



The St. Johns Servant

St. Johns
Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

November, 2023

For All The Saints

On Sunday, November 5, our worship will include a time of remembrance of those in our congregation who have passed away this year. A bell is rung as each name is read. It is a moving tribute to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have joined the church triumphant. Please join us this Sunday for this special worship



Pastor Appreciation and New Member Welcome

Plan to join the fellowship board on Sunday, November 19 between services for a special reception welcoming our new members and observing Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Freshly baked scones, fruit, hot apple cider and coffee will be served and our newest members will be introduced.

Potluck and Voters Meeting—November 19

Time for a potluck!! The November semi-annual voters meeting is **Sunday, November 19**. After the second service that day, the fellowship board is hosting a congregational potluck. The voters meeting will be held immediately after. Plan to bring a favorite “dish to pass” whether it be a salad, main dish, or dessert and enjoy some fellowship before the voters meeting.



All communicant members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. There's a lot on the agenda including the 2024 budget, a report from the needs and wants committee, a new sign and future planning. If you are a voting member and will not be able to attend the meeting, please call the church office to be excused.

Time Out for Kids and Parents

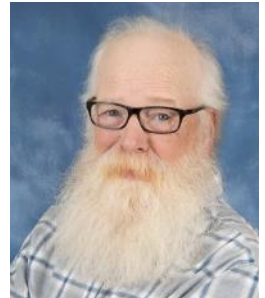


We're planning to start something new at the 10:30 a.m. service that we hope will grow the faith of our littlest members and their parents. Prior to the sermon parents will have the opportunity to allow their children, six years old and younger, a “time out” to go to the nursery to engage in a fun faith focused activity. Their parents also get time out to focus on their own spiritual nourishment and worship. Children will return to their parents' pew following the sermon. We're aiming to have four or five teams of two people to take care of the kid part so each team will only have to serve one week a month. If you're interested in being a time out caretaker, please contact Derek Ricke at 218-255-0478.



Mike Really Wants to Retire

When Mike Riewer submitted his resignation from his janitor position, he was hoping to be relaxing at home with an extra cup of coffee by October 15. However, it's hard to find a great janitor like Mike. If you, or someone you know, think they're up to the task, please talk to Ginny, Randy Griess, or Pastor Neubauer. Mike is really hoping we find someone before snowblowing season.



Build and Bid on a Basket

It's that time of the year again for our silent auction basket fund raiser. Look for a sign up sheet in the social hall. You may bring your baskets for bidding on Sunday, November 26. The auction will be complete on Sunday, December 17. Proceeds will possibly go to the building fund. These baskets make great Christmas gifts!

Deck the Halls!

Please join the Fellowship Board on Monday, November 27 at 9:00 a.m. as we decorate the sanctuary and the rest of the church for Christmas. Coffee and treats will be on hand for all to enjoy before, during and after decorating!



We're Looking for One or Two Santa's Helpers



"Toys for Boys and Girls and Tiny Tots" - Doug and Julie Kingsley have spearheaded St. Johns participation in this community project for several years. They would like someone (or a couple) to work with them this year. The intention would then be that the new person(s) would take over coordinating our church's involvement in subsequent years. Please consider talking with Julie or Doug to inquire about what the project involves.

Thanksgiving Services

Wednesday, November 22, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 23, 9:00 a.m.



What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 11/05 "Times of Mourning, Times of Blessing"
- 11/12 "Again and Again and Again"
- 11/19 "Until That Day"
- 11/26 "Loving Mercy"

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.



Main Street Living North Programs for November

“**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 KVRN Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15 and archived on www.mainstreetliving.com. Click on “North (Fargo)” under the picture. You can watch them any time online.



Here's the November schedule:

November 5: Rev. Karl Weber, St. John Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Richville, MN, presents the message: “The Blessed” based on St. Mark 5:1-12. *This is The Life*: “The Deadly Pen” - A businessman struggles with the guilt of another man's death.

November 12: Rev. Kent Borglum, St. John Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN, presents the message: “God's Word For All Who Grieve” based on 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. *This is The Life*:

“Transition” - A young boy reacts to the divorce of his parents and the new reality he now faces.

November 19: Rev. Christopher Neuendorf, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Bottineau, ND, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rugby, ND, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Willow City, ND, presents the message: “Using Our Talents Well” based on Matthew 25:14-30. *This is The Life*: “Senior Citizen” - A man struggles with purpose and a place in life after retirement.

