie Night; Littles event after school. National Youth Gathering - 12 youth going, 3 adults. Thank you to our shareholders. Shares are still available. Need to fundraise \$9000.

Church Properties – Randy Griess

Sand/gravel in parking lot – taken care of by Sanquist and Roger Hanson. Roof leak on addition – repaired. Leak around vent furnace room repaired. Boiler Display – hot water for kitchen – referred to Samuelson for repair. Replaced circuit boards and also serviced the boilers. Water sensor had been removed and was able to put back into unit. Should consider a yearly maintenance contract on the boilers. Altar rail loose – tightened – ok. Seal coat parking lot or budget for overlay. Discussed by the board to get quotes next spring. Budget – Initial draft – turned in to Ginny.

Stewardship – Pam Heeren

The board hasn't been having regular monthly meetings but has conducted business through emails. The proposed 2022 budget was sent out to board members with no objections.

Fellowship - Elayne Luiken

The board served a picnic for the Sunday School teachers on Sunday, June 13 at Pastor and Sarah Newton's home, in appreciation for their work and dedication during the past year. Fellowship hosted a reception following the dedication service for the new entryway on Sunday, August 29. We hosted a baby shower for Pastor and Sarah Newton on Thursday evening, September 16. Fellowship hosted a reception between services on Sunday, November 21 for the new member welcome. Our board is in charge of putting up the Christmas decorations on Monday, November 29 starting at 9:00 a.m. Cookies and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 19 between services in the fellowship hall.

Public Relations

Pastor Neubauer and Ginny coordinate advertising.

Motion, seconded and carried to accept reports.

PASTORS AND DEACONESS REPORTS

Pastor Neubauer's Report

Membership changes: Motion, seconded and carried to accept into membership Deborah Ramirez by transfer from First Lutheran, Glencoe, MN and David Hullinger by affirmation of faith.

Worship: Advent Series - The World Became Flesh

Teaching times: Sunday Morning Christians in a Woke World; Tuesday morning Christ the Key, a video and book series Release Time was brought back after some effort. Thank the school board members for their dedication to bringing it back. Teaching 3rd grade and 7th grade. Confirmation 15 students total with 6 to be confirmed.

ABC Preschool: helped with open house. Plan to start doing monthly devotions again.

Other: Had only one wedding this summer but two renewal of vows. Not subbing as much, just a couple of Friday afternoons

District/Regional Events: Fall Pastors Conference

(Continued on page 7)



Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance—December

PK3 - Fletcher Eidsmoe
 PK4 - George Newton
 Kdg. - Kellan Eidsmoe, Kelly Kimball
 1st - Thatcher Eidsmoe, Grace Hockett,
 Colton Nilson
 3rd - Ava Kimball
 4th - Clinton Koch, Alex Lof,
 Sophia Neubauer, Kryton Nilson,
 Will Sanquist
 5th - Zachary Harju, Khloe May
 7th - Max Harju, Aiden May

Total Offering— December:
\$33.25



1/7 Ava Kimball
 1/11 Peightyn Walker
 1/18 Fletcher Eidsmoe
 1/24 Sawyer Eidsmoe
 1/27 Emma Quinn
 1/30 Lilah Forbes

Baptismal Birthdays

1/10 Adelynn DeVore
 1/24 Thatcher Eidsmoe



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek **re**_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your _____ople, but **love** your **neig**_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do **right**; seek jus_____. Defend the _____pressed. Take up the cause of the _____less; plead the _____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go____. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me_____ and to walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would _____ve them d _____to you, for this s _____ms up the _____w and the Proph _____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

| |
|-------------|
| father_____ |
| pe_____ |
| _____venge |
| _____od |
| _____rcy |
| _____op |
| _____hbor |
| _____humb |
| _____cas |
| _____tice |

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets

Sunday School Thanks

A BIG THANK YOU to all the kids, Sunday School teachers and staff who helped make "One Night in Bethlehem" a great Sunday school Christmas program!



(Continued from page 5)

Pastor Newton

Bible Class - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. Working through Rod Dreher's *The Benedict Option*, exploring how the Lord works through habits and attitudes to form His people to the likeness of His Son.

Young People

Bible study for this year has been Defense Against the Dark Arts, but we're switching gears for the new year to Wheel Fortunate and the Orb of Doom, covering a variety of topics pertaining to life and faith.

Past Events: College Breakfast, Tubing the Crow Wing, Family Kickball/Whiffle Ball, Camp-In, Evergreen Park, Bike to Dorset/Ice Cream/Mini Golf, Shareholders Meeting, Fall Festival, Fall Festival II, and the Pie Bake for the Community Thanksgiving Meal.

Upcoming Events:

Coffee and St Johns Mug Fundraiser – This Sunday and following!

Youth Advent Supper (Tacos) – December 8, 3:30-6:00 p.m.

Rehearsal After-Party – December 18, noon-2:00 p.m. (Lunch included)

High School Lock-In – Christmas Break, TBD

Sky Zone – January 30, noon-6:00 p.m. (Lunch included)

Detroit Mountain – February 27, noon-4:30 p.m. (Lunch included)

Families and Young People Task Force - Will convene after Christmas

Graduate School - Studying for the exam to complete the program. Please pray that all goes well when with test on November 30.

Family - Sarah and Katy are both healthy again, thanks be to God! Norah's talking a little better and loves reading books and watching The Lion King. George enjoys preschool and Sunday School (thanks, teachers!), marbles, and puzzles.

Deaconess- Sarah Newton

Welcome Katy! Thank you everyone for the warm welcome you've given to our Katy Ann Michelle! She's a sweet new addition to the Newton crew, and we love sharing her with all of you. Katy eats and sleeps like a champ (she's actually snoring while I write this) and will be four months old on December 3. Time flies!

Midweek Women's Study - This originated as a Sunday School Teacher's Group, but was opened up to all women of St. John's (please get in touch with me if you would like to participate!). We are slowly making our way through Dr. Paavola's book on the Lord's Prayer, Our Way Home. Meetings take place at 6:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. We have yet to meet since Katy's birth, reasons being a combination of busyness and cold/flu season, but we're currently planning a December fellowship event; I'll keep you posted!

NYG - Sarah will be serving as a chaperone for the National Youth Gathering this summer. Grandma is coming to spend a week with the kiddos. In anticipation of this, Sarah has been spending time with the youth on Sunday mornings during Bible Study.

Release Time - It's back!!! Sarah serves as one of the second grade teachers, and it's truly a joy! Many, many thanks to the ladies who watch her children during this time! You are a blessing to her. Sarah said she was sorry she couldn't be there tonight in person, but if you have any questions for her, don't hesitate to reach out!

Motion, seconded and carried to accept reports.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The 2022 budget was presented. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the budget as presented.

We decide not to submit any names for district office nominations.

Roger Just will be our delegate to the Minnesota North District Convention which will be held in May, 2022. Mike Poole will be the alternate delegate. Per past practice Mike will then be the delegate for the next district convention.

Brad Dahn reported the front entry is pretty much completed. It looks great! A huge thank you to the committee and everyone who worked on the project.

Motion, seconded and carried that St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a parsonage allowance for Pastor Neubauer in the amount of \$24,000 and for Pastor Newton in the amount of \$25,000 per year.

Discussed moving the Voters meeting time to 6:00 p.m. We will try it in June and see how it works.

Adjourned. Pastor Newton closed with prayer and the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Ranisate, Acting Secretary



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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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

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