



The St. Johns Servant

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

October, 2022

Call Process Update

The call committee has been productive since their formation. They put together a survey for the congregation which was mailed out on September 21. There will be a survey question and answer time at the 9:15 a.m. Bible class on October 2. Please fill out the survey out and return it to the church office no later than Sunday, October 9. If you didn't receive a survey, it probably means we don't have your current address. If so, please call the office to let us know your address so we can keep you up to date for future mailings. You can also scan the QR code to download a copy or pick one up at the church.

The call committee will compile the survey information, then present the insights at a special voters meeting on Sunday, October 16. The committee will also make a recommendation to the voters at that time. If you would like more information feel free to talk to a member of the call committee: Matt Kaufenberg, Chair, Mike Poole, Co-Chair, Ginny Ranisate, Secretary, Derek Ricke, Jerry Grudem, Kathy Henry, Larry Hetrick, Marty Steffel, Paula Eischens, Russ Brown, Shelley Lof, Dr. Rod Helm, and Pastor Neubauer.



Pastor Larry Harvala is Our New Visitation Pastor



We are blessed to have Pastor Larry Harvala join our staff as visitation pastor. If you want proof that the Lord does provide, here it is. Pastor Harvala had been serving as vacancy pastor at Twin Valley. They called a candidate from the seminary who was installed in August which freed Pastor Harvala up to serve as our visitation pastor and to help fill the void left when Pastor Newton took the call to Iowa. Pastor Harvala has already been hard at work with shut in visits, Wednesday Bible class and filling in for Sunday and Wednesday worship services.

Pastor Harvala is a native of the area and moved back here a few years ago when he "retired." His wife, Mary, serves as our ABC Preschool aide, and daughter, Melissa Koch, is an active member of St. Johns, serving as organist, Sunday School teacher, VBS craft leader and youth leader.

Celebrating LWML Sunday, October 2

On this day we recognize the work of the LWML in spreading the Gospel message across the world. To celebrate our LWML groups are giving out carnations to the women attending church that day.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an active and mission oriented organization that encourages women to use their talents and gifts in promoting the Lord's ministry to people of the world, community and church. We have two LWML groups here at St. Johns. The Ladies Aid meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. The Evening Guild meets the second Tuesday of the month, September to May, at 2:00 p.m. in the social hall.





Release Time News

Thanks to Deb Anderson, stepping up and agreeing to teach half of our second grade (an opening left by Sarah Newton's departure) the teaching staff for Release time is full. All the rest of the teachers from last year have returned, except for Pastor Newton's 8th grade class opening but Pastor Neubauer is taking both 7th and 8th grades together this year.

We also have something new this year...a substitute. Thank you to Kathy Henry for volunteering to do that important job. That is a true blessing for us.

Ruth Knaack and I have been working through the summer on the lessons and everything is ready to go. The staff had a short meeting on September 28 where they received their supplies and are ready to go.

We will begin on Wednesday, October 5 at 8:25 a.m. with a welcome snack and video and the third grade students will also receive their Bibles.

Keep the teachers, helper, substitute and the students in your prayers. We are praying that the good Lord sends us even more students than we had last year. It would be wonderful to have a total of 150 students!!

We hope to include a few pictures of release time in each newsletter this year. Keep a look out for them.



Laurie Kimball
Release Time Director

Wondering What Release Time Is?

Release Time Classes are a program that has a long history here in Minnesota. Park Rapids students are "released" from regular classes for about an hour on Wednesday mornings to attend religious instruction classes at area churches. We contract with one of the school's bus drivers to bring them to church and return them to school. We have two sessions.

The 5th-8th graders arrive around 8:25 a.m. and head back to school at 9:20 a.m. The 1st-4th graders are here from 9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. Topics covered include stories from the Old and New Testament, the history of the Bible and how to use it, Martin Luther and the Reformation, creation and current issues. Last year we had over 130 students attending. Release Time is a great opportunity to reach children who might not have a church home.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 10/2 "You've Got It in You"
- 10/09 "Thankfulness, Eh?"
- 10/16 "Look at Me"
- 10/23 "He Gets Me"
- 10/30 "Give Your Brother a Call"

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.



Main Street Living North Programs for October

“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 KVRN Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15 and archived on www.mainstreetliving.com. Click on “North (Fargo)” under the picture. You can watch them any time online.



