



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

November, 2022

Call Process Update—We're Requesting a Seminary Candidate



109 call surveys were returned and the overwhelming first choice was to call a second pastor, specifically one from the seminary. This was confirmed further at the special voters meeting on October 16 when a motion to call a second pastor met with one question and no comments or opposition. Once that motion passed there were some questions and discussion on the second motion to call a seminary candidate. That motion passed unanimously also. You can read the complete minutes on page 7.

We have submitted our congregational profile to Minnesota North District President Brady Finnern. From there he sends it to the placement committee and seminaries for consideration as they start the placement process. Watch for further updates but maybe not until January/February.

For All The Saints

On Sunday, November 6, our worship will include a time of remembrance of those in our congregation who have passed away this year. A bell is rung as each name is read. It is a moving tribute to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have joined the church triumphant. Please join us this Sunday for this special worship service.



Pastor Appreciation and New Member Welcome

Plan to join the fellowship board on **Sunday, November 6** between services for a special reception welcoming our new members and observing Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Special treats will be served and our newest members will be introduced.

Potluck and Voters Meeting—November 20

Time for a potluck!! The November semi-annual voters meeting is **Sunday, November 20**. After the second service that day, the fellowship board is hosting a congregational potluck. The voters meeting will be held immediately after. Plan to bring a favorite "dish to pass" whether it be a salad, main dish, or dessert and enjoy some fellowship before the voters meeting.

All communicant members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. If you are a voting member and will not be able to attend the meeting, please call the church office to be excused.





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. Hopefully we'll be able to host a drive in March.



Youth are Invited to Go Bowling

We're planning a bowling event for Sunday, November 13 for all kids, grade 5 and up. Meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. We'll head up to Bemidji Bowl on the church bus and return around 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 each. Friends are welcome!

Build and Bid on a Basket

It's that time of the year again for our silent auction basket fund raiser. Look for a sign up sheet in the social hall. You may bring your baskets for bidding on Sunday, November 27. The auction will be complete on Sunday, December 18. Proceeds will go to hurricane relief for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in North Fort Myers, Florida. These baskets make great Christmas gifts!



Deck the Halls!

Please join the Fellowship Board on Monday, November 28 at 9:00 a.m. as we decorate the sanctuary and the rest of the church for Christmas. Coffee and rolls will be on hand for all to enjoy before, during and after decorating!

Thanksgiving Services

Wednesday, November 23, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 24, 9:00 a.m.



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 11/6 "Barefoot Saints"
- 11/13 "Still Holding On"
- 11/20 "Where It All Comes Together"
- 11/27 "Freshly Fallen Snow"

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 SENTERadio at lhm.org/sentradio.

St. Johns LLL sponsors the program each week on KPRM at a cost of \$52.50 per Sunday. If you would like to help support this ministry, your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour."



Main Street Living North Programs for November

“**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 November schedule:

November 6: Rev. Timothy Stout, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sawyer, ND, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Anamoose, ND, and St. John's Lutheran Church, Kongsberg, ND, presents the message: “Saints of God” based on Luke 20:27-40. *This Is The Life*: “Like Father Like Son” - A father's example leads to his son making questionable choices at school.

November 13: Rev. Christopher Neuendorf, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Bottineau, ND. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rugby, ND, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Willow City, ND, presents the message: “Faith Faces Fear: Our Redemption Draws Near” based on Luke 21:28. *This Is The Life*: “Families Come First” – A man contends with the demands of his career, promotion, and his vocation as a father.

November 20: Rev. Philip Beyersdorf, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message “Why Be Unprepared?” based on Matthew 25:1-13. *This Is The Life*: “Conspiracy of Silence” - A husband and wife come to grips with a terminal illness.

November 27: Rev. Rick Jones, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND, presents the message: “Always be prepared ... for the Day of the Lord” based on Romans 13:8-14. *This Is The Life*: “Big Account” - An advertising agency art director learns the impact of his work on his family and others.

If your cable doesn't have KVRN, 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.

