



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

April, 2023

Holy Week and Easter

Our “Amazing Grace” Lenten series continues into Holy Week. We invite you to join us this Easter.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, Communion Services at noon and 5:30 p.m. with stripping of the altar at the 5:30 p.m. service

Good Friday, April 7, Services at noon and 5:30 p.m.

Easter, April 9 Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m.

- * Easter Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
- * Communion Services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



Order Your Easter Lilies

We've ordered 24 lilies for the altar for Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase a lily, the cost is \$9.00. Please sign up in the front lobby to reserve your lily. They may be taken home after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter morning.



Call Process Update



By the end of this month we will know if we will receive a seminary candidate. Call date at Fort Wayne is April 25 and St. Louis is April 26. You can watch the Fort Wayne service online at ctsfcw.edu. For the St. Louis service go to <https://www.csl.edu/academics/call-day-services>. Please keep the candidates and calling congregations (including ours) in your prayers.

Got Ideas on A Sanctuary Refresh? Join the Committee

At almost 60 years old, our sanctuary is starting to show it's age and could use a facelift. We're forming a committee to look at ideas and options for the space. If you're interested in being on it, please talk to Dr. Rod Helm or Pastor Neubauer.





Crazy for Cribbage?

On Sunday afternoon, April 16, the fellowship board invites everyone who is interested in learning how to play cribbage, or just want to show off their cribbage skills, to an afternoon of fun and fellowship. We'll start at 2:00 and snacks will be provided. Come and join the fun! Bring your cribbage board if you have one.



Main Street Living Programs This Month



Main Street Living is broadcast Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on KVRP Fargo-Moorhead or you can watch it online any time at www.mainstreetliving.com, "North (Fargo)." Here's the Main Street Living "North" programs for April:

April 2: Rev. Kent Borglum, St. John's Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN, presents the message: "The Only True King" based on Zechariah 9:9-10. *This Is the Life*: "Holy Land Tour pt. 2" - A video tour of locations in Jesus' earthly ministry, led by South Dakota pastor, Nabil Nour, who grew up in Israel.

April 9: Rev. Nabil Nour, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, SD, and 4th Vice

President of the LCMS, presents the message: "Swallowed Up" based on Isaiah 25:6-9. *This Is the Life*: "Three Days" - The disciples' reactions and interaction in the days between Jesus' death and resurrection.

April 16: Rev. Tom Eckstein, Concordia Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Adrian, ND, presents the message: "The Resurrection and Scripture" based on Luke 24:36-49. *This Is the Life*: "Gates of Glory" - Thomas recounts his experience with doubt and belief as he meets the risen Jesus.

April 23: Vicar Brandon Johnson, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN, presents the message: "Peter's Restoration is Our Restoration" based on Acts 2:36-39. *This Is the Life*: "Betrayed" - A man struggles to do what is right after a reporter uncovers shady dealings in his business.

April 30: Rev. Thomas Clark, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hankinson, ND, and St. John Lutheran Church, Belford Township, ND, presents the message: "Your Shepherd Calls You by Name" based on John 10:1-10 and 1 Peter 2:19-25. *This Is the Life*: "Aftermath" - A father tries to make things right with his daughter after a life of bad choices.

Donations are needed, welcome and appreciated. Checks may be sent to "Main Street Living NORTH," 821-5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by credit card or your PayPal account on the website.

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- ◆ 04/02 "Hell: No One Has to Go There"
- ◆ 04/09 "He Is Risen, Indeed"
- ◆ 04/16 "Raising the Praise"
- ◆ 04/23 "The Man Who Will Be King"
- ◆ 04/30 "Bridge Builders"

◆ 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."



Spring LWML Zone Rally to be Held at Dorset

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 the homelessness in and around Park Rapids. See the rally invite posted on the LWML bulletin board in the hallway for more details and the list of ingathering items requested. Bring in your donated items to the church by April 16. There is a drop box in the front lobby.



Pastor's Podcast—*Lightly Salted*



Have you checked out Pastor Neubauer's podcast, *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."

Release Time Update

We are coming up on our last month of Release Time for this school year. April 26 will be our last day to experience the excitement of all the children arriving at the church on Wednesday mornings to study the Bible together.

Sadly we said goodbye to one of our teachers. After suffering the loss of her father-in-law and then her mother-in-law this year, Deb Anderson and her husband went on a much needed vacation. Fortunately for us, Kathy Henry enthusiastically volunteered to become the new second grade teacher, crisis averted. (The Lord does indeed provide.)

