



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

December 2018

The Church Expecting, Not the Church Planning

***But our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.***

***He will transform the body of our humiliation
that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,
by the power that also enables him
to make all things subject to himself. Philippians 3:20-21***

As we enter into the Season of Advent, it is really easy for us to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of this holiday season. I think that it is in our DNA as humans to keep busy and get right to planning. Making our lists and checking them twice to make sure that we have everything taken care of for when that big day arrives. As crazy as it sounds, we are not in the Season of Christmas yet. The big box stores want to push and shove the next season at us, and all too often, we just shrug our shoulders and say, "Yep, that's normal."

For those of you planning and working on Christmas programs and services, we are grateful for your time, focus, and energy. For those of you focused on the ongoing ministry, tending to the stewardship of time, gifts, and talents, it is constant and necessary to tend to the needs that are right here in front of us. But all of this planning, does not bring in the kingdom of God. It does not make things just right, so that Jesus can pop up and say, "Whew, finally you've got things straightened out and I can show up for the party."

All of those things point not to ourselves, but to Christ and His promises.

We are "the Church Expecting." This is who we are during this Season of Advent (and, ever more until, Jesus Christ comes again). "The Church Expecting" is the body of Christ – those gathered and kept by the Holy Spirit through the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are not ignorant, as we see the struggles, the brokenness, the illness, the death, and all the things we have to do in this life and overlook them, but we name them for what they are. We are expectant that even in the midst of this brokenness, Jesus's promise remains, as we await Him coming back to us – just as He promised. Jesus was sent for our sake, to be born, to die on the cross for our sins, and to be raised for our sake so that we may be His own. Christmas has come! But we are the Church Expecting for Jesus to come again, and when He comes we already know how we are to react – As Sinner/Forgiven, we are to raise our heads up to see our salvation fully come (Luke 21:28) – to see the One who was, and is, and is to come doing what only He can do – bring in His kingdom – Bring in His Salvation – Bring in His life to those who look to Him in expectation of Him fulfilling His word.

"The Church Expecting" is not however "the church stagnant." In Christ now, we live and move and have our being. We are those who come alongside those who are in need in Christ's name. We are those who continue to share God's work through Christ and to reveal what Jesus has told us to expect from Him without any fear.

Peace of Christ,
Pr. Jason

Music Notes

The Voices of St. John will sing at the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsal dates are: December 5th, December 12th and December 19th from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. The Bells of St. John will ring at the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsal dates are: December 5th, December 12th, and December 19th from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Many members will be sharing their gifts of music during this month. On December 9th, a liturgical dance will be presented during the service. On December 16th our Sunday school children will sing songs and play instruments during the Christmas Program. Come and listen as we tell of God's love in the Christmas story with Mary & Joseph, angels, shepherds & wise men. On December 23rd Anne and Lisa Schroeder will sing "Gesu Bambino". Our handbell choir of 10 ringers will also offer a song during this service. On Christmas Eve our entire musical department will offer songs during our three special services. And on December 30th instrumentalists will play the music for our hymns during the service. We are very thankful for our musical family.

December Special Music

December 9 –Liturgical dance by Morgan Gjerstad, Sophie Smith, Alice Schroeder

December 16 - Sunday school Christmas Program at 9:00 a.m.

December 23 – Bells of St. John will ring and a duet will sing "Gesu Bambino"

December 24 - Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. N/P/K and Grades 1 - 4 sing

5:00 p.m. Rock'n the Church sings "The Friendly Beasts"

10:00 p.m. Bells of St. John ring and Voices of St. John sing

December 30 - Angel Band will play hymns

Wish List for the Church 2018

If you are feeling generous, here are a few things needed for St. John Lutheran Church. Keep in mind, we still need your continuous support for our regular operating budget!

- _____ DONATION TOWARD BELL TOWER REPAIR
- _____ Donation toward wireless mic updates (approx \$320 X 2 sets)
- _____ Donation toward Security Camera & Updates
- _____ Complete set of tools in a toolbox
- _____ Donation to replace access door to garage at parsonage
- _____ Donation toward parsonage landscape fund
- _____ * Blue Ray Player - wifi enabled
- _____ * Portable White Board (approx \$200)
- _____ * Smart TV 37 inch
- _____ * Fireproof, lockable, 4 drawer file cabinet
- If interesting in purchasing one of these directly please, let Pastor Jason or Missy know.

