

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

February 2018

God's Revelation to Us

***I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
Isaiah 42:6-8a***

This year instead of the rushed time from Christmas to Lent, Epiphany will be around for just a bit longer. We have one more full month yet to go. Already, it has thrown our secular sales driven world for a loop. If you haven't noticed, Easter decorations, candy, and gifts are already hitting the shelves to entice you to be prepared. But, I think that it is okay to remain a little longer in the wonderful ways that God continues to make known to us His work through His Son for our sake.

The word Epiphany means 'appearing,' 'manifestation,' or 'revealing.' Throughout the season of Epiphany, the church focuses on how God has appeared or been revealed to the world through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. During this time, we follow readings and themes that focus on specific events in Jesus life, emphasizing how God has been made known to the world through Jesus Christ.

Do you remember the first time you even heard them?

Are you bored by those stories that you have heard over and over in Church?

Why do we need to hear them again?

This revelation that we have received through the continued sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the very thing that makes us who we are. We are called and gathered by the Holy Spirit into this body of Christ. This should be music to our ears and our thankfulness for God's grace should continue to pour forth from us.

The hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story," does a wonderful job of reminding us of the power and importance of this word, especially the 3 verse.

***I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
And tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and his love. Amen***

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

February Music Notes

The Sunday School kids will sing in church on February 10. Rock'n the Church will sing the contemporary song "How Great Is Our God" on February 17. The Bells of St. John will ring "A Joyful Psalm" on February 24. The Voices of St. John will rehearse music for Easter on March 13th, March 27th, April 10th and April 17th.

For Lenten services this year, we will be using the Liturgy for Lent by Marty Haugen called "That You May Have Life". I need a song leader for two Wednesday night Lenten Services. Please let me know if you could help on March 20 and April 3.



Can you name the thing that God wants from us above anything else? He wants us to worship Him, motivated by love and devotion to Him because of Who He is. The concept of worship may mean different things to different people. To some, this word brings to mind reflective moments sensing the presence of God. Others find the height of worship in learning new truths from the Word of God. All of these, and numerous other expressions, can be worship. For me, I believe the physical expression of adoration by singing and ringing bells is worship. I know that God loves music. Music comes from God, and when we participate in it – whether by performing or even just listening – we are worshipping Him.

Kathy Heyda

Music Director

NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS TO ST. JOHN CHURCH COUNCIL

We would like to recognize those members of St. John elected from the annual meeting to serve on the our church council.

3-year terms: Carol Kiekow, Liz Krocak, and Mike Lundquist

2-year term: Dave Winge

We would like to thank Abby Brockway for her willingness to run for one of these positions on the council. We continue to appreciate the sharing of her gifts as a Sunday School teacher. Please consider how you can share your gifts and talents within our ministry. If you haven't done so already, take a moment to fill out one of our time and talents sheets, so that we can connect you with our shared ministry here at St. John Lutheran.

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.

January 13, 2019 St John Church Council Meeting

Carol Kiekow brought the meeting to order at 10:10AM; Present: C Kiekow (2019), L Vlasak (2021), W Vargo (2020), Erin Krautkremer (2019), K Peterson (2020), C Cihak (2021), Pastor Jason and Missy Gregor. Absent: S Schroeder (2020).

Kathy moved to approve the secretary's report, seconded by Liz; motion carried. Treasurers' report moved to later in the meeting. Pastor Jason reported an upcoming baptism in February. Carol reported that Kathy Derhaag will chair the women of the church; Renee Pribyl will be Sec/Treas. The WOTC will do the Ash Wednesday Lenten supper; volunteers for the following weeks will be needed. No recipients noted for Feed My Sheep. The monies from recycling will go to pay for transportation for the St Olaf Gospel Choir; the following to the Food Shelf, the next to the Mission Trip. Kathy moved to adopt the Child and Youth Safety Program, adding the mentors, second by Wendy motion carried. Discussion on bell tower bid, presenting information at the Congregational meeting, approval from the congregation and fund raising. Four candidates were identified that have agreed to run for Church Council; additional candidates can be nominated from the floor. Cindy Westerhouse has agreed to chair the Audit committee and will enlist committee to assist her. It was noted that new curriculum is needed for the Sunday school, \$1500. It was mentioned there will be a Sunday school teacher appreciation the first weekend in May. Liz presented financials, followed by much discussion; Kathy moved to approve the treasurer's report, 2019 proposed budget second by Erin motion carried.

Next Meeting: FEBRUARY 17, 2019 following services.

