

The

St. Johns Servant

St. Johns Lutheran Church

Park Rapids, Minnesota

August, 2025

Special Voters Meeting Scheduled

The Refresh Action Committee has been working hard and they're ready to present their information to the voters so a special voters meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, August 17 between services in the social hall. Check page 2 for details on the projects.



New Worship Service at Heritage Living Center

Last month we started having a worship service at Heritage Living Center. This will be a monthly event—every second Monday at 10:00 a.m. in the HLC Chapel—August 11 for this month. If you live at Heritage, Heritage Manor, Park Villa or nearby, you're welcome to attend. Communion is served following the service.

Ladies Aid Summer Potluck

All ladies are invited to attend the Ladies Aid potluck picnic here at St. Johns on Thursday, August 14 beginning at noon. We'll meet in the social hall. Come enjoy some great food and fellowship!



Sunday School Round Up



All Sunday School families are invited to our Sunday School round up on Wednesday, August 20 from 4:00—6:30 p.m. There will be a cook out, games and a bounce house with water slide.

There's also a possible youth bonfire planned following the event. Watch for details.

Mini Golf at Birdie's



Come on out for some mini golf on August 13, 6:00 p.m. We will meet at Birdie's Mini Golf to play the 18 hole course. This event is open to 5th-12th grades. The price for 12 yrs old and younger is \$8 and \$10 for those 13 yrs and older. This will be a fun time of fellowship and some friendly competition.

An overnight event at First English in Dorset is also being considered. Look for more information in the bulletin once plans are finalized.



Refresh Action Committee Agenda Items

<u>A/V Improvements</u> – Hire Digital Horizons to modernize our Sound and Graphic systems to improve the livestreaming of our services, modify the speaker system in sanctuary, and visual upgrades with larger digital screens. Budget of \$45,000. [finance with existing Line of Credit at Citizens Bank.] Start work immediately.



<u>Communion Rail Relocation</u> – Relocate communion rail to the same level as the seating to eliminate steps to communion. The new location will allow for 50% more at each table. And the railing will be removable for weddings and other functions. This modification includes removing one row of pews. Budget unknown at this printing. Start work January 1, 2026.

<u>Sanctuary Flooring</u> – New carpeting for altar area and communion rail, and new LVP flooring from new communion rail to rear of room in isles and under pews. Pews will be removed and replaced for installation of flooring. Budget of \$28,000. Start work January 1, 2026. Flooring cost for the rest of building dependent on the procedure to separate carpet from original floor tile. Budget \$100,000 until confirmed.

Painting – A. Sanctuary Budget \$7000. B. South entrance and west rooms Budget \$12,000. C. North entrance and east classrooms Budget \$14,000. Start work A & B January 1, 2026.

Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes—July 22, 2025

PRESENT: Pastor Neubauer, Connie Fondow, Randy Griess, Lori Griess, Rod Helm, Mike Poole, Derek Ricke, Julie Kingsley, Jerry Grudem, Ginny Ranisate, Jay Pike. Mike Poole called the meeting to order. Pastor Neubauer opened with a devotion on the Aaronic blessing.

Motion by Rod Helm, seconded by Lori Griess and carried to approve minutes of the March 25, 2025 meeting as printed in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income from March 25 - July 22, 2025 was \$257,314 and expenses were \$270,900 with expenses exceeding income by \$13,586.

CNB Checking Account as of 07/22/25 Less Dedicated Funds Available Funds	12,133 <u>- 1,567</u> 10,566
CNB Dedicated Funds Savings as of 07/22/25	52,173
LCEF Current Fund as of 07/22/25 Less End. Fund Interest Less Parsonage Proceeds Less Healthy Balance (Goal is \$74,000) Less T. Haberer Memorial/Interest Less T. Haberer Trust Available Funds	109,092 -2,260 -1,221 -76,894 -19,395 - <u>5,280</u> 4,042
Outdoor Sign Payable	\$4,249



Stewardship Review—June

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 169

Total Offerings: \$32,444 Avg. Weekly Offerings \$6,489 Total Expenses: \$38,260 Avg. Weekly Expenses \$7,652 Total Expenses, June, 2024: \$39,908 Difference -\$1,163 Difference -\$5,816

