



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

DECEMBER 2014

Dear People of St. John,

What a marvelous time it is to be God's people! And what do we do as God's people? We praise and serve God by serving those in need, both close to home and around the globe. Khalil Gibran has written, "I slept and dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy." Service is joy! Especially when we recognize Jesus in the faces of everyone we meet. With the season of Christ's birth upon us, Maryann and I wish you joy in all its fullness.

I am trying to tie up loose ends and leave everything here in good order as I prepare for my retirement. There are joyful things – such as two weddings and three baptisms yet to come. There are administrative things – such as the December 7 voters meeting after worship to take the first vote on a revised constitution and bylaws. There is the joy of the Christmas services and then the finality of the farewell on January 4. I have such mixed emotions. Making the decision to retire was a tough one, but it is the right one.

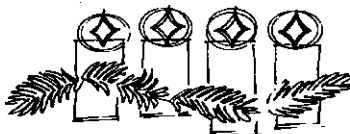
My library of biblical studies and theology has always been representative of my ministry. I have now moved my library home and installed everything in new bookcases I have built for that purpose. I look at those books and I think, "What next?" I am certain that I will continue to find opportunities to teach and preach, to play my music, to do pastoral care. I await the Lord's direction concerning these things. The thing I look forward to most in retirement is the reopening of KaulCraft, my woodworking business. I know that I will be kept busy in my shop.

After January 4th you also will have much to do. You will be guided by capable leaders here at St. John as well as the synod office. You will listen and pray for the Lord's direction. You will think about what new and different directions you might like to pursue as a congregation and what kind of pastor will be best suited for this ministry. Be patient, and remember that anything worth doing is worth doing well.

We should all refrain from gazing too far into the future so that we don't miss the blessings at our doorstep. This is the season of Advent and Christmas. God's coming into this world in the person of Jesus is the most important thing in the history of the universe. Let us all pay attention to the countless ways, both large and small, that Christ comes to encounter us. Let us enjoy our friends and families. Let us serve those in need. Let us rejoice in our children. Let us worship and pray like we've never prayed before, giving thanks to God for mercy and grace. Let us sing and give comfort. Let us be humble. Let us love God with all our hearts, and let us love one another.

Peace and Blessings be to you, now and always,

Pastor Bob Kaul



Pastor's Notes

December Worship Helpers

Readers

- December 7 Volunteer Needed
 December 14 Christmas Program
 December 21 Cindy Westerhouse
 December 24 Volunteers Needed (Christmas Eve)
 December 28 Kathy Westerman

Head Usher

John Krautkremer

Ushers / Greeters

- December 7 Roman Jindra
 Maryann Kaul
 Mike & Maridan Nesmoie
 December 14 Steve & Tammie Pan
 Carol Kiekow
 Ruth Kukacka
 December 21 Marc & Kathy Peterson
 David & Dorothy Scheffert
 December 24 Volunteers Needed (Christmas Eve)
 December 28 Jesse & Gail Skluzacek
 Charles Richter
 Kelle Schleis

Communion Assistants

- December 24 Volunteers Needed (Christmas Eve)
 December 28 Don & Kathy Westerman
 John Grimm

Acolyte

- December 7 Abby Schleis
 Emily Krautkremer
 December 14 Chase Derhaag
 Cassidy Gilbertson
 December 21 Chase Derhaag
 Cassidy Gilbertson
 December 24 3 p.m. Emily Krautkremer
 5 p.m. Cassidy Gilbertson
 10 p.m. Volunteer Needed
 December 28 Matthew Koschade

Altar Guild

Various Altar Guild Members

*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!

Remember in your Prayers...

Gabrick Rose, Oswald Schultz (Brenda Peterson's father), Jean Waugh, Bonnie Young, Marvin Denzer, Alexander Sticha, Patricia Morrill (Peggy Hentges' mother), Brenda Stenzel, Greg Vlasak, Terri Pekarna (Robert & Glenda Larsen's daughter), Jeff Klonne (Pat Boyle's brother), Nancy DeCoux (Cathy Stasney's mother), Bob Hauer, Chad Solheid (Michelle Trcka's brother), Opal Hartwig, Ethan Scheffert, Scott Collier, Adelle Shultz (Carol Kiekow's aunt), John Teig (Berlyn's brother), Reuben Svoboda, Braden Flicek, Mayme Jindra, Nancy Vollmar, Alvin Winterfeldt and Todd Trcka.

Remember those serving our country...



Shane Morris, Damon Athey, Nathan Kubinski, Matthew Astorino, Adam Vlasak, and Matt Nelson.