Release Time Classes are Off to A Great Start

Every Wednesday we have over 100 kids here in the morning for Release Time Classes. On the first day, 19 third graders received their very own Bible and they'll be spending the year learning more about this gift.

We're thankful to our staff—Deb Anderson, Cheryl Breitbach, Paula Eischens, Kathy Henry, Laurie Kimball, Ruth Knaack, Pastor Neubauer, Sandy Phillips, and Betty Solberg—for their commitment to this program!





Responding to Those in Need

“So, then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

In late September Good Shepherd Lutheran School in North Fort Myers was one of the many buildings in southwest Florida that suffered extensive structural damage due to the impact of Hurricane Ian. The school enrolls students from early childhood through grade 12. It services many students from diverse backgrounds living in households with financial difficulties and a wide range of other challenges. Rev. Robert Davis, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School, states, “For many of these children, we are the only voice of Christ in their lives.”

The cafeteria roof was destroyed by the storm. Several classrooms had roof damage as well. The church and school campus experienced significant water damage. Fencing was destroyed, and damage to the playground, bleachers and numerous trees was significant. Dealing with insurance companies, finding contractors, obtaining permits, locating materials and supplies – all of these have added to the stress of the situation at hand. Here’s some photos we received from Pastor Davis.

How can St. Johns congregation come together with a compassionate response to the needs of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at Good Shepherd? The school is in immediate need of some items that our financial support may enable them to purchase. A few of these replacement items include educational area rugs for the preschool, window mount air conditioners, bookshelves, and outdoor play items.



Following both services on November 6 the congregation will be updated on the situation at Good Shepherd. An opportunity will then be available for members who wish to lend their financial assistance. The Sunday School offerings for 2022-2023 will be sent to the school for purchasing classroom supplies lost in the storm. The annual December basket silent auction proceeds could possibly assist Good Shepherd with the finances needed for one of their window unit air conditioners. We will also plan to send the donations generated at our spring Trivia event to the school.

As you contemplate your own response to this opportunity for “living generously,” bear in mind that generosity does not exclusively refer to financial support. Continued prayer can be a generous response to someone’s suffering and daily needs. That means that ALL of us have been given the opportunity to, in some way, lovingly respond to the needs of the children at Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart...” 2 Corinthians 9:7



Stewardship Review—September

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **183**

Total Offerings: \$33,186	Total Offerings, September, 2021: \$36,203	Budget/Week \$10,345
Total Expenses: \$32,316	Total Expenses, September, 2021: \$35,048	Budget/Month \$44,827
Difference \$ 870	Difference \$ 1,155	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,296	Total Offerings, year to date: \$344,385
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$8,079	Total Expenses, year to date: \$352,905
Difference \$ 217	Difference - \$ 8,520

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 09/30/22: \$82,136	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less dedicated accounts - \$ 723	Raised so far \$58,492
Difference \$81,413	Still need \$15,508

Front Payable **\$26,657**





Sunday School News

We appreciate our teachers!

PK-K
Sandy Phillips
 1st-2nd
Ruth Knaack
 3rd-4th
Shelley Lof
 5th-6th
Tori Harju
 7th-8th
Staci Lee
 9th-12th
Melissa Koch

You're great!!!



11/02 A.J. Phillips
 11/03 Khloe May
 11/15 Zachary Harju
 11/15 Hailey Meier
 11/20 Thatcher Eidsmoe
 11/20 Gemma Leckner
 11/29 Easton Eskola
 11/29 Ryan Maves

Baptismal Birthdays

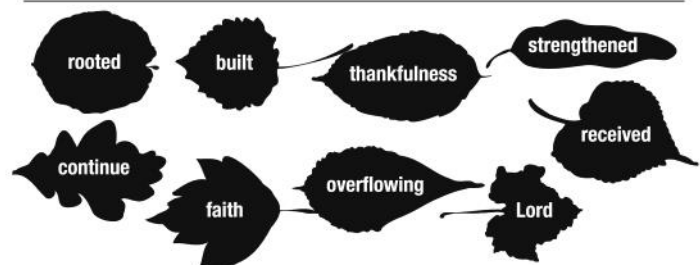
11/19 Addison Tretbar
 11/20 Luke Eskola
 11/20 Kiften Luther



Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.
 What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____,

_____ to live your lives in him, _____ and

_____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you

were taught, and _____ with _____.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing, thankfulness

Lessons this Month

11/6 A Loving Law—The Ten Commandments
 11/13 A King Forever—David
 11/20 A Nativity Night—Jesus' Birth
 11/27 Wise Men Worship—Magi



Breakfast in Bethlehem—A Great Opportunity for Outreach

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 9:00am 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!