Adjournment at 12:10

Submitted respectfully Connie 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.

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.

Worship Helpers

January

Ushers / Greeters

Jan 6	James Blum Kathy Derhaag Daryl & Cindy Curtis
Jan 13	Carol Kiekow Jim Heyda Todd & Kayla David
Jan 20	Kathy Westerman Kelle Schleis Paul & Kay Busch
Jan 27	Eric Schroeder David & Dorothy Scheffert Kim Washa
Feb 3	Deb & Lynden Jelinek Roman Jindra Ralph Hendrickson
Feb 10	Kathy Derhaag Rich & Gwen Hanzlik Irene Jindra
Feb 17	Carol Kiekow Paul Vollmar Rich & Liz Vlasak
Feb 24	Marc & Kathy Peterson Jeanne Anderson Richard Milinkovich
Mar 3	Jessica & Greg Westerman Myron & Peggy Hentges
Mar 10	LaNette Kuelper Gail & Jesse Skluzacek John Krautkremer
Mar 17	Lynn Schuknecht Phillip Solberg Doug & Karen Thompson
Mar 24	David & Rhonda Solberg Mike & Maridan Nesmoe
Mar 31	Ted & Colleen Wondra Berlyn & Garie Teig

Communion Assistants

Jan 6	Carol Kiekow Karen Vlasak
Jan 13	Kathy Derhaag Garie Teig
Jan 20	Erin Krautkremer Maridan Nesmoe
Jan 27	Peggy Hentges Cindy Westerhouse
Feb 3	Carol Kiekow Myrna Terwedo
Feb 10	Rich & Wendy Vargo
Feb 17	Steve & Anne Schroeder
Feb 24	Renee Pribyl Tammi Pan
Mar 3	John Grimm Candyce Kadrlík
Mar 10	John & Lori Helling
Mar 17	Gary & Jacquelyn Hartwig
Mar 24	Gerald & Dianna Smith
Mar 31	Brenda Peterson Ruth Kukacka

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.

Jan 6	Dave Winge
Jan 13	Don Marcussen
Jan 20	Carol Kiekow
Jan 27	Steve Pan
Feb 3	Diane LaVine
Feb 10	Lisa Hoefs
Feb 17	Renee Sorenson
Feb 24	Marilyn Richter
Mar 3	Dave Winge
Mar 10	Dianne DeWitte
Mar 17	Doris Hendrickson
Mar 24	Carol Kiekow
Mar 31	Jean Waugh

Acolytes

Jan 6	Alexis Hoefs
Jan 13	April Engstrom
Jan 20	Alexis Hoefs
Jan 27	April Engstrom
Feb 3	Chloe Grunow
Feb 10	Mavrick Birdsell
Feb 17	Chloe Grunow
Feb 24	Mavrick Birdsell
Mar 3	Konnor Korbitz
Mar 10	Rhia Krautkremer
Mar 17	Konnor Korbitz
Mar 24	Rhia Krautkremer
Mar 31	Kaia Krocak

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.

Do you enjoy visiting with others and making a difference? Consider becoming a Hospice Volunteer! Opportunities are available in this area! If interested contact St. Croix Hospice (507) 508-3091 or at volunteer@stcroixhospice.com

Coffee servers are needed for Sunday coffee hour! A great way to celebrate or honor a birthday or anniversary! Please consider signing up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall.



Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers to family and friends of Richard Elstad, (father of Connie Cihak) who passed away this week.

Our thoughts and prayers to family and friends of Terry David, (father of Todd David) who passed away this week.

TWO GREAT WAYS THRIVENT FINANCIAL CAN HELP IN OUR MINISTRY HERE AT ST. JOHN

Do you know how to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John Lutheran?

Do you know how to create Thrivent Action Teams that can help by assisting with projects (\$250 per qualifying project) within the life of St. John Lutheran?

If your answer to either of these two questions is no, please check with Pr. Jason, Missy, or the St. John Church Council.

Thrivent Dollars need to be designated by March 31, 2019.

Remember in your Prayers... Harry Dietz, Dianne Schultz, Scott Petersen, Gerry Smith, Tom McClune, Phyllis Pelowski (Mother of Lynn Heintzig), Roger Napper, Bentley Ingram, Rycky Kes, Glenn Kerkow, Cathy Herrmann, Eileen Segna, Diane Schultz, Nancy Vollmar, Tom Trenda, Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (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.



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 **25th of February** for the **March newsletter**.

