



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

May, 2023

Chad Berg Coming to St. Johns

At the call service on April 26 at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Chad Berg was assigned as our new associate pastor. He is from West Fargo. Chad attended Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. His parents live in Cambridge, Minnesota. Our area fits in great with his interests which include camping, building, reading, outdoor activities and smoking meats. We are so excited to have him join us, probably some time in July. Watch for details as plans are made. We pray God's continued blessings on him as he wraps up his time at seminary and prepares to head north.



Confirmed in Christ



On May 7 at the 10:30 a.m. service ten of our young members will confirm their faith through the rite of confirmation. Our confirmands are Samantha Fiemeyer, Maxwell Harju, Khloe Harrison, Sawyer Harvey, Brooke Kimball, Brock Knutson, Jada Lapping, Austen Lee, Kaitlyn Maves, and Aiden May.

Ascension Service

After His resurrection, Jesus spent forty days on earth encouraging and teaching His disciples. Then, right before their eyes, He ascended into heaven. You can read a detailed account of the event in Acts, Chapter 1. You're invited to celebrate Christ's Ascension at a special worship service on Thursday, May 18 at 5:30 p.m. here at St. Johns.



Congratulations, Graduates!



The Class of 2023 will be recognized May 21 at the 8:00 a.m. service and at a reception following in the social hall. Our graduates are Caleb Arola, Natalie Backmann, Eli DeVore, Coley Girtz, Coby Hagen, Hunter Harrison, Isaac Hartig, Haley Kerr, Hailey Kimball, Naomi Knaack, Samuel Leckner, Jillian Neubauer, Jordyn Novak, Emma Ravnaas, and Gryphin Samuelson. Please keep them in your prayers as they head out into the world.

Join the Baby Bottle Brigade

We are participating in the Pregnancy Resource Center's Baby Bottle Brigade. Bottles will be available starting on Mother's Day, May 14. You're invited to pick one up and fill it with cash, then return it to church by Father's Day, June 18. Your donation will help the PRC as they assist parents facing an unplanned pregnancy.





Special Guest Speakers at Ladies Aid This Month

The monthly Ladies Aid meeting on Thursday, May 11, 1:00 p.m. will feature guest speakers, Aaron Majors from the Hubbard County Veterans Office and Dick Kimball who will talk about service dogs. The congregation is invited to attend. It's sure to be an interesting presentation.



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 Pastor Neubauer, Rod Helm or Mike Poole or call the church office.

Bring in Socks and Undies for Orphan Grain Train

All congregations in the Minnesota North District are invited to collect new socks and undies (men's, women's & children's) and especially for children age three to 6th grade for Orphan Grain Train. Pastor Neubauer will take them to the MN State Pastors Conference on May 8-10 at Madden's Resort, Brainerd. These items will be sent to help meet the needs of children in Haiti, Texas missions and other countries including Ukraine where new items are allowed.



Shipping costs continue to increase, your generous financial support for shipping costs is greatly appreciated and needed. Donations may be sent to Orphan Grain Train, P.O. Box 61, Morris, MN, 56267. Thank you for your continuous support to help those in need and share the Word of God.

Noon Communion Service Continues



Wednesday noon communion services started up again following the Lenten season. This is a shorter service (about half hour) with usually about 10-15 in attendance. The pastor serves communion to worshipers in the pew so you don't have to navigate the steps to the altar.

The Greetings of St. Paul

The apostle Paul received major blessings from minor people and remembers, by name, those who worked hard with him in the Lord's work. Pastor Harvala has started a new study covering these greetings at Wednesday morning Bible study. Class meets at 10:30 a.m. in the library.





Main Street Living for May

Main Street Living—This 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 15.1. This month’s programs are:



May 7: Rev. Ronald Hobbie, Zion & St. John Lutheran Churches, Ada, MN, presents the message: “The Way” based on John 14:6. *This Is the Life*: “Break up” - A divorced couple struggles with direction in their lives after meeting again.

May 14: Rev. Brian Shane, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: “The Unknown God” based on Acts 17:16-31. *This Is the Life*: “Alibi” - A father tries to reconnect with his estranged son after the death of his mother.

May 21: Rev. Kirk Lee, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, ND, presents the message: “Under the Mighty Hand of God” based on 1 Peter 5:6-11. *This Is the Life*: “No Place to Hide” - A pastor, who has to face the death of his wife, cannot find comfort.

May 28: Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, President of the North Wisconsin District LCMS, presents a Pentecost Sunday message. Visit www.mainstreetliving.com for more information. *This Is the Life*: “The Main Event” - A boxer who is hit by a car becomes embittered until he meets a cheerful 8-year old girl.

What’s On The Lutheran Hour

- 05/07 "Sojourn"
- 05/14 "Reason to Hope"
- 05/21 "Responses to Suffering"
- 05/28 "A Timely Invitation"

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 the offering and earmarked “Local Lutheran Hour.”

If your cable doesn’t have KVRr, you can watch a different version (different pastors, mainly from Minnesota South) on WFTC out of the Twin Cities, on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. You can also watch all of the archived programs at any time online. To view archived programs go to www.mainstreetliving.com and then click on “North (Fargo)” or “Twin Cities.”

