



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

APRIL 2014

Dear People of St. John,

Last week Maryann and I saw a pair of bald eagles. Almost certainly a mating pair they were soaring together in circles, their circling moving ever so slowly north along the Cannon River. It was like a mating dance and it was beautiful to behold. The eagle is such an elegant bird, huge in size with that white head and tail. The sight we saw was almost enough to bring us to tears and it brought words of thankfulness from my heart to God.

The beauty of God's creation can be like that. But we'd best admire those eagles from a distance, for they are among the fiercest of hawks. I suppose it's something like admiring Niagara Falls. It is a wonder to behold, but don't get too close.

In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C.S. Lewis the figure of Christ is represented by a huge golden lion named Aslan. The lion could be fierce when fierceness was required to protect the children or to keep evil at bay. But Aslan was gentle as well. One day as the cousins were talking about Aslan one of them asked, "Is he safe?" The other answered, "Safe? Of course he's not safe! He's a lion, he's king of the jungle. Of course he's not safe. But he's good." He's good, and that's what makes all the difference.

I think about nature's creatures and I think about Aslan as we approach Good Friday and Easter. This Christ is the King! But he lets go of all of that power and is crucified like a common criminal. But then God's power is displayed as the stone is rolled back and we discover that Christ has defeated death and the grave once and for all. It took a fierce power to break that grave and defeat death, not just for himself but for all of us.

Let me remind you again that Maundy Thursday with the last supper, the foot washing and the prayer in Gethsemane, Good Friday with the mock trials, the crucifixion, the death and darkness, and Easter morning with the bright joy of resurrection and new life are all part of one story, one event. Easter doesn't make nearly as much sense without the events of Thursday and Friday. So this is my way of inviting you and encouraging you to come for all three of these services. And I pray that you will be blessed as we come together for worship.

The annual men's Breakfast with the Bishop is coming up on April 26 at Cabela's. Cost is \$10 and we need to pre-register. Please let me know if you'd like to go with me. This year's speaker is Bishop Delzer. Since he's our new Bishop it will be good to hear him talk about the priorities he has set for his first 6-year term.

Confirmation Update: **6th Graders**, having completed their 6-week class on the Lord's Prayer will lead our congregation in prayer on April 13th. **7th and 8th Graders** will have a makeup class on April 16th at their usual class times.

I received a call from a pastor near San Antonio, TX this morning. He read a book titled *The Cost of Bread and Wine*, by Pastor Koschade. He'd like to get a few more copies for a study with other pastors, but the book is out of print and the publisher is out of business. Does anyone know where I could obtain a few copies for him? Please let me know.

In His Service,
Pastor Bob Kaul

April Worship Helpers

Readers

April 6 Marilyn Richter

April 13 Eric Schroeder

April 20 Easter

Volunteers Needed

April 27 Gail Skluzacek

Head Usher

Dan Hardel

Ushers / Greeters

April 6 Greg & Jessica Westerman

Jim Blum

Betty Braun

April 13 Volunteers Needed

Kay Busch

Kathy Derhaag

April 20 Easter

Volunteers Needed

April 27 Todd & Kala David

Ralph Hendrickson

Irene Jindra

Communion Assistants

April 13 Dallas Horejsi

Candyce Kadrlík

Maryann Kaul

April 20 Easter

Volunteers Needed

April 27 Carol Kiekow

Erin Krautkremer

Diane LaVine-Schultz

Acolyte

April 6 Abby Schleis

April 13 Chase Derhaag

April 17 Haley Dietz (Maundy Thursday)

April 18 Haley Dietz (Good Friday)

April 20 Easter

Volunteers Needed

April 27 Emily Krautkremer

Cassidy Gilbertson

Altar Guild

Carol Svoboda

Maridan Nesmoe

*If you are unable to help on the day assigned,
please EXCHANGE with someone else
and call the church office at 507-364-5002.*

Remember in your Prayers...



Louise Meyer, Harold Walters (Betty Jindra's father), Sheryl Kuelper (LaNette's daughter), Chad Solheid (Michelle Trecka's brother), Opal Hartwig, Ethan Scheffert (Jeremy's son), Adelle Shultz (Carol Kiekow's aunt), John Teig (Berlyn's brother), Scott Collier, Arlene Washa, Reuben Svoboda, Branden Flicek, Lester Moen, Sandy Hajney, Mayme Jindra, Nancy Vollmar, Patricia Morrill (Peggy Hentges' mother), Leona Winterfeldt and Todd Trecka.

Remember those serving our country...