Here's the October schedule:

October 2: Rev. Brett Hartwig, Trinity Lutheran Church, Sabin, MN, presents the message: “Increase Our Faith” based on Luke 17:1-10. This Is The Life: “The Sound of Closing Doors” – A man in mid-life crisis and the effect it has on his family.

October 9: Rev. Rick Jones, Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch, Minot, ND, presents the message: “Word Unbound, Life Unbroken” based on 2 Timothy 2:1-13. This Is The Life: “Tina” - Two lonely people, a woman and a child, come together through Jesus.

October 16: Rev. Arie Bertsch, ND District President, presents the message. This Is The Life: “Look to the Mountain” - A hopeless situation becomes more hopeless when a down and out man kidnaps a young girl for ransom money.

October 23: Rev. Brian Dole, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message based on Luke 18:9-17. This Is The Life: “Home Free” - A family learns the real meaning of love, and that it comes free.

October 30: Rev. Mark Moss, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, presents a Reformation message: “Hang in there baby!” based on John 8:31-36. This Is The Life: “The Sexton” - A pastor and a sexton (church caretaker) with magical powers fight an eerie duel in a church.

LWML Fall Zone Rally

Thursday, October 13
Immanuel Lutheran Church
4656 State 200 NW, Walker, MN
Registration & Coffee, 9:00 a.m.
Rally begins at 9:30 a.m.

Theme: *Deaf Ministry*
Theme Speaker: *Pastor William Knaack*
Bible Study: *Pastor Matthew Vrudny*
Guest Speaker: *Janna Kietzman, CROSS Ministry*

Check out the flyer on the LWML bulletin board
at church for more details.

† Funeral

09/10 Ed Frith

† Wedding

09/17 Elizabeth Hensel & Alexander Schoon





Living Life God's Way—Focusing on Stewardship

This month we are focusing on stewardship principles under the theme “Living Life God’s Way.” Through faith, we understand that we were made by God and for God. God’s amazing love is seen in His creation and in His desire to have all people live with Him for eternity. To fulfill His purpose, God gives us different abilities and talents in all areas of life so that we may do His work. Not only is God the source of our abilities and talents, He gives us motivation to develop them and opportunities to use them in His service. Whether we are given many or few abilities, we can be thankful for what we receive and use our gifts to extend His kingdom and in service to others.

God wants us to be productive people. The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). God wants people to be “zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14). He does not appreciate laziness, idleness, or fruitlessness. He calls us to bear fruit (John 15:16), to serve (Ephesians 6:7), to give (Matthew 10:8), to love (Matthew 22:37-38), to witness (Ephesians 3:7), and to obey (John 14:23). God seeks people through whom He can work. Through our lips, He tells others of His life-saving Gospel; through our hands and feet, He brings love and care to those in need. As Christians, we are called into ministry. Through faith, we become more than just spectators. We are God’s representatives who are called to serve, just as our Master, Jesus, ministered to the people of His time. “For I have given you an example that you also should do as I have done for you” (John 13:15).

As God’s people, we are to use what we’ve been given in service for the Lord and to bring glory to Him. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to resist the temptation to use our time, abilities, and money for our own purposes. The Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament enables us to use all of our blessings according to God’s plan and for His glory.

Week One: “Do All to the Glory of God”

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Week Two: “Serve One Another”

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

Week Three: “Be Generous in Every Way”

“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Love...
in truth
and action.

1 JOHN 3:18, NRSV





Stewardship Review—August

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **174**

Total Offerings: \$37,292	Total Offerings, August, 2021: \$45,303
Total Expenses: \$31,079	Total Expenses, August, 2021: \$39,532
Difference \$6,213	Difference \$ 5,771

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$9,323	Budget/Week \$10,345	Total Offerings, year to date: \$311,466
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$7,770	Budget/Month \$44,827	Total Expenses, year to date: \$320,589
Difference \$1,553		Difference - \$9,123

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 08/31/22: \$81,504	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less dedicated accounts - \$ 435	Raised so far \$58,125
Difference \$81,069	Still need \$15,875

Front Entry Payable **\$33,368**

Bags Are Ready to Bless A Mom

Our “Bless A Mom” project is complete and the bags have been delivered to the Pregnancy Resource Center to help bring some cheer to the moms they serve.

