



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

July, 2023

Pastor Berg Arrives This Month

Pastor Berg's ordination service will take place at St. Andrew's in west Fargo on July 9 at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. If you're interested in riding the church bus to the service, please sign up in the front lobby. His installation here at St. Johns is scheduled for July 16 at 10:00 a.m. with lunch following. Please note there will only be one service that Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Berg to our church family!



Sing with the Special Installation Service Choir

The senior choir plans to sing "Crown Him with Many Crowns" for the installation service and would love to have you join them. Go to <https://www.jwpepper.com/Crown-Him-with-Many-Crowns/10363828.item> if you want to check out the piece. Practices will be Sundays, July 2 and 9 between services in the choir loft.

We're Having a Booth at the Fair ...

And we're looking for people interested in manning it. If you'd like to take a turn (or two), please sign up on the sheet by the front office. The booth will be open Tuesday, July 11—Saturday, July 15. Even if you can't help at the booth we'd love to have you stop by. Donations of bottled water are also welcome as we plan to hand out water at our booth. Please bring the water to the church office by July 9.



Vacation Bible School is Next Month



We're looking forward to our VBS coming up 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.

Our next VBS planning meeting is scheduled for July 23 between services in the library. If you're interested in being a part of VBS, please talk to Sarah Kaufenberg at 651-260-3350.



Saying Good-bye to Sarah

After ten plus years of serving as our Director of Music, Sarah Kaufenberg is leaving the position for a new adventure. She has accepted the 6th-12th grade choir director position at Park Rapids Schools. Her last gig as DOM here will be directing the Senior Choir for the installation service.

We are thankful for the many ways Sarah has been a blessing at St. Johns over the years—Blended Services, Christmas programs, children's chime and voice choirs, VBS, musicals and more—and pray for God's continued blessings on her as she shares her gifts and talents with the students at school.

Sarah's not totally leaving though. She's still planning to continue as an organist and play in the bell choir. You can also catch Sarah and her brother, Luke, at the noon concert here on July 27 at 12:15 p.m.!



Monday—Thursday
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday
Closed

Always open Sundays!

† **Memorial Service**
06/23 Corinne Stein

*We mourn
with you*





“Main Street Living North” for July

“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 KVRr 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 July:

July 2: Rev. Matt Thompson, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “Strength and Faith” based on Jeremiah 28:5-9. *This Is the Life*: “Some People Need Help” - An amputee from a veteran’s hospital must learn that hurting others will not help him.

July 9: Rev. Dennis Voss, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND, presents the message: “Blind or Wise” based on Matthew 11:25-26. *This Is the Life*: Deals with the relationship between a mother and a mentally challenged son who lives in a home.

July 16: Rev. Thomas Marcis, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “God’s Amazing Harvest” based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. *This Is the Life*: “Flight Plan” - A man has to deal with the death of a young boy with a terminal illness. Will it strengthen his faith or destroy it?

What’s On The Lutheran Hour

07/02 “Give Me Life?!”

07/09 “Lean into the Villain’s Story”

07/16 “Two Mindsets”

07/23 “Pulling for Others”

07/30 “If It Seems Slow, Wait for It”

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.”

July 23: Rev. Toby Heller, Concordia Lutheran Church, Beulah, ND, presents the message: “Weeds Among the Wheat” based on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. *This Is the Life*: “Amazing Grace” - A man who has come from a poor beginning to a rich and full life must learn not to forsake his Christian faith.

July 30: Rev. Justin Woodside, Bethel & Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Churches, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “Giving All for the Treasure.” *This Is the Life*: “The Selling Price” - A father and son face the issue of ethics, and how it relates to God’s law.

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, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Main Street Living receives no money from the Synod or any District budgets so donations are appreciated. To help support the ministry, send your check to Main Street Living, 821 5th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103.



LLL Hits the Trail

Men of the St. Johns Lutheran Laymen's League recently held a trail ride in the Smoky Hills. The ride began at Keith and Diane Ketcher's cabin and involved many miles of trails. The 4-wheelers negotiated the rugged, rocky terrain without any problems, and the six men who participated enjoyed the wild scenery as well as the challenges of steep inclines and narrow trails. After 23 miles, the group returned to the cabin for lunch.