Adam Minett, Kevin Baer, Jacqueline Sellner, Shane Morris, Damon Athey, Nathan Kubinski, Tyler Dudley, Matthew Astorino, Adam Vlasak, Matt Nelson and Andy Moen.



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Charles Lande who passed away Wednesday, March 12.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Vernon Braun who passed away Saturday, March 15.

Baptisms

Maycie Kaye Pesta was baptized Saturday, March 8.

Marcie was born January 22, 2014 to Brian and Alison Pesta. Her sponsors are Heather Markgraf, Carrie and Bob Petersen. God's blessings to Maycie and her family.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. The cans brought \$150.80 for the Montgomery Food Shelf. Thank you to John Grimm for taking the cans to Mankato.

Women's Voices Needed

I'm calling out to all women who want to sing. Let's meet to rehearse a song for Easter Sunday - both services. We will rehearse Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. May we sing with our lips what we believe in our hearts. Thanks, Kathy Heyda

Altar Cleaning

Altar Cleaning/Meeting will take place Saturday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. For more information or if interested in joining Altar Guild, call Connie Cihak at 507 744-2048

Financial Corner

General Fund - February

	February	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 10,608.63	\$ 22,501.93
Expenses	\$ 14,374.89	\$ 31,032.64
Cash Flow	\$ (3,766.26)	\$ (8,530.71)

Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

Drop off or e-mail (stjohnelca@frontier.com) information to the church office by:

- ◆ Thursday for the bulletin.
- ◆ The 24th of April for the May newsletter.

Church Council Meeting

March 18, 2014 6:30pm

Present: Paige Nordling (1/15), John Grimm (1/15), Jeanne Anderson (1/15), John Krautkremer (1/16), Maridan Nesmoe (1/16), John Helling (1/16), Dan Hardel (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), and Pastor Robert Kaul

Absent: Kathy Peterson (1/17)

Opened with **devotion** by Pastor Kaul

Dan Hardel moved, Wendy Vargo seconded to **approve the February 2014 meeting minutes**. Motion carried.

President's Report: Dan Hardel - No report

Vice President's Report: Kathy Peterson - Absent, no report

Secretary Report: Jeanne Anderson - No report

Treasurer Report: John Krautkremer - John Grimm moved, Paige Nordling seconded, to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for February 2014. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A. Head Ushers

April: Dan Hardel

Maundy Thursday: Diane DeWitte

Good Friday: Kathy Peterson

Easter Sunday: 9:00 Dan Hardel 10:30: John Krautkremer

May: John Grimm

June: John Helling

B. Feed My Sheep

1. Thank you cards have been received from families receiving donations.

2. John Krautkremer moved, John Grimm seconded to give \$300 to a needy family. Motion carried.

C. Parsonage Rental

1. Update from G & K Rental: A prospective renter is being considered.

D. Constitution/Bylaws

1. A committee was formed (Pastor Bob, Dan Hardel, Kathy Peterson and John Grimm) and met to review, update and make recommendations on the Constitution/Bylaws. John Grimm moved and Paige Nordling seconded to accept bylaws as presented. Motion carried. Pastor will now take them to the Synod for approval. Following that, it will be brought back to the congregation for a vote.

E. Audit Committee

1. Dave Scheffert has agreed to serve on this committee. We need three members, so others will be asked to join him.

F. Nomination Committee

1. We are still seeking members for this committee.

New Business:

A. Can Recycling:

John Grimm will take a load of cans in the last week of March, in time to donate the funds to the March Food Drive.

Committee Reports:

A. Stewardship Committee: John Grimm

1. John will do a "Stewardship Minute" in church the weekend of March 22-23.

2. Ad insert sheet is now full on one side of a sheet. We will move some to the back and seek more advertisers.

B. Evangelism Committee: Wendy Vargo

1. St. John church welcomed in many new members on Sunday, March 2nd. They were Ruth Nimerfroh, Dean and Cathy Stasney and their children Tadd, Jaden, and Anastasia, Lynn Heinzig, Josie Kregerud and her daughter Audrey, Pam and Larry Edel, Andrew and Skye Harms and their children Kyra and Wyatt, Kristi Houn and her children Addison, Carolyn, Jillian, and Lauren. They were introduced to the congregation during the morning worship service which was followed by a cake and coffee reception in their honor in the fellowship hall. Diane Dewitt, Cindy Zahrathka, Deb Jelinek, Joslyn Vargo and Wendy Vargo served the cake and coffee.

2. March 30th, Ann Peterson of the Synod will be here to do a "Temple Talk" in regards to the Mission support we provide.

3. Currently working on recruiting members of the congregation to join the Evangelism Committee.

(Continues on back)

(Council Cont.)