November 26: Rev. Brian Doel, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message: “The Abundant Position of Christ” based on Matthew 14:13-21. *This is The Life*: “The Gift” - A daughter struggles with what to do with birthday gift money.

If your cable doesn't have KVRN, 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.

Stewardship Review—September

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: **188**

Total Offerings: \$30,847	Total Offerings, September, 2022: \$33,186	Budget/Week \$10,807
Total Expenses: \$37,357	Total Expenses, September, 2022: \$32,316	Budget/Month \$46,831
Difference -\$6,510	Difference \$ 870	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$7,712	Total Offerings, year to date: \$338,945
Avg. Weekly Expenses \$9,339	Total Expenses, year to date: \$338,673
Difference -\$1,627	Difference \$ 272

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 09/30/23: \$71,913	Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000
Less dedicated accounts - \$ 3,174	Raised so far \$65,617
Difference \$68,739	Still need \$ 8,383

Front Payable **\$0**



Release Time Classes are Off to A Great Start

Every Wednesday we have over 100 kids here in the morning for Release Time Classes. On the first day, 18 third graders received their very own Bible and they'll be spending the year learning more about this gift.

We're thankful to our staff—Cheryl Breitbach, Paula Eischens, Kathy Henry, Laurie Kimball, Ruth Knaack, Pastor Berg, Pastor Neubauer, Sandy Phillips, Betty Solberg and bus driver, Larry McKeever—for their commitment to this program!



3rd graders with their new Bibles



Our first graders



Lori Griess made Martin Luther cookies for the Wednesday before Reformation. She got the cookie cutter from German students who stayed with her when they visited Park Rapids after attending the 2019 National Youth Gathering. They came here because Sarah Newton got to know their leader, Pastor Ackerman, when she was studying in Leipzig, Germany in 2012.



Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes
St. Johns Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, MN
 October 24, 2023

PRESENT: Pastor Berg, Brad Dahn, Connie Fondow, Jerry Grudem, Rod Helm, Elayne Luiken, Pastor Neubauer, Mike Poole, Derek Ricke and Ginny Ranisate. Mike Poole called the meeting to order.

Jacob Lof reported that he has completed his Eagle Scout project of updating and repairing the fire pit area. It looks great! The council approved the completion of the project. Brad Dahn will sign off on Jacob's paperwork since Randy Griess is gone.

Motion by Connie, second Elayne, to approve minutes of the August 22, 2023 meeting as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ginny Ranisate

Year	Income	Expense	Difference
2022	368,943	375,678	-6,735
2023	371,397	364,382	+7,015
	2,454	-11,296	

Income is up and expenses are down compared to last year at this time.

CNB Checking Account as of 10/24/23	82,015
Less Dedicated Funds	<u>- 923</u>
Available Funds	81,092

CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 10/24/23	36,394
--	--------

LCEF Current Fund as of 10/24/23	110,404
Less End. Fund Interest	-2,163
Less Parsonage Proceeds	-2,656
Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000)	-65,938
Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest	-19,118
Less T. Haberer Trust	-17,264
Less R. Haberer Memorial	<u>- 0</u>
Available Funds	3,265

Front Entry Payable	\$0
---------------------	-----

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

(Continued on page 8)



Sunday School News

Sunday School Program Practice

The Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday, December 17 at the 10:30 a.m. church service. Practices will take place on Wednesdays, November 29, December 6, and December 13 after school until 5:00 p.m. for all 1st through 6th grade Sunday School students. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 16th for all grades.

More information to come!



11/02 A.J. Phillips
11/15 Hailey Meier
11/20 Gemma Leckner
11/29 Easton Eskola
11/29 Ryan Maves

Baptismal Birthdays

11/19 Addison Tretbar
11/19 Ryan Williams
11/20 Luke Eskola
11/20 Reeve Just
11/20 Kiften Luther



PUZZLE THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

This becomes a plant _____



Willing to give _____

The result of planting seeds _____



The act of gratitude _____



Food made from wheat _____



Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also



supply and increase your store of _____



and will enlarge the _____ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be



_____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



in _____ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV



Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

Lessons this Month

11/5 The Passover Promise
11/12 Food from Heaven
11/19 The Golden Calf
11/26 The Twelve Spies

November Memory Verse

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever—I Chronicles 16:34



Breakfast in Bethlehem—A Great Opportunity for Outreach

Breakfast in Bethlehem is a family orientated Advent/Christmas event beginning at 9:00 a.m. at St. Johns on December 2. We encourage our members to attend and to invite relatives or friends to join them at church for a free breakfast followed by a dramatization of the Christmas story. Beautiful Christmas music will be incorporated into the telling of our Savior's birth. Children will be engaged in hearing the Christmas narrative and then creating a Christmas ornament and decorating "Happy Birthday, Jesus" cupcakes. 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. No tickets or reservations are required to attend. Mark your calendars for December 2!