All men of St. Johns are invited to join the LLL, which sponsors the local Lutheran Hour and meets monthly with activities of interest to men along with Bible study and general fellowship. The next meeting will be the annual steak fry on September 14.



Tubing on the Crow Wing



The youth in grades 5-12 are invited to go tubing on the Crow Wing on Monday, July 10. We will meet at church at 1:00 p.m. and return around 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 and friends are welcome. Wear your swimsuit and aqua socks, put on your sunscreen, bring your towel and plan on a fun float. Contact the church office (218-732-9783) or Pastor Neubauer (218-255-0435) to sign up!

This Month's Noon Concerts

There's a great variety of performers for July's noon concerts. Concerts run from 12:-12:45 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church except for July 27 which is here at St. Johns. Here's what's scheduled.



July 6 Gwen Youso, *Piano*

July 13 North Wind Clarinets: Deane Johnson, Beth Hahn, Vicki Magnuson, Peg Rickert & Sarah Sundeen

July 20 Melanie Hanson, *Violin & Piano*; Michael Hanson, *Soprano Saxophone*

July 27 Sarah Kaufenberg, *Piano*; Luke Helm, *Bass Guitar*



Stewardship Review—May

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **214**

Total Offerings: \$42,668	Total Offerings, May, 2022: \$46,697
Total Expenses: \$37,359	Total Expenses, May, 2022: \$43,969
Difference \$5,309	Difference \$2,78

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$10,667	Budget/Week \$10,807	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$9,340	Budget/Month \$46,831	Raised so far \$62,288
Difference \$1,327		Still need \$11,712

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 05/31/23: **\$87,315**
 Less Dedicated Accounts **\$2,474**
 Difference **\$84,841**

Front Entry Payable: **\$5,438**

Voters Meeting Minutes, June 6, 2023

Dr. Rod Helm called the meeting to order. Pastor Neubauer led the devotion by asking some questions about church life and worship. There were 34 voting members present and one guest. Motion, seconded and carried to accept Jay Pike as a new voting member. Motion, seconded and carried to approve minutes from the November 21, 2022 voters meeting as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Ginny Ranisate

Our income so far this year is \$196,526 and expenses are \$178,037 with income exceeding expenses by \$18,489. Last year at this time our income was \$217,862 and our expenses were \$217,763 with income exceeding expenses by \$99.

CNB Checking Account	95,128
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>- 2,648</u>
Available Funds	92,480

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings	95,127
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LCEF Current Fund	123,765
Less Parsonage Proceeds	- 18,548
Less Healthy Balance (Goal-74,000)	- 62,317
Less End. Fund Interest	- 1,905
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	- 19,269
Less T. Haberer Trust	- 17,221
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>- 1,049</u>
Available Funds	3,456

Front Entry Payable **\$5,460**

Motion to accept treasurer's report, seconded and carried.

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Sunday School Page

We can't wait for you all to see our new bulletin boards!



7/06 Annie Mayer
7/20 Alex Lof

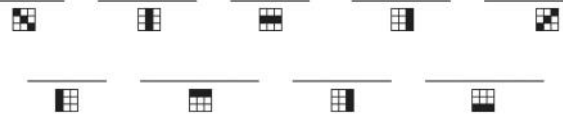
PUZZLE

SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion.
What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	as do far EAST	the this up as
WEST THAT is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west



Baptismal Birthdays

7/06 Cash Luther
7/12 Olivia May
7/14 Ketch Luther
7/27 Dylan May





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BOARD REPORTS

Elders - Jerry Grudem

Elders continue to assist the pastors with their work here at St. Johns. A few years ago, the district changed pastoral salary guidelines. It appears St. Johns is below scale compared to other congregations. This was addressed later in the meeting.