Total Offerings, year to date: \$228,041 Budget/Week \$10,688 Total Expenses, year to date: \$245,089 Budget/Month \$46,315

Difference - \$ 17,048

CNB Checkbook Balance as of 06/30/25: \$8,613
Less Dedicated Accounts - \$2,141
Difference \$6,472

Outdoor Sign Payable \$4,549





Bags and Brats Event

Join us for an evening of food, fun, fellowship and friendly competition on Wednesday, September 10. A meal featuring brats, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips and dessert will be served at 5:30 p.m. The cornhole tournament will begin after the meal. All proceeds support audio visual upgrades in the sanctuary! The tournament entry fee is \$10 per participating team. A freewill donation will be collected for the meal. Childcare provided! Sign-up on the sheets by the church office by August 31.

Enjoy a delicious meal, cheer for your favorite teams, or join the tournament for a chance at bragging rights—all while helping to donate to the audio visual project here at St. Johns!



What's On The Lutheran Hour

08/03 "Proclaim His Glory" 08/10 "Writing Him Off"

08/17 "The Stuttering Man of Destiny" 08/24 "Gideon, the Farmer General"

08/31 "Life Narrows Down"

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 at a cost of \$51.50 each Sunday. If you would like to help sponsor the program your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour."



"Main Street Living North" for August

"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 August:

August 3: Rev. Thomas Clark, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hankinson, ND, and St. John's Lutheran Church, Belford Township, ND, presents the message: "Winning in Christ" based on Ecclesiastes 2:18-26 and Luke 12:13-21. *This is The Life*: "Give and Take" - A young Christian ad agency representative navigates a situation with an overly attentive married man.

August 10: 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 a message: "Fear Not, Little Flock" based on Luke 12:32. *This is The Life*: "No Tears For Bill" - A widow struggles with her past and upcoming marriage.

August 17: Rev. Keith Ratcliffe, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN, presents the message: "To Run the Race of God" based on Hebrews 12:1-2. *This is The Life*: "Two Weeks to Eternity" - A man who lives life to the fullest faces uncertainty with an upcoming surgery.

August 24: Rev. Brock Schmeling, Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend, ND, and Peace Lutheran Church, Barney, ND, presents the message: "Rabbi, You Are the Son of God! You Are the King of Israel!" based on John 1:43-51. *This is The Life*: "House of Sand" - This classic Fisher family episode explores the difference between a moral and Christian life.

August 31: Rev. Michael Suelzle, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "Who's Invited?" based on Luke 14:13-14. *This is The Life*: "The Reluctant Witness" - A man's fishing trip is interrupted when he becomes a witness to crime and struggles with the aftermath.



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.



Sunday School Page



Make this candle to keep uninvited insects from your outdoor summer meals.

What you need:

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help



What you do:

- 1. Have an adult slice the lime in half. Cut off the rounded end of one half so it can stand without rolling.
- 2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of each half.
- 3. Stand the bottom half on a plate. Insert the candle in the center.
- 4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side of the bottom half. Then place the other half atop the toothpicks.
- 5. Before dinner, have an adult light the candle that's between the two lime halves. The flame's heat will warm the lime and create a smell that insects don't like.
- 6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when it reaches the bottom lime.



$\Theta\Theta$



TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.

inis 6-legged	artnropod o	can carry 2	U times its	own weight.

A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person.

Having deep understanding and sound judgment.

A person in charge of military troops.

A person in authority.

The season when daylight hours are longest.

A substance you eat for nutrition.

When farmers reap the rewards of hard work.

15	
3 PC	
//	

	& **********		
--	--------------	--	--

-	
Go to the	, vou

consider its ways and be _____!

It has no _____, no overseer or _____,

yet it stores its provisions in _____

and gathers its _____ at _____.



Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV

be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. Answers: ant, sluggard, wise, commander, ruler, summer, food, harvest; Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and



8/18 Natalley Hall

Baptismal Birthdays

8/02 Nevaeh Koch

Clyde Kimball 8/11

8/22 Blake Gartner

8/27 Knox LeGrand

8/28 Bonnie LeGrand





A Few Snapshots from the LCMS National Youth Gathering

As this newsletter is going to press, the group is just returning from New Orleans. A shareholder's dessert meeting will be held on August 14 at 6:00 p.m. A huge thank you to Larry Hetrick, Jerry and Loree Grudem, the Lof Family and Tim Ranisate for working out the transportation issues!



They ran into Pastor Tim Heinecke who served here at St. Johns from 2010 to 2017.



At the closing worship service with 20,000 other attendees.



Sarah and Vivian with LCMS National President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison.



The group put together some of the 160,704 mercy meals.



Fair Booth Thanks

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the fair booth a success. We handed out 796 prizes this year to approximately 500 kids.

Thank you to everyone who purchased prizes on the bulletin board in the front entry. Any leftovers will be used for Release Time.

Thank you to everyone who worked at the booth: Amy and Wyatt Goodwater, Pastor Neubauer, Kathy Henry, Connie Fondow, Steve and Jane Stromme, Sandy Phillips, Derek Ricke, Mellaney and Rozaley Hall, Sarah and Laura Kaufenberg, Jane Hughes, Elayne and Everett Luiken, Mary Chalupsky, Lori Griess, and of course, Laurie Kimball.

Thank you to Mary and Jerry Chalupsky who helped unload and setup the booth and games on Tuesday morning. Also to Staci Lee and Natalie and Collin Hoyt for helping to take the booth down and load back up on Sunday morning.

Thank you to Connie Fondow for going through the process to get us a \$250 gift card from Thrivent and to Roberta Jaschob for donation of water for the crew and some last minute prizes.

Thank you to all of you who prayed for good weather, for everyone to have a safe and good time and a a successful fair booth for the church. So many children had a great time!

You all deserve thank yous but the honor and glory goes to God alone!

Praise God,

Terry and Laurie Kimball





















(Continued from page 2)

Motion by Rod Helm, seconded by Randy Griess to accept the treasurer's report; motion carried.

PASTOR NEUBAUER'S REPORT

Membership changes: Transfer in - Lucille DeMaris, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Babbitt, MN; Heidi Nilson, Kryton and Colton, First English, Dorset MN. Affirmation of Faith - Lucas Morrison and Holly Grundmeier.

Worship: After being gone three Sundays in June, I will be making up for it by preaching three Sundays in a row. Wednesday noon services have been going well with an average attendance of about 16. Thank you to Max Harju for his commitment to facilitating the live stream. This is the third year that he has taken on responsibility for the majority of the Sundays. I will be engaging the congregation in a sermon series for three Sundays in October that will deal with an emphasis on financial stewardship. <u>Teaching:</u> I have been filling in for Sunday morning Bible class as needed. This fall I will be teaching the 8th grade confirmation class of 10 students. (Pastor Berg will instruct the 6-8 students in the 7th grade class.) I am working my way through "2084" written by John Lennox. He is a trained mathematician, philosopher, and Christian apologist. During VBS I was the leader for the opening and closing along with directing the story telling time. <u>Visits:</u> In June/July I visited nearly all the shut-ins. Nineteen are "classic" shut-ins while about thirty-five others are those that I don't want to neglect or allow to slip through the cracks. Pastor Berg led the first Heritage Living Center service that we will now be a part of on a monthly basis. <u>Other:</u> Two funerals (Tom May and Mary Jo Harsha). Weddings: One in Pine River in August. Outdoor sign: Running on a two-week schedule for Bible verse updating. PR Enterprise: I wrote the devotions for July.

BOARD REPORTS

Christian Education: The Sunday School year was completed with an average of 24 children per Sunday. VBS was held the second week of June. All went well with an average attendance of 45 children per day. Sunday School Round-up will be held on August 20 from 4:00 – 6:30pm. There will be games, a bounce house, and food, with the possibility of a bonfire for the youth. Release Time is tentatively scheduled to begin on October I. Classes will be held in the afternoon with 2 sessions. Preschool closed out the school year with tours of Itasca Park, the greenhouse, and the bookstore. Three board members have left the board (Deb Anderson, Sandy Phillips, and Ruth Knaack). New members are Ali Bradow, Callie Ricke, and Misty Hockett. Board members were asked to express their opinions on the playground location and possible move. The Board of Church Properties presented their reasons for voting to move it.

