



The St. Johns Servant

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

February, 2022

Pastor Newton Receives Call to St. Salvator, Venedy, Illinois

Pastor Newton has received a call to St. Salvator in Venedy, Illinois. Venedy is located about 45 miles southeast of St. Louis. Pastor and Sarah did field work at the congregation when they were at the seminary. Since they were heading to Rockford to visit Pastor Newton's family, they decided they would go for a visit to St. Salvator, too.

Please keep the Newtons in your prayers as they consider the call to St. Salvator.



Cozy St. Johns Shirts Available

Refresh your wardrobe with one of these stylish fleece quarter zipper shirts, embroidered with our new St. Johns logo. Cost is \$40 each. We have some available at church and will be putting in an order for more soon. To get yours, stop by the table in the front lobby, give us a call at 218-732-9783 or send us an email (just click the email link under the contact information on the bottom left of the homepage on our website, stjohnspr.org). Proceeds go to the National Youth Gathering.

The Pregnancy Resource Center is Hosting a Virtual Baby Shower

Here's a beautiful opportunity to support our local Pregnancy Resource Center. They're having a virtual baby shower from now until March 10. All you have to do is find the shower online at <https://events.webpartytime.com/site/park-rapids-prc>, click on the links to Walmart or Amazon and choose to purchase any of the MUCH NEEDED items for the center. You can also find the link on their Facebook page. The center loves being able to walk with families and young parents as they need a little extra support and encouragement while trying to be the best parent they can be.



Noon Communion Services will Continue

We plan to continue noon communion services until Lent begins on March 2. This is a short (25 minute) service held each Wednesday at noon. Attendance is usually around 12-15 people. Communion is given to each person in the pew rather than coming forward as we do on Sunday morning. It's intended for those who need to avoid being around larger groups of people or who may not be able to attend Sunday worship for other reasons.

Choir Coming Back

The Senior Choir will resume practices on Wednesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room. New members are always welcome! If you have questions, contact director, Sarah Kaufenberg, at 651-260-3350.





Ponderings from the Pew



The holidays are over. Thank God! We have even gotten past the horrible questions – “Any big holiday plans?” “How was your Christmas?” “Did you have a good holiday?” UGH. Can you hear the screaming or is that just in my head? People look at you funny when your response to the first question is, “Surviving.” But it’s an honest answer. It was an honest answer last year, and the year before. It will be the same answer next year, the year after, and every year until God calls me home. Grief does not get better. Grief does not go away with time. Love doesn’t end. The saying might be cheesy, but grief is love with no place to go. Grief comes and goes like the waves with the tide. The passage of time might make most of the waves less severe, but they don’t stop.

I can almost step outside myself to watch the tide coming in. It begins the end of August in the days leading up to the day Caleb died. The day itself is not as bad as the days before when I feel the anxiety ramping up. I’m aware my emotions begin rolling up and down like a super-size roller coaster. October maintains until the day we lost my brother, and then along comes deer hunting – the most wonderful time of the year for them both. They should be out there. We roll right out of that into Thanksgiving. I am grateful, and I know I am blessed. Grandkids are little life preservers. They bring joy back in the mix. The table isn’t even cleared when Christmas music begins, the holiday questions start, the decorations come out, the to-do list explodes, the store shelves scream to grab your attention, and we mark my dad’s passing not three months past Caleb’s. By now, I have built a nice wall around myself, and my blinders are firmly in place trying to just get through it all. Inside, I am frantically picking up pieces of myself, and wishing desperately that I could just go to sleep until January first. The one moment I cling to is singing “Silent Night” in candlelight at the Christmas Eve service. The phrase I despise the most – “It’s the most wonderful time of the year...” No, it is truly not. It is not wonderful for us, and I’m sure it isn’t for a lot of people. Society insists that we must have holiday plans, sprinkled with glitter, decorated with canned snow, gum drops and icing. We must feel the joy of the season because that’s what we do right?

It all feels more like a terrible storm to me. I get through by keeping my head down, putting one foot in front of the other, forging ahead into the freezing sleet and overwhelming wind gusts. What we need to remember in times like this is that we have a Savior Who can calm any storm in life. We are children of the Most High, the Holy One, the Prince of Peace. In the storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus revealed His power by speaking to the waves, “Peace! Be Still” (Mark 4:39). “And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” The disciples wondered, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” We know. We know Who Jesus is. We have been brought up knowing Him. How blessed are we?

We all have our storms. We all face our challenges in this life. But thank God – He fights with us and for us. Without Him, no one can stand. He is our anchor sure. “Blessed be the Lord, Who daily bears us up; God is our salvation,” (Psalm 68:19).

To God alone be the glory.