Evangelism – Connie Fondow

Since the previous Voters Meeting in November of 2022 the Board of Evangelism has sponsored or coordinated the following events or activities:

- Our first “Breakfast in Bethlehem” took place on the morning of December 3. About 80 of our parishioners and other guests were present. We will be repeating the event in December of this year. Hopefully, the board will be able to then maintain an every-other-year cycle with the intent of including an alternate event on the off years.
- Sixteen Recovery Bibles were taken to the Hubbard County Jail for inmates to use. Personnel at the jail have confirmed that the Bibles are always a welcome donation.
- Twenty “My Church” books were purchased. These books are added to the baptismal gift baskets given to parents at the time of their child’s baptism here at St. Johns.
- The March trivia event raised \$2,451 for Good Shepherd Lutheran School in North Fort Meyers, Florida.
- St. Johns total contributions to Good Shepherd for their hurricane recovery projects totaled \$11,208.
- The board will begin focusing on ideas for future outreach events. If you become aware of any specific project or event that another church has successfully engaged in, please let a member of our board know about it so we can look into possibly duplicating and adapting it to accommodate our church and community.
- We are very happy to report that all current board members are returning to serve another term.

Education – Lori Griess

Sunday School completed the year with games and treats. Average attendance was 18-22 per Sunday. Offerings will be sent to Good Shepherd, North Fort Myers, Florida. The board is planning a potluck meal with Parish Fellowship as part of Sunday School Rally Day.

Release Time went well. Thanks to Laurie Kimball and Ruth Knaack for their work on preparing materials.

The VBS theme is *God’s Living Water*. VBS will be held August 6-10. We will serve a light supper. We’ve also rented a dunk tank and other fun items. Volunteers are needed for the fair booth.

ABC Preschool ended the year on May 26. Highlights included field trips to Itasca State Park and Forest and Floral. The board approved summer pay for director, Kim Neubauer. Applications are being accepted for fall classes. Rod praised Kim for her excellent work at making the preschool program great.

All board members will serve another term.

The board has discussed having more family events, group Sunday School openings, etc.

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Young People – Pastor Neubauer

High School dinners were held in January and February until Lent. We purchased two ping pong tables which were very popular for a while.

We did not do the normal winter activities of tubing at Detroit Mountain, water park in Brainerd, or the jump park in Fargo.

Summer plans are biking to Dorset and mini golf on June 25, Birdie mini golf followed by a meal and activities at church on June 28, tubing the Crow Wing, dinner, activities and bonfire at church probably on July 9, water games, dinner and bonfire some time in August.

Stewardship – no report.

Church Properties – Randy Griess.

Minnesota Sealcoating was award bid to seal the parking lots. Spring yard clean up took place on May 11. We've had some issues with the refrigerator. Haataja Contracting has been contact about this spring's roof leak. They plan to put up some heat tape before next winter. Replaced ball press in boiler. The squirrels seem to be gone. Jacob Lof is working on benches for the fire pit for his Eagle Scout project. The board plans to put a roof over the west narthex exit. Replaced the kitchen ceiling fan. Work has been done on the kitchen air conditioning. Approved a raise for Matt Neubauer for mowing.

Fellowship - Elayne Luiken

Decorated the church for Christmas. Prepared the meal for Breakfast in Bethlehem. Organized Cookies and Carols, prepared and delivered trays for shut-ins. Prepared the meal for the trivia event. Hosted an afternoon of cribbage. Prepared the confirmand exam meal. Assembled and handed out gifts for Mother's Day. They will also do gifts for Father's Day. They are planning the meal for Pastor Berg's installation.

Public Relations – no report.

Pastor Neubauer's Report

Pastor Neubauer said his report is pretty much the same as what was printed for the PPC minutes in the newsletter. He greatly appreciates Pastor Harvala's help. The assembly applauded in agreement. Sunday morning Bible study format will change for the summer, focusing on each Sunday's readings but this coming Sunday and possibly more, he will dive into the devotion questions more. Attended a Release Time meeting at the school. The program will continue as usual for the upcoming school year but will probably change when the new grade configuration goes into place.

Pastor Neubauer recognized and thanked the faithful volunteers for Sunday morning worship. Laura Kaufenberg and Donna Neumann are often called upon to do the PowerPoint. Max Harju faithfully shows up to get everything turned on upstairs and do the live stream each Sunday.

Pastor Neubauer's knee surgery is scheduled for July 28. He has a pre-op appointment scheduled for the end of June. He's also had some issues with his fingers. He appreciates the congregation's support.

