



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

September, 2022

Focusing on Families This Fall

This year we're planning a special focus on families, beginning with Rally Day on September 11. We're excited to have Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, president of Concordia University, St. Paul, as our guest preacher and speaker during Bible study. You will also have an opportunity to support CSP's Church Worker Tuition Guarantee, a scholarship program for students going into church work, through a special door offering. Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous CSP Alumni. This scholarship was started as the result of the tragic death of a young seminarian, David Aasved, who was killed while enroute to his ordination. If you'd like to read more about David and the scholarship, stop by the office for a copy of the document. We hope you'll join us September 11 and throughout the upcoming year.



Family Opportunities to be in God's Word

➔ **Sunday School**—Sunday School will begin with Rally Day on September 11. All teachers will be installed at the 8:00 a.m. service that day. Classes will run from 9:15—10:15 a.m.

➔ **Confirmation**—7th and 8th grade confirmation students will begin class on Wednesday, September 21 at 3:30 p.m. A confirmation orientation meeting will be held Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall.

Release Time—Release Time will begin October 5. Students should bring home a form for parents to sign and return to the school. We need a second grade teacher! Talk to Laurie Kimball if you can help.

➔ **Bible Studies**

Sundays, 9:15 a.m. Pastor Neubauer continues with a look at what it means to be in "synod" in the social hall.

Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. starting September 13 Pastor Neubauer leads the class which will probably be focusing on book of the Bible.

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. starting September 14 Pastor Larry Harvala will lead the group. They will pick a topic at the first session.



Call Process Update



Minnesota North District President Finnern gave us a road map for the call process at the congregational meeting on August 23. Our next steps are to form a call committee and survey the congregation on what kind of staff we're looking for. If you're interested in being on the call committee, please talk to Dr. Helm or Pastor Neubauer. Also, watch your mail in case we send out a questionnaire.



Are You Ready to Ring and Sing?

Our bell choir and senior choir are starting back up this month. The Bell Choir will begin practice Wednesday, September 7 at 5:00 p.m. Contact Vickie Helm (218-330-3195) if you're interested in joining. Senior Choir practice will also start Wednesday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. Contact Sarah Kaufenberg (651-260-3350) for senior choir.



New Chime Choir Just for Kids

All kids in 2nd-6th grade are invited to join the chime choir which will begin Wednesday, September 7 after school until 5:00 p.m. We will pick the kids up at Century School. Contact Sarah Kaufenberg (651-260-3350) for questions and to let her know if your child is coming.

We've Got A Group for You

Are you looking for a group to join? Here's three options.

The Evening Guild will resume monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the social hall. This is one of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League groups.

Ladies Aid will meet Thursday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the choir room. This our other LWML group.

Lutheran Laymen's League will meet Thursday, September 8 at church at 5:00 p.m. for their annual steak fry. This is a group for the guys.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 9/4 "Count the Cost"
- 9/11 "Lost and Found"
- 9/18 "Fresh Start"
- 9/25 "Take This Personally"

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



† Wedding

08/27 Shelby Leckner and Jared Sunram





Stewardship Review—July

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 198

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Total Offerings: \$33,739 | Total Offerings, July, 2021: \$34,911 | Total Offerings, year to date: \$274,174 |
| Total Expenses: <u>\$42,862</u> | Total Expenses, July, 2021: <u>\$35,648</u> | Total Expenses, year to date: <u>\$289,510</u> |
| Difference - \$9,123 | Difference - \$737 | Difference - \$15,336 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Avg. Weekly Offerings \$ 8,435 | Budget/Week \$10,345 | CNB Checkbook Balance: \$75,712 |
| Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$10,716</u> | Budget/Month \$44,827 | Less dedicated accounts - \$ 991 |
| Difference - \$2,281 | | Difference \$74,721 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000 | Front Entry Payable \$33,368 |
| Raised so far <u>\$57,975</u> | |
| Still need \$16,025 | |

Main Street Living for September

“**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). Depending on your cable provider you might be able to watch Main Street Living out of the Twin Cities instead. You can check this option out on their website, too.