Baptism

Noah James Bastyr was baptized Saturday, November 22. Noah was born September 25, 2014 to Nathan Bastyr and Kimberly Deutch. Noah's sponsors are Kristine Deutch and Nicholas Bastyr. God's blessings to Noah and his family.

Thank You

The Women of the Church thank everyone who donated, work, attended the Egg Bake Breakfast, Bake and Craft Sale held Sunday, November 16. This fundraiser raised over \$2,000. Thank you to Pam Edel and Brenda Stenzel for creating and quilting a beautiful full size quilt and 2 pillow shams. Kay Busch was the lucky winner of this quilt.

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. Thank you to Paul Busch for taking cans to Mankato. The cans brought \$204 which went to Operation Christmas Child.

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.

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 23rd of December for the January newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - October

| | October | Year to Date |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Receipt | \$ 12,903.83 | \$132,633.30 |
| Expenses | \$ 15,545.46 | \$152,360.18 |
| Cash Flow | \$ (2,641.63) | \$ (19,726.88) |

Church Council Meeting **November 18, 2014 - 6:30pm**

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

Absent: John Krautkremer (1/16), Kathy Peterson (1/17)

Opened with **Devotion/ Prayer** by Pastor Kaul

John Grimm moved, Maridan Nesmoe seconded a motion to **approve the October 2014 meeting minutes**. Motion carried.

President's Report: None

Vice President's Report: None

Secretary Report: None

Treasurer Report: Jeanne Anderson moved, Dan Hardel seconded a motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for October 2014. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A. Head Ushers:

December: John Krautkremer
Christmas Eve: 3:00 p.m. Wendy Vargo
5:00 p.m. Dan Hardel
10:00 p.m. Kathy Peterson

B. Feed My Sheep: \$500 was given to a needy family by a special request.

C. Constitution and Bylaws: Dan Hardel moved, Jeanne Anderson seconded a motion to move forward with the vote needed to approve the amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws. Motion carried. The 1st vote would be on Dec 7th at a special meeting of the congregation. The vote will need to be a simple majority to move onto a second vote to ratify at the January 25th Annual Congregational meeting. The second vote will need a 2/3 majority to pass. Copies of the proposed documents will be available on the church's website and through the church office.

D. Audit Committee: Meetings are ongoing. Committee Members are: Dave Scheffert, Lynn Heinzig, Dr. Mark Brahs, Mark Wehe and Deb Jelinek.

E. Facility Improvement:

1. Lights have been installed and are beautiful!
2. Bathrooms are being remodeled at this time. Restoration funds are being used for this project.

F. ELCA Campaign: (Tabled until January)

ELCA Campaign Coordinator / Committee: to manage our Church's 5 year Campaign
2014 Malaria
2015 Congregational
2016 Hunger & Poverty
2017 Global Church
2018 Leadership

G. Call Process: An exit interview is being scheduled with Synod representatives, Church Council members and Pastor Kaul.

New Business:

A. Can Recycling:

1. John Grimm will take the full trailer over for recycling. Funds are earmarked for Operation Christmas Child.

B. Nomination Committee:

1. A Nomination Committee is being established.
2. Our current constitution C13.01 states "A NOMINATING COMMITTEE of three voting members of the congregation shall be elected annually by the Congregation Council at least two months prior to the annual meeting of the congregation." Dan Hardel moved, John Grimm seconded a motion to name Paige Nordling, Steve Pan and Wendy Vargo to serve on said committee. Motion carried.

C. Personnel Policy:

1. Council Members are looking over the proposed documents and will discuss further at the next meeting.

(Continues on back)

(Council Cont.)

Committee Reports:

A. Stewardship Committee: John Grimm

1. John reported on support of outreach congregations.
2. John will do a "Stewardship Minute" at the Dec 14th service.

B. Evangelism Committee: Wendy Vargo

1. On Sunday, November 2 we welcomed new members to St. John. They were Tracy Geske and daughter Milly, Travis and Lucinda Rose and son Gabrick, Harry and Brenda Peterson, Erica McCollister, Rick and Gwen Hanzlik, Tony Pierson, and Marty and Sarah Krocak and children Daniel, Ella, and Katie. We also welcomed back Harry Dietz who was a former member. A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall following the church service. Thank you to Joanne Dawson, Cindy Zahratka, Joslyn Vargo and Jayden Stasney for serving the cake and coffee.
2. Shopping will be done on Friday, November 21st with the money donated and set aside for the soldier boxes. Boxes will be packed on Monday, November 24 and mailed out on Tuesday, November 25th.

