



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

APRIL 2016

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

Here are some thoughts about baptism, the Church, and how I do ministry in that area:

Sometimes people ask me about whether I would do baptisms of non-members. My answer: absolutely! Baptism is a gift from God, and nothing we can do can earn it. If a parent wants me to administer this gift on behalf of the gospel, I will do it regardless of the parent's faith. Heck, even though it would be weird, I'd even baptize the baby of an atheist if they sincerely wanted that done.

That being said, anyone wanting a child baptized needs to remember that then they become a part of the Church, the Body of Christ. We aren't baptized Catholic or Lutheran – just Christian. And that means that we claim that person as someone whom we expect to help raise in the faith. It's not a magical ceremony, nor is it a nice thing we do to celebrate the child. It is nothing less than God reaching down and adopting this child with His grace. To want that is the only reason for doing baptism.

But even I have my limits. Contrary to some pastors, I will not do private baptisms, unless it is an emergency or other unusual circumstance. Under normal circumstances I will baptize only as part of a worship service. The reason is that more and more people today don't really care about the church, just having their religious needs met. And as we live on social media and have less and less to do with real relationships, it's only getting worse. But the church is unique. It is a family, a family in Christ. Christianity is not a private party between you and God. Therefore it would send the wrong message if I agreed to do private baptisms. It would be saying that you don't need other believers and they don't need you. Both of those are false statements. Without the Body of Christ you wouldn't have the faith you now have, and without you the church is only one generation away from extinction. Some people complain about the church being full of hypocrites, but I find it the height of hypocrisy to say "I'm not interested in church" but then come to us expecting to get something that the church gives.

A couple of interesting things to note about baptism – in our Lutheran theology once it's done it's done. You cannot re-baptize. So, for example, if you think a newborn's life is in danger and you have an emergency baptism in the hospital, you can't have another baptism at church later. You can do a Recognition of Baptism service however, which affirms that a baptism took place. Also, our pastoral guidelines prohibit baptizing the dead. I have had three cases in my ministry where an infant died in the womb or before baptism could take place, and the parents asked if I would baptize the child. I explained to them that, no, my church doesn't allow me to do that, for the simple reason that the child's soul is with God. Baptism is for the living. It is the first step of our journey as members of the Church. If we have finished that journey already and gone to be with the Lord, then baptism is no longer needed.

April Worship Helpers

Readers

April 3 Kathy Derhaag
 April 10 Deb Jelinek
 April 17 Lisa Hoefs
 April 24 Doris Hendrickson

Head Usher

Dan Hardel

Ushers / Greeters

April 3 Myron & Peggy Hentges
 Dallas Horejsi
 Irene Jindra
 April 10 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Ruth Kukacka
 Roman Jindra
 April 17 Steve & Tammie Pan
 Carol Kiekow
 John Krautkremer
 April 24 LaNette Kuelper
 Dick Milinkovich
 Maridan Nesmoe
 Brenda Peterson

Communion Assistants

April 10 Kathy Westerman
 Jessica Westerman
 John Grimm
 April 24 Gary Hartwig
 Jacque Hartwig
 Peggy Hentges

Acolytes

April 3 Ariana Krautkremer
 Confirmation class will sign up
 for rest of month at the April 6 class.

Altar Guild

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.
Thank you for your help!*

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 Mark or Kay of your planned meeting dates.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

Remember in your Prayers...



Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Lyle Terwedo, Opal Hartwig, Nancy Creger, Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejse father), Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), and Bev Horejsi.

Remember those serving our country...

Travis Ferguson, Colin Hulke, Shane Morris, Damon Athey, Matthew Astorino, Adam Vlasak, and Matt Nelson.



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Jim and Linda Bachman and family upon the death of Jim's brother Larry.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. The cans brought \$128 which will go to the Montgomery Food Shelf. Thank you to Ted Wondra for taking the cans to Mankato.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Lenten Suppers, to all who came, those who prepared food and everyone who served and assisted with clean up. A good time was had by all!!!

Towels Needed

If you are re-decorating or re-stocking your bath towels, the Women of the Church can use your old towels for personal care kits for the mission work. Drop off towels at church.

Thank you
 WOTC

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 22nd of April for the May newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - February

	February	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 14,409.96	\$ 28,670.50
Expenses	\$ 14,343.16	\$ 30,399.98
Cash Flow	\$ 46.80	\$ (1,729.48)

St. John Church Council Minutes March 15, 2016

Present: Wendy Vargo (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Connie Cihak (1/18), Renee Sorenson (1/19), Pam Edel, (1/19), Greg Westerman (1/19), Pastor Mark Wilmes

Absent: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18)

Vice -President Liz Vlasak called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Pastor lead with prayer.

Connie Cihak made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16th meeting. Greg Westerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Hardel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Greg Westerman seconded it. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation will continue after Easter with the 8th graders. Pastor will start working with the 6th & 4th graders also. He is planning a Stewardship series. After Easter Pastor will be on vacation for one week. Pastor Rendahl will be the visiting pastor.

Head Ushers: Easter week ushers will be Wendy Vargo on Maundy Thursday, Kathy Peterson on Good Friday, Renee Sorenson 9:00 Easter Service, and Liz Vlasak 10:30 Easter service. April head usher will be Dan Hardel.

Feed My Sheep: No family identified at this time.

Can Recycling: The trailer is full and needs to be taken in for recycling. This load will go toward the Food Shelf.

Old Business: Tables and chairs were delivered. Eric will finish up the insurance report with Roman. Possible new renters for the parsonage. Call committee had 2 applicants to interview. One dropped out but they have retained one candidate to interview a second time. They also has 2 new applicants to interview.

