



# *The* **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

October, 2023

## **Celebrating LWML Sunday, October 1**



On this day we recognize the work of the LWML in spreading the Gospel message across the world. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is a mission oriented organization that encourages women to use their talents and gifts in promoting the Lord's ministry to people of the world, community and church. We have two LWML groups. The Ladies Aid meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the library. The Evening Guild meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the library.

## **Keeping the Faith—God's Word for Inquiring Adults**

Our fall adult instruction class starts Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Neubauer leads this six week course about God, the Bible, and the Lutheran faith. This class is designed for new members but is open to anyone wanting a refresher on what they learned in confirmation class. Sign up by calling the office at 218-732-9783 or scan the QR code for an online form.



## **Crazy for Cribbage, Again!**

On Sunday afternoon, October 8, 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 p.m. with a tutorial, then play at 2:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided. Come and join the fun! Bring your cribbage board if you have one.

## **Youth Fall Festival at Pike's Farm**

All 5th—12 graders are invited to a fall festival at Pike's Farm on Saturday, October 21 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. There will be hayrides, games, pumpkin carving and a bonfire.

Invite your friends and wear warm clothes. For details and to RSVP contact Pastor Berg at 701-893-6963.





## Release Time News

On October 4 Release Time will begin at St. Johns. Praise the Lord, all the teachers have returned for another year so we are staffed!

1st grade Old Testament, creation— Ten commandments—Ruth Knaack and Sandy Phillips

2nd grade New Testament, Jesus' birth—His resurrection—Kathy Henry, Paula Eischens

3rd grade A Bible overview—both Pastors

4th grade Old Testament more advanced study than 1st grade—Laurie Kimball and Cheryl Breitbach

5th grade The Gospels—Kathy Henry and Cheryl Breitbach

6th grade Martin Luther—Laurie Kimball and Ruth Knaack

7th and 8th grade—both Pastors

So how can the teachers teach two different grades? Because the 5-8th grades come the first hour from 8:25– 9:15 a.m. Then the 1-4th graders are here from 9:30-10:20 a.m. So maybe we are not truly fully staffed; we just have very dedicated teachers who agree to teach both hours. Sandy and Ruth also teach on Sunday, so technically they teach two or three hours.

Deb Anderson will also help out when she is available. We have one full time helper, Betty Solberg, who goes where ever needed. This is a great thing for us to have.

We will start the year with a video and snack and the third grade class will receive their Bibles. Then on October 11 we will begin our lessons and Bible verse memory.

We ask that you keep the program, the teachers, helpers and substitutes in your prayers. This seems to be our last year for the 7th and 8th graders because of some restructuring at the school. Let's pray they do not "restructure" more of the classes.

All to God's glory,

**Laurie Kimball,**  
**Release Time Coordinator**



### What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 10/01 "The Way Through the Maze"
- 10/08 "Whatever & Wherever, Thank You, Lord!"
- 10/15 "Help the World Rejoice"
- 10/22 "Matching Pace"
- 10/29 "TBD"

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](http://lhm.org/sentradio).



## Main Street Living North Programs for October

“**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 and archived on [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com). Click on “North (Fargo)” under the picture. You can watch them any time online.



Here's the October schedule:

October 1: Rev. Justin Whitmore, St. John's Lutheran Church, Perham, MN, presents the message: “Authority Comes from God” based on Matthew 21:23b. *This Is the Life*: “Like Father Like Son” – A father's example leads to his son making questionable choices at school.

October 8: Rev. Brock Schmeling, Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend, ND, and Peace Lutheran Church, Barney, ND, presents the message: “Yet the LORD set His heart in love” based on Deuteronomy 10:12-13. *This Is the Life*: “Families Come First” – A man contends with the demands of his career, promotion, and his vocation as a father.

October 15: Rev. Jeff Ross, St. John Lutheran Church, Garfield, MN, presents the message: “Take Heart!” based on Matthew 9:1-8. *This Is the Life*: “Conspiracy of Silence” A husband and wife come to grips with a terminal illness.

October 22: Rev. Robert Hill, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wimbledon, ND, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kensal, ND, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pettibone, ND, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Woodworth, ND, presents the message: “Render to God and Caesar” based on Matthew 22:21. *This Is the Life*: “Big Account” – An advertising agency art director learns the impact of his work on his family and others.

October 29th: Guest Speaker. *This Is the Life*: “The Sexton” – A pastor and a sexton (church caretaker) with magical powers fight an eerie duel in a church.

### LWML Fall Zone Rally

Thursday, October 12  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
International Falls, MN  
Registration & Coffee, 9:00 a.m.  
Rally begins at 9:30 a.m.

Theme: *Thankfulness*  
Guest Speaker: *Michelle Dierks*  
Bible Study: *Pastor Jacob Quast*

Check out the flyer on the LWML bulletin board at church for more details.

