

The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

April, 2022

Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday, April 14, Communion Services at noon and 5:30 p.m. with stripping of the altar at the 5:30 p.m. service

Good Friday, April 15, Services at noon and 5:30 p.m.

Easter, April 17 Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m.

- * Easter Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
- * Communion Services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- * Coffee and treats at 9:15 a.m. in the social hall
- * Sunday School Easter Activities at 9:15 a.m.
- * Bible study at 9:30 a.m. in the social hall

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



Order Your Easter Lilies



This year we are decorating the church for Easter with lilies. If you would like to purchase a lily, the cost is \$8.50. Please sign up in the front lobby to reserve your lily. They may be taken home after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter morning.





Bless a Mom

If you wish to "sponsor" a gift bag (\$30.00) for a young mom in the area, please sign the sheet located near the church office. The Board of Evangelism will be in collaboration with the Park Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center for gift bag distribution to needy mothers. We are currently waiting to hear from the LCMS Life Ministries as to whether or not we will receive financial assistance through matching grant funds. Thank you for considering contributing to this project. Contact Connie Fondow for any further clarification.



Main Street Living Programs This Month



Main Street Living is broadcast Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on KVRR Fargo-Moorhead or you can watch it online any time at www.mainstreetliving.com, "North (Fargo)." Here's the Main Street Living "North" programs for April:

April 3: Rev. Adam Welton, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Wentworth, SD, presents the message: "Conscience Cleansed," based on Hebrews 9:13-14. "This Is The Life" segment special program: "Holy Land Tour pt. I" - A video tour of locations in Jesus' earthly ministry, led by South Dakota pastor Nabil Nour, who grew up in Israel.

April 10: Rev. Robert Hill, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wimbledon, ND, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pettibone, ND, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Woodworth, ND, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kensal, ND, presents the message: "The Sacrifice is Made," based on Luke 23:18, 32, 44-45. "This Is The Life" segment special program: "Holy Land Tour pt. 2" -

A video tour of locations in Jesus' earthly ministry, led by South Dakota pastor Nabil Nour, who grew up in Israel.

April 17: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour, presents an Easter message titled: "With." This sermon is based on John 20:1-18. Visit www.mainstreetliving.com for more information. "This Is The Life" segment special Lenten program: "Three Days" - The disciples' reactions and interaction in the days between Jesus' death and resurrection.

April 24: Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, presents a message celebrating the 175th anniversary of the LCMS. Visit www.mainstreetliving.com for more information. "This Is The Life" program: "Gates of Glory" - Thomas recounts his experience with doubt and belief as he meets the risen Jesus.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

04/03 "This Is the Feast"

04/10 "Drawn Through the Cross"

04/17 "Can I Get a Witness?"

04/24 "Misplaced Doubt"

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 133 on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and any time on 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."



Meeting Changes during Holy Week

Three of our groups' regularly scheduled meetings fall during Holy Week this month. Here's who's meeting and whose not.

The Evening Guild will meet as usual on Tuesday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the social hall.



Ladies Aid will not have their regular meeting on April 14 due to Maundy Thursday services. Instead they will have a brief meeting in the library at 11:30 a.m. to make decisions about the District Convention. Mites will be collected in May.

The Lutheran Laymen's League will **not** meet on April 14, Maundy Thursday.



Need Help with Your Health Care Directive?

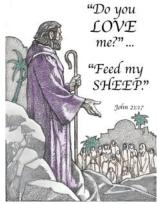
Have you been planning to get your health care directive done? Have questions? Would you like some help? We're considering arranging a workshop for those interested. If that's you, please contact Ginny in the office for more details. We will let everyone know when we have the workshop arranged.

Bring in New Socks and Undies

We're collecting new socks and undies (men's, women's and children's) and especially for children age 3 to 6th grade for the Orphan Grain Train. The pastors will take them to the District Convention May 9. These items will be sent to help meet the needs of children at Texas border missions, Ukraine and other countries where new items are allowed. Bring your items in by May 8 and drop them in the laundry basket located in the front lobby. Thank you for your support to help those in need and share the Word of God.



Spring LWML Zone Rally to be Held in Lake George



The LWML Zone Spring Rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran in Lake George on Thursday, April 28. Registration and coffee start at 9:00 a.m. and the rally begins at 9:30 a.m. The theme is "Feed My Sheep." Pastor Philip Houser will present the Bible study and guest speaker, Jill Houser, will talk about the deaconess ministry at Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska.

