



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

June, 2023

Pastor Berg Update

Pastor Berg's installation is tentatively scheduled for July 16. He and his mother, Vicki, along with her foster dog, Baby, made the trip from Cambridge to Park Rapids and dropped off some of his belongings. Being a typical pastor, there were two huge totes of books and he was very happy to see all the shelves in his office. He also had some other items including this KitchenAid mixer and a smoker. We're expecting some great food as part of his youth activities!



Bi-Annual Voters Meeting

Our bi-annual voters meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. All communicant members age 18 and over are eligible to be voting members. If you are a voting member and won't be able to attend, please call the office to be excused.

Summer Hours

Our office hours will change slightly for the summer. We will be open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. The church office will be closed on Fridays through the summer. We're always open on Sunday!



Special Door Offering on June 25 for Synod Convention

The 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held from July 29 to August 3 at the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee. The Synod will gather under the convention theme, "We Preach Christ Crucified," based on 1 Cor. 1:18–25. In a world of uncertainty, the church's proclamation, mission, and identity remain the same. We preach Christ crucified.

We will have a special door offering at services on June 25 which will be taken to the convention. Christ's church proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people in all languages. The 2023–2026 LCMS National Offering provides the opportunity to translate LCMS resources so that all may read, hear and speak the Good News of Christ crucified.





Release Time Had A Great Year!

On April 26 St. Johns held its last day of Release Time classes for this school year. We had a great year. Unfortunately we missed FOUR Wednesday because of bad weather. That's a record for us. We have sooo much we want to share about our faith, the Bible and our Savior, Jesus, with these young minds that it is devastating to have it canceled for any reason.



I need to thank all of our dedicated teachers:

1st Grade	17 students	Ruth Knaack and Sandy Phillips
2nd Grade	18 students	Deb Anderson, Paula Eischens & Kathy Henry
3rd Grade	21 students	Pastor Neubauer
4th Grade	17 students	Cheryl Breitbach and Laurie Kimball
5th Grade	17 students	Cheryl Breitbach and Sandy Phillips
6th Grade	14 students	Ruth Knaack and Laurie Kimball
7th & 8th Grade	17 students	Pastor Neubauer

Kathy Henry was also a fantastic substitute for us and Betty Solberg was our only dedicated “helper” wherever she was needed. I also have to acknowledge all the extra time Ruth spends at the church with me running off lessons and getting supplies ready. She is a great asset to the program with all of her parochial teaching experience that she shares with our students. We also give a “shout-out” to Nikki Wenger for her donations to the program that help to supply some yummy special treats throughout the year and to fill the student’s Easter treat baskets. THANK YOU for your generosity. To Ginny for helping to order our supplies and always having everything here on time and finally to all of you who kept the program, the teachers, bus driver and students in your thoughts and prayers, thank you!

Ruth and I will be here occasionally throughout the summer, making a few little tweaks to the lessons but we will all be back this fall in October for another year of Release Time, God willing. Until then, have a safe and happy summer.

Laurie Kimball, Release Time Director

Vacation Bible School Planned for August



This year VBS will be held Sunday-Thursday, August 6-10. We'll start with a light supper at 5:00 p.m. and wrap up each evening around 8:00 p.m. You can register online by going to www.stjohnspr.org, and clicking the VBS tab or stop by the church to pick up a form. VBS is open to 4 year olds through 6th grade (just completed). There is a \$5 registration fee per student with a \$10 cap per family.

Help of all kinds is needed—leaders, helpers, crafters, games, and more. If you're interested in being a part of VBS, please talk to Sarah Kaufenberg at 651-260-3350. Our first planning meeting is scheduled for June 5 at 7:00 p.m.



Sunday School Notes



Perfect Attendance - May

5th Sophia Neubauer, Will Sanquist
6th Zach Harju, Khloe May

Great job!

Happy Birthday!

6/01 Eli Maves
6/07 Knox LeGrand
6/16 George Newton
6/19 Nakova Eskola
6/20 Hadley Branstrom
6/27 Kellan Eidsmoe
6/27 Madelyn May

Baptismal Birthdays

6/03 Olivia Maier
6/26 Layla Arndt
6/26 Camdyn Quinn
6/26 Cecilia Quinn
6/29 Natalie Tretbar

What's On The Lutheran Hour

06/04 "It's All Good—Even When It's Not"
06/11 "Strength Out of Weakness"
06/18 "Just Around the Corner"
06/25 "Teras, Fires, and a Song"

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."

Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers. Use the references for help, if needed.

