



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

July, 2022

Group Heading to Houston for National Youth Gathering

After months of planning and fundraising it's time for the National Youth Gathering which is taking place July 9-13 in Houston, Texas. Pastor Newton was trying out their new smoker the other day and commented that temperatures in Houston aren't much lower than the temperature for smoking a pork loin. Thirteen youth-Natalie Backmann, Emma Berghuis, Natalie Berghuis, Abby Eskola, Vivian Harju, Hailey Kimball, Olivia Kimball, Isaac Knapp, Jacob Lof, Jack Moses, Jillian Neubauer, Matthew Neubauer, Rachel Ulvin, and three chaperones- Brandi Backmann, Pastor and Sarah Newton, are braving the heat and still excited to go. Bus driver, Larry Hetrick, will take them to the Minneapolis airport very early in the morning on July 7. They will return on July 13.

There will be a special commissioning for the group at the July 3 worship service. Thank you to everyone for your generous gifts to help make this trip possible! Please keep all the attendees in your prayers for safe travels.



Wednesday Bible Study Returns

Per the request of members, Wednesday Bible study is returning for the summer starting June 29 at 10:00 a.m. instead of 10:30 a.m. Pastor and Sarah Newton will lead the study focusing on social issues. Each week there will be a different topic so it doesn't matter if you miss one or two. If you've been missing Bible study, come join us.

We're Having a Booth at the Fair ...

And we're looking for people interested in manning it. If you'd like to take a turn (or two), please sign up on the sheet by the front office. The booth will be open Thursday, July 14—Sunday, July 17. Even if you can't help at the booth we'd love to have you stop by.



Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School is Next Month



We're looking forward to our Food Truck Party VBS coming up Sunday-Thursday, August 7-11. We'll start at 5:30 p.m. and wrap up each evening around 8:00 p.m. You can register online by going to www.stjohnspr.org, and clicking the VBS tab or stop by the church to pick up a form. VBS is open to 4 year olds through 6th grade (just completed). There is a \$5 registration fee per student with a \$10 cap per family.

Our next VBS planning meeting is scheduled for July 17 between services in the social hall. If you're interested in being a part of VBS, please talk to Sarah Kaufenberg at 651-260-3350.

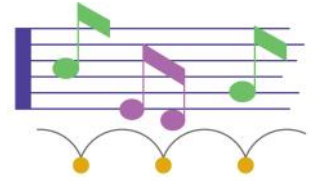


July Noon Concerts

July 14 Emily Bergeron, mezzo soprano, and Eric Gustafson, piano at Calvary

July 21 Sarah Carlson, organ, at St. Johns

July 28 Adedayo Lawal, trumpet, at Calvary



Concerts run from 12:15—12:45 p.m. A free will offering is taken for the artists.

Tubing on the Crow Wing



The youth in grades 5-12 are invited to go tubing on the Crow Wing on Tuesday, July 26. We will meet at church at 1:00 p.m. and return around 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 and friends are welcome. Wear your swimsuit and aqua socks, put on your sunscreen, bring your towel and plan on a fun float. Contact the church office (218-732-9783) or Pastor Newton (815-222-1359) to sign up!

Are You A Thrivent Member?

Pastor Newton is looking for Thrivent members to apply for action grants for youth activities. If you can help, please talk to him.



Help Support Rachel Krause, Missionary in Germany

The Voters Assembly approved providing support to Rachel Krause, who is serving as an outreach missionary in Germany. Rachel was here in March and spoke about her work there. You can follow Rachel and find out more at lcms.org/krause. Your gifts may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Rachel Krause." Thank you!

The Sunday Bible study topic this month is "Life Together as A Synod."



Monday—Thursday
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday
Closed

Always open Sundays!

† Memorial Services

06/03 Keith Bastian
06/10 Jim Lange
06/11 Gladys Ward
06/21 Bill Guegel





“Main Street Living North” for July

“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 15.1. Or you can watch archived episodes any time on their website at www.mainstreetliving.com (then click on “North (Fargo).”