We are collecting items for the Laporte food shelf as part of the ingathering. There's a drop boy in the front lobby. Items especially needed are: beef stew, ravioli, SpaghettiOs, chicken noodle soup, canned fruit, brown sugar, powered sugar, cake mixes and small bottles of laundry soap.



Stewardship Review—February

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 156

Total Offerings: \$33,879
Total Offerings, February, 2021: \$32,908
Total Expenses: \$38,355
Difference - \$4,476
Difference - \$3,816

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,470 Budget/Week \$10,345 Front Entry Payable \$46,649

Avg. Weekly Expenses \$9,589 Budget/Month \$44,827

Difference - \$1,119

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 02/28/22: \$90,928 Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000 Less Dedicated Accounts - \$1,139 Raised so far \$55,959 Difference \$89,789 Still need \$18,041

A Big Blood Drive Thank You!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and donors who helped make our blood drive a success. We were able to collect 111 blood products and meet Vitalant's goal.



Elayne Luiken, Blood Drive Coordinator

Trivia Was Great in Every Way!

Trivia returned in a big way on March 20. We had a great turn out with twelve teams competing. The Terhark team came in first in a nail biter tie breaker with the Super Staff team. They donated their winnings back to the cause. There was great food served by the board of Parish Fellowship, great contests and door prizes, great questions and best of all we raised a great amount of money—\$3,754. All the proceeds from the event were sent to the Mid South District LCMS to help with recovery efforts for the disastrous tornadoes that swept through Kentucky and Tennessee in December. A great big "thank you" to the Boards of Evangelism and Parish Fellowship and everyone who came out for the event!







Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2022

PRESENT: Brandi Backmann, Connie Fondow, Lori Griess, Randy Griess, Jerry Grudem, Rod Helm, Elayne Luiken, Pastor Newton, Mike Poole and Ginny Ranisate. Absent: Pam Heeren.

Director Rod Helm called the meeting to order.

Pastor Neubauer read a devotion by Chad Bird on the prodigal son.

Motion by Lori to approve minutes of the October 26, 2021 meeting as printed in newsletter - second Elayne Luiken. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2021	104,720	99,274	+5,446
2022	110,953	105,689	+5,264
Difference	+6,233	+6,415	

We still have one more week of offerings and end of month payroll for this month.

CNB Checking Account as of 03/22/22 Less Dedicated Funds Available Funds	104,171 <u>- 6,254</u> 97,917
CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 03/22/22	40,405
LCEF Current Fund as of 03/22/22 Less End. Fund Interest Less Parsonage Proceeds Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000) Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest Less T. Haberer Trust Less R. Haberer Memorial Available Funds	122,093 - 2,348 - 18,548 - 55,965 - 21,651 - 19,106 - 1,168 3,307

Front Entry Loan \$46,649

Motion by Lori to approve Treasurer's report – second Brandi. Motion carried.

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Sunday School Page



Perfect Attendance—March

PK3 Fletcher Eidsmoe
PK4 George Newton
Kdg Kellan Eidsmoe
1st Thatcher Eidsmoe
3rd Sawyer Eidsmoe

4th Clinton Koch, Alex Lof,

Sophia Neubauer

5th Khloe May

7th Sawyer Harvey, Aiden May

Great job!



4/03 Dylan May

4/04 Will Sanquist

4/08 Eastyn Walker

4/11 Vivian Harju

4/24 Clinton Koch

4/26 Natalie Tretbar

Baptismal Birthdays

4/9 Everett Bergerson

4/10 Kolt Safratowich

4/15 Fletcher Eidsmoe

4/18 Hannah Arola

4/18 Taylor Arola

4/22 Martin Hahn

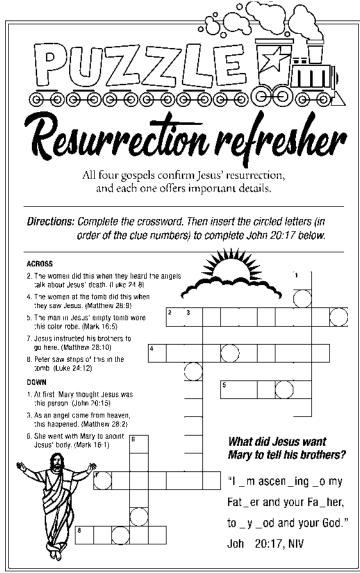
4/26 Grace Hockett

4/27 Hunter Schroeder

4/27 James Trandem

4/30 Shae Halbasch





Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered, 4. worshipped, 5. white, 7. Galilee, 8. linen; DOWN 1. gardener, 3. earthquake, 6. Salome; "I am ascending to my Father and your Father," I am ascending to my Father and

Lessons this Month

April 3 The Unknown Revealed—Paul Preaches in Athens

April 10 Paul's Prison Protection—The Plot to Kill Paul

April 17 Easter Celebration!