We'd Love to Display Your Nativity Scene

Are you willing to bring your nativity scene to church to be included in the Nativity Gallery for "Breakfast in Bethlehem" on December 2? Please bring your sets to church any time between November 1 and November 30. We promise to take good care of all the pieces in your scene. Contact Kathy Henry (218-255-3995).

Help with Sunday Coffee

There are eight slots (furnishing and/or serving treats) that need to be filled for assisting with Sunday morning coffee in 2024. If you could provide cookies/bars or be one of the servers on any of these dates, please sign your name and phone number on the sheet provided outside the church office. Thank you!



Prayer Service for November Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid meeting on Thursday, November 9, 1:00 p.m. will be a prayer service with the theme, "My Soul Rejoices." The service will include scripture readings and hymns that focus on the theme. Everyone is invited to attend.

Have you turned in your funeral planning worksheet? There's still time until there isn't.



(Continued from page 5)

PASTORS REPORTS

Membership changes:

Transfer In:

Joshua, Jocelynn and Cheyenne Iwen, Redeemer, Menahga, MN

Transfer Out:

Jeff and Jill Borchart, Shepherd of the Coast, Palm Coast, FL

Steve and Jane Stromme, Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ

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

Pastor Berg reported.

August - Not a whole lot took place during this month. More or less worked on settling into a routine, which was hard to work for the first couple of weeks, since by this point I have only been in the office for two full weeks. During this time I worked on getting to know the congregation, names, faces, etc. The second week of the month was the annual VBS. From all accounts this VBS was by far the biggest from what I have heard from others. My tasks during this time was leading the children in the Bible story for each day, while also leading them through the science experiments as well. The youth, 8th-12th grade had an end of summer bash. An excellent way to get to know the youth and learn what they are looking forward to in terms of different events they would like to do in the coming year. As always, I assisted Pastor Neubauer with the regular duties that I have been assigned. Duties included: preaching, teaching, working on Bible study materials. Preached two Sundays that month, followed by the noon communion service that week of preaching.

September - Assisted Pastor Neubauer in my regular duties. This month, I also assisted in the funeral service for Pearl Bopp, which took place on September 26. Pastor Neubauer preached for the service, and I covered the liturgy. The youth got together this month but the celebration was for our youth 5th-7th grade. Here they cooked food over the fire, played volleyball, and just had a blast hanging out. The older youth also got together at the end of the month to start off the Wednesday evening meals. So far this has just been a handful of youth at a time, the plan is to grow and to get others involved as well. During this month, I started back up the Wednesday Bible Study. We started with Noah, a Bible study over the flood, and understanding why it took place, and what impact this had on God's creation.

October - Assisted Pastor Neubauer in my regular duties. Finished the Wednesday Bible Study topic on Noah and the flood. Now, we will be moving into covering the numerous Christmas traditions that are celebrated around the world and measuring the validity of said traditions. On October 21, we had a youth fall festival. This event was open to grades 5th-12th and was hosted by Jay Pike. The kids had a blast, carved pumpkins, drank hot chocolate, and had an adventurous hayride. I will be taking the last Sunday of October off.

Elayne asked about posting activity photos in the announcement slides on Sunday morning. She also asked about encouraging the youth to serve as ushers and in other ways. We will work on those items.

Pastor Neubauer reported that he is back to the fall routine and gave an update on health issues. He has ten people in the new member class with three of them being new members who plan to join the church.



BOARD REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Ginny read the report sent from Lori Griess.

Sunday School –Staci Lee is the new Sunday School Superintendent. She is sending out a monthly newsletter to all Sunday School families. Voted to give the Sunday School offering to LIC for water toys. A prerecorded song by the children will be screened during the Reformation Service. Average Attendance – 26. Christmas Program is December 17 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Practices will be held Wednesdays, November 29, December 6, & 13 after school for grades 1-6. The dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 16 for all students.