Renee’ Anderson





Main Street Living Programs This Month

Have you checked out Main Street Living? Programs are broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on KVRP Fargo-Moorhead. Here's the "North" programs for February:



February 6: Rev. Paul Preus, Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale, ND, presents the message: "It Is Good to Hear Jesus" based on Matthew 17:1-9. "This Is The Life:" "Finders Keepers" - A man finds a large sum of money and struggles with the consequences of keeping it.

February 13: Rev. Nathanael Biberdorf, Zion Lutheran Church, Browns Valley, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Claire City, SD, presents the message: "Ever-Green Savior" based on Jeremiah 17:5-8. "This Is The Life:" "Girls Best Friend" Focusing on the here and now creates problems for a mother and her daughter and prompts spiritual questions for all.

February 20: Rev. Kirk Lee, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, MN, presents the message: "I Am Your Brother Joseph" based on Genesis 45:3-15. "This Is The Life:" "Song of the Night" - A son's accident causes his family to question everything.

February 27: Rev. Dave Suelzle, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "Greater than the ... Greatest?" based on Hebrews 3:3-6. "This Is The Life:" "Hope Enough to Live By" - A medical research scientist falls into despair after an accident and subsequent events.

If you don't get KVRP you can watch the Minnesota South District version of Main Street Living on WFTC Channel 29 at 9:00 a.m. You can also watch all of the archived programs at any time online. To reach the website for archived programs go to www.mainstreetliving.com and then click on "North (Fargo)" or "Twin Cities."

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 2/6 "How Christians Can Admire the Jewish Sabbath"
- 2/13 "The Unexpected"
- 2/20 "TBD"
- 2/27 "Greatness"

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.

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

- 01/02 Austin Pierce Lee
Amanda Pierce and Charles Lee
Alijah William Pierce Pike
Amanda Pierce and Nathan Pike
Aiden George Pierce Roussell
Amanda Pierce and Tony Parrish
- 01/09 Haisley Mae Huntziger
Amanda and Derek Huntziger
- 01/30 Ruby Ann Kimball
Allie and Cory Kimball

† Funeral

- 01/06 David Hullinger (at Cease)



Stewardship Review - December, 2021

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 158

Total Offerings: \$45,634	Avg. Weekly Offerings \$11,409	Budget/Week \$9,855
Total Expenses: <u>\$51,161</u>	Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$12,790</u>	Budget/Month \$42,705
Difference - \$5,527	Difference - \$1,381	

Yearly Summary:

Total Offerings: \$466,476
Total Expenses: \$460,928
Difference \$5,548

Yearly Summary, 2020:

Total Offerings: \$489,630*
Total Expenses: \$458,781
Difference \$30,849

*includes \$60,000 PPP loan which was forgiven

CNB Checkbook Balance	\$90,673	Our Healthy Balance Goal	\$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts	\$ <u>740</u>	Raised so far	<u>\$53,417</u>
Difference	\$89,933	Still need	\$20,583

Kitchen Payable \$0
Front Entry Loan \$50,073

Thank you for the generous gifts that helped pay off our kitchen loan!

Here's a Few Offering Pointers

St. Johns is a generous congregation and the bulk of our contributions come through the offerings given at worship services. Here are a few tips to remember when you're preparing your offering that will make things easier for you and for our offering counters:

1. Please use your offering envelopes if you have them. It makes it much easier for the offering counters if they don't have to look up your envelope number. If you haven't picked up your envelopes, stop by the church office and we'll get them for you.
2. For special offerings, please make out your check to St. Johns. We can't deposit checks made out to other organizations (like the Food Shelf, Pregnancy Resource Center, etc.). These checks will be sent directly to the organization.
3. You don't have to put a separate check or cash in each weekly offering envelope if you are giving monthly or twice a month. You can write one check and use one envelope for the month.
4. If you really want to be nice to the counters, don't fold your cash or check. Just slip it right into the envelope.
5. Consider automatic offerings. You can set up an automatic withdrawal from your account to St. Johns. You decide the amount and frequency. It's easy to set up and there's no extra charge to you. Stop by and see Ginny Ranisate if you're interested. You can also give online at our website www.stjohnspr.org or with your phone. Check out the article to the left about the phone app.
6. If you're good with numbers, detail oriented and available one Sunday a month, consider becoming an offering counter. We usually have teams of two counters and it takes about an hour to count. Once again, stop by and see Ginny or give her a call at 732-9783 if you're interested.