November Church Council Meeting

November 18, 2018 St John Church Council Meeting

Chairman Kiekow called the meeting to order at 11:05. Present: C Kiekow (2019), L Vlasak (2021), K Peterson (2020), W Vargo (2020), S Schroeder (2020), C Cihak (2021), Pastor Jason; absent: E Krautkremer (2019)

Pastor opened with devotion; 'Do not be afraid – God IS with us. Name things as they are, allow others to bear our burdens with us.

Steve made a motion, seconded by Liz to approve the secretary's report, motion carried. Liz gave a detailed treasurers report, and presented the council with 2017/2018 financials, and reviewed all financials to encourage the council to be prepared for the budget meeting/review on December 2, 2018. Connie made a motion, seconded by Wendy to approve the treasurers report, motion carried.

Pastor Jason presented his activity report and reviewed upcoming events.

Two recipients were approved for 'Feed My Sheep'. The last monies from can recycling went to support Operation Christmas Child. Steve made a motion for the next recycling monies to go towards Special Music March 17, 2019 – St Olaf Gospel Choir singing with our children's choir on March 17, 2019. A fund raiser for the bell tower – watch for more details!

Thrivent Action – Channele Bakken will be here to assist members 1-13-2019.

Child and Youth Safety program update – seeking to present and approval on 12-02-2018. Steve made a motion to pay \$9924.00 for repairs done on bell tower to present time; seconded by Connie, motion carried. Expecting estimate of further repair/costs sometime in December 2018. Pastor reported that SOME Time and Talent surveys have been returned – looking for more of us to get them returned. New Member Sunday was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Candidates are being sought for Church Council, if you are interested in serving your church family in this way – talk to a council member or Pastor Jason. New giving envelopes have been ordered and will be available soon. Gwen Hanzlik has accepted the Chairperson of the Fellowship Committee.

Future meetings: December 2, 2018 – Budget overview/Council meeting.

January 13, 2019 Church Council Meeting – both following services.

ANNUAL MEETING: January 27, 2019 immediately following worship.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted respectfully, C Cihak

It is time to do another St John Pictorial Directory. The council is looking for a committee to study options and organize it for sometime in 2019. If interested, please contact Pastor, Missy or one of the council members.

The Council has 4 openings for 2019: Three 3 year terms and one 2 year term to finish out a term. Carol Kiekow's term is up but she has agreed to run again. It is important that we have people ready to serve and help us as we undertake the bell tower repair and continue to make St John a welcoming place of worship.

If interested in serving or have any questions, please contact Pastor, Carol Kiekow or Kathy Peterson.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Kyle Sargent & Courtney Schnaith; Joe & Molly Dee, and Jay, Billi, Daniel, Will, Matti, & Carli Larson who have joined as members together in ministry with us here at St. John Lutheran. We are blessed to share in the gifts and talents that they have to offer. They were recognized during the worship service on Sunday November 18th.

CONFIRMATION NEWS AND EVENTS

7th & 8th Grade – Will Meet on December 5th, 12th, and 19th

Meal @ 6PM & Class 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

We Will Not Meet on December 26th

Looking Ahead: 4th Graders will be reading the Gospel of Mark.
During the months of January and February,
the pastor will make home visits
with each 4th Grader and at least one of their parents/guardians.

UPCOMING SPECIAL AND NORMAL SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday School Christmas Program December 16th

5PM Saturday Service on Saturday December 22nd

9 AM Service on Sunday December 23th

Christmas Eve Service Times December 24th

3 PM Sunday School

5 PM Rock'n the Church

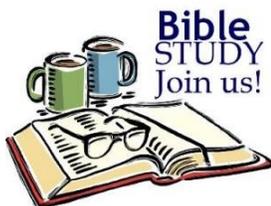
10 PM Candlelight Service with Bells and Women's Choir

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENTS SHEET

Do you have time and talents that we don't know about? Is there an area of ministry that you would like to know more about? Would you like to try something new?

Then, please take the time to fill out the Time and Talents Sheet that is included in our newsletter. These sheets will also be available around the church. This is a great way for you to consider different ways that you can lend your gifts to our ministry here at St. John. This helps serve as a way to connect us all together. This isn't just for adults. If you are a youth, and you would like to help out please fill one out. Just drop these off in the basket at the top of the stairs, in the black drop box near the youth announcement board, or simply, put it in the offering plate.