### † Wedding

9/23 Shania Johnson and Jackson Leckner

### † Funeral

9/26 Pearl Bopp





## No Ladies Aid This Month

The Ladies Aid will not meet this month as the LWML Zone Rally in International Falls is set for the same day as their meeting and members are attending the rally. They plan to meet in November as usual.



## October Blood Drive



Have you ever donated blood? The process is easy, usually takes less than an hour, and most donors find it a painless and heart-warming experience. Take a few minutes to donate blood...and invite a friend to join you. There is a severe shortage right now so your donation is especially needed. St. Johns will sponsor a blood drive on Monday, October 30, Noon to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 31, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 218-255-4865 or go online to [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org), sponsor code: parkrapids. Please help us with this important, life-saving effort!

## Board Reports

### Christian Education

Discussion on VBS and future possible changes. Suggestions made included – mandatory sign up prior to VBS, changing the cost to \$10.00 (with a cap of \$20.00 per family), using the bus to pick up children, change of time to 12:30 for light lunch, class to begin at 1:00 and go to 5:00. Possible change is Melissa assuming the director role and Sarah taking over crafts.

Sunday School: Root beer and orange floats will be served on the first day. Lori will pick up ice cream and pop. Kim and Lori will serve on Sunday. Installation of teachers will take place on Sunday, September 10. Discussed opening to be held at 9:15 in the sanctuary every Sunday. Discussed where to send the offering from Sunday School. Melissa made a motion to send it to Lutheran Island Camp for water toys (maybe a Lilypad). Staci Lee is taking over the position of Sunday School Superintendent. Teachers will be: Sandy – Pre K – K, Ruth – 1 & 2, Shelley – 3 & 4, Melissa – 5 & 6, Tori – 7 & 8, Pastor Berg – Youth, Subs – Connie & Lori. Thank you to Connie and Melissa for developing the lesson schedule for this year. Christmas program will be December 17 with practices on the following Wednesdays for the 1-6th grade-November 29, December 6 & 13. Dress rehearsal for all children on December 16.

Preschool Report: Preschool started on September 5. Enrollment is currently at 31, our max allowed is 35. Half of our students are new families. We have 11 in the 3 year old group and 20 in the 4 year old. We have 3 families of scholarships. Eight children ride the bus, with no children riding the bus on Tuesday and Thursday. Discussed having an area for parents to meet while waiting for children. Children are listing from the following churches: 4 – St. Johns, 4 – Catholic, 5 – Eastside, 3 – Faithbridge, 2 – another Lutheran church, 0 – From Calvary, 0 – Methodist. The open house on August 16 was well attended. Discussed having more information in the back entry regarding what activities our church is offering. Preschool committee will meet at the end of September.



## Stewardship Review—August

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **197**

Total Offerings: <b>\$39,079</b>	Total Offerings, August, 2022: <b>\$37,292</b>
Total Expenses: <b>\$49,649</b>	Total Expenses, August, 2022: <b>\$31,079</b>
Difference - <b>\$10,570</b>	Difference <b>\$ 6,213</b>

Avg. Weekly Offerings <b>\$ 9,770</b>	Budget/Week <b>\$10,807</b>	Total Offerings, year to date: <b>\$308,069</b>
Avg. Weekly Expenses <b>\$12,412</b>	Budget/Month <b>\$46,831</b>	Total Expenses, year to date: <b>\$301,316</b>
Difference - <b>\$ 2,642</b>		Difference <b>\$ 6,213</b>

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 08/31/23: <b>\$75,724</b>	Our Healthy Balance Goal <b>\$74,000</b>
Less dedicated accounts - <b>\$ 2,161</b>	Raised so far <b>\$63,565</b>
Difference <b>\$73,563</b>	Still need <b>\$10,435</b>

Front Entry Payable **\$316**

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Discussed budget. Pastor Berg reported on Sunday Bible Class and confirmation. Discussed busy sheets for older children to be available on the table near the narthex.

### Evangelism

The board will revisit the possibility of hosting BINGO at a local care facility at a later date.

"Breakfast in Bethlehem" chairpersons for subcommittees were appointed. Many details pertaining to this outreach event were discussed. More detailed planning will continue during the coming months.

### Parish Fellowship

Breakfast at Bethlehem – Saturday, December 2 – Serving starting at approximately 9:00-9:15. Menu will be the same as last year: Egg Bake, Pancakes, Sausages, Fresh Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee. Tentatively planning on serving 140 people (final number to be determined). Prep work will be the day before (Friday), probably starting at 1:00 p.m. Elayne will look over notes from last year and we'll make final plans and food order at October meeting.

New member welcome/Pastor appreciation, Sunday, November 19 between services. We'll plan to serve scones, muffins, fresh fruit, hot apple cider, and coffee.

Semi-annual voters meeting and congregational potluck will be held Sunday, November 19 after second service.