On Sunday, August 28 between services, we filled 40 bags with an assortment of items-fancy hair tie/bracelets, socks, hand lotion, sippy cups, onesies and gift certificates-along with a first Bible story book (a gift from the MN North District) and another book for children, “Alive Before You Were Born,” (a gift from Concordia Publishing House/National Youth Gathering).

This project was made possible through the Million Dollar Life Match grant from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and your generous donations. Thanks to everyone who donated and helped put the bags together. We pray that the moms who receive them will be blessed and know that God loves them and their child.





Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance—September

- PK 3 John Ricke
- PK 4 Martin Hahn
- Kdg. Shae Halbasch, Natalley Hall
- 4th Rozaley Hall
- 5th Clinton Koch, Alex Lof, Sophia Neubauer
- 6th Khloe May
- 7th Mellaney Hall
- 8th Max Harju, Sawyer Harvey, Austin Lee, Aiden May

September Offering—\$29.75

Great Job!



- 10/03 Brielle Knutson
- 10/14 Luke Eskola
- 10/15 Adalynn Roman
- 10/21 Autumn Kvittem

Baptismal Birthdays

- 10/02 Sophia Neubauer
- 10/07 Madelyn May
- 10/09 Tony Meier
- 10/23 Kellan Eidsmoe
- 10/23 Elsie Trandem



MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

⑤ x 3 =	⑥ x 6 =
⑦ x 4 =	⑨ x 3 =
④ x 6 =	③ x 8 =
② x 10 =	⑩ x 4 =
⑨ x 5 =	⑪ x 8 =

KEY

A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____.

Come and share your master's happiness!"

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

Answer: 15, 28, 24, 20, 45, 36, 27, 24, 40, 88; many things

Lessons this Month

- 10/2 A Call to Action—Abram
- 10/9 A Promising Dream—Jacob
- 10/16 Hope in Hardship—Joseph
- 10/23 Fiery Directions—Moses
- 10/30 The Egypt Exit—Exodus



November Blood Drive Cancelled

Due to a worker shortage we will not host a Vitalant blood drive next month. Watch for future updates. You can go to their website, vitalant.org to see if there's a location that will work for you. There's currently a huge shortage of blood. Yours could be the gift that saves a life.

Breakfast in Bethlehem



The December outreach event that our Evangelism Board coordinated, and intended to sponsor in 2021, is now scheduled for Saturday, December 3. Breakfast in Bethlehem is a family orientated Advent/Christmas event beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the third. We encourage St. Johns members to attend and invite relatives or friends to join them at church for a free breakfast followed by a brief dramatization of the Christmas story. Children will be engaged in learning how to play a Christmas carol on the Kazoo and

then create a Christmas ornament for their tree at home. A Nativity Scene Gallery will be on display in the sanctuary for all to view. An opportunity to have a family photo taken with a Bethlehem themed background will be available. No tickets or reservations are required to attend. Mark your calendars for December 3!

Nativity Scenes

Are you willing to bring your nativity scene to church to be included in the Nativity Gallery for "Breakfast in Bethlehem" on December 3? We promise to take good care of all the pieces in your set. Contact Jan Belshan (218-732-4168) to make arrangements.



Works in Progress ...

Here's some things that we're working on right now:

- ⇒ High School Youth Suppers, Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.—The original plan was to do these twice a month but at publishing time, that was still up in the air. High Schoolers can expect text messages with details.
- ⇒ Front Entry Furniture—The chairs we decided on are backordered, hopefully shipping around October 17. They look comfy in the picture. Can't wait to see how they look in the lobby.
- ⇒ New Member Class—Pastor Neubauer had planned to start a new member class at the end of September but with medical procedures and all the fall events starting back up, it's been moved to later. It's planned for Thursday evenings. If you or someone you know is interested in the class, please contact Pastor Neubauer.
- ⇒ Funeral Planning Form—Cheryl Hilgemann suggested this and we had planned for it to be a part of Sunday Bible Study on end of life issues, but once again, it didn't work out like we planned. This form is an opportunity for you to write down what you would like for your funeral service—hymns, scripture readings, special music. The form will be kept on file here at church. Filling out this form now is a precious gift to your loved ones who are making funeral arrangements. Watch for the form in a future newsletter.



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor Larry Harvala*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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REFORMATION SUNDAY



Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone

October 30, 2022