Church Properties: A noise suppressor was installed in the nursery. Haataja repaired the leak in the roof and checked it during a heavy rain. The leak was successfully stopped, but two new leaks were found in other areas and will subsequently be addressed. A toilet flush valve was replaced. The Social Hall fans were inspected and found to not be synchronized high to low. The John Deere and Toro lawnmowers were repaired during routine maintenance. Playground fence repair quotes were received. Repair new corner: \$1,335.00. Repair other areas on existing fence: \$2730.00. New fence and move to new area: \$3580.00. Volunteers would do labor for equipment move. Board of Church Properties reviewed all options and recommended to move playground on a vote of 5-1.

Elders: The elders continue to assist the pastors with the responsibilities of the shepherding of the flock here at St. Johns.

Evangelism: The Bags and Brats event will take place on September 10th, at 5:30. The cornhole tournament will be held after a meal of brats, hotdogs, potato salad, beans, chips, and dessert. An entry



fee of \$10.00 will be collected from each team. The meal is offered to all members on a freewill donation basis. All proceeds from this event will go toward the planned audio visual repairs and enhancements project in the sanctuary. The board will participate in Rally Day with a game booth. A prepaid Visa card was given to Laurie Kimball to use for the fair booth. We will submit a brief report on this event to the MN North District Lutheran Witness. Children's Church is in need of more support facilitators. Breakfast in Bethlehem is scheduled for December 6th.

Parish Fellowship: The board prepared and served supper on April 30 for five confirmands, their families, and the elders. On Mother's Day the board and LLL members partnered to serve pastries and coffee between services. The board purchased the pastries. On Father's Day, we honored fathers by serving pie and ice cream during coffee time. We continue to work with Connie Fondow to plan the menu for Breakfast in Bethlehem on Dec. 6. Two new board members were added in June: Jane Stromme and Beth Krueger. Julie Kingsley has offered to become our new board chair. We thank Brenda Huwe for her time and service on the board. We are serving the meal for the Bags and Brats event on Sept. 10. We will hold Trunk and Treats on Halloween in our parking lot. Congregational members will be asked to donate candy for distribution.

Public Relations: The board plans to meet soon with two new members, Jerry Grudem and Steve Stromme.

Stewardship: The board realizes the need for and has discussed possible opportunities for raising congregational awareness of increasing weekly/yearly gifting in order to meet current expenses. The pastors will be conducting a 3-part sermon series in October with an emphasis on stewardship. **Young People:** Two of our summer events (biking to Dorset and tubing on the Crow Wing) were cancelled due to rainy weather. We managed to have ice cream at Dorset House in Dorset. While there, the kids had the opportunity to meet and visit with Pastor DeBoer and his wife. Information about the New Orleans Youth Gathering will be given upon the participants' return.

Jerry Grudem motioned that all reports be accepted. Julie Kingsley seconded; motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Playground: The PPC members engaged in a lengthy discussion concerning the possible movement of the playground. The intent was not to usurp the work of or any decisions made by the Board of Church Properties. Opinions were given as members considered the cost, safety and maintenance concerns, and viability of the existing equipment. Randy Griess will relay to his board the thoughts and opinions expressed and will inform the PPC what is ultimately decided.

Refresh Action Committee: There will be a special voters meeting on Sunday, August 17, 2025, at 9:15am to inform the voters of the details concerning the following recommendations from the RAC – A/V Improvements, Communion Rail Relocation, Sanctuary Flooring. Painting.

Meeting adjourned after a motion from Pastor Neubauer, seconded by Connie Fondow. All members rose and joined in the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Fondow, Acting Secretary



ABC Preschool News

Ladybugs! Children are naturally curious about those bright red bugs with the deep black spots that catch the eye. They like to find them, chase them, catch them and use magnifying glasses to get a closer look! More than that, ladybugs are heroes to plants and helpful to farmers growing healthy crops because they are a natural way to control pests. Some people believe ladybugs bring good luck.