Decorating the church for Christmas will take place Monday, November 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Crazy for Cribbage- Pastor Neubauer asked us to host this event again in October. It's scheduled for Sunday, October 8, with beginner's instruction at 2:00 and everyone playing at 3:00.

Voted to increase budget to \$650 or 2024.

# Sunday School News

## Perfect Attendance—September

PK 4	John Ricke
Kdg	Martin Hahn, Madelyn May
3rd	Grace Hockett, Olivia My
6th	Clinton Koch, Alex Lof, Will Sanquist
7th	Zachary Harju, Khloe May

September Offering—\$59.50

Great Job!



10/02 John Ricke  
10/03 Brielle Knutson  
10/14 Luke Eskola  
10/15 Adalynn Roman

## Baptismal Birthdays

10/02	Sophia Neubauer
10/07	Madelyn May
10/08	Natalley Hall
10/09	Tony Meier
10/11	Cooper Charmoli

## October Memory Verse

*For those who love God all things  
work together for good.*

## Romans 8:28

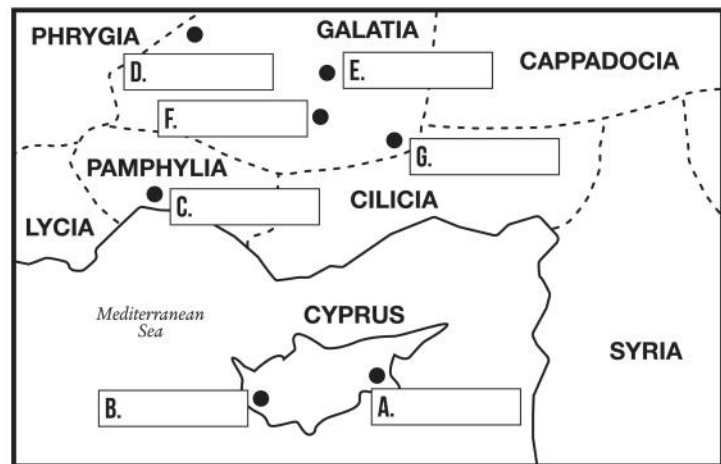
# PUZZLE CITY SEARCH

God used Paul to spread the Gospel to many cities during his first missionary journey. Can you find them all?

*Directions: From the fragments, guess each city and locate it on the map.  
Use the Bible references to help.*



A. **SALAMIS** (ACTS 13:5)      E. **ICONIUM** (ACTS 13:51)  
B. **PAPHOS** (ACTS 13:6)      F. **LISTRA** (ACTS 14:6)  
C. **PERGA** (ACTS 13:13)      G. **DERBE** (ACTS 14:6)  
D. **ANTIOCH** (ACTS 13:14)



Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe

## Lessons this Month

10/1	<i>Twin Troubles—Esau and Jacob</i>
10/8	<i>A Dreamer Rises—Joseph</i>
10/15	<i>A Family Reunites—God helps Joseph</i>
10/22	<i>A Basket of Hope—Moses is Born</i>
10/29	<i>Signs of the True God—Moses/Plagues</i>



## We're Debt Free!

We paid off the remaining amount due on front entry loan in September so we are once again debt free. Thank you to everyone who donated special gifts to get this debt paid off so quickly! The new entry is a wonderful space. The carport collision actually turned into a blessing in disguise.



## Needs and Wants Committee is Making Progress



A while back a needs and wants committee was formed to look at our facilities and assess areas the could use improvement. The group has had several meetings. At one meeting they did a walk through of the building and came up with several possible projects, then organized the list into needs and wants. The list of possibilities ranges from small projects like adding speakers to the kitchen and nursery to major projects such as remodeling the sanctuary and reconfiguring offices. They're planning to report on their progress at the November Voters meeting.

## Check Out The Bulletin Board

Hungry for lutefisk? How about Swedish meatballs or roast beef? Do you want to help clean up at Lutheran Island Camp? Celebrate with Trinity, Lake George on their 75th anniversary? You can find posters for a wide variety of events on the bulletin board in the hallway by the kitchen.

While you're there check out the LWML and Members in the News boards, too. There's also an advance calendar of happenings at St. Johns on the bulletin board in the social hall.



## Breakfast in Bethlehem



Breakfast in Bethlehem is scheduled for Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. We encourage St. Johns members to attend and invite relatives or friends to join them at church for a free breakfast followed by a brief dramatization of the Christmas story. There will be special activities for the kids. A Nativity Scene Gallery will be on display in the sanctuary for all to view. An opportunity to have a family photo taken with a Bethlehem themed background will be available. Mark your calendars for December 2!



**St. Johns  
Lutheran Church**

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Website: [www.stjohnspr.org](http://www.stjohnspr.org)

*Pastor James Neubauer*

*Pastor Chad Berg*

*Pastor Larry Harvala*



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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REFORMATION SUNDAY



*Sola Gratia*  
Grace Alone

*Sola Fide*  
Faith Alone

*Sola Scriptura*  
Scripture Alone