The students are busy learning about Holy week and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior in their classes and will end their studies by making a Christian Easter basket of their own, complete with a few Easter goodies.

As always, we ask that you keep the program, the teachers and the students in your thoughts and prayers! Keep an eye out of the newsletter next month when we will have a few pictures of our students celebrating Easter!

Laurie Kimball, Release Time Coordinator





Stewardship Review—February

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 112

Total Offerings: \$34,610	Total Offerings, February, 2022: \$33,879
Total Expenses: <u>\$37,745</u>	Total Expenses, February, 2022: <u>\$38,355</u>
Difference - \$ 3,135	Difference - \$4,476

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,653	Budget/Week \$10,807	Front Entry Payable \$11,043
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,436</u>	Budget/Month \$46,831	
Difference - \$ 783		

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 02/28/23: \$80,136	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts - <u>\$1,840</u>	Raised so far <u>\$60,973</u>
Difference \$78,296	Still need \$13,027

Did You Know We Offer Electronic Giving?

You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone or tablet. Give online by visiting our website at www.stjohnspr.org and clicking "Give." Download our free Vanco Mobile app from the App Store or Google Play.

Get started today! Download our mobile app or visit our online donations page to set up your online contribution.



If you're not into tech, but still want to simplify your giving, you could sign up for automatic offerings. Pick the amount and frequency that works for you. If you're interested, stop in and talk to Ginny. She can give you details and get you set up.

Be on a Board

The Parish Planning Council is currently working on the slate of candidates for board members which will be voted on at our June voters meeting. We would love to have you as one of our board members. There are eight boards—Christian Education, Church Properties, Elders, Evangelism, Parish Fellowship, Public Relations, Stewardship and Young People. If you're willing to serve, please talk to Rod Helm or Mike Poole or call the church office.



A Big Blood Drive Thank You!



Blessed are the volunteers, for without them, what would we do? I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered to work registration, make calls, and especially those who donated blood during our blood drive on March 13 and 14. There were 107 blood products successfully collected. This wonderful outcome could not be accomplished without the help of our volunteers and donors. Thank you so much, everyone, for your support!

Elayne Luiken, Blood Drive Coordinator



Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2023

PRESENT: Brandi Backmann, Connie Fondow, Lori Griess, Randy Griess, Rod Helm, Elayne Luiken, Pastor Neubauer, Mike Poole and Ginny Ranisate. Director Rod Helm called the meeting to order and read our mission statement. Pastor Neubauer opened with prayer. Motion by Connie, second by Randy to approve minutes of the January 24, 2023 meeting as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2022	110,953	105,689	+5,264
2023	102,594	97,273	+5,321
Difference	-8,359	-8,416	--

Income and expenses are down compared to last year at this time. If we had second pastor, we would have a deficit. Ginny will run an article in the newsletter encouraging people to use automatic offerings and Vanco online giving.

CNB Checking Account as of 03/28/23	84,940
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>- 9,144</u>
Available Funds	75,796

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 03/28/23	36,695
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LCEF Current Fund as of 03/28/23	122,205
Less End. Fund Interest	- 1,778
Less Parsonage Proceeds	- 18,548
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	- 60,998
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	- 19,232
Less T. Haberer Trust	- 17,188
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>- 1,048</u>
Available Funds	3,413

Front Entry Loan	\$11,043
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Motion by Elayne, second Connie to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Worship: Concluding "Amazing Grace" Lenten series.

Teaching times: Sunday morning finished Amazing Grace; Tuesday morning finished Provoking Proverbs and started Limping with God; Wednesday morning teaching 3rd grade RTC (24 students) My Bible and 7th -8th (11 students) Reading Romans; Confirmation 7th and 8th Grade (13 students) Sacraments – Communion.

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Sunday School Page



Perfect Attendance—March

PK3 John Ricke
4th Ava Kimball
5th Alex Lof
6th Zachary Harju

Offerings: \$29.61

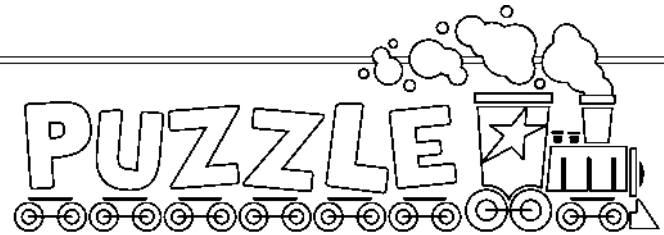
Great job!