Here’s the programs for July:

July 3: Rev. Kevin Zellers, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND, presents the message. This Is The Life” program: “Some People Need Help” - A crusty amputee from a Veteran’s hospital must learn that hurting others will not help him.

July 10: Rev. Kirk Peters, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hazen, ND, presents the message: “Christ Our Neighbor,” based on Luke 10:25-37. This Is The Life” program: “Jeremy” - Deals with the relationship between a mother and a mentally challenged son who lives in a home.

July 17: Rev. Justin Woodside, Bethel Lutheran Church and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “Resting in Jesus,” based on Luke 10:38-42. “This Is The Life” program: “Flight Plan” - A man has to deal with the death of a young boy with a terminal illness. Will it strengthen his faith or destroy it?

What’s On The Lutheran Hour

07/03 "Play the Sunset"

07/10 "Power to Enjoy"

07/17 "18 Hours in the Ocean"

07/24 "TBD"

07/31 "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.

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.”

July 24: Rev. Allen Kramp, St. John Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, ND, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Hope, ND, presents the message: “Lord, Teach Us to

Pray,” based on Luke 11:1-13. “This Is The Life

program: “Amazing Grace” - A man who has come from a poor beginning to a rich and full life must learn not to forsake his Christian faith.

July 31: Rev. Ross Fritz, Grace Lutheran Church, Breckenridge, MN, presents the message: “The Story of the Numbskull and His Stuff,” based on Luke 12:13-21. “This Is The Life program: “The Selling Price” - A father and son face the issue of ethics, and how it relates to God’s law.

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.

Main Street Living receives no money from the Synod or any District budgets so donations are appreciated. To help support the ministry, send your check to Main Street Living, 821 5th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103.



A Note from Pastor Lutz about Bishop Abia's Visit to Minnesota

As the huge silver jet climbed into the blue horizon and became a dark spot in the sky, our hearts were filled with a feeling of gratitude to God for the warm reception that was given to Bishop Peter on his recent visit to Minnesota. The clergy, laity, ethnic groupings, individual members helped to make his visit a success. Lutheran Heritage Foundation of Macomb who has mothered the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan/Sudan now for 30 years, and which now numbers 150,000 baptized members!

Bishop Peter's visit included Moorhead, Park Rapids, Cohasset, Grand Rapids, Virginia, Sauk Rapids, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, Faribault, St. Paul, Woodbury and Winona. He visited with the Minnesota South District Present, President of Concordia University and many others who are numbered with the saints. A send-off was held at Woodbury Lutheran Church on May 31. Rev. Dr. Dinku Bato, Africa Sec for LHF blessed us with a Spirit filled message.

We are confident that this mission visit will result in the extension of the Gospel in East Africa through generous support for the work of Lutheran Heritage Foundation, better services for the students at Concordia Seminary in Yambio, the Lutheran Primary Schools of ELCSS/S and increased support for the Lutheran pastors of the ELCSS/S. The ELCSS/S will be received as a partner church at the LCMS Convention in Milwaukee, WI in 2023!! Praise the Lord!

Generous offerings have already been mailed to the LHF. We appreciate your partnership in this unique ministry and thank you for your prayers and support in sharing the name of Jesus among the lost. Your support is helping to provide the financial support to travel 2,345 miles and two overnight hotel stays. All other overnight stays were provided by friends of Bishop Peter. Lutheran Heritage Foundation is thankful for your support of its mission to help new Christians understand the Word of God.

Several meetings (Faribault, Sauk Rapids and Woodbury) were held with the Sudanese Lutherans of Minnesota and the ground work was laid for helping the Lutheran Church in East Africa to become even more successful in the East Africa nations.

The Bishop's departure was not pleasant as the airlines required papers that we did not have for his departure on United Airlines. After three attempts we met all requirements...except the luggage challenge. They took only eight pieces, leaving five suitcases for others who travel to South Sudan. Rev. Kevin Cram (Alamogordo, NM) purchased Lutheran Study Bibles, Christian Doctrine, and The Lutheran Confession for the 22 students studying at CLIHIM in Yambio. Forty LW books are also included in the contents of the five remaining pieces we were unable to send with the Bishop.

