

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

FEBRUARY 2018

Stewardship: Ask – Thank – Tell!

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,
for he who has promised is faithful.*

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,
not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:19-25)*

In my final semester of my final year at Luther Seminary, I took a class that was offered entitled: Money and Mission in the Church. This class focused on stewardship in the church. A word that is often spoken, but, in reality, a part of the life of the church that has a very limited understanding of what this word “stewardship” really means for us. The class allowed us to focus on three parts that we need to include in our vocabulary in connection with stewardship: “How do we ask” – “How do we thank” – and “How do we tell our story of our life in Christ out of the gospel of Christ that we have received.”

One insight that was shared within the class is something that churches are fully aware of: giving within congregations has decreased over recent years even though the costs of ministry and outreach has continued to increase. During this time of change, there is an area that has continued to grow in number and also giving – non-profit organizations. In the United States alone there are 1.5 million non-profit organizations with an estimate world-wide of 10 million non-profit organizations. Within the highly competitive call for support and sustainability, these non-profits have become excellent at knowing what their mission is and then sharing their story with others.

We have a story to tell, and there is something at the heart of our story. It has always been there, and it will continue always to be there – God’s grace through Christ for our sake. This is what guides us in the sharing of the gospel in evangelism. This is what guides us in the giving, sharing, and use of all that God has placed into our hands in stewardship. This is what keeps us when we gladly gather around God’s word in preaching and teaching of it, when we gladly receive the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion according to Christ’s command, when we share in the forgiveness of sins and when we continue to be gathered together in Christ’s name considering “how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.”

Thank you to all of you who have begun telling your stories through your articles in our newsletter beginning with the very young and soon moving on to you who have been around just a little longer. Your stories are those that we share together in this body of Christ. This is evangelism; and this is stewardship.

When we become complacent, we have a tendency to not tell our story; and closely related to this, we have a tendency of “neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some” - neither of which point to who we are in this church. We are encouraged to tell this story which has no equal; and we are encouraged to remember that together, we are the communion of saints gathered in fellowship, forgiveness, and worship in Christ’s name.

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

**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?

On **Sunday, March 4th**, Thrivent Associate, Channelle Braekkan, has offered to come to St. John Lutheran following the 9AM service to briefly tell us a little about Thrivent Financial, to help those qualifying for Thrivent Action Teams put them to work, and to help members designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars. **Thrivent Dollars need to be designated by March 31, 2018.**

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.

6th Graders will meet to discuss prayer. 6th Graders are scheduled to be at the church **from 3:15-4:30PM on Wednesdays on February 14th, February 21st, & February 28th** during the 1st three Wednesdays of Lent. The weekly topics will be “Confession: Forgiveness & Faith,” “Supplication: Needs of Others – Church, Family, Friends & Enemies” & “Self: Need, Help & Thanksgiving.”

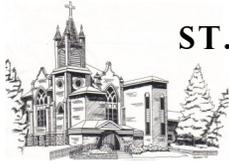
7th & 8th Graders will meet at 6PM Dinner 6:30-7:30PM Class on **February 7th.**

9th Graders will meet at 10AM following the 9AM Service on **February 4th & 25th.**

Heads up for March

5th Graders are scheduled to be at the church **from 3:15-4:30PM** on Wednesdays on **March 7th, March 14th, and March 21st.** There will be Lenten dinners starting at 5:30PM that you and your families can enjoy, followed by a Lenten Service starting at 6:30 PM. **Students will receive their First Communion on Thursday, March 29th during the 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service.**

Giving envelopes for 2018 and 2017 Giving Statements are ready. Envelopes and statements are labeled for each family and will be on a table in the hall between the sanctuary and the upstairs Sunday School room. Please pick these items up as soon as possible.



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

105 SPRUCE AVENUE • P.O. BOX 25
MONTGOMERY, MN 56069-1068

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Montgomery, MN
Permit No. 35

Address Service Requested

February Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church

(507) 364-5002 or 364-8787

E-mail: stjohnelca@frontier.com

Pastor Jason Pollington: pastor@montgomerynelcalutherans.org

Website: www.montgomerynelcalutherans.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. 10-May 6)

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) 406 665-5320 (h) 507 953-0079

Eric Schroeder, Congregation President

Kathy Heyda, Music Director/Organist

Melissa Gregor, Secretary & Youth Ministry Director

Roman Jindra, Custodian

Jessica Westerman, Sunday School Superintendent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

February Worship Helpers

Readers

February 4 Steve Schroeder
February 11 Anne Schroeder
February 18 Gail Skluzacek
February 25 Renee Sorenson

Head Usher

February Eric Schroeder

Ushers / Greeters

February 4 Ralph Hendrickson
Jim Blum
Kelle Schleis
Volunteer needed
February 11 Jesse & Gail Skulzacek
Ted & Colleen Wondra
February 18 Steve & Tammi Pan
Rick & Gwen Hanzlik
February 25 Eric Schroeder
Lynn Schuknecht
Gerry & Dianna Smith

Communion Assistants

February 4 John Grimm
Candyce Kadrlík
Youth Volunteer
February 11 Gary & Jacque Hartwig
Youth Volunteer
February 18 John & Lori Helling
Youth volunteer
February 25 Deb & Lynden Jelinek
Youth volunteer

Acolytes

February 4 Aubrey Filter
February 11 Jameson Fonseca
February 18 Aubrey Filter
February 25 Jameson Fonseca

Altar Guild

February LaNette Kulper & Kathy Derhaag

All lesson readings will be available to view and/or print on the church website under info center. If you are unable to access this and need a paper copy they are available in the file folder outside the church office door.

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... Diane Schultz, Berlyn Teig, Ellen Flicek, Lloyd Svoboda, Eunice Lund (mother of Mary Brahs), Karen Vlasak, Peggy Svoboda, Nancy Vollmar, Gretchen Vlasak, Tom Trenda, Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (cousin of Renee Sorenson), Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) Nancy Creger and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

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

Sympathy

Please keep the Family and Friends of Mayme (Noiske) Richter in your condolences and prayers following her death on January 23rd. Funeral services were held on Sunday, January 28th, at St. John Lutheran Church in Montgomery. Interment will be held in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in spring.

Please keep the friends and family of Elsie (Hartwig) Rotter in your condolences and prayers. Elsie passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 20th, 2018. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 27 at St. John Lutheran Church in Montgomery. Interment will be held in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in spring.

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

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 22nd of February** for the March newsletter.

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 Jason or Missy of your planned meeting dates.

**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?

Thrivent Choice Dollars are a benefit given to non-profit organizations based on qualifying products purchased by individuals which can then be directed by the individual to go to the non-profit of their choice. If the Thrivent Choice Dollars are left undesignated, then they go to wherever Thrivent designates them. They are distributed. So, members of St. John please designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars here to St. John Lutheran and put them to great use. **Thrivent Dollars need to be designated by March 31, 2018.**

The information for How to Designate Thrivent Choice Dollars can be found around St. John Lutheran Church or in the information section of our website as a pdf. document.

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?

Put Thrivent Teams into action for Fundraisers, Service Events, or Educational Events. Benefit Members are eligible for **TWO PROJECTS** a year and **Associate Members** are eligible for **ONE PROJECT** a year. Members can create one action team for one event. Qualifying projects will receive a **Seed Money Card** in the amount of **\$250** to use on the project. Just to name a few, Thrivent Action Teams Projects that we have put to use were for: **The purchase of flamingos for the Youth Mission