Committee Reports:

Endowment: No report.

Women of the Church: No report.

Cemetery: No report.

Audit: Cindy Westerhouse will chair the new committee with Dan Hardel being her go to person on the council.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson: No report.

Evangelism: Wendy Vargo: New member Sunday was held on February 21st. Thank you to those helping serve cake and coffee to welcome new members: Joanne Dawson, Anton Nelson, Joslyn Vargo and Trey Krautkremer.

Education: Liz Vlasak: Jessica Westerman will be stepping down as of May 1st after 4 years of serving as Sunday School Superintendent.

Youth: Eric Schroeder: Absent - No report.

Facility: Greg Westerman: Faucets were installed. Greg will check into the light behind the stained glass window to get it replaced with a lower burning bulb which also spreads the light out better.

Church in Society: Kathy Peterson: Absent - No report.

Communications: Dan Hardel: Working on pieces for automated giving.

Fellowship: Connie Cihak: Council needs to review the fee schedule for church usage. Will review at next month's meeting.

Worship and Music: Pam Edel: Music is set for Easter. Hand bells will be refurbished.

Other Business: Renee Sorenson brought up an estimate for fixing the entry to the parking lot and also for filling the holes to the alley going to the back parking lot. Greg Westerman will look into this.

Pam Edel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37. Dan Hardel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Pastor lead the council in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is April 19th at 6:30 pm.

April Music Notes

April 10

N/P/K will sing

Grades 1 – 4 will sing “Fairest, Lord Jesus”

April 17

Rock’n the Church will sing ”Children of the Light” written by John Grimm

April 24

Bells of St. John will ring “Here I Am to Worship”



Grief Support Group

A Grief Support Group is being offered by St. John Lutheran Church. The group is for anyone who is grieving the loss of someone important to them, whether the loss is recent or from years past. The group will meet at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church beginning Tuesday, April 26 and will run for six weeks.

You can benefit from a connectedness that comes from people who have also had a death in their lives wrote Alan Wolfelt, in his book, Understanding Your Grief. Support groups, where people come together and share the common bond of experience, can be invaluable in helping you and your grief and supporting your need to mourn long after the event of the death.

In this fast-paced society, people who have had a significant loss are often expected to be over it in a matter of a few weeks. The support group experience allows individuals to express grief in their own unique way and on their own unique timetable.

The group is free of charge, however, participants are asked to register to ensure that enough materials are available. For more information or to register, call Brenda Peterson at 701-269-1439.



Faith and Life Bible Study for April

Our weekly Bible study for adults goes on with a look at the kings of united Israel. They were not boring figures from the dusty past. They were real people with weaknesses and noble attributes. King Saul struggled with emotional issues, likely a manic-depressive disorder, which clouded his reign and led to his downfall. King David has gone down as the most iconic king of Israel’s history – his star adorns the Israeli flag today. Nevertheless, he failed as a husband and father, having an affair and trying to cover it up by having someone murdered, then being absent from his children leading to their horrible acting out. Finally, Solomon ruled over Israel at its greatest point in history, but his love for riches and lust for literally hundreds of women caused him to lose sight of how his people were faring, and on his death the country was ripped in two by civil war.

Faith and Life Bible study meets on Monday nights 6:30-8:00, and Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00. Drop in and give it a try! There are treats and coffee every week.



ST. JOHN YOUTH

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2016

Our mission trip to South Dakota has been rescheduled for next summer. This gives us an opportunity to go on a Boundary Waters Canoe Trip! Trip dates are July 9th-15th. This trip is open to this years 7th-12th graders. If we book very soon we can get a discounted price of \$475 per person. We would also add transportation cost to the trip but they should be minimal. We need 6 kids to attend to make the trip possible. Please email or facebook message Missy as soon as possible if you are interested in attending. mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org



Fundraising Opportunities

Please contact Missy for information regarding fundraising opportunities and youth funds available to help pay for summer trips. mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Family Fun Night at TCU Swimming Pool

Join us on Saturday, April 9th for Family Fun Night at the TCU swimming pool! We'll have a fun evening of swimming, fellowship and food, starting at 3pm until 6pm. This is open to all St. John Lutheran Church families. Kids under 3rd grade must have an adult attend with them. If your 3rd-12th grader will be attending without an adult they will need a current signed permission form. Please sign up by Wednesday, April 6th so we can be sure to have enough food and lifeguards. Hope to see you there!



Feed My Starving Children

We have a Feed My Starving children service trip planned for Saturday, April 23rd 1-5pm. This is at their Egan location. **We have filled all of our spots for this event!! Thank you to those who signed up!**

Flower Sale

The "May Flower Sale" will be the first weekend in May. Profits raised will help our youth attend summer events. Details of sale to come soon! These beautiful flowers make a great Mothers Day gift!



Pastry Puffin Fundraiser for the Youth

Starts Sunday, April 3rd through Sunday, April 17th. Try our samples during coffee hour on Sunday, April 3rd! Orders will be in before Mothers Day.

ST. JOHN YOUTH

Camp Omega

We are organizing a camp omega trip for kids not old enough to go to boundary waters. Mini youth camp dates are July 19-22, July 26-29 or August 16-19. Please contact Missy or sign up on youth board on your preferred dates by April 1st if you would like to go to camp.



Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie! We have Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, Toasted Marshmallow, Turtle Nut, Chocolate Covered Cherry, Swiss Chocolate Almond and Irish Cream . \$9 for a 12 ounce bag. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week. We take special orders if we don't have the flavor you want, whole bean also available by special order. All proceeds go to the youth league.



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.

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.