Condensed Annual Financial Report Ending 12/31/21

	12/31/2020	12/31/2021
Current Assets	425,902	338,877
Fixed Assets	<u>1,300,478</u>	<u>1,510,123</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,726,380</u>	<u>1,849,000</u>
Liabilities/Dedicated Funds Payable	23,585	50,073
Equity	<u>1,702,795</u>	<u>1,798,927</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>1,726,380</u>	<u>1,849,000</u>
Income:	489,630*	466,476
Less Expenses:		
Missions	75,000	75,000
Voters	252,976	255,436
Board of Elders	39,865	43,745
Board of Christian Education	22,835	22,208
Board of Church Properties	62,031	58,316
Board of Evangelism	593	821
Board of Parish Fellowship	236	302
Board of Stewardship	1,230	1,640
Board of Young People	1,713	1,681
Board of Public Relations	<u>2,302</u>	<u>1,799</u>
Total Expenses	<u>458,781</u>	<u>460,928</u>
Income Less Expenses	<u>30,849</u>	<u>5,548</u>

*includes 60,000 PPP loan

Give Plus+ Out, Vanco Mobile In

The Give Plus mobile app is being phased out for a new app, Vanco Mobile, after January 31. To switch go to your app store and download the Vanco Mobile app. Log in with your Give Plus user name and password, then follow the prompts. If you have questions or problems, give the church office a call.





Sunday School News

Really Great Attendance

These students have come to Sunday School for twelve weeks and received a gift card to Dairy Queen.

George Newton, Kellan Eidsmoe, Fletcher Eidsmoe, A.J. Phillips, Thatcher Eidsmoe, Sawyer Eidsmoe, Clinton Koch, Alex Lof, Sophia Neubauer, Will Sanquist, Zach Harju, Khloe May, Austin Lee, Aiden May, Kaitlyn Maves, Sawyer Harvey, Max Harju.



2/04 Everett Bergerson
2/13 Kolt Safratowich
2/23 Gunar Clark
2/25 Tony Meier
2/26 Kelly Kimball
2/28 James Trandem

Baptismal Birthdays

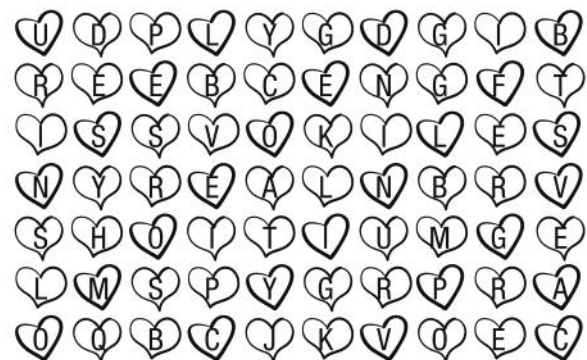
2/04 Annie Mayer
2/6 Neveah Etter
2/7 Owen Christensen
2/08 Henli Maier
2/10 Ava Kimball
2/28 Ryan Maves



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D , because love

 ↓ over a multitude of ↓ . Offer

 ↓ to one another without

 ↓ . Each of you should use whatever

 ↓ you have received to ↓ others, as faithful

stewards of God's ↓ in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace

Lessons this Month

02/06 "Standing Trial—Jesus on Trial; Peter Denies Jesus"
2/13 "The Living Wonder—Jesus' Death and Resurrection"
2/20 "The Proof Room—Jesus Appears to Thomas"
2/27 "A Revealing Restoration—Jesus Appears in Galilee"



Youth Detroit Mountain Trip

All youth in grades 5-12 are invited to go to Detroit Mountain for tubing on Sunday, February 27 from noon—4:30 p.m. We'll meet at church, have lunch and take the church bus to Detroit Mountain. Cost is \$10 a person and includes lunch. Friends are welcome. Sign up by the church office.

High School Get Togethers on Wednesdays

We've started a Wednesday evening get together for high schoolers from 5:00—6:30 p.m. Join us for a meal, conversation, games and just hanging out together. Friends are welcome along with game and meal ideas.



There's More Youth Events Planned

In March we're hoping to get back to the Three Bears Water Park. We also want to try rescheduling the Sky Zone trip that got cancelled because of weather concerns (we were really looking forward to that). Sometimes fun things come up at the spur of the moment, too (breakfast, anyone?).



Trivia Returns Next Month

Have you missed our trivia events? Great news! The Board of Evangelism has planned one for Sunday afternoon, March 20. The Board of Parish Fellowship will provide some great food. There will also be the usual extra challenges. Start exercising your brain and forming your teams.



	Round								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Table 1	8	5	9	7	5	4	6		44
Table 2	7	7	8	6	6	6	7		47
Table 3	7	7	4	7	8	9	8		50
Table 4	9	8	10	9	6	8	9		59
Table 5	8	8	9	5	6	10	8		54
Table 6	10	5	9	6	6	6	8		50
Table 7	10	7	10	9	7	7	9		59
Table 8	8	9	7	8	9	7	8		56
Table 9	4	5	8	5	3	3	3		31
Table 10									0
Table 11									0
Table 12									0





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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*Pastor James Neubauer
Pastor Joel Newton
Deaconess Sarah Newton*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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Return Service Requested

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