Here’s the schedule for “North” for September:

September 4: Rev. Karl Weber, St. John Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Richville, MN, presents the message: “Consider the Cost” based on Luke 14:25-35. This Is The Life: “The Fathering Kind” - The story of a single father who is down and out trying to raise a son alone.

September 11: Rev. Clark Jahnke, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, presents the message: “Behind Enemy Lines” based on Psalm 119:169-176. This Is The Life: “A Nice Girl Like You” - A widowed pastor dates a middle aged single woman in his parish, but when she professes her love he tells her he cannot return it.

September 18: Rev. Sam Pitsch, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN, presents the message: “Like Father, Like Son.” This Is The Life: “But Not For Lunch” - A man has difficulty adjusting to retirement until he turns his time over to the Lord.

September 25: Rev. David Suelzle, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: “Rich in Good Works?” based on 1 Timothy 6:17-19. This Is The Life: “Candidate for Father” - An unwed daughter is not forgiven by her candidate for city council father.



Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes for St. Johns Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, MN
August 3, 2022

PRESENT: Connie Fondow, Jerry Grudem, Rod Helm, Elayne Luiken, Pastor Neubauer and Ginny Ranisate. Director Rod Helm called the meeting to order. Pastor Neubauer had the opening devotion. Motion by Elayne, second by Connie to approve minutes of the May 24, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ginny Ranisate
Income and Expenses:

| | 2021 | 2022 | Difference |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| Income | 259,659 | 274,174 | 14,515 |
| Expenses | 259,973 | 289,510 | 29,537 |
| | -314 | -15,336 | -- |

All figures are through July 31 for both years. We paid for the new sanctuary a/c units from the budget which is the main reason for the high deficit this month. Also, there was a 5th Sunday and that offering is included in the income for August since it was deposited August 1.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| CNB Checking Account as of 7/31/22 | 75,712 |
| Less Dedicated Funds | <u>- 991</u> |
| Available Funds | 74,721 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 7/31/22 | 37,933 |
|---|--------|

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| LCEF Current Fund as of 7/31/22 | 122,216 |
| Less End. Fund Interest | - 1,537 |
| Less Parsonage Proceeds | - 18,548 |
| Less R. Haberer Annuity | - 1,044 |
| Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest | - 20,660 |
| Less T. Haberer Trust | - 19,123 |
| Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000) | <u>- 57,975</u> |
| Available Funds | 3,329 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Front Entry Loan Payable | 33,368 |
|--------------------------|--------|

Motion by Elayne, second Connie to approve Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Motion by Jerry, second Connie and carried to approve the following membership changes:

Transfer In: Isaac Knapp, First English, Dorset, MN and Debra Tauring and Aleksander, Immanuel, Verndale, MN; **Affirmation of Faith:** James Harju; **Transfer Out:** Pastor Joel and Sarah Newton, George, Norah and Katie, St. Paul, Ankeny, IA and Brent & Laurie Schmidt, Our Savior, Minot, ND.

Pastor Neubauer went over upcoming appointments and plans.

**BOARD REPORTS**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Lori Griess sent the following report. Preschool- Open House will be held on August 17th, with school beginning on September 6.

Sunday School – 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 - Looking for help for this fall for teachers. Due to Pastor and Sarah leaving, we are short.

CHURCH PROPERTIES – Randy Griess sent the following report. Samuelson installed 2 mini splits. Requested Marchell Electric to repair flag pole light and remove timer for the bell tower. Received a quote from A-1 Sealcoating for the parking lot of \$17,000.00 - \$18,000.00, depending on the patching needed. Headwaters replaced defective valve, zone 3 for irrigation.

ELDERS – Jerry Grudem – Elders continue to assist pastor. Discussion on having elders serve wine at communion. Would like some feedback from the congregation.

EVANGELISM – Connie Fondow – Future Board of Evangelism projects include the following: “Bless a Mom” bags for the Pregnancy Resource Center, “Breakfast in Bethlehem” community outreach event on Saturday, December 3, possibility of “Bible Books for Families in Ukraine” (in conjunction with St. Johns Release Time students/Sunday School students), trivia event in 2023.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP – Elayne Luiken – The board handed out gift pens/bookmarks to the fathers on Father’s Day. The board hosted a farewell breakfast for Pastor and Sarah Newton on Sunday, July 31. Elayne asked about scheduling a new member welcome. Pastor Neubauer is planning to start a new member class this fall so the welcome would be scheduled after class ends.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – nothing new to report.