Motion, seconded and carried to accept all reports.



OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Board Elections – Motion, seconded and carried to elect the slate of candidates as printed. The list is attached. Thank you to everyone for serving.

Pastor Berg's installation will take place on July 16 at 10:00a.m. with lunch following. His ordination will be on July 9 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's in West Fargo. We may take the bus over to the service.

New Committees – Rod reported the call committee has transitioned to a focus on attendance/engagement. They are looking at how we can increase member participation in the life of the church. A needs and wants committee has been formed after Pastor Neubauer mentioned that the sanctuary could use a refresh at the March PPC meeting. The committee welcomes ideas. They will meet July 10 to do a building walk through. Motion, seconded and passed to approve the new committees.

Jerry Grudem presented more information on pastor salaries. Motion by Jerry, seconded by Martin Steffel and carried to raise Pastor Neubauer's salary from \$71,500 to \$74,500 for the year, an increase of \$3,000, effective with the next payroll date. Instead of raising the budget the funds will be allocated from the associate pastor salary.

Rod expressed his thanks for serving as president for the past four years. The assembly applauded in appreciation of his service.

Motion, second and carried to adjourn. Closed with the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Ranisate, Acting Secretary





Church Board Members—2023-2025

Executive Director, Mike Poole

Assistant Executive Director, Dr. Rod Helm

Secretary, vacant

Treasurer, Ginny Ranisate

Board of Elders

Emil Burgau, Jerry Eischens, Jerry Grudem*, Larry Hetrick, Sam Pike, Mike Poole, Tim Ranisate, Steve Schauland, Martin Steffel

Board of Evangelism

Connie Fondow*, Jan Belshan, Kathy Henry, Doug Kingsley, Dawn Lachmiller, Linda Leckner, Debbie Luther

Board of Christian Education

Deb Anderson, Ruth Knaack, Lori Griess*, Shelly Hamblin, Victoria Harju, Melissa Koch, Kim Neubauer, Sandy Phillips

Board of Young People

Sarah Kaufenberg, Shelley Lof

Board of Church Properties

Virg Eskola, Randy Griess*, Tim Huwe, Roger Just, Jim Krause, Scott Olson, Ken Smith

Board of Stewardship

Dick Bradow, Cliff Branham, Kelly Kimball, Michele Kimball, Jay Pike*

Board of Parish Fellowship

Renee Ahmann, Loree Grudem, Brenda Huwe, Lois Just, Julie Kingsley, Elayne Luiken*

Board of Public Relations

Derek Ricke*

*Denotes Director

Thank you to these members who have volunteered to fill leadership positions here at St. Johns! They will be officially installed at worship on Sunday, July 30 and their first official board meetings will be in August. We're looking forward to the future and seeing what God has planned for us!



What's with the Questions?

If you read about Pastor Neubauer's devotion for the voters meeting or if you've missed Sunday morning Bible study recently, you might be curious about "the questions." What are they? Why are we asking them? Here's a little background.

When we began the call process after Pastor Newton left, we compiled some eye-opening information about our congregation. Did you know that of the 800+ people on our membership roll a little less than half had not attend worship in 2022. Only about 9% of members in the 19-34 age group attended at least once in 2022. "Why aren't people here in worship?" is the next question that comes up.

After the call committee's work was done, they decided to continue meeting and look at how to engage our members to become more active in church life. As part of their research they had an online meeting with Pastor Roberts and a couple members of Zion, Detroit Lakes. Zion had a similar situation and told the story of what they did to change.

Through further research, the committee was encouraged to read "Built on the Rock" and that's where the questions came from. Author, Ted Kober, writes that healthy congregations have members who engage in regular Bible study. He outlined several questions to ask ourselves. These questions have been the focus of our Sunday morning Bible study. A question is also included in the new weekly "Monday Message" emails. If you're not getting these and want to be on the list, give the office a call at 218-732-9783 or send an email to stjohnslutheranpr@gmail.com.

If you're curious about the questions and the answers, join us for Sunday morning Bible study. Here's the first two part question to consider—"Do you think we have a healthy congregation? What does a 'healthy congregation' look like to you?"





**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

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