† Funeral

04/21 Russ Brown





Squirrels Like St. Johns

It's been a few years since we had an uninvited squirrel in the building but they were back in a pack this spring. At first we could just hear them scurrying around in the ceiling tiles but then they found their way down into the rest of the building and made themselves at home. They especially liked the closet in the Sunday School office and the stash of peanut butter M&Ms kept there—so much that they chewed through the side of the plastic container. When the M&Ms were removed they decided to try the suckers and chewed on that plastic container, too. Staff spotted the squirrels, both red and gray, running around in the building but they were too quick to catch.



Janitor Mike set out live traps but these squirrels were pretty smart and managed to spring the traps and take the bait. So he tried “non live” traps and had more success, catching at least five. Joe's Pest Control was contacted and they checked out the exterior, placing traps at two different entry points. So far there hasn't been any squirrel activity in the building or the traps since Easter. We're hoping they've moved out to their summer cabin and when they return the entry holes will be sealed.

ABC Students Took A Field Trip to Itasca State Park

In between snow storms, the Friday ABC class took a field trip up to Itasca State Park. Thanks to park ranger, Sandra Lichter, for a fun and informative field trip!





Stewardship Review—March

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 138

Total Offerings: \$33,511	Total Offerings, March, 2022: \$46,307
Total Expenses: <u>\$36,821</u>	Total Expenses, March, 2022: <u>\$45,559</u>
Difference - \$3,310	Difference \$ 748

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,378	Budget/Week \$10,807	Front Entry Payable \$9,371
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$9,205</u>	Budget/Month \$46,831	
Difference - \$ 827		

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 03/31/23: \$76,615	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts - \$ <u>1,994</u>	Raised so far <u>\$61,289</u>
Difference \$74,621	Still need \$12,711

Lutheran Island Camp Summer Registration Open

Lutheran Island Camp is ready to register summer campers. There's many options—classic camp, horse camp, fishing camp, science camp, art camp, survivor camp, and many more. Stop by the front lobby and pick up a brochure, then registration online at www.islandcamp.org/summer-programs. We have scholarships available to help pay for up to half the cost of camp. Stop in to the church office to pick up a scholarship form.

Lutheran Island Camp is a beautiful place. If you get to go to camp just once, you'll be hooked and want to go every year!



An Opportunity to Get Your Advanced Care Directive Done

On Tuesday, May 16, St. Johns will be the site of a free lunch and learn program about health care directives presented by local professionals working with Honoring Choices MN. The program will run from noon to 1:00 p.m. and lunch will be provided. Space is limited to 50. To reserve your spot, call Living at Home at 218-732-3137. Please don't call the church. We are serving as the host site only.



As we learned last spring when we had three sessions on advanced care planning, they require some thought as well as conversations with family and loved ones. This is great opportunity to get started and have your questions answered by professionals trained in the process of planning "in advance" for health care decisions that may need to be made by others if someday you are unable to make them for yourself.



Sunday School Page



Our last day of Sunday School will be May 21.

Thanks to all our Sunday School staff, students and parents.

It's been a great year! We'll see you next Fall!



5/04 Gavin Etter
5/08 Layla Arndt
5/09 Olivia May
5/11 Elsie Forbes
5/15 Taylor Arola
5/20 Camdyn Quinn
5/26 Bonnie LeGrand
5/26 Marcella Trandem
5/28 Brayden Schroeder



Baptismal Birthdays

5/04 Sawyer Eidsmoe
5/04 Gemma Leckner
5/06 Clinton Koch
5/11 Eastyn Walker
5/13 Will Sanquist
5/24 Elsie Forbes
5/24 Lilah Forbes
5/26 Wyatt Goodwater
5/26 Nicklaus Sowers
5/30 Walter Harrison III



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV
2. ABLE
3. AY OF PENTECOS
4. ONGUE
5. PIRI
6. OGETHE
7. ES
8. ONGUE
9. A
10. IND



"When the ³_____ came, they were all ⁶_____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent ¹⁰_____ came from ¹_____ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They ⁹_____ what seemed to be ⁴_____ of fire that separated and came to ⁷_____ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy ⁵_____ and began to speak in other ⁸_____ as the Spirit ²_____ them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

Lessons this Month

May 7 An Enemy Converts—Saul
May 14 A Returning Truth—Christ Returns
May 21 Last Day Celebration!



Check out the Release Time Students' Easter basket creations!



2nd grade—chicks



3rd grade—eggs



1st grade—lambs



4th grade—butterflies





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The Lutheran Church -- Missouri
Synod

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Change Service Requested

Inside this issue:

<i>Chad Berg Coming to St. Johns</i>	1
<i>Confirmed in Christ</i>	1
<i>Ascension Service</i>	1
<i>Congratulations, Graduates!</i>	1
<i>Join the Baby Bottle Brigade</i>	1
<i>Special Guest Speakers at Ladies Aid This Month</i>	2
<i>Be on a Board</i>	2
<i>Bring in Socks and Undies for Orphan Grain Train</i>	2
<i>Noon Communion Service Continues</i>	2
<i>The Greetings of St. Paul</i>	2
<i>Main Street Living for May</i>	3
<i>What's on the Lutheran Hour</i>	3
<i>Funeral</i>	3
<i>Squirrels Like St. Johns</i>	4
<i>ABC Students Took A Field Trip to Itasca State Park</i>	4
<i>Stewardship Review</i>	5
<i>Lutheran Island Camp Summer Registration Open</i>	5
<i>Honoring Choices Lunch and Learn</i>	5
<i>Sunday School News</i>	6
<i>Release Time Class Easter Baskets</i>	7