C. Education: Pastor & Jeanne Anderson

1. 150 pew Bibles have been delivered and are placed in the pews! The funds to purchase these Bibles and the materials to make the wooden pew racks have been donated. Pastor will make pew racks before Christmas.
2. Next Education Committee Meeting will be held on Dec. 7th at 11:00 am. We will be gathering information/schedules/plans etc. for the Interim Pastor concerning Confirmation.
3. The Christmas program will take place on Sunday, December 14th during the service.
4. There will be a Sunday School "Fun Day" on Dec. 21st. Volunteers do projects with the children so that our hard working Sunday School Teachers can enjoy coffee hour. We are always looking for volunteers to help with this.

D. Youth: Paige Nordling - Last Advisory meeting was November 3rd.

1. Little League (3rd – 5th grades) Christina Dietz and Jessie Filter are the advisors.
 - a. Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box packing was on Sunday, Nov. 16th from 11 – 2. Had a great turnout of kids. Packaged 30 boxes!
2. Junior League (6th – 8th grades) Dawn Anderson and Karen Vlasak are advisors for this group.
 - a. They are looking to schedule a trip to Feed My Starving Children for Junior and Senior Leagues. A tentative date of November 22 has been discussed.
3. Senior League (9th – 12th grades) Missy Gregor and Jill Vargo are advisors for Sr. League.
 - a. Tentative date for a bowling event will be Sunday, December 7th
4. All Leagues:
 - a. Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 21st. Looking to invite the whole congregation instead of just youth. Watch for information.
5. ELCA Youth Gathering 2015 – Detroit, MI – July 15th-19th 2015. We have one for sure going and two others are still deciding. Because of the small number of kids interested, we will register with the LeCenter group.
6. BWCA trip will be set for August 2-8, 2015. We have at least one full group and have had a few inquire since the meeting. Please contact Paige if still interested. MUST register before Christmas for a lower price.
7. Poinsettia sales are in full swing. Orders are due Sunday, Nov. 23rd. Delivery will be Friday, December 12th.
8. Emily Hoefs and family have volunteered to fill the treat bags which will be handed out to the youth following the Sunday School program on December 14th.
9. We are always looking for more youth involvement in the church services one Sunday a month.
10. Next planning meeting will be on Sunday, December 7th during Sunday School.
11. Next Advisory Meeting has yet to be set.

E. Facility Management – John Krautkremer –None

F. Church and Society: Kathy Peterson

1. Salvation Army Bell Ringing
2. Operation Christmas Child

G. Communications: Dan Hardel -None

H. Fellowship: John Helling

1. The Women of the Church hosted an Egg Bake Breakfast and sold 114 tickets. The bake and craft sales were well received also!
2. Mayme Jindra's 100th birthday celebration will take place during coffee hour on December 14th.

(Council Cont.)

(Council Cont.)

I. Worship & Music Committee: Maridan Nesmoe

1. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service is taking place at St. Patrick Church on Tuesday, November 25th.
2. November 30th will be a Hymn fest!
3. December 14th – Sunday School Christmas Program.
4. Coffee Hour will be served by this committee in January.

Pastors Report:

1. Pastor reported on a project taken on by Cassie Dietz supporting the Simpson House in Minneapolis. Cassie will address our congregation concerning ways we can help.

Next meeting: December 16, 2014, at 6:00 pm for the Yearly Budget meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm and closed with “The Lord’s Prayer”

Submitted by Jeanne Anderson, Church Council Secretary

Simpson House

The Hope Chest can be filled with any of the following items. If a star is after the item listed, it represents items that can be used but in good condition.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Shaving razors | Diapers, pull-ups (sizes 1-5) |
| Deodorant | Lotion |
| Travel size shampoo | Q-tips |
| Toothbrushes | Combs, brushes |
| Tooth paste | Toilet paper |
| Nail clippers | Bar soap |
| Tampons, pads | Laundry detergent |
| Feminine hygiene items | Socks (kids, adults) |
| Winter gear-hats, gloves, scarf | Bras |
| Underwear (men's: no XL,XXL) | Blankets, pillows |
| T-shirts* | Backpacks, duffle bags |
| Blankets* | Chap stick |
| Bath towels* | Books (all ages, all kinds)* |
| Twin sized sheets* | |

***Remember, if you wouldn't wear it, or wouldn't want to use the 'used' item, do not donate it.

Happy giving everyone J

God Bless - Cassie Dietz

SNOW POLICY

In case of inclement weather the church closure policy will be as follows:

The Pastor and Church Council President or Vice President will make the decision if a church service will be cancelled. Notifications will be posted on the front door, KCHK Radio-1350 AM, and there will be a message put on voicemail at church.