Thank you for your love, your excitement for sharing the Good News about Jesus, and your support for the work of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation as it helps new Christians understand the Gospel.

Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Drs. Bernie and Elly Lutz



Bishop Peter, Pastor Bernie and Elly Lutz



Stewardship Review—May

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **204**

Total Offerings: \$46,697	Total Offerings, May, 2021: \$37,211
Total Expenses: \$43,969	Total Expenses, May, 2021: \$39,760
Difference \$2,728	Difference -\$463

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$9,339	Budget/Week \$10,345	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$8,794	Budget/Month \$44,827	Raised so far \$57,330
Difference \$545		Still need \$16,670

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 05/31/22: \$91,549	Front Entry Payable: \$41,718
Less Dedicated Accounts \$1,511	
Difference \$90,038	

Voters Meeting Minutes June 7, 2022

Dr. Rod Helm called the meeting to order. Pastor Neubauer led the opening devotion. There were 33 voting members present. Motion, seconded and carried to accept Steven and Jane Stromme as voting members.

Motion, seconded and carried to approve minutes from the November 23, 2021 as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate

Our income so far this year is \$217,862 and expenses are \$217,763 with income exceeding expenses by \$99. Last year at this time our income was \$187,431 and our expenses were \$180,111 with income exceeding expenses by \$7,320.

CNB Checking Account	91,953
Less Dedicated Funds	- 1,353
Available Funds	90,600

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings	37,448
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LCEF Current Fund	122,573
Less Parsonage Proceeds	- 18,548
Less Healthy Balance (Goal-74,000)	- 57,331
Less End. Fund Interest	- 1,440
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	- 21,658
Less T. Haberer Trust	- 19,112
Less R. Haberer Memorial	- 1,169
Available Funds	3,315

Front Entry Payable **\$41,718**

Motion to accept treasurer's report, seconded and carried.

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Sunday School Page

SANDY SCENES

Make a scene with this fun summer craft you can create outdoors.



What you need:

- Play sand
- Spoons
- Empty jars
- Powdered tempera paint
- Cardstock paper and pencil
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush

What you do:

1. Pour a few tablespoons of sand into empty jars. (You need one jar for every color of paint you make.)
2. Add a small amount of powdered paint to the sand and then mix. Experiment with the amount, using more paint to create deeper colors.
3. Lightly sketch a design on cardstock.
4. Working in one small section at a time, paint an even layer of craft glue on the paper.
5. Use a spoon to sprinkle colored sand atop the glue. Tilt the paper so extra sand falls off. Repeat to complete the entire design.
6. Let dry on a flat surface before displaying upright.

Happy Birthday!

7/06 Annie Mayer
7/20 Alex Lof



Beyond number

God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.



How 13+10 to me are your 12+6, God!



How 8+11 is the 10+3 of them!

Were I to 15+6 them,



they would 3+12 the grains of 4+18 —

when I 13+4, I am still with you.



PSALM 139:17-18, NIV



Answer: precious, thoughts, vast, sum, count, outnumber, sand, awake

Baptismal Birthdays

7/06 Cash Luther
7/09 George Newton
7/12 Olivia May
7/14 Ketch Luther
7/27 Dylan May





(Continued from page 5)

BOARD REPORTS

Elders - Jerry Grudem

The elders continue to assist the pastors and are looking for an usher coordinator.

Evangelism – Connie Fondow was absent but sent a report which was read by Dr. Helm.

The Board of Evangelism would like to thank all those who participated in the March Trivia event to assist a family who encountered devastating losses after the December tornadoes in the mid-south region of the United States. The congregational support of time, talent, and treasure was extraordinary.