C. Education: Pastor & Jeanne Anderson

1. Adult class has been well attended.
2. Camp Omega representative, Bob LeCroix, will be here on Sunday, April 13th
3. Two students will be confirmed in April.
4. VBS is currently being planned. Jessica Westerman will chair the program. Details will follow.
5. Next Board of Education meeting: April 13th

D. Youth: Paige Nordling - Luther League Committee- Last planning meeting was Dec. 1

1. Little League:
 - a. The spaghetti supper brought in profits of about \$1,067 including the silent auction, which brought in \$370. Thanks to all who helped and donated auction items.
2. Junior League:
 - a. There will be an event through the Food Shelf on March 29th. We will start with a scavenger hunt and end up helping at the food shelf. For grades 6 – 9.
3. Senior League events that were scheduled:
 - a. Second ski trip happened on March 9th. Had 15 people ski.
4. On Palm Sunday, April 13th, all leagues will be putting together the baskets for our shut-in's. There will be an Easter Egg hunt for the younger kids as well.
5. Mission trip set for July 12 – 19th, looking for more youth to attend. There was a pancake breakfast in February which brought in profits of about \$430.
6. There are a couple more fundraisers for the Mission trip participants. They will be doing concessions during the week of the dance recital. Also, flower sales will happen the weekend of May 5 & 6, during City-wide Garage sales. ** Note: Wednesday, April 16th there is a Community Service Opportunity: Hours are available to clean at Pioneer Power.
7. Pastry puffins have been delivered. Sold 260 boxes with about \$1,300 profit.
8. Pastor has been hosting a youth gathering time every other Sunday during coffee hour in the youth room. Invitations were sent via mail last week. Up-coming dates are March 23rd, April 13, 27th and May 11th.
9. Boundary Waters Trip – August 2nd-8th. There is a meeting on Wednesday, April 2nd. Paige will message the kids to let them know.
10. We are looking for more youth involvement in the church services one Sunday a month. They can read, usher and do the Children's Minute. Emily would work with anyone interested in doing special music as well. Looking for volunteers!
11. The Advisory Board has purchased an iPad as a financial, document management, communication and picture taking resource. Emily, Yolinda and Paige will meet to get it set up and start updating financials on Friday, March 21.
12. We are seeking another volunteer to manage the financials. We are always looking for volunteers to help in all capacities: Advisory Board, League Advisors or just those willing to help with events! We will take as much or as little as you are willing to offer! Please contact Emily or Paige if you are interested!
13. The next planning meeting is on Sunday, April 6th, following worship.

E. Facility Management – John Krautkremer

1. Closers for the furnace room doors have been ordered.
2. Emily is needing a secure, locked mailbox to be mounted near her office for drop offs. One has been purchased and will be installed.
3. Received a bill for the front window repair- \$1,200. Our deductible is \$1,000 so it was decided to not submit to insurance, but take payment out of Restoration Fund.
4. Jeanne Anderson moved, Dan Hardel seconded to approve repair and painting of the inside balcony stairway previously damaged by water. Berlyn Tieg and Mark Richter will do repairs. Motion carried.
5. The facilities committee recommended that when Ruhlands come to work on the lights, that they replace the wiring at the same time.
6. John presented and discussed a bid received for lawn mowing and snow removal. He will obtain two more bids.
7. It was discussed that the downstairs hallway needs paint and new light fixtures. Any volunteers to paint?

F. Church in Society: Kathy Peterson

1. March is Food Share Month

G. Communications: Dan Hardel -No report

(Council cont.)

(Council Cont.)

H. Fellowship: John Helling

1. April 13th following the Cantata a light lunch will be served.

I. Worship & Music Committee: Maridan Nesmoe

1. Bells will be ringing at the Cantata, Easter Services, and then on May 11th. Then off during the summer!
2. A program has been planned for Good Friday Services called "Watch the Lamb".

Pastors Report:

1. Jim Reeder came and worked on the sound system. Pastor reports it is working well now.
2. Easter Week Services:
Maundy Thursday, 7:00
Good Friday, 7:00
Easter Sunday, 9:00 & 10:30
3. A thank you card was received from the "Always a Bridesmaid" group for use of the church for their practices.
4. Paige Nordling moved, Dan Hardel seconded to donate \$63.00 to the local Fire Department Drug and Safety Programs. Motion carried.

Next meeting: April 15, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Mission Trip Note

Hi! I am Ashley Stewig, a freshman at TCU High School. I am one of the six youth going to West Virginia in July on the mission trip along with five adults.