4/03 Dylan May
4/04 Will Sanquist
4/08 Eastyn Walker
4/24 Clinton Koch
4/26 Natalie Tretbar

Baptismal Birthdays

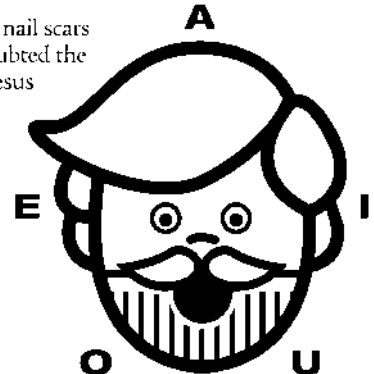
4/9 Everett Bergerson
4/10 Kolt Safratowich
4/15 Fletcher Eidsmoe
4/18 Hannah Arola
4/18 Taylor Arola
4/22 Martin Hahn
4/26 Grace Hockett
4/27 Hunter Schroeder
4/27 James Trandem
4/30 Shae Halbasch



SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete
John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ s _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
_ _

y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ v _ d ;
_ _

bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
_ _

s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ v _ d ."
_ _

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

Lessons this Month

April 2 A Crushing Truth—Jesus is Crucified
April 9 No Sunday School—Easter
April 16 A Living Truth—Jesus Rises
April 23 An Ascending Truth—Jesus Ascends
April 30 A Telling Truth—Pentecost



Puzzle!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

Allwelikesbelievewraywecommandsodtherighteousnessof
gospeltosrevealstartehtestimonysnsalordrtheiniquity
rightasisepraisedwsilfooaputownwayaposahumcornersfo
heavenouerisagoneadogivsicaruootgercorlaidoireasonsus
returncaphaventrustedeallturnedresposseshtruths.Ila

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6, NRSV

Holy Hilarity!

It seems there was an early-church tradition dating back to the fourth century of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Early Christian theologians coined the term "risus paschalis," or "the Easter laugh," saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, gathering the day after Easter to mock Satan's defeat. So in celebration of Holy Humor Sunday on April 16 here's some humor to lift your spirits (especially since it's the same time as the deadline to file your taxes):

- Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.
- Knock, knock. Who's there? Hatch. Hatch who? God bless you!
- What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? Eggs-ercise!
- Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!
- An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So that's why no one was in church today."

And here's some quotes about spring which will get here eventually, we hope:

"Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush." (Doug Larson)

"Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade." (Charles Dickens)

"The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful." (e.e. cummings)





(Continued from page 5)

ABC Preschool: did devotions.

Misc: Started “Lightly Salted” podcast - pull the readings and sermon from worship. Please “click” and “like.”

Circuit/District/Regional Events: Spring Pastors Conference at Madden’s is May 7-9.

Membership change: Transfer out for Debra Kruschke to Redeemer Lutheran, Bagley, MN. Motion by Elayne, seconded by Connie and carried to approve transfer.

BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS – Mike Poole reported in Jerry Grudem’s absence that the Elders continue to fill needs communion assistants and assist pastors.

YOUTH – Youth have done two Lenten meals. Haven’t had some of our usual winter events. Planning Easter breakfast.

EVANGELISM – Connie Fondow reported. The trivia event raised \$2,451 for Good Shepherd Lutheran School in North Fort Meyers, Florida. Ginny will use the school/church online giving portal to forward this donation to Good Shepherd. Our thanks to Pastor Neubauer for his technology assistance; Ginny for all her support with running materials and making sure that the event ran smoothly; the Board of Parish Fellowship for their work pertaining to service of the meal; members who sponsored tables. We were especially pleased to see the number of participating youth and those outside our St. Johns membership.

The board is looking into the possibility of renewing our relationship with Diamond Willow for a once-a-month BINGO event with their residents.

“My Church” books were purchased for inclusion in the baptismal gift packages for members.

We assessed the “Breakfast in Bethlehem” event and have decided to repeat this community outreach in December of ’23 and follow an every-other-year cycle for the future sponsorship of this project.

Connie also reported that she is working with a member of Trinity, Sauk Rapids to make metal art piece of our logo to hang in the front lobby. The expected cost is less than \$500 and we have dedicated funds to pay for it.

CHURCH PROPERTIES – Randy Griess reported things had been quiet until recently. There is a public hearing scheduled for April 10 at city hall about the conditional use permit for projects at the Century School. It really doesn’t affect us so he doesn’t think we need to attend.

Due to the large amount of snow, the roof has been leaking in various places. We’ve been working on getting it cleared. May put heat tape up in the valleys next year.