April 24 All Overboard —Paul is Shipwrecked



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PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Newton

General

- Wednesday Bible Class: The Benedict Option and cultivating the Christian faith.
- Summer Adult Bible Study: Looking into options. Philemon? Hebrews? God's Word Understanding what we read?
- Youth Bible Study: Current Events/Lectionary Devotions
- Passed the STM Comprehensive Exam, graduating this Spring
- Leading the LIC Men's Retreat with a couple other pastors in May

Youth

Thanks to Jerry Grudem and everyone who helped with the new bus—it's working out great!

- November 21, 2021 4:30-7pm: Pie Bake We had a great turnout and made (I think) 21 pies for the community Thanksgiving meal. Thank you to everyone who came out for it, especially our experienced bakers!
- December 18, 2021 10-2pm: Children's Christmas Program Practice and Cast Party Ate pizza and enjoyed games together. Thanks to our volunteers, both parents and high schoolers!
- January 14-15, 6pm-8:30am: High School Lock-In 11 youth enjoyed a good time overnight together. Thanks to the Board of Fellowship for our delicious chili supper, the Griesses for pancake (and about everything else you could think of) Breakfast, and Melissa Koch for chaperoning!
- February 11-12, 2022 Lutheran Island Camp Confirmation Retreat 10 students were able to join us to learn about interpreting Scripture using the SOAP method (Scripture, Observation, Applicationm, Prayer). Thanks to Pastor Neubauer and Jillian Neubauer and Sarah Newton for chaperoning!
- February 27, 2022, 12-4:30pm: Detroit Mountain 18 youth joined us for pizza lunch and sledding at Detroit Mountain. Thanks to Larry Hetrick for driving and Katelyn Seehafer for chaperoning!
- March 4, 2022, 8-10:30am: Biscuits and Gravy at the Griess' 9 high schoolers had a wonderful time. Thank you, Randy and Lori!
- March 27, 2022, 12-7pm: 3 Bears Waterpark There's still a couple spots left, \$10/person
- April 21-23, 2022: Concordia Saint Paul College Visit Staying the night in Saint Cloud
- April 24, 2022, 1:30-7:30: Skyzone Rescheduled from January
- May 13-15: Lutheran Island Camp Men's Retreat Wrestling with God is the theme.
- July 8-13, 2022: LCMS Youth Gathering 14 youth, 3 chaperones (Brandi Backmann, Pastor and Sarah Newton). Thanks to everyone for being so supportive of our fundraisers!

High School Youth Nights: Started in January but are taking a break for Lent, since it's on Wednesdays and we're in a round robin with the circuit. We meet from 5-6:30 Wednesday nights, cook and share a meal and some conversation, then play games for a bit.

Pastor Neubauer

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Motion, seconded and carried to approve the following membership changes:

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Transfer In: Clyde and Gwen Adickes, from First English, Dorset, MN, Gene and Debbie Anderson, from First English, Dorset, MN, Steve and Jane Stromme, from Sonrise, Avon, MN. Affirmation of Faith: Michael Netland. Transfer Out: Megan Komppa and children, Theodore, Harlow, Vivian, Erwin, to Grace, Sebeka, MN.

Pastor Neubauer reported that he is continuing with his usual activities, Sunday Bible class, release time, confirmation, etc.

BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS – Jerry Grudem – Elders continue to assist pastors.

EVANGELISM - Connie Fondow

Trivia night was successful. Their next project will be "Bless A Mom." We will know in April if we will receive a grant. This will affect how many bags are done for the project. Planning for Breakfast in Bethlehem event in December.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Lori Griess

Preschool – 2021-2022 enrollment - *35 (30 last year) 24 - 4 year olds, 11 - 3 year olds No openings available in the 4 year old group. One (possible) opening for 3 year old group. My hesitancy has to do with being able to serve 12 (3 year olds) as this group can be quite active and overwhelming. *We have had a waiting list for most of the year. Currently there are 2 already enrolled students (4 yr old) that would like to add days (from 2 to 3 or more) and 4 on a list for the 3 year old group.