Release Time Report - The 3rd grade students received their bibles during the first day of release time, October 4. We have a full roster of teachers, but as in the Sunday school program, we are always in need of subs. Attendance is about 114.

Preschool - Total of 30 children. We have three openings in the 4 years olds and one in the 3 year old. The state inspection was October 2, passed with no citations. Firefighters were here the week of October 9. Fall Festival will be held the week of October 23.

VBS - Discussed possible changes to next year's time.

Budget - Reviewed and made some adjustments. Approved the salary change as recommended by the board of elders for Kim and Mary.

CHURCH PROPERTIES – Ginny read the report sent from Randy Griess. West entry canopy c approximate cost is \$6000 - \$3000 for materials and \$3000 for labor. 7 % pay raise for Mike R. approved. Now in the process of looking for a replacement as Mike would like to retire. Refrigerator seals - looking at repair of the refrigerator instead of replacement. Mini splits installed in front offices and Pastor Neubauer's office installed. Kitchen air conditioner replaced. Ceiling insulated and tiles to be replaced. Dow has come and checked. Looking at putting heat tape in valleys of roof. Jerry reported that he had talked to Veterans Services to see if they know of someone interested in the janitor position.

ELDERS – Jerry Grudem reported that the elders continue to assist the pastors as they shepherd our congregation.

EVANGELISM - Connie Fondow reported. The Board of Evangelism is continuing their work on the coordination of St. Johns' second "Breakfast in Bethlehem" outreach event on December 2. Many parishioners have volunteered their time and talents to assist with the various aspects of the event. Board members, Doug and Julie Kingsley, will coordinate St. Johns' participation in the Christmas community program "Toys for Boys and Girls and Tiny Tots" again this year. However, they are looking for someone (or a couple) to step forward and work on this project with them this year with the intent that a new individual or couple would take it over in the future. The board is hoping to host another Trivia Night in 2024.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP – Elayne Luiken reported. Crazy for Cribbage was held Sunday, October 8 with about 18 people attending. New member welcome/pastor appreciation is Sunday, November 19

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

between services. Will serve scones, fresh fruit, hot apple cider and coffee. We will facilitate the congregational potluck before the semi-annual voters meeting Sunday, November 19 after second service. Planning to serve egg bake, pancakes, sausages, fresh fruit, orange juice, milk and coffee for Breakfast in Bethlehem. Elayne will work with Ginny to order the sausages and fruit from Sysco. We also will have a gift card from Thrivent to purchase the rest of the supplies. Evangelism board will take care of setting tables on Friday. We'll prepare egg bake and cut up fruit on Friday afternoon. Saturday morning prep will be at 7:00 a.m. Decorating the church for Christmas will be Monday, November 27, 9:00 a.m. Discussed updating the Christmas decorations next year. Connie will investigate options.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Derek Ricke reported that they have moved to a new house so he's been busy with that. He is working on coordinating a "children's church" for the 10:30 a.m. service. A new outdoor sign was discussed later in the meeting.

STEWARDSHIP – no report.

YOUTH – Pastor Berg reported that the youth plan to make pies for the community Thanksgiving meal. Hoping to schedule bowling in Bemidji on December 3. Planning to make tacos for the Advent meal. Discussed the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The youth board also plans to put together a youth covenant with core values and standards of behavior.

Motion by Elayne, second Derek and carried to accept the reports.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ginny presented the 2024 budget. There were no changes. Motion by Jerry, second Derek and carried to approve the budget to be presented at the voters meeting.

Jerry Grudem presented information on a new outdoor sign. Brad Dahn also had information on exterior signs and spoke of his experiences with the digital sign at Ace. Both Jerry and Brad had pictures of various signs. The council discussed size, location, price and city regulations. Mike asked Jerry and Brad to research signs and bring three options to the council for consideration.

Jerry Grudem gave an update on the work of the needs and wants committee. They identified several projects that could be done. Some are small and relatively inexpensive to accomplish such as adding speakers to the nursery and kitchen and tweaking items in the women's bathroom while others are major like a redesign of the sanctuary with new flooring and lighting. He presented a multi phased project list and asked the council if they thought the committee was going in the right direction. The council thought they were and asked him to put together a proposal for the voters.