The board is awaiting positive confirmation of our grant application in the amount of \$1,200.00 with LCMS Life Ministries to assist with the “Bless a Mom” bags. Once again, the members of St. Johns “stepped up” in dramatic fashion and all 40 proposed bags were sponsored by individuals. We will purchase the items to be included in the bags as soon as we receive word on our grant application. The bags will be assembled and taken to the Pregnancy Resource Center where they will be distributed to women in the area as needed.

“Breakfast in Bethlehem” will be our main focus in the fall as we plan to organize for Saturday, December 3. We will hopefully be able to count on those individuals who had previously volunteered to assist us last year in addition to others who may have had their interest peaked for a successful venture this year. The board appreciates any support that may be offered for this community outreach event during the 2022 Advent season.

Education – Lori Griess

Preschool-Final day of preschool was May 26. 1 day short due to early close of public school. We had 36 children attending classes this year. There were 25 of the 4-year-olds and 11 of the 3-year-olds. There was a wait list for most of the year. For the three-year-old closing program on May 17 there were 80 people in attendance and for the graduation of our four-year-old children there were 145.

Sunday School – Averaged about 25 children per week. Despite sending postcards, and reminders in the bulletin and newsletter last fall we were unable to bring the numbers attending to pre cov-id. Children did a fund raiser during the month of February and March for the food shelf.

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 the children more time to learn parts and songs.

We will have 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: return of the dunk tank, cotton candy, bowling pins, fish tanks, popcorn, ice cream, balloons, bounce house, and plinko. Sunday School Rally Sunday is September 11. Guest speaker will be the President of Concordia, St. Paul. 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. We will be sending out post cards to the children with a list of upcoming events and important dates to remember.

VBS - Date for VBS is August 7-11. Once again in the evening to encourage participation by the parents and members of the congregation. Theme this year is “Food Truck Party” On a Roll with God!

Release Time - Laurie Kimball reported that release time went very well. Looking for help for this fall.

Bible Classes—Going well. Pastor Newton is leading the Sunday morning Bible class. The topic is “End of Life.”

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Young People – Brandi Backmann was absent. See Pastor Newton's report.

Church Properties – Randy Griess

Ordered mini splits for front of sanctuary. They will be paid for from the general fund. We will be over budget on new equipment. Cleaned up the church grounds. Nursery accordion doors are not reparable so we will look at installing bifold doors or curtains. Discussed video recording of church assets/inventory. Approved option #1 for service contract for the automatic front door at a cost of \$200 annually.

Stewardship – Pam Heeren was absent

It was reported that they approved a \$1000 scholarship for Daniel Neubauer.

Fellowship - Elayne Luiken

Christmas decorations went up November 29. Cookies and Carols was held between services on December 19 and plates of Christmas goodies were taken to shut-ins. Christmas decorations were taken down on January 3. We made and served a meal for Trivia Night on March 20. Our board served before evening Lenten service on March 30. Served the meal to confirmands and their families before their examination on April 27. We handed out carnations to the moms on Mother's Day. They are planning to hand out a gift for dads on Father's Day. Current board members are Renee Ahmann, Lori Grudem, Lois Just, Julie Kingsley, Jan Pike, and Elayne. Larry Hetrick invited everyone to go caroling with the Evening Guild in December. Dr. Helm extended a "thank you" to the board for all the great food!

Public Relations - Nothing new to report.

PASTORS AND DEACONESS REPORTS

Pastor Neubauer's Report

Worship: Organized Circuit Round Robin "Facets of Forgiveness" Lenten theme. We are helping St. Johns Akeley by serving the 3rd Sunday of the month

Teaching times:

Sunday Morning Sunday School lessons

Tuesday morning The Christ Key, Wisdom from Proverbs

Release Time 7th Grade and 3rd Grade

Confirmation combined class: 16 total students with 6 confirmed. Next year splitting 7th and 8th grade

ABC Preschool:

Help with closing

Devotions

Other:

Just started calls specifically with members who have been absent/low attendance since COVID

Have only 2 weddings this summer

Subbing: Fridays only. Very few days since January

District/Regional Events

Been leading Circuit study on the Christ Key and a Bible study on confession/absolution especially "I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean."