* One family removed their child in early October when COVID numbers were high. They paid the entire year so a spot was held for them. Last week the student returned.

Current staffing: I director/teacher (for both 3 and 4 year olds), I teachers aide

Overall the health of the staff and children have been good. There have been more COVID exposures this year - especially in the fall where students were absent for longer periods (themselves quarantine or family member). Our policy states that children are out for 10 days with a positive test or if a family member tests positive. We have had a lot of absences this winter with families traveling. Yearly state inspection has resumed in person. We had our inspection in October. Overall went ok. We did have 3 citations - mostly wording on paperwork. It was fixed and everything is well again (until next year).

Some of the COVID protocols are still being used and we plan to continue using as a general practice - more handwashing - especially right away when they arrive, hand sanitizer after snack before using common toys which cannot be easily washed (puzzles and books), more sanitizer available after sneezing and using disinfecting wipes more on common surfaces such as chairs and tables.

We have taken 5 "snow" sessions. So far, no plans on making those up.

Challenges of the year:

- * Teacher challenge trying to juggle doing all the classes remains a huge challenge!! I feel like I am doing the work of 3 people to keep up with maintaining two separate classrooms, writing and teaching lessons for 2 age groups, keeping up with the ever changing state rules and making sure everyone is up to date if there has been an exposure. A lot of extra hours have been spent on this.
- *Finding time to do the continuing education requirements has been difficult. Some in person classes are beginning to appear but it is slow to resume.



- * No fields trip this year (as of now) has meant readjusting learning opportunities. Highlights:
- ** Mary Harvala is such a blessing to work with. She has adapted to the preschool world well and is always looking for ways to help out.
- ** Having a basically full school has been wonderful!!

Financial

We have approx. \$8,800 in the scholarship fund. (4 families on assistance)

Approx. \$6,200 in savings (we keep this amount set aside for misc. expenses)

Approx. \$2,200 in checking

*According to Ginny:

Anticipated tuition through May 4720

* 8 families have already paid for entire year so less income is received in the final months of the school year

Estimated Expenses through May 9000 Estimated Need from SJ budget 4280

2022 Budget from Board of Education was set at \$20, 250

Have used from that budget 805

additional estimated expenses 3465 (retirement, DEX)

estimated need 4280

estimated remaining budget 11700 (June through Dec. 2022)

In January, Kim's teacher salary was raised approx. 3% and Mary was raised 4.5%. This was approved by the Board of

Education.

Tuition proposal for 2022-2023 was approved by the board.

Current (2021-2022):

\$40 registration fee - non members for 2/3 day week group \$60 - non members for 4/5 day week group, \$0 for members

2 day/week: \$90 (85) 3 day/week: \$120 (115) 4 day/week: \$155 (140) 5 day/week: \$175 (160)

We raised tuition in 2021 for the current school year. The question of raising tuition is difficult for me. Our only competition is free preschool or head start which is also basically free. I also know that we need to at times raise the tuition to cover expenses. As we all know the economy is tight now and it looks to be getting tighter as the uncertainty of everything unfolds. This past year the Park Rapids schools passed a large funding bond to make some major changes to the school buildings and class structure. I believe this fall the early childhood classrooms will be moved into the Century building. Potentially, this could be a huge impact on enrollment. Right now there seems to be a lot of funding available in the public early childhood world which includes free bussing and meals.

We have a possibility of 13 returning students. Hopefully the ones on a waiting list will have an opportunity to be with ABC this upcoming year. There are 12 on the church rolls. One family has registered for next fall already (she is from this year's waiting list).

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Classes offered: 3's - M/W am (2 day/week), 4's - M/W pm, T/Th am and F am (2,3,4 or 5 day/week), (adjusted as needed)

Staff: I teacher/director, I teacher's helper and I volunteer bookkeeper

Upcoming:

*Parent-teacher conferences: early April

- * Easter break April 14-18
- * Last day May 270

Year end programs?? Last year we went ahead with the programs. We did not do the traditional ice cream social but instead served wrapped treats - freeze pops and cookies. We did not encourage families to stay to socialize but had space available for those who wished to sit and eat. I think we will go ahead with them again this year. I'll plan on getting a Thrivent Action card to help cover expenses. Any thoughts on what we should do for treats?