Special Congregational Meeting

A meeting will be held Sunday, Dec. 7 after worship to review the revised Constitution and Bylaws. This will be the only item on the agenda. Copies of the constitution are available at www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org or hard copies are available in the church office. A second meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 25 at which time a 2/3 majority vote is required to ratify and adopt the constitution.

New Member Sunday

On Sunday we welcomed new members Tracy Geske and daughter Milly, Rick and Gwen Hanzlik, Marty and Sarah Krocak and children Daniel, Ella and Katie, Erica McCollister, Tony Pierson, Harry and Brenda Peterson, Travis and Lucinda Rose and son Gabrick, and welcome back Harry Dietz. A reception was held in their honor hosted by the Evangelism Committee.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas program will be held Sunday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m.



First Communion

Lukas Dietz, Tayte Domine, Aubrey Filter, Devin Filter, Lauren Houn, Hailey Kadrluk and Anton Nelson completed a class in the preparation for Communion. They received their First Communion Sunday, November 9.

Birthday Celebration

On December 14, Mayme Jindra will turn 100 years old. A small celebration in Fellowship Hall is planned on Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. to wish Mayme a Happy Birthday.



Communion

On Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14, communion will not be distributed. Saturday afternoon service will be lead by John Grimm and Sunday service is the Sunday School Christmas Program. Communion will be distributed all 3 Christmas Eve services and the last weekend of December.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteer readers, ushers and communion assistants for all 3 Christmas Eve Worship Services. Sign up sheets can be found in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for volunteering.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

3:00 p.m. Worship with Communion
5:00 p.m. Worship with Communion
10:00 p.m. Worship with Communion



Salvation Army Kettle Campaign

The spirit of giving kicked-off with Thanksgiving this year! The bells rang one week at Thanksgiving and will ring one week at Christmas.

Christmas Schedule: Weekdays: December 18, 19, 22, 23 from 3-5 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., Wednesday, December 24, any time, if available. Weekend: Saturday, December 20, 9-11 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 1-3 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21, 9-11 a.m. and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. It is nice to have two people per shift, but not necessary. Please sign up for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign by calling Deb Jelinek at 507 364-8021.



December Music Notes

December 14- Sunday School Christmas Program

December 21 - Bells of St John will ring "Two English Christmas Carols"

December 24 Christmas Eve Services

3:00 p.m. N/PK will sing "Away in a Manger" and Grades 1 - 4 will sing "The First Noel"

5:00 p.m. Rock'n the Church will sing "Three Kings"

10:00 p.m. Bells of St. John will ring "What Child Is This?"

Women's Choir will sing "O Holy Night"



December 28 - Angel Band will accompany our hymns

Soldier Packages

Thank you to all who donated to the soldier boxes. A special thank you to Paul Vollmer, Cindy Zahratka, Pam Edel, Kay Keohen, Amy Wehe, and Kay Busch for all their work getting funds, shopping, collecting addresses, packaging, and mailing the boxes. We sent out 12 boxes on Tuesday, November 25.

Wendy Vargo - Evangelism Committee



Pastor Bob's Retirement

Pastor Bob will be retiring from St. John Lutheran on December 31, 2014. On Sunday, January 4, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. you are invited to a short program in the sanctuary followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall in honor of Pastor Bob and Maryann.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is up and ready for decorating with scarfs, gloves and mittens. These items will be donated to the Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous.



ST. JOHN YOUTH

Poinsettia Fundraiser

Youth - Poinsettias will be available for pick up on Friday, Dec. 12th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, Saturday, Dec. 13th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and Sunday, Dec. 14th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.



All League Caroling Event

An All League Caroling event will be held Sunday, December 21 from 1:00 - 3:00. This event is open to youth and the entire congregation.



Boundary Waters

We have seven youth and one adult signed up to go to the Boundary Waters for August 2015, that makes one complete group. Others have shown interest and we would like to make the trip available one more time for any others that may have missed the informational meeting. We need a minimum of six youth and one adult to send another group. Registration and a non-refundable deposit of \$50 will be due by the middle of December. If you are interested, please contact Paige Nordling.



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 Amber Athey during coffee hour. Our current flavors on hand include Maple Almond Scone, Apple Cinnamon Streusel, Spiced Butter Rum, Maple Pecan Streusel, Caramelized Pralines, Golden Maple Syrup, Oatmeal Cookie, Autumn Swirls and Pumpkin Cheesecake. Other flavors include: Church Ladies, Breakfast Brew and Jamaican Me Crazy.



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.