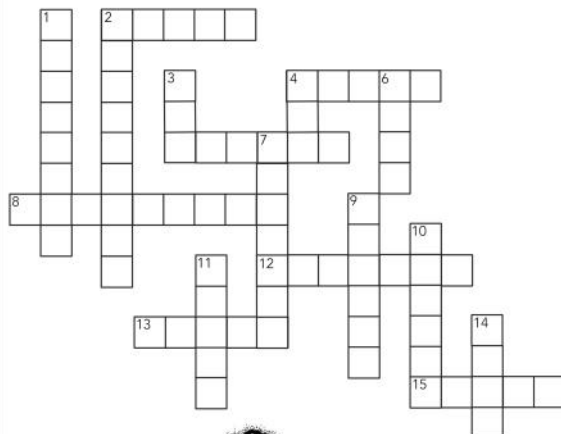
The council reviewed the November 19 voters meeting agenda. No corrections or changes need to be made.

Ginny reported on the LCEF Ministry Vision program. The program helps churches to identify their ministry purpose, assess how their current campus helps or hinders that purpose and identify ways they can improve to fulfill their ministry purpose. The overall cost is \$15,000 and the process takes about ten months. She will investigate it further.

Motion by Derek, second Jerry and carried to adjourn. Closed with Doxology. Next Parish Planning Council Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Ranisate, Acting Secretary

Puzzle!



ACROSS

2. cause of Job's trouble
4. twinkling, heavenly lights
6. the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
8. creature of the deep (41:1)
12. the Temanite, a friend (2:11)
13. sores
15. Job had 7,000

DOWN

1. the One who ever lives (19:25)
2. affliction
3. had seven sons
4. ocean
5. precipitation
7. Job had 500
9. the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
10. Job had 3,000
11. Job's fourth friend (32:2)
12. Job had 500 yoke



Answers: Across 2. Satan, 4. stars, 6. Bildad, 8. Leviathan, 12. Eliphaz, 13. boils, 15. sheep.
Down 1. Redeemer, 2. suffering, 3. Job, 4. sea, 5. rain, 7. donkeys, 9. Zophar, 10. camels, 11. Elihu, 12. oxen

Puzzle!

Although the Bible doesn't mention turkey feasts, the gospels do describe a miracle dinner that made thousands of hungry people thankful (see Matthew 14:13-21). Fill in the words to complete a poem about that meal.

Hint: Each pair of line endings should rhyme.



ate	faces	quest	then
began	late	ran	ton
bunch	lunch	rest	true
done	men	spaces	you

Jesus was tired and went to find _____.
So away from the crowd he started his _____.
It came to an end before it _____.
The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and they _____.
His boat pulled ashore, and he looked at their _____.
Five thousand men, plus families, filled all open _____.
And so Jesus spoke, and he taught until _____.
The disciples told him it was time they all _____.
Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____.
And feeding this crowd is now up to _____.
Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____.
What would they do? They'd need a whole _____.
But then a young boy came and offered his _____.
Five loaves and two fish to feed this big _____.
Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____.
It fed all the women, the children and _____.

Answer: rest, quest, began, ran, faces, spaces, late, ate, true, you, done, ton, lunch, bunch, then, men



**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 Chad Berg

Pastor Larry Harvala



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
Park Rapids, Minnesota
Permit No. 6

Address Service Requested

Inside this issue:

<i>For All the Saints</i>	1
<i>Pastor Appreciation and New Member Welcome</i>	1
<i>Potluck and Voters Meeting—November 19</i>	1
<i>Time Out for Kids and Parents</i>	1
<i>Mike Really Wants to Retire</i>	2
<i>Build and Bid on a Basket</i>	2
<i>Christmas Decorating</i>	2
<i>We're Looking for One or Two Santa's Helpers</i>	2
<i>Thanksgiving Services</i>	2
<i>What's on the Lutheran Hour</i>	2
<i>Main Street Living for November</i>	3
<i>Stewardship Review</i>	3
<i>Release Time Classes are Off to A Great Start</i>	4
<i>Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes</i>	5
<i>Sunday School News</i>	6
<i>Breakfast in Bethlehem—A Great Outreach Opportunity</i>	7
<i>We'd Love to Display Your Nativity Scene</i>	7
<i>Help with Sunday Coffee</i>	7
<i>Prayer Service for November Ladies Aid Meeting</i>	7
<i>Have You Turned in Your Funeral Planning Worksheet?</i>	7
<i>Puzzles</i>	11