Voting Pastoral Delegate to the District convention. Served on a floor committee for the first time.

**Pastor Newton**

Bible Study, Wednesdays – Continued working through Rod Dreher’s “The Benedict Option,” exploring the Lord’s work through habits and lifestyle to form His people to the likeness of Christ.

Summer Bible Class, June – End of Life Issues; July – Life Together as a Synod; August – Hearts Engraved: Every Day Faith.

Evening Guild and LLL Studies - Going through the Book of Ecclesiastes this year, a chapter per month.

Was part of the men’s retreat at Lutheran Island Camp.

Preparing 8th Grade Confirmation Class

Youth

Bible study changed gears a couple times this year, first as Defense Against the Dark Arts (apologetics and the Christian story of the world) to Wheel Fortunate and the Orb of Doom (faith and life topics) to an exploration of various Scriptural texts, especially the Sermon on the Mount.

Past Events: Luminaries Fundraiser, Coffee and St. John’s Mug Fundraiser, Advent and Lent Suppers, Sweaters and Hoodies Fundraiser, Christmas Program Rehearsal After-Party, High School Lock-In (11) with supper made by Parish Fellowship, Indoor Games and Walking Tacos (18), Open Skate (3), Detroit Mountain (18), 3 Bears Waterpark (24), Skyzone (22), Concordia University Saint Paul College Visit (6), Easter Breakfast, Senior Recognition, and weekly Youth Group suppers. Thanks to Lori Griess for providing breakfasts!

Upcoming Summer Events: Bike to Dorset, Ice Cream, and Mini Golf – June 12, 1:00-4:30 p.m.; LCMS Youth Gathering – July 8-13, 14 youth and 3 adults attending; Tubing the Crow Wing – July 26, 1:00-5:30 p.m.; Evergreen Park – August 30, 1:00-4:00 p.m.; Youth Group – Thursdays in the summer 5:00-7:00 p.m.

This Fall: Back-to School Bonfire; College Visits – Concordia Wisconsin and Concordia Chicago; Pregnancy Resource Center Pie Auction; High School Lock-In; Fall Festival/Pumpkin Smash; Thanksgiving Pie Bake; Christmas Rehearsal After-Party.

Graduate School - Graduated May 20. Thank you for the opportunity to complete the program!

Family- Everyone’s happy and healthy. George completed preschool this year – thanks to Miss Kim and Miss Mary for hard work, vast expertise, and great patience! George and Norah tried kayaking for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed it. Katy’s a bit small yet, but is practicing an army crawl. We got to see some family and old friends when we went to St. Louis for graduation, but the zoo was especially popular, particularly the lions. Also, thank you for the prayers as they consider call to Ankeny, Iowa.

Deaconess Sarah Newton

Release Time: I had a wonderful time serving as one of the second grade teachers! The kids ask so many good questions and are so much fun to teach. It’s a great creative outlet too! Many heartfelt thanks to the ladies who watch my children during this time! You are a blessing to me and to my kids.

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 about halfway through Dr. Paavola’s book on the Lord’s Prayer, Our Way Home. Meetings normally take place at 6:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month, but we switched to a Friday last time because it better suited everyone’s schedule. Schedule changes are announced on Facebook. Meetings have been infrequent this spring, but the fellowship when we get together is invaluable!

Youth - I’m looking forward to chaperoning for the National Youth Gathering this summer (and the kids can’t wait to see Grandma)! I’ve enjoyed spending time with the youth Sunday mornings, as I’ve been available. We recently hosted the high school youth at our house for a cookout and campfire and had so much fun! It’s been one of the highlights of the year for me, and we hope to do it again soon!

