

The

St. Johns Servant

St. Johns Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

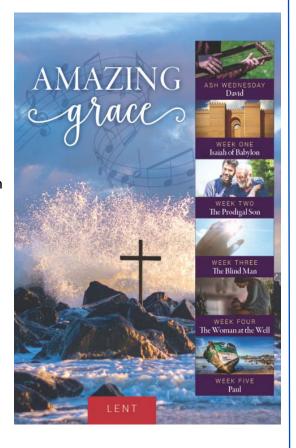
March, 2023

250 Years of Amazing Grace

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of "Amazing Grace," our worship series for Lent ties the words of the beloved song to our lives today as Christ's disciples. Those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God help us each week to realize that though we once were lost in sin, we now have been found by Jesus, and though we once were blind to God's mercy, we now can see his love at work in us through our Savior's death and resurrection.

Join us for worship each Wednesday at noon or 6:00 p.m. The services will also be live streamed. The Ladies Aid will serve lunch following the noon service. A meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. before the evening service. Here's a look at our focus and preacher for each week.

- ◆ March I Isaiah
- ♦ March 8 Prodigal Sons
- ♦ March 15 Blind Man
- ♦ March 22 Woman at the Well
- ◆ March 29 Paul



Sunday morning Bible study also focuses on this theme, diving deeper into each Bible character from the previous Wednesday service. Join us between services.

Pastor's Podcast—Lightly Salted



We recently changed our live streaming platform and one of the great things about the new platform is that audio is recorded separately from the video. This gave Pastor Neubauer the idea to start a podcast he's calling *Lightly Salted*. Each episode features the Sunday sermon and scripture readings. You can access it on our website or by searching for "Lightly Salted-Neubauer" (turns out other podcasters like that title, too).

If you're into social media, you can help boost our reach by liking and sharing our posts. It's an easy way to further our mission to bring "the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people within and outside of the one holy Christian Church."



Give Blood Here



St. Johns is hosting the March blood drive in Park Rapids. Have you ever donated blood? The process is easy, usually takes less than an hour and most donors find it a painless and heartwarming experience. There is a critical shortage right now and your donation is greatly needed. Take a few minutes to donate blood. Our blood drive will be **Monday, March 13**, 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 14, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 218-255-4865 or go online to www.vitalant.org and choose "donate now." Please help us with this important, life-saving effort!

March is Food Share Month

March is the traditional month for the Minnesota Food Share Campaign. Donations received this month are important because they are used to calculate future allocations to our local Hubbard County food shelf. Total donations are measured by the pound so heavier items are good choices to donate this month. Think soups, peanut butter, canned vegetables, tuna, etc. rather than lighter items like noodles, cereals, etc.



Cash donations are also especially great this month since allocations are calculated on total cash raised.

You can bring in your non perishable food items to the church all this month. There's a cart in the back lobby for them. Drop off your cash donation at the office or into the offering plate. Make sure to add "Food Shelf" on the memo line. Thank you for your generous gifts to help those in our community who are struggling.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

3/05 "An Arresting Encounter"

3/12 "Thirsting for Life"

3/19 "Bad Karma vs. Good Creator"

3/26 "Is God Missing in Action?"

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."





Trivia Night Returns!

Get your trivia team organized and psyched! The Board of Evangelism is sponsoring Trivia Night to be held on Sunday, March 26 at 5:00 p.m. Some new categories will appear. Intermission will once again be fun and engaging. The Board of Parish Fellowship will be offering a light supper at a reasonable cost. Free table treats and beverages will be available.



All proceeds from this event will go toward assisting Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School with hurricane recovery.

Sign up sheets can be found near the church office. Cost is \$100 per table or \$15 for single participation. (We will create a team for you with other single participants.) If you would care to make a donation by sponsoring a table for this event rather than participating yourself, please feel free to do so. You may wish to attend and simply watch great minds agonize over lighthearted trivia.

Join us for a fun filled evening of fellowship on March 26!!