1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2)
6. He had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b)
7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
9. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (Ruth 4:17)
2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (1 Samuel 2:12)
8. David's best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul, 9. Boaz, 10. Jesse, ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli,

† Memorial/Funeral Services

05/09 Gene Maves
05/22 Roy Barten

*We mourn
with you*





“Main Street Living North” for June



“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 KVRP Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1. Or you can watch archived episodes any time on their website at www.mainstreetliving.com (then click on “North (Fargo).”

Here’s the programs for June:

June 4: Rev. Matthew Meyer, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Callaway, MN, presents the message, “Creation/Re-creation” based on Matthew 28:16-20. *This Is the Life*: “How Come a Nice Girl Like You” - A nurse struggles with what to do after reconnecting with an old boyfriend.

June 11: Rev. Jonathan Walla, Bethel Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message, “Calling All Sinners” based on Matthew 9:9-13. *This Is the Life*: “A Will to Live” - A man leaves a large portion of his money to the church and hospital, then has his will contested by relatives.

June 18: Rev. Lester Wolfram, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message, “The Lord Sees and Sends” based on Matthew 9:35-10:8. *This Is the Life*: “Man in the Middle” - Two Men are left with a “secret” when one tells he has terminal cancer.

June 25: Vicar Jason Kohm, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message, “Have No Fear, Jesus Is...Asleep in the Back?” *This Is the Life*: “Return Trip” -The modern-day story of a prodigal daughter.

Stewardship Review—April

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **220**

Total Offerings: \$41,991	Total Offerings, April, 2022: \$39,406
Total Expenses: \$37,999	Total Expenses, April, 2022: \$41,482
Difference \$ 3,992	Difference -\$2,076

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$10,498	Budget/Week \$10,807
Avg. Weekly Expenses 9,500	Budget/Month \$46,831
Difference \$998	

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 04/30/23:	\$81,544	Our Healthy Balance Goal	\$74,000
Less Dedicated Accounts	- \$2,363	Raised so far	\$61,699
Difference	\$79,181	Still need	\$12,301

Front Entry Payable: **\$7,148**





Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes

St. Johns Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, MN

May 24, 2023

PRESENT: Connie Fondow, Lori Griess, Randy Griess, Jerry Grudem, Rod Helm, Matt Kaufenberg, Elayne Luiken, Pastor Neubauer, Mike Poole and Ginny Ranisate. Mike Poole called the meeting to order and read our mission statement. Pastor Neubauer opened with devotion and prayer. Motion by Lori, second by Connie to approve minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2022	194,046	192,885	1,161
2023	182,200	164,305	17,895
Difference	-11,846	-28,580	--

We still have one more week of offerings and end of month payroll for this month.

CNB Checking Account as of 05/23/23	94,637
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>- 2,403</u>
Available Funds	92,234

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 05/23/23	36,924
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LCEF Current Fund as of 05/23/23	123,131
Less End. Fund Interest	- 1,904
Less Parsonage Proceeds	- 18,548
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	- 61,724
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	- 19,256
Less T. Haberer Trust	- 17,209
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>- 1,050</u>
Available Funds	3,440

Front Entry Payable \$7,147

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

PASTOR'S REPORT

Worship: Very appreciative of Pastor Harvala's help and willingness to serve in whatever capacity is needed. Discussed Pastor Harvala's job description and work load and how it will change when Pastor Berg comes. Planned Easter Season and Ascension services.

Teaching times: Sunday morning 40 Days of Easter. Tuesday morning Limping with God, done until Fall. Confirmation 10 Students confirmed the faith May 4 and at least 5 have received communion again. Led devotion study for LLL working through Ecclesiastes.

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ABC Preschool: In classroom devotion. Helped with the closing and graduation program.

Sunday Mornings: Design the static slide and the announcement loop. Generate the PowerPoint for the service (usually full month at a time). Arrange PPT Tech - Laura Kaufenberg at 8:00 and Donna Neumann at 10:30 have been go-to people. Arrange Live stream - Max Harju has been extremely faithful at running the camera and usually gets the PowerPoint started. Embed the live stream on the website. Edit the Lightly Salted podcast - pull the readings and sermon from worship. Discussed having an in-service to teach people how to do live stream and PowerPoint. Elayne commented that it's nice to see the youth serving.

Misc: Cribbage event, Funerals – 3, Weddings – 0, Visits – 5. Informative visits with Pastor Roberts and Pastor Dare.