Why am I going? Many of you know my parents are volunteer EMT's and I see how they help strangers everyday in their time of need, so what a better way for me to volunteer and help out than going to West Virginia. Thank you Haley Dietz for getting me more interested in going.

On behalf of all the youth and adults going to West Virginia, THANK YOU for your support!

I would like to remind you of upcoming fundraisers. . .

April 13th Pancake Breakfast at Holy Redeemer from 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m., tickets available from any of us going to West Virginia.

May 2nd and 3rd Flower Sales, watch for more details

Ashley Stewig

Mission Trip 2014

Thanks for lots of help from Rhonda Solberg and family with the concession stand fundraiser. The Mission Trip Group will be running the Concession Stand at the Dance Recital Rehearsal and Program. If you can find the time, please sign up for a two hour shift and make a contribution to the 11 people going to West Virginia in July. The shifts are 4-6 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on May 6, 7 and 8 (rehearsals) and before the performances and during intermission on Friday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, May 10 at 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 11 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. There will be a sign up in the Fellowship Hall....or contact Emily Hoefs or Kathy Westerman. There are only 11 of us and we can really use the help!

Kathy Westerman

April Music Notes

April 6 - Vocal duet "In the Garden"

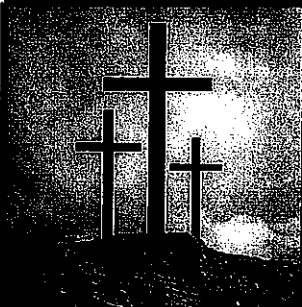
April 13 (Palm Sunday) - N/P/K will sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
Grades 1 - 4 will sing "Hosanna to the Son of David"

April 17 (Maundy Thursday) - Piano/Organ Duet

April 18 (Good Friday) - Watch the Lamb presentation

April 20 (Easter) - Women's Choir will sing "Sing Allelu"
Bells of St. John will ring "Two Resurrection Hymns"

April 27 - Rock'n the Church will sing "Alleluia, Christ Is Risen"



A Lenten Cantata
***Near the
Cross***
will be presented

Fri., April 11, 6:30 pm
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Montgomery
and
Sun., April 13, 4:00 pm
St. John Lutheran Church, Montgomery
*Please join us for this musical and prayerful meditation
on the Passion of Christ*

A Lenten Supper (meatless meal) will be served
Fri., April 11 from 5:30-8:30 pm. in the
Holy Redeemer church basement. *Free will donation.*

A Meal will be served Sun., April 13 following
the presentation in the St. John Lutheran
Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Good Friday 2014

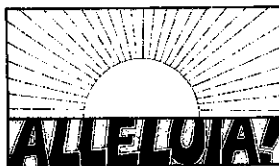
During the Good Friday service on April 18, 2014, there will be a presentation of the song "Watch the Lamb". This song tells the story of a father and his two sons who go to Jerusalem to offer a lamb in sacrifice to God. As a passerby in the city, the father was pressed into service to help carry Jesus' cross before his crucifixion. Seven members of our congregation will be involved in the presentation. We invite you to watch and listen to the message on Good Friday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week Schedule

April 17, Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

April 18, Good Friday - 7:00 p.m.

April 20, Easter Sunday - two services - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Volunteers Needed for Easter Services

We are in need of ushers, readers, communion assistants and acolytes for our 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Easter worship services. If you can help, please sign up on sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Habitat for Humanity

Do you qualify for a Habitat for Humanity Home or know of a family who does? Habitat for Humanity is ready to build a home in Le Center for a family that meets the guidelines. Habitat for Humanity is accepting applications at this time. Application forms are available at the church or on their website, <http://hfhsouthcentral.net> or call 507-388-2081 extension 3 to ask questions or request an application.

Breakfast with the Bishop

Southeastern MN Synod Lutheran Men in Mission -Breakfast with the Bishop "Why I Love the Church" will be held Saturday, April 26, 8:00 a.m. at Cabela's, just north of Owatonna. Cost \$10/person by Friday, April 18. If interested, contact Pastor Bob.

Lion's Club Breakfast

Lion's Club Breakfast will be held Sunday, April 13 at Holy Redeemer Cafeteria, 7 a.m.–12:30 p.m. They will be serving pancakes, ham, sausage and beverages. Cost: Adults/youth over 10 \$8, Youth ages 6-10 \$4, and preschool free. The youth from the West Virginia Mission Trip will be working this breakfast to help raise funds for the trip.

Baskets of Promise

The Women of the Church are collecting items for Personal Care Kits during Lent. Each week a new item will be asked for. March 9 they asked for Bars of Soap, (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping). March 16, Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27, dark color recommended). March 23, Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging). March 30, Combs. April 6 Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional). April 13, Bars of Soap.