Guest Speaker at Ladies Aid This Month



Gina Bergeron from the Minnesota State Services for the Blind will be our guest speaker at the Ladies Aid meeting Thursday, March 9th at 1:00 pm to share with us how she helps customers meet the challenges of vision loss. She will be talking about how she assists individuals with no vision or low vision find vision products that are tailored to their needs. Everyone is invited to come, hear Gina speak, and to view some of the products that are available to individuals having vision issues.

LWML Spring Zone Rally at First English, Dorset in April

Mark your calendar – the Spring LWML Rally will be held at the First English Lutheran Church in Dorset on Tuesday, April 18 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Speakers from the Bemidji Veterans Home will be sharing details about the new Veterans Home in Bemidji opening up in August. Amber Gamache from



MAHUBE will join us to talk about homelessness in and around Park Rapids. See the rally invite posted on the LWML bulletin board in back hallway for more details and the list of ingathering items requested. Please give some thoughts and prayer as to how we can help these two organizations.



Hope When Your Heart Breaks



Do you know someone who is emotionally struggling after the loss of a loved one? Free copies of *Hope When Your Heart Breaks*, authored by LCMS Texas District President, Mark Newman, are available in our library. They are located on the cart behind the desk.



While you're there, check out some of the other great books available!



Stewardship Review— January

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 161

Total Offerings: \$35,801 Total Offerings, January, 2022: \$40,364 Budget/Week \$10,807 Total Expenses: \$28,154 Total Expenses, January, 2021: \$38,280 Budget/Month \$46,831

Difference \$7,647 Difference \$2,084

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$7,160 CNB Checkbook Balance: \$83,030 Avg. Weekly Expenses \$5,631 Less Dedicated Accounts - \$1,900 Difference \$1,529 Difference \$81,130

Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000 Front Entry Payable \$12,634

Raised so far \$60,432

Still need \$13,568



Main Street Living Programs This Month



Main Street Living is broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on KVRR Fargo-Moorhead. Here's the "North" programs for March:

March 5: Rev. Mark Chepulis, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cavalier, ND, St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Thomas, ND, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Langdon, ND, presents the message: "The Canaanite Woman" based on Matthew 15:21-28. *This is the Life*: "Prescription TLC" - Injuries after a plane crash cause a couple to seek God for comfort and healing.

March 12: Rev. Steven Schulz, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "Jesus Has Mercy on Sinners" based on John 4:5-26. *This is the Life*: "Dangerous Moment" - An affair on a business trip leads to tension at home.

March 19: Rev. Karl Weber, St. John Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Richville, MN, presents the message: "The Work of the Messiah" based on John 9:1-41. *This is the Life*: "Who will tell Laura?" - A family struggles with what to do after their daughter loses her sight in an accident.

March 26: Rev. Christopher Durham, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lisbon, ND, presents a message "The Lord Provides for our Eternal Need" based on Genesis 22:1-14. *This is the Life*: "Holy Land Tour, Part I" - A video tour of locations in Jesus' earthly ministry, led by SD pastor Nabil Nour who grew up in Israel.

If you don't get KVRR you can watch the Minnesota South District version of Main Street Living on WFTC Channel 29 at 9:00 a.m. You can also watch all of the archived programs at any time online. To reach the website for archived programs go to www.mainstreetliving.com and then click on "North (Fargo)" or "Twin Cities."





Good Shepherd Update

Here's a note we received from Pastor Davis at Good Shepherd in North Fort Myers:

First I wish to give my apologies as I have not been well. I won't burden you with details. Suffice it to say I apologize for not getting back to you earlier. All monies from the different loving people and schools and congregations-such as from you, to date we have had to use on roof and ceiling. The lack of roofing (even with tarps) resulted with flooding into a couple of classrooms (which connected to the cafeteria) every time it rained, which was a few times per week. It was unbearable, and students were being combined into tiny spaces for classes. We finally achieved dry-in about nine days ago. Now we still have remainder of roof work, and all of the central air conditioners, to finish, as well as the fencing poles around the property, and our signage was destroyed.