Sunday School – Averaging between 25 – 34 children per week. Despite sending postcards, and reminders in the bulletin and newsletter last fall we have not been able to return the numbers attending to pre cov-id. Children are doing a fund raiser during the month of February and March. Children will sing Palm Sunday. Discussed next year's Christmas Program practice and the teachers feel that it would be beneficial if there was practice during the entire Sunday School hour to give thee children more time to learn parts and songs. Discussion on having a meet and greet on August 21 for Sunday School. It went over well last year and would like to encourage other members of the congregation to assist if possible. Ideas presented are: return of the dunk tank, cotton candy, bowling pins, fish tanks, popcorn, ice cream, balloons, bounce house, and plinko. Sunday School is scheduled to start on September 11. Would like to send out handwritten notes to students in early August after VBS to invite them to Sunday School. We are still exploring options for different Sunday School material. Also discussed presenting attendance awards during church instead of just handing them out during the Sunday School opening.

VBS -Recommended date for VBS is August 7-11. Once again in the evening to encourage participation by the parents and members of the congregation.

Release Time - Report from Laurie Kimball:

Release time is going well. Had some trouble with needing substitute teachers in February and we had to temporarily move our existing teachers around to cover all the classrooms. Talked recently to a member who may be interested in joining our teaching staff next year.

Working on making Easter goodie baskets for the students in April. A member donated money to purchase Easter candy for the baskets. Ist grade lamb boxes, 2nd grade chick boxes, 3rd grade Easter egg and chick boxes, 4th grade butterfly boxes. Each box has an attached paper describing what the Easter symbol represents in the Christian faith.

We had two students leave the program last month by request of their parents. Always sad to see any student leave us.

April 27 will be the last day for release time this year. We are planning some fun activities for the last day, ice cream sundaes, bible trivia, younger children will decorate a tote bag to take their materials home in.



YOUNG PEOPLE - Brandi Backmann

In addition to Pastor Newton's report they have been doing Lenten meals and will prepare Easter breakfast. Senior recognition will be May 22 between services.

CHURCH PROPERTIES – Randy Griess

There have been some roof leaks in various spots. Haataja Construction came out and looked at the roof for the front entry. Rod will contact them to see what they found out. The old bus was sold for \$1,000. Funds will be set aside for future maintenance. Samuelson Laney did some work on the boilers. The board approved a service contract with Samuelson Laney for yearly maintenance on the air conditioners and boilers. A new vacuum cleaner has been ordered. Discussed the noisy convection oven. Brandi had recorded a video of the problem. Ginny will contact the repair company about fixing it.

STEWARDSHIP – Pam Heeren was absent. Daniel Neubauer is attending Concordia University, Chicago with the intention to become a Lutheran School teacher. The board voted to provide a scholarship this year for \$1,000 from the endowment fund interest for him. Additional scholarship funds will be discussed as he continues his education.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP – Elayne Luiken

Held the new member welcome on Sunday, November 21 between services.

Put up Christmas decorations on Monday, November 29.

Sponsored the Cookies and Carols on Sunday, December 19 between services.

Took down Christmas decorations on Monday, January 3.

Made chili for the youth lock in January 14.

Prepared and served a meal for Trivia Night on Sunday, March 20.

Will prepare meal for confirmand exam on April 27.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – We plan to advertise Easter services in the Enterprise.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

School – Discussed the possibility of starting a school. Pastor Newton has met with Pastor Meyer from the district about it. There is a comprehensive program available through the Synod for churches considering a school. Cost is \$10,000. There is money available from the District to help with this. Ginny said we could use funds from the Endowment Fund. Rod also received information from Andrew Fondow about a "micro school" model. Discussion on the pros and cons of starting a school. This progressed to a focus on "year of the child" and what the general direction of St. Johns should be. Decided to investigate options further and work on setting up a committee. Pastor Newton will contact Pastor Meyer about preaching and presenting information on Rally Sunday, September 11.

A free workshop will be held in St. Louis to train people to help with gifts/estate planning through the LCMS Foundation. Pastor Neubauer will contact a couple of members to see if they are interested.

Closed with prayer by Pastor Newton. Motion to adjourn by Elayne, second Brandi. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Ginny Ranisate



St. Johns Lutheran Church

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Pastor James Neubauer Pastor Joel Newton



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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