Consider Simply Giving

St. John Lutheran Church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offering.

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much needed donation **consistency** for our congregation. We anticipate that electronic giving will appeal to many church members—from longtime worshippers who will appreciate an alternative to frequent check writing to younger members and others who prefer to pay or donate by electronic means whenever possible.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. If you are already using direct debit to make mortgage and car payments or to pay utility bills, then you know how it works.

Credit and Debit Card Giving lets you make offerings automatically on a predetermined schedule using a credit or debit card. Today, many families use debit cards as a convenient alternative to checks or use credit cards in a responsible manner to manage a wide range of obligations.

We presently have 14 families who give to St. John through Simply Giving. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, contact Kay Busch in the church office.

Newsletters!!

Would you like to receive your newsletter via e-mail. You can receive your newsletter in an easy to open PDF format. E-mailing saves money for the church by reducing the amount of paper we use, reduces the wear and tear on the copy machine and reduces the cost of postage. If interested, just notify the church office at stjohnelca@frontier.com.

Large Print

Large print bulletins, inserts and hymnals are available in the back of the church. The head usher can assist you in getting these materials.

Groups & Organizations that meet at St. John!

To ensure our calendar is correct and that we have the church open for your event, please inform Pastor Bob or Kay of your planned meeting dates.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ST. JOHN YOUTH

Volunteers Needed

We are seeking youth in grades 7-12 to assist with worship service throughout the school year. Youth can read the lessons for the day, contribute special music, share a children's sermon, or greet and usher. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Emily Hoefs.

All Leagues Easter Event

The All Leagues Easter Event will be on Sunday, April 13th starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. We will package care baskets for the shut-in members of our community, have an egg hunt, and deliver some of the baskets.



Pastry Puffin Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who ordered Pastry Puffins. The fundraiser was a huge success earning \$1300 for the youth of the church to be used towards summer camps and trips.

Mission Trip 2014

We are seeking donations towards the upcoming West Virginia Mission Trip. The transportation costs for this trip are rather high and we are hoping that with the help of our generous congregation we can help reduce the cost for each volunteer that is going on the trip. Starting in the month of April, you will find envelopes for donations throughout the fellowship hall. Thank you for helping make this mission trip a huge success.

Easter Lily Sales

Easter Lily Sales began in mid-March and continue until Sunday, April 6th. Orders can be placed directly with a youth in grades 3-12, or in the church office (order form below). They are available for \$12 each and can be left at church until after the Easter services or picked up on Saturday, April 19th.



Easter Lily Order

If you would like to share a lily to beautify our Easter services, you may order through the church. The plants will have 5-7 flowers. The price is \$12 per plant. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 6. Please return this form with payment to the church office. Proceeds go to Luther League to benefit youth attending summer Bible camp, the summer Boundary Waters Trip, or the West Virginia Mission Trip.

Name _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

Senior High Discussion Group

Pastor will continue to meet with the Senior High youth for devotionals on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We will meet in the Youth Room on April 13th and April 27th at 10:00 a.m. Hope you can join us!

Ideas for Events

If you have great ideas for youth events, please notify one of our league leaders prior to our April 6th Events Planning Meeting.

Threshers Kitchen at Pioneer Power

The youth will be cleaning the Threshers Kitchen at Pioneer Power on Wednesday, April 16th. Meet at the church by 6:15 p.m. to travel to the grounds. Each youth who works will earn some money to be used towards summer trips. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board, or message Emily Hoefs if you plan to attend (507-291-0387).

Flower Sales

The second annual spring flower sales will be held on Friday, May 2nd from 2-7 p.m. and Sat., May 3rd from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. We plan to be selling from the parking lot of Pavek's Dairy Supply at the south end of town on Highway 13. Like last year, we will have hanging baskets and patio planters available at reasonable prices. All profits from the sales will benefit youth attending the summer Boundary Waters trip and the summer Mission Trip to West Virginia.

Coffee Sales

We will continue to sell ground and whole bean coffee from the European Roasterie. They are available at \$9 per bag. If you are interested in purchasing, please find Emily Hoefs during coffee hour. Our current flavors on hand include Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, and Church Basement Ladies.

Cell Phone Fundraiser

Please donate your old phone to the Luther Leagues. We send in the old phones to a recycling program and receive money in return. These funds help keep the events held at St. John Lutheran inexpensive and available to everyone. A basket for donations can be found on top of the coat racks near the church office.

Pop Tab Collection

We will be collecting pop tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House charities. Containers will be available to deposit your pop tabs in the Youth Room, Sunday School office, and church office.