STEWARDSHIP – The board met and worked on scholarship language and application form. They will work on getting offering counters and arranging a financial audit. We will have a stewardship drive this fall.

YOUNG PEOPLE – no report.

(Continued on page 7)



Sunday School News

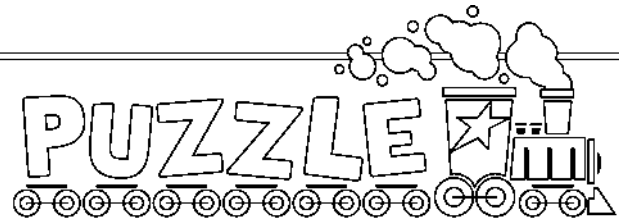
Sunday School starts September 11 at 9:15 a.m. We're looking forward to seeing **YOU** there!

Happy Birthday!

9/2 Colton Nilson
 9/7 Addison Tretbar
 9/9 Elsie Trandem
 9/11 Elena Bradow
 9/11 Henli Maier
 9/12 Sophia Neubauer
 9/16 Cecilia Quinn
 9/17 Kinley Eskola
 9/22 Kiften Luther

Baptismal Birthdays

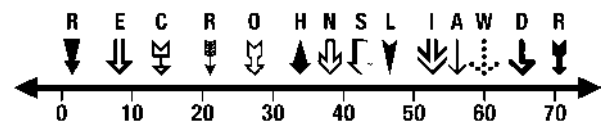
9/13 Elena Bradow
 9/14 Gavin Etter
 9/14 Brielle Knutson
 9/15 Nakova Eskola
 9/25 Hadley Branstrom



A full Quiver

Our heavenly Father loves families and has a special purpose for each generation.

Directions: Use the key to match the number of each arrow with the correct letter.



Like 56 21 71 28 60 42

in the hands of a warrior are

14 33 52 47 65 2 9 39

born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

PSALM 127:4-5, NIV

Answers: ARROWS, children

Dunk Tank returns for Meet and Greet

We had great food, face painting, games, and a bounce house at the Meet and Greet but the most popular attraction was the dunk tank. Everyone wanted to be the "dunkie" instead of the "dunker."





(Continued from page 5)

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Jerry, second Connie and carried to release Pastor Joel Newton and Deaconess Sarah Newton from their calls to St. Johns.

Vacancy – a congregational meeting with MN North District President Brady Finnern is scheduled for August 23 at 6:30 p.m. We need to do a self evaluation and determine the congregation's needs. Motion by Jerry, second Connie to pay Pastor Neubauer an additional \$1,000 per month during vacancy. Motion carried.

2023 Budget – Budget worksheets have been handed out to the board directors. Final figures should be ready by the October PPC meeting.

School - tabled for now.

Motion to adjourn by Elayne, second Jerry. Motion carried. Closed with Doxology. Next Parish Planning Council Meeting is scheduled for October 25 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Ranisate

Food Truck Party VBS was Fantastic!

We had five evenings of foodie fun August 7-11 ending with a food truck picnic meal. Through stories, songs, games and crafts (and snacks) the kids learned how God gives us our daily bread. They were also generous with their offerings, bringing in \$460.67 in dollars, quarters, nickels, dimes and pennies, for the Hubbard County Food Shelf. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway by Pastor Neubauer's office for tons of photos.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this event fun for the kids!



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>Focusing on Families This Fall</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Family Opportunities to be in God's Word</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Call Process Update</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Are You Ready to Ring and Sing?</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>New Chime Choir Just for Kids</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>We've Got A Group for You</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>What's on the Lutheran Hour</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Wedding</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Main Street Living for September</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Stewardship Review—July</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>Sunday School News</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Food Truck Party Was Fantastic!</i> | <i>7</i> |