BOOK OF ROMANS BIBLE STUDY



We invite you to come and join us for Bible study and discussion on the Book of Romans. It is held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the Month (12/11 for this month due to Christmas) from 6:30-7:30 PM in the downstairs Education Room. Anyone can come to this (even if you happen to miss a night). The format of this Bible study is intended to welcome anyone to come and join. On each night, we will be reading and discussing the chapters for that particular night of the study. If you wish to read chapters ahead of time, feel free to think about any questions that you may have that might add to the discussion. We will be reading and discussing Romans Chapters 9 & 10. See you there!

Worship Helpers

December

Ushers / Greeters

- Dec 2 John Krautkremer
Kathy Derhaag
Jeanne Anderson
Ruth Kukacka
- Dec 9 Kathy Westerman
Tammi & Steve Pan
Lynn Schuknecht
- Dec 16 Steve & Anne Schroeder
David & Rhonda Solberg
- Dec 23 Carol Kiekow
Phillip Solberg
Doug & Karen Thompson
- Dec 30 Greg & Jessica
Westerman
Ted & Colleen Wondra

Communion Assistants

- Dec 2 Rich & Wendy Vargo
Youth Volunteer
- Dec 9 *Volunteers needed*
Youth Volunteer
- Dec 16 Sunday school
Christmas program
- Dec 23 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
Youth Volunteer
- Dec 30 Carol Kiekow
Peggy Hentges
Youth Volunteer

Readers

All lesson readings will be available to view and/or print on the church website under info center.

Enlarged paper copies are available in the file folder outside the church office door.

- Dec 2 Dianne DeWitte
- Dec 9 Renee Sorenson
- Dec 16 Sunday school
Christmas program
- Dec 23 Diane LaVine
- Dec 30 Carol Kiekow

Acolytes

- Dec 2 Aliviya Boyd
- Dec 9 Gabrielle Davidson
- Dec 16 Tayte Domine
- Dec 23 Gabrielle Davidson
- Dec 30 Tayte Domine

Head Usher

- Dec 2 Erin Krautkremer
- Dec 9 Kathy Peterson
- Dec 6 Steve Schroeder
- Dec 23 Carol Kiekow
- Dec 24 3PM Carol Kiekow
5 PM *Volunteer needed*
10PM Connie Cihak

Thank you for your help!

If you are unable to help on the day you are listed please call or email the church office no later than Thursday morning of that week.

507-364-5002 or

stjohnelca@frontier.com.

Worship Helper Sign Up!

The worship helper sign up sheets for January-March are up!

Please check your schedules and sign up for the Sunday(s) you are available to help!

Everyone is welcome to volunteer. If you have any questions please contact the church office via email stjohnelca@frontier.com or 364-5002. Please sign up by Sunday, December 16th.

Worship Helpers on Christmas

Eve

Readers

- Dec 24 3 PM Dave Winge
- Dec 24 5 PM *Volunteer needed*
- Dec 24 10PM Megan Pratola

Ushers

- Dec 24 3 PM *Volunteers needed*
- Dec 24 5 PM *Volunteers needed*
- Dec 24 10PM *Volunteers needed*

Communion Assistants

- Dec 24 3 PM *Volunteers needed*
- Dec 24 5 PM *Volunteers needed*
- Dec 24 10PM Kathy Derhaag

Acolytes

- Dec 24 3 PM *Volunteer needed*
- Dec 24 5 PM *Volunteer needed*
- Dec 24 10PM *Volunteer needed*

Quilters come and share your talents! The group will meet from 9 AM – 2 PM on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Bring a bag lunch for noon fellowship. The quilters will not meeting in the month of December.

The Sunday School Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 16th at 9 AM. There will be a Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall following the program to benefit the 2019 Mission Trip.



Fall Grief Support Group

"I am thinking of her nearly always."
C.S. Lewis

This quote comes from the book, A Grief Observed written by C.S. Lewis on the death of his wife. When you have lost a loved one it is oftentimes hard to understand what you are feeling and if those feelings are normal!

We just finished a six-week fall grief support group at the church that was offered to the community. Grief support groups are one of the best helping resources for those who have lost a loved one thru death. A participant shared that attending "helped them in not feeling alone and feeling comforted from others in the group". They also learn that while their own grief is unique they can experience similarities and understand they are not alone in their feelings.

A 2018 spring grief support group will be held so watch your newsletter for dates closer to that time. If you have any questions please contact me.

Thank you to the church for hosting this much needed community service helping others to "*grieve and mourn well, going on to live well*" (Dr. Wolfelt). Also, a thank you to Kay Busch for being co-facilitator.

Brenda Peterson, 701-269-1439

Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

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

- ◆ **Wednesday** for the bulletin.
- ◆ The **27th of December** for the **January newsletter**.