2019 LENTEN DINNERS AND SERVICES START IN MARCH

We will be starting our Lenten Dinners and Services with Ash Wednesday on March 6th. The dinners will be served from 4:30-6:15 PM with the services starting at 6:30 PM. The St. John Lutheran Women of the Church will be serving the dinner on March 6th.

Please consider providing a dinner on one of the remaining Wednesday nights. You can sign up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall. The Women of the Church will be coordinating the sign-ups for these dinners.

MINNESOTA RIVER CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The Minnesota River Conference will be meeting at Our Saviors Lutheran in Owatonna on Sunday, February 10th at 2 PM. We are in the process of nominating candidates to serve as the new bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. If you are interested, St. John can have six delegates at this meeting. Please let Pastor Jason know if you are interested in going. Also, please consider being one of our congregations two delegates for our 2019 Synod Assembly this year in Rochester on May 31st and June 2nd. We will be electing a new bishop at this year's assembly.



St. John Lutheran Church Elca

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January 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.

UP-COMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

4th Graders will be reading the Gospel of Mark. During the month of February, the pastor will continue to make home visits with each 4th Grader and at least one of their parents/guardians.

7th & 8th Graders will meet at 6PM Dinner 6:30-7:30PM Class on **February 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th.**

9th Graders will meet at 10AM following the 9AM Service on **February 24th.**

Heads up for March

6th Grade Confirmation will meet to discuss the Lord's Prayer and prayer. 6th Graders are scheduled to be at the church during the 1st three Wednesdays of Lent **from 3:15-4:30 PM on March 6th and March 20th & from 1:15-3:15 PM Wednesday on March 13th (due to early out).** The weekly topics will be "Confession: Forgiveness & Faith," "Supplication: Needs of Others – Church, Family, Friends, & Enemies," & "Self: Need, Help, & Thanksgiving."

5th Graders are scheduled to be at the church during the 2nd three Wednesdays of Lent **from 3:15-4:30PM on March 27th and April 3rd & from 1:15-3:15 PM Wednesday on April 10th.** There will be Lenten dinners starting at 5:30PM that you and your families can enjoy if you chose followed by a Lenten Service starting at 6:30 PM. **Students will receive their First Communion on Thursday, April 18th during the 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service.**

Single giving envelopes for offering are on tables at each sanctuary entrance. Please remember to write your name on the envelope. If you would prefer to prepare your envelope at home bundles of 25 are available. Please talk to Pastor Jason, Kathy Peterson or Missy Gregor if you have questions.

Hello, we are collecting never used and/or handmade blankets for the Smile Network as our mentor project. They would like the blankets to be 3'x3'. They can be crocheted, etc. If you do fleece, it can either be tied (with only one layer of material) or can have a finished edge if people do that! They are requesting it to be single not double since they go to warm places. Donations will run through June 30, 2019. Please give us a call or text at 952-393-9407 for pickup or if you have any questions. Thanks, Kayla Horejsi and Aliviya

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 newsletter email list!



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:

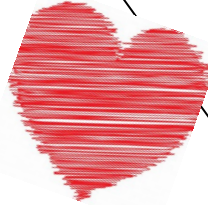
507-667-9000

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

Youth news

SWEETHEART SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Saturday, February 9th
4:30-7:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP Hall
SPAGHETTI BAKE, SALAD,
DESSERT AND BEVERAGE BAR.
SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE



Warm up with a cup!

\$9 for a 12 ounce bag. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office. Breakfast Brew, Caribbean Hazelnut, Blueberry Cinnamon Swirl, Swirls of Autumn, Apple Cinnamon Strudel & Dulce De Leche! We take orders!

See Missy or check out the European Roasterie website for a list of flavors. All flavors can be ordered in ground or whole bean.

All proceeds go to the youth league.



After school Youth Group
Next meeting is on *Wednesday, February 6th*. Grades 3-6 will meet from 3:05-4:05 PM at church. We will meet on the first Wednesday of the every month.



Sunday Morning Bible Study for grade 10-adult. Meet in the youth room after church on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month. Each time we meet we will talk about topics from the readings and sermon. Don't worry if you miss a Sunday, each week will have it's own topics and discussion.

Junior and Senior League Mount Kato Ski Trip is on Sunday, February 24th, 1:00-7:00 PM. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board. This trip is for grades 5-12th. Younger grades are welcome to attend with an adult. Please sign up by Sunday, February 17th, we need 15 people to attend.

3rd-5th grade students and parents, we need your help during our Annual Spaghetti Supper!
Please sign up on the youth bulletin board!