We'd Love to Display Your Nativity Scene



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.

Drop them off at the church office beginning November 1. Make sure you have your name on it so we can return it to you.



Come check out our comfy new chairs in the front lobby!



Special Voters Meeting Minutes October 16, 2022

Dr. Helm called the meeting to order. Pastor Neubauer opened with prayer. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the following as voting members: Kathy Henry, Cheryl Hilgemann, and Jim Sieving. Motion made, seconded and carried to reinstate the following as voting members: Pastor Don Fondow, Jane Hughes, Matt Kaufenberg, Terry Kimball and Renae Olson. There were 45 voters present including the new and reinstated voting members.

Call Committee Chair, Matt Kaufenberg, presented the results of the call survey and the process so far. He introduced the call committee members, which was composed of a good cross section of the membership. The group had some great discussions at their meetings. Following his presentation he made a motion that St. Johns put forth a call to add a pastor. Second by Martin Steffel. Jim Sieving asked if we would call a seminary candidate or from the field. Dr. Helm said that question would be addressed once we decide whether or not to call a second pastor. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Next Matt shared that the overwhelming choice from the surveys was to call a seminary candidate. He made a motion that St. Johns request a candidate from the seminary. Second by Russ Brown. Jerry Grudem asked about the time line. The process for a seminary candidate would be to submit the call in January/February. If we chose to call a pastor from the field, we could start that process right away. Dr. Helm said we would know in April if we would receive a candidate. We wouldn't have a definite date for how long it would take if calling from the field.

Pastor Fondow gave an overview of the process for calling a seminary candidate. We would need to submit our congregation profile to the District President as soon as possible. The placement committee begins their process in December. Renae Olson asked if we could call a candidate and also call a pastor from the field? Pastor Fondow said technically we could but it's not a good practice to request a seminary candidate and then decide not to take them. Pastor Neubauer said that if we don't receive a candidate then we could try calling from the field. Jerry Eischens asked when we would know about the seminary candidate assignments? This happens at the end of April. Doug Kingsley asked about the shortage of candidates to call requests. Pastor Fondow and Pastor Harvala estimated there will be about 80 graduates to fill 100 requests. Matt asked if our past history of calling seminary graduates would help or hurt our request. Response was that it doesn't hurt. Pastor Fondow also said that candidates are asked if they are open to a multi-staff ministry and some congregations that have had multiple staff in the past can no longer afford it. Russ Brown commented that most of our pastors have come to us from the seminary and that we have had good experiences. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Matt shared the rest of the survey results. The top five choices for congregational needs were: youth ministry, family ministry, assimilation of new members, fellowship and community connections. The top choices for professional skills and duties were: open and approachable, good communicator, administration, vision, pastoral care and community involvement. Pastor Neubauer said they had worked to keep the survey unbiased and not slanted toward a pastor vs. commissioned worker. Doug Kingsley commented that youth ministry should be considered a skill/quality and would like to see that considered when interviewing. Renae Olson added that it should encompass family ministry. Young children can't bring themselves to church. They need parents/grandparents to bring them.