Remember in your Prayers... Roger Napper, Bentley Ingram, Rycky Kes, Glenn Kerkow, Cathy Herrmann, Eileen Segna, Diane Schultz, Nancy Vollmar, Tom Trendera, Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korhuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) Nancy Creger.

Remember those serving our country... Matthew Astorino, Travis Ferguson, Shane Morris, Adam Smith, Adam Vlasak and Sam Westerhouse.

*If you have the addresses for our service people listed above please call or email the information to the church office.

Baptisms

Haley Layne Loftus received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, November 4th. Haley was born on July 1, 2018 to Matthew and Ashley (Krohn) Loftus. Her sponsors are Sara and Andy Richter.

Thank You

Thank you for the donations to our Church wish list!

Please have all items for the annual report submitted via email to stjohnelca@frontier.com by **Monday, December 17th**.

Coffee servers are needed for Sunday coffee hour! Please consider signing up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall.



St. John Lutheran Church Elca

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December Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church

(507) 364-5002 or 364-8787

E-mail: stjohnelca@frontier.com

Pastor Jason Pollington: pastor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Website: www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

St. John's Worship Schedule

5:00 p.m. Saturday Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Sept.– May)

Distribution of the Lord's Supper
is celebrated at every weekend service.
Fellowship/Coffee Hour follows Sunday's
worship service.

St. John's Staff

Jason Pollington, Pastor (c) 507-667-9000

Carol Kiekow, Congregation President

Kathy Heyda, Music Director & Organist

Melissa Gregor, Secretary & Youth Ministry Director

Roman Jindra, Custodian

Sara Kuchinka, Sunday School Superintendent

Diane DeWitte, Organist

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As children of God, we are a family
living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ
through worship, fellowship, and service.

Women of the Church Meeting

First off, THANK YOU to all who volunteered, donated, or participated in our annual WOTC Fall Fundraiser. We fed 130 people breakfast and along with the bake sale, the craft sale and the Silent Auction. The Fundraiser was a huge success! We cannot thank you enough for your support.

The WOTC will be holding a meeting on Sunday, December 9th at 10 AM in the Youth Room. The meeting will be to provide you with a recap of the Fall Fundraiser, discuss our finances and to elect a new chairperson or co-chairs. Kathy Derhaag and Lori Helling are our current co-chairs and they would like to pass on the positions to someone new. Renee Pribyl is the secretary/treasurer and has been in her position since February of this year.

We have in the past hosted two fundraisers: (1) the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper Event with a goodwill offering, those funds have been designated to the local Food Shelf & (2) an annual Fall Fundraiser in which those funds have been used to purchase coffee for all church events, materials for quilts, layettes, personal care kits, and school kits that are prepared for Lutheran World Relief. We have also used our funds for kitchen supplies, carpet cleaning and appliance repairs, as well as donating to our church mission trips. We also give year-end contributions to various non-profit organizations.

We welcome any input or feedback on past events and are open to any new ideas for our group to pursue in the future. Many Blessings and Thank You! Hope to see you on the 9th!

Salvation Army Kettle Campaign for 2018 RING THE BELL!

If anyone is interested in ringing the bell this year for the Salvation Army, you are asked to contact JoAnn Dawson at 507-364-5835 for the schedule. The bell ringing will take place from Saturday, December 8th to Sunday, December 23rd. The Red Kettle will again be housed in front of Mackenthun's Fine Foods in Montgomery. All money we collect stays local and goes to the Salvation Army in Le Sueur County.

Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous again is collecting donations for low income families in the county. Unwrapped gifts for children newborn to 18 years of age may be dropped off at Holy Redeemer School, TCU High School, CornerStone State Bank and Frandsen Bank and Trust, Montgomery, and the Montgomery Boy Scouts tree sales through December 7th. Monetary donations (please make checks payable to Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous) can be made at both banks or mailed to Cornerstone State Bank, 401 4th Street NW, Montgomery. Distribution is Monday, December 10th, noon to 6 PM at St. Mary's Social Hall, Le Center. The program served 628 children from 233 Le Sueur County families in 2017.

Do you receive your newsletter in the mail? Would you be interested in receiving it via email instead? Newsletters that are received by email get to you 2-3 days faster than in the mail. Help us go green and email stjohnelca@frontier.com to be put on the



Pastor Jason's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-12:00 PM & 1:00-5:00 PM

Pastor Jason Pollington's

Cell Phone Number:

507-667-9000

Missy's Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30 AM-2:30 PM
Wednesday 11:30 AM-2:30 PM
Thursday 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