God's wonderful creation shines through everything both big and small. We see Him everywhere in nature from the giant trees to the tiny ladybugs. God has a purpose for everything and everyone. Just like those tiny ladybugs, young children are a helpful and an amazing part of God's creation. At ABC we will be exploring God's creation as we gather for another year of learning. We can't wait to "spot" them and welcome all the friendly, helpful, curious and energetic ladybugs (children) to school.



For nearly 40 years, ABC Preschool has been planting and spreading seeds of faith, kindness and growth at St. Johns!! The guiding verse we have used all these years is Proverbs 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way that he should go; when he is old he will not depart from it." The children at ABC receive a Christian based education through structured and non structured activities. We point the children to Jesus and continue to teach Christian values in which all children are loved and cared for. The word of God is taught and modeled every day!!

Often times you'll find us in the classrooms. Other times we like to use extra spaces throughout the church for a variety of out-of-the-classroom learning experiences. And we love to take advantage of the wonderful outdoors that allow for nature based learning, from climbing on the play sets to running through the grassy areas as we chase and catch ladybugs!!

As we carry out our work, ABC needs your spiritual and financial support. Please keep the school, staff, families and children in your prayers as we teach and train young learners. There are three main ways you can offer financial support. The "Supply Board," scholarships, and Thrivent Choice Dollars.

The annual school supply board will be up at church with tags that list items that are needed. Back to school supplies are more than crayons and glue. Please carefully read the tag that lists the exact item, amount and size desired. Please don't substitute!! If you cannot find an item, let Kim know. Please return items to church before Sunday, August 17.





Some families need extra support to be able to send their children to ABC. Through scholarships, we can offer that assistance to help cover tuition and transportation costs. A full scholarship is \$450 for the year. Full or partial scholarships are greatly appreciated! If you want to donate for scholarships please note, "ABC scholarship" on your gift. If you want make a donation to help with the general operations of the program, please note "ABC general expenses" on your gift.



If you direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to ABC Preschool, your dollars go directly to help prepare young children socially, emotionally, spiritually and academically for future schooling. Thrivent donations go toward maintaining and replacing large equipment and learning materials. The replacement of larger items is not usually written into the yearly budget. Your dollars go a long way in helping to keep the preschool up to date and helping to create an excellent learning environment for young children.

We are so grateful for all the support you've shown throughout the years. Thank you for your help in making ABC a fun place to learn, explore and grow!

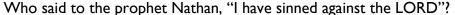
ABC will have an Open House and Registration Day on Wednesday, August 13 from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

We have a few openings at ABC for children ages 3-5. Classes meet two, three, four or five days per week throughout the school year (September through May). Members of St. Johns pay no registration fee. Financial assistance is available. Call the office for more information or check out our website at abcpreschoolpr.com. We also have a Facebook page where you can see learning in action!!

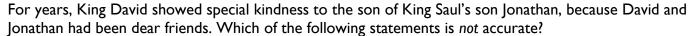
Bible Quiz

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?

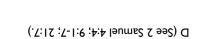
- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king



- A. The name of King Saul's grandson was Mephibosheth.
- B. He was lame in both feet.
- C. His feet had been injured when he was 5.
- D. He was injured while playing with his brothers.



Answers: C (See Luke 16:19-31.) D (See 2 Samuel 12:13.)





St. Johns Lutheran Church

803 West First Street Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone: 218-732-9783 Fax: 218-237-9785 Website: www.stjohnspr.org

Pastor James Neubauer Pastor Chad Berg



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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

Electronic Service Requested

Inside this issue:

Special Voters Meeting Scheduled	1
New Worship Service at Heritage Living Center	1
Ladies Aid Summer Potluck	1
Sunday School Round Up	1
Mini Golf at Birdie's	1
Refresh Action Committee Agenda Items	2
Parish Planning Council Meeting Minutes	2
Stewardship Review	3
Bags and Brats	3
What's On The Lutheran Hour	3
Fair Booth was Fun	3
Main Street Living for August	4
Sunday School Page	5
Snapshots from the National Youth Gathering	6
Fair Booth was Fun	7
ABC Preschool News	10
Bible Quiz	11