Jerry Grudem asked Pastor Neubauer on his plans/expectations over the next several years. Pastor Neubauer first expressed his appreciation for the many awesome servants at St. Johns and the excellent call committee. Pastor Newton's work started an active youth group which continues to grow. He mentioned training youth on being a church member not just here but anywhere they go. He also mentioned the large retired population in our area which is a great mission field. Our retired members have been a great blessing. He said the future is unknown but that he plans to continue serving here. His youngest, Sophia, graduates from high school the same year he will become eligible for social security and that maybe in ten years he'd be moving to "that table" pointing to where "retired" Pastors Fondow, Harvala and Neumann were sitting. A seminary candidate could possibly be on track to



move into the senior pastor position then. Pastor Neubauer expressed thanks for the cards and support following his ablation procedure. He is scheduled for knee replacement in late December and is working with Pastors Harvala and Fondow to cover his duties during January. Pastor Neubauer also shared that Pastor Newton is now serving as sole pastor at his new congregation. Please keep him and the congregation in your prayers. Larry Hetrick said Pastor Neubauer deserved a big hand and everyone applauded.

Motion by Martin Steffel, second Larry Hetrick and Paula Eischens to adjourn. Carried. Closed by singing the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Ranisate, Acting Secretary

Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes October 25, 2022

PRESENT: Connie Fondow, Lori Griess, Randy Griess, 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 Connie, second by Elayne to approve minutes of the August 3, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2021	379,504	360,712	18,792
2022	368,943	375,678	-6,735
	10,561	-14,966	

Income is down and expenses are up compared to last year at this time.

CNB Checking Account as of 10/25/22	82,927
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>-2,333</u>
Available Funds	80,594

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 10/25/22	37,137
--	--------

LCEF Current Fund as of 10/25/22	122,926
Less End. Fund Interest	-1,655
Less Parsonage Proceeds	-18,548
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	-58,513
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	-20,677
Less T. Haberer Trust	-19,138
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>-1,045</u>
Available Funds	3,350

Front Entry Payable	\$26,758
---------------------	----------

Motion by Lori, second Randy to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

PASTOR'S REPORT

Motion by Elayne, second Lori and carried to approve the following membership changes:

Transfer Out: Clyde and Gwen Adickes, Mount Calvary Lutheran, Miliona, MN; Rose Behling and Steve Behling, First English, Dorset, MN.

Pastor Neubauer said he plans to continue the stewardship theme for the coming year – glorify God, serve one another, be generous in every way. Generosity is not just monetary gifts to the poor but also being generous in our judgements of others and the way we talk to each other. Advent theme is “Born in Us.” He is grateful to have Pastor Harvala here especially for the past Sunday mornings. There was no new member class due to full schedule. He is feeling pretty well now health wise. Knee surgery is scheduled for the end of December. Motion by Randy, second Connie to accept the report. Carried.

BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS – Jerry Grudem – Elders continue to assist pastor. Discussion on having elders serve wine at communion. Would like some feedback from the congregation. They have been discussing various items for future presentation.

EVANGELISM – Connie Fondow reported. The Board of Evangelism is continuing preparations for our “Breakfast in Bethlehem” congregational and community outreach event scheduled for December 3 at 9:00 a.m. Encourage friends and family to attend even if you yourself are unable to. We will discuss St. Johns participation in “Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots” at our upcoming November board meeting. Connie has been in touch with Pastor Davis from Good Shepherd in North Fort Myers, Florida about damage sustained by Hurricane Ian. She read the most recent email she has received from him. We plan to help them financially by a special offering on November 6, basket fundraiser proceeds, Sunday School offerings and trivia even.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Lori Griess presented her report. Preschool- Open House was held and went well but not as well attended as in the past. We have 35 children enrolled – 11 three year olds and 24 four year olds. There are four children on the wait list. Four families are utilizing scholarships. Of the children attending preschool three attend St. Johns, two are from other LCMS churches, three from Calvary, three Catholic, six from Eastside, two from Faithbridge and ten with no listed church affiliation.

Sunday School – We had a meet and greet on August 21. Once again, the dunk tank was the center of attention. Rally Sunday was September 11 with the president of Concordia, St. Paul as guest speaker. Connie Fondow has taken over the office duties for the Sunday School program, which enables Shelley to teach. We are still exploring options for different Sunday School material. Also discussed presenting attendance awards during church instead of during the Sunday School closing. We are in desperate need of substitute teachers. Christmas program is December 18 at 2:00 p.m. Practice will be held the three Wednesday prior and the Saturday before. It was decided that the 2021-2022 offerings of \$500 would be given to Eagles Nest Healing Center for veterans and families.