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Family- While we weren't here much during the past month, we certainly missed you! The first week of May, we were in Madison for my mom's wedding. George and Norah spent the second week of May at Joel's parents' house for Mamaw and Papaw camp, while Joel, Katy and I returned to Minnesota. Katy sure loved her week as an only child! I was home with her, and Joel was busy with our District Convention and presenting at the Men's Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp. The third week of May we traveled back down to Rockford on our way to St. Louis for Joel's graduation. It was lovely to celebrate with family and friends in a place so dear to us, and we're thankful for the opportunity! But after three weeks, we're especially grateful to be back home in Minnesota! We love our St. Johns Church Family, and we appreciate your prayers and advice as we consider the Lord's will for our family. I'm sorry I couldn't be there tonight in person, but if you have any questions for me, don't hesitate to reach out!

Motion, seconded and carried to accept all reports.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Rachel Krause - The PPC voted to ask the congregation to provide mission support to Rachel Krause, missionary in Germany of \$3,000 annually, prorated to \$1500 for this year. Motion, second and carried to approve the request. Following discussion, motion by Jerry Grudem, second by Derek Ricke that this would be paid for through special offerings designated for her. Any shortfall would be paid from the Ted Haberer memorial fund.

Scholarships – Ginny gave some background information/history on scholarships. The Endowment Fund was established around 1990. The congregation decided that interest from the fund would be used for scholarships for members of the congregation attending colleges and seminaries of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. For students going into full-time church work (after graduation would be employed by LCMS congregations, schools and agencies, e.g. – pastor, DCE, DCO, Teacher, etc.) the amount could not be more than \$1,000 or less than \$500 per student. In 2013 the Board of Stewardship set the amount at \$750. Students attending an LCMS college but not enrolled in a full-time church worker program could receive \$100 per year with a cap of \$500 total. In years where there were no students, interest would be used to support the MN North District Scholarship Fund at a minimum of \$500 and maximum of \$1,000 not to exceed that year's annual interest received with the stipulation that it be used for Seminary Student Aid only. Over the years we have given scholarship to several members most recently to Taylor Wheeler. There is currently \$1,440 in this account. This spring we gave a \$1,000 scholarship to Daniel Neubauer. We also have funds in the Ted Haberer trust dedicated for scholarships for those entering full-time church work. Amount was approximately \$50,000 to start. We have given Taylor Wheeler \$8,000 so about \$42,000 remains. There was discussion on increasing the scholarship amounts and setting up a formal process to apply for the scholarships. This will be referred back to the stewardship board.

Dr. Helm explained the new arrangement for preparing funeral lunches. There is a book in the kitchen that outlines menus, recipes, etc. Thanks to everyone who worked on setting this up and to all who volunteered to serve in the groups.

He also told the assembly about the plan to do some deep cleaning. There is a notebook in the church office with various tasks. You can complete a task when it's convenient for you and check it off when you're done. So far Connie Fondow has cleaned the accordion doors in the social hall, Tim and Ginny Ranisate cleaned the lights in the social hall and the Hall Family cleaned the accordion doors in the east classrooms as well as all the windows and blinds. Thanks! Larry Hetrick asked people to consider being a driver for the church bus. You get to go to some fun events!

Adjourned. Pastor Newton closed with prayer and the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Ranisate, Acting Secretary



Scenes from St. Johns



Members of the Bell Choir—Ginny Ranisate, Debbie Luther, Donna Neumann, Cheryl Hilgemann, Kathy Henry and Dawn Lachmiller—played for the Memorial Day program at the Park Rapids High School on May 28. There were lots of great compliments. “Wonderful” and “it gave me chills” were just a few of the comments. If you have the opportunity to attend next year, you definitely should. We hope to play again!



The Newtons traveled to St. Louis in May where Pastor Newton received a Master of Sacred Theology degree. Congratulations!

They had a great trip but George was disappointed that they did not get to go up in the Arch due to bad weather. Maybe next time.



We were surprised one morning to see a fawn staring at us through the west door. Janitor Mike snapped a picture and that's when we saw there were two fawns. Much nicer wildlife visitors than the bear we had in April.



Congratulations to Roger and Lois Just who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary July 22.

Sunday School students each colored a part of this portrait of Jesus and Melissa Koch put it all together. Beautiful!





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Joel Newton



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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"I don't know if it was the same fish he flushed
when he was six. I just know it ate him."