Membership changes: Transfer In: Heather Funk, Trinity, Mountain Lake, MN and Stephen Funk, Nimrod Lutheran, Nimrod, MN; Adult Confirmation: Jada Lapping; Release: Alexas Hinkley-Smith, Trinity Lutheran (ELCA), Jamestown, ND.

Motion by Elayne, seconded by Connie and carried to approve membership changes.

BOARD REPORTS

CHURCH PROPERTIES – Randy Griess sent the following report.

Parking Lot Bids

Filling cracks and holes, seal coating, and striping.

Howards Driveway – No bid

Minnesota Sealing - \$9,500.00 (good references)

T&C Seal Coating -

Clean-up & Prep \$750.00

Crack filling \$8,500.00

Asphalt Sealing \$12,738.00

Joint Repair& Potholes \$125.00

Line Painting \$2,100.00

Total Cost \$24,213.00

10% church discount. – \$2,421.30

\$21,791.70

A-I – To give estimate. Preliminary estimate last fall was \$17,000.

Spring Clean-up – 5/11/23. Refrigerator – Adjusted doors, lubed. Needs seals replaced. The manufacturer is out of business. Scott Olson to check into replacement seals. Roof leak – Haataja Construction contacted. No response as of yet. Boiler – Replace seals and ball press in June. Squirrels – Joe's Pest Control – set up traps. At least 1 caught. Jacob Lof – Eagle Scout Project. Estimate is \$575.00. Roof over west exit. Blocked by snow in winter. Kitchen ceiling fan replaced and cleaned AC filters on roof. Board members for next year: Randy Griess, Virgil Eskola, Jim Krause, Tim Huwe, Roger Just, Scott Olson, and Ken Smith.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Lori Griess presented her report. Sunday School – Last day was Sunday. Thanks to our teachers and to Sarah Kaufenberg for directing music. Release Time – Went well this year. Thank to you all the teachers. VBS – Theme is God's Living Water from Concordia Publishing. A lite supper will be provided in the evening prior to the start of the program each night. We have the dunk tank rented, as well as the bounce house. VBS will be held Sunday, August 6 through Thursday, August 10. Preschool – Field trips to Itasca State Park and Forest and Floral. On May 15 and 16 they celebrated the children's graduation. Closing date is May 26. Approved



summer pay for Kim at the aide wage for 90 hours for over the summer up to \$900.00. Will begin looking for teachers for this fall. Would really like to see some of the men of the congregation “step up” to help with teaching. Board members – all are remaining.

ELDERS – Jerry Grudem reported that the elders continue to assist the pastor and all are willing to continue on the board.

EVANGELISM - Connie Fondow reported. The Board of Evangelism has not met since their sponsored Trivia event in late March. At our next meeting we will discuss our focus for future outreach efforts. All current board members have agreed to return for another term on the board. We are blessed by their continued service to the mission here at St. Johns.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP –Elayne Luiken reported. The board sponsored “Crazy for Cribbage” on Sunday, April 16 as a social event for anyone wishing to play or learn how to play cribbage. It was well attended. We served the confirmand meal on Wednesday, May 3 before their examination. For Mother’s Day, we made favors out of colorful dishcloths and truffles to resemble a bouquet of flowers and handed them out to moms that attended both services. Our board will retain the same six members that we currently have. We will plan a meal/refreshments for Pastor Berg’s installation.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Ginny reported that ads have been placed in the Enterprise for graduation and Houses of Worship guide as well as PR ministerial poster.

STEWARDSHIP - No report. Not sure who is staying on the board.

YOUTH – Pastor Neubauer reported that the youth haven’t been active since Lenten meals. They may start up Wednesday meals again. The board needs to set the schedule for regular summer activities.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Voters agenda was approved as presented.

Board Nominations: Still working on possible board nominations.

Fair Booth – We plan to do this again. Connie will talk to Sarah Kaufenberg about it.

Pastor Berg’s installation will probably be on July 16. After discussion we tentatively plan to have one service with communion at 10:00 a.m. that Sunday with lunch (plan for 200) following. He plans to be ordained at his home church, St. Andrew’s, West Fargo the last part of June or first of July.

Governance Structure – Connie presented information on a hybrid policy based structure from Ambassadors of Reconciliation. She talked to Ted Kober with the organization. He recommended a book, “Built on the Rock.” We will order some copies.

“Shareboard” - Ginny handed out information for board directors to give to the members to join this forum.

Meeting adjourned. Closed with Doxology. Next Parish Planning Council Meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Ranisate



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Lutheran Church**

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Pastor James Neubauer

Pastor Larry Harvala



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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