“Food Truck Party” On a Roll with God! VBS was held August 7-11, once again in the evening to encourage participation by the parents and members of the congregation. We were able to donate over \$400 in offerings to the Hubbard County Food Shelf. Food Shelf director, Bob Hansen, came to receive the “check” from Pastor Neubauer. It worked well having crafts inside. There is an issue with the cost of the tent. This will need to be revisited prior to renting next year.

Release Time began on October 5. Teachers are in place but we can also use subs. Thank you to Laurie Kimball for all the hours that she has put in again this year organizing this much needed program. She does an amazing job.

Budget was reviewed and some changes were made. Agreed to proposed 5% wage increase for Mary and Kim.



CHURCH PROPERTIES – Randy Griess said things have been going pretty smooth. Jacob Lof is working on redoing the fire pit/picnic area as an Eagle Scout project. Currently working on getting cost estimates. The youth will do a fundraiser for the project and help with it. Plan to start the project in the spring.

YOUTH – Pastor Neubauer reported on the high school youth suppers. The kids prepare, serve and clean up the meal, then have a recreational activity such as cards or volleyball outside. He is trying to put together a family pumpkin event. Plans for bowling in Bemidji on November 13 and making pies for the community Thanksgiving meal.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP – Elayne Luiken reported. New member welcome/Pastor appreciation is scheduled for Sunday, November 6 between services. Ginny will send out the invitations to the new members. We'll have a basket out for cards for the pastors. We'll sponsor a potluck lunch after second service before the semi-annual voters meeting on Sunday, November 20. Christmas decorating will take place on Monday, November 28 starting at 9:00 a.m. Our board is in charge of preparing the breakfast for Breakfast at Bethlehem, Saturday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. We'll do prep the day before. Cookies and Carols will be Sunday, December 18 between services. Members are asked to bring Christmas cookies or candy to share. We'll make up cookie trays to deliver to shut-ins.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – no report.

STEWARDSHIP – no report.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Reviewed the 2023 budget. Motion by Elayne, second Connie and carried to approve the budget as printed to present to the voters on November 20.

Pastor Neubauer and congregational delegate Roger Just will vote online for the Synod President in the next few weeks.

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

Went over the voters meeting agenda.

Call Update – Dr. Helm complimented the call committee on their outstanding job. Pastor Neubauer will check in with President Finnern about the process and interviewing candidates. Discussed if this would be done in person or online or both. Discussion on getting people back in church and survey results. Dr. Helm suggested organizing another meeting of the call committee to look at this more. Motion by Jerry, second Elayne to establish an assimilation committee for attendance improvement. Carried. An email will be sent to call committee members to see if they are willing to meet on November 16.

Elders have discussed going to one service in January. This would be a trial. Pastor Neubauer is working on talking to the pastor at St. Paul's, Perham, to see how switching to one service has worked for them. Discussion on times, etc.

Motion to adjourn by Jerry, second Connie. Motion carried. Closed with Doxology.

Next Parish Planning Council Meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Ranisate



**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

803 West First Street
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone: 218-237-9783

Fax: 218-237-9785

Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Larry Harvala



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
Park Rapids, Minnesota
Permit No. 6

Return Service Requested

Inside this issue:

<i>Call Process Update</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>For All the Saints</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Pastor Appreciation and New Member Welcome</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Potluck and Voters Meeting—November 20</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Blood Drive Cancelled</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Youth are Invited to go Bowling</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Build and Bid on a Basket</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Christmas Decorating</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Thanksgiving Services</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>What's on the Lutheran Hour</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Main Street Living for November</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Release Time Classes are Off to A Great Start</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Responding to Those In Need</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Stewardship Review</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Sunday School News</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Breakfast in Bethlehem—A Great Outreach Opportunity</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>We'd Love to Display Your Nativity Scene</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Come Check Out Our Comfy New Chairs</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Special Voters Meeting Minutes</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes</i>	<i>9</i>