Thanks to your gifts, we were able to move two of the VPK classes back in because of finishing the dry-in roof work. This was only possible because of the funds your ministry provided. You have been a huge blessing! Those children are back to normalcy, and we can re-clean the cafeteria again after continued flooding. In fact, today DCF will be inspecting those rooms, and we pray they will see sufficient completion toward safe and sanitary environments for the children and ok us. We still do not have the air conditioning units in place and those holes are tarped, but the progress will be obvious when we are able to send pictures.

The Lord bless and keep you and all.

A Huge Thank You...

To everyone who brought and bought items for the Death by Chocolate bake sale. We raised \$1,201 for Good Shepherd to help in their recovery efforts! One of the most popular items wasn't even chocolate. Thanks to Julie Kingsley for sharing the recipe for her wonderful savory truffles. They were delicious!



Cranberry Pecan Goat Cheese Truffles

Ingredients

10 oz. goat cheese 6 oz. cream cheese 2 teaspoons cinnamon 3 tablespoons honey, plus extra for garnish

I 1/2 cups Fisher nuts pecan chips, divided I cup diced dried cranberries 1/2 cup minced fresh parsley

Instructions

In a large bowl, beat together the goat cheese, cream cheese, cinnamon and honey until light and fluffy. Add I/2 cup pecan chips, folding to combine. Set aside. Line your countertop with parchment paper. Toss together remaining pecan chips, dried cranberries and parsley in the center of the parchment paper. Using a large cookie scoop, scoop out one round of cheese filling and toss in the cranberry/pecan mixture. Continue until all truffles have been rolled in coating. Refrigerate cheeseballs until ready to serve. You can make these up to three days before, just make sure and store them in an airtight container in the refrigerator. To serve: Drizzle truffles with honey, if desired. Serve with crackers, warm crostini or as is with a toothpick (or pretzel stick)!





Three Bears Water Park Trip

We're planning our annual trip to Three Bears Water Park for all 5th-12th graders. Watch for updates.

Scenes from Release Time

Our Wednesday Release Time classes have been busy. Some of the classes made Valentines. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate so class was cancelled the week of Valentines. The kids still got to have treats (yummy cinnamon rolls!) on Ash Wednesday.

We are very thankful for our teachers and staff that help to make the program a success!



~~°~ ~



Sunday School News



Perfect Attendance— February

PK4 AJ Phillips

2nd Colton Nilson

5th Clinton Koch, Kryton Nilson

8th Sawyer Harvey

Offering: \$42.94

Great job!



- 3/01 Cash Luther
- 3/02 Hunter Schroeder
- 3/5 Kryton Nilson
- 3/11 Martin Hahn
- 3/13 Wyatt Goodwater
- 3/15 Olivia Maier
- 3/16 Walter Harrison III
- 3/25 Ketch Luther

Baptismal Birthdays

- 3/09 Hailey Meier
- 3/10 Eli Maves
- 3/11 Adalynn Roman
- 3/11 Emma Quinn
- 3/20 Kelly Kimball
- 3/22 Gavin Smith
- 3/27 Gunar Clark

PUZZLE		
The light of forgiveness The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins		
to God? Directions: Use the coded chappe		
bse the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV. But if we in the, as he is in the,		
we have with one another, and the		
of Jesus, his Son, us from all sin. If we claim to be		
without sin, we deceive ourselves and the is not in us.		
If we our sins, he is and just and will us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.		
1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV		

Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, faithful, forgive

Lessons this Month

March 5 A Mercy-Full Message—The Good Samaritan

March 12 A Prayer Lesson—The Lord's Prayer

March 19 A Shepherd Loves—The Good Shepherd

March 26 A Tree View—Zacchaeus





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Pastor James Neubauer Pastor Larry Harvala



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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