Samuelson Laney came to service the boiler. There is a ball press seal that needs to be replaced. This will be done in June after the heating season ends. They will get us a quote to replace the leaking hot water tank in the north women's bathroom as it would probably cost as much to repair as to replace it. We have prepaid for irrigator start up/shut down for the season. We have had to have the refrigerator



repaired twice in the past eight months due to refrigerant leaks. The door seals are worn and cracked and one on the right isn't closing. We should look at replacing the refrigerator. We purchased it in 2009.

Squirrels have been getting into the building. Janitor, Mike Riewer, has caught several. Rod gave Randy the name of a pest control contractor to contact.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Lori Griess presented her report. Sunday School attendance continues to be low. Release Time is going well. Planning to discuss preschool tuition at next meeting. VBS will be held August 6-10. We will serve a light supper for the kids before VBS. Discussed building security.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP – Elayne Luiken reported. The board prepared and served the meal for Trivia Night on March 26. We will serve the evening meal before Lenten services on Wednesday, March 29. On Sunday, April 16 we are hosting an afternoon teaching and playing cribbage. The confirmand meal will be Wednesday, May 3.

STEWARDSHIP/PUBLIC RELATIONS – No report.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Call Update – Call dates at the seminaries are at the end of April. We will know then if we are assigned a candidate.

Board Nominations: Brandi and Roger are going off the Youth board. Connie will stay on Evangelism board but feels they need a new director so she declines to continue as director. Randy will check with Church Properties board at their next meeting. Lori will check with Christian Ed board. She also would like to step down as director. Elayne will check with Parish Fellowship board members. We need a director for Stewardship. Haven't checked with members yet. Also, haven't checked with Elders.

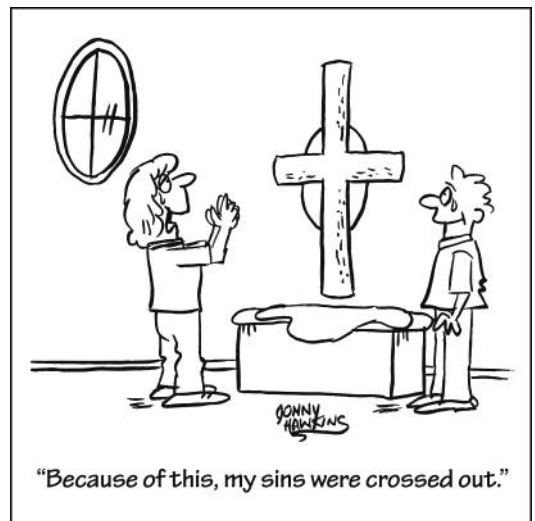
Governance Structure: Mike read the three books Ginny had and reported on them. Rod gave a review of another book recommended to him on missional living/engagement.

Connie spoke about the new "Shareboard" platform that has been launched for lay leaders. This looks like it will be helpful for finding ideas/solutions, etc.

Pastor Neubauer said the sanctuary needs a "refresh" at the very least fresh paint, possibly new flooring, cry room and reconfiguring altar space. Discussion expanded into long range planning. A committee will be formed to look at a sanctuary update. Pastor Neubauer, Rod, Lori, Mike and Ginny volunteered to be on the committee. We will look for other committee members, too.

Meeting adjourned. Closed with Doxology. Next Parish Planning Council Meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Ranisate





Trivia Night Was A Success!

Eleven teams (including two youth teams) competed at our trivia night on March 26. The categories included: “missing pieces,” “logos,” “games people play,” “name the artist,” and “famous faces.” Participants enjoyed a meal served by the Board of Parish Fellowship, along with popcorn and bars. Connie Fondow was emcee and Pastor Neubauer manned the screens (as well as putting together all the graphics and music clips). Table #6—Mike and Mary Poole, Terry and Laurie Kimball, Staci Lee, John Moench and Donna Neumann—took first place. \$2491 was raised to send to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School, North Fort Myers, Florida, to help with their continued recovery from Hurricane Ian back in September. Even though it’s been almost eight months since the storm, rebuilding and repairing has been slow due to many factors.

A huge thank you to the Evangelism and Parish Fellowship boards, Pastor Neubauer, Connie Fondow and everyone who donated and attended!



The winners!



Parish Fellowship served up a tasty meal.



An update on progress at Good Shepherd.



One of the youth tables ready to rock.



Progress is slow but steady to restore Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School. Our gifts are helping them in their efforts.





**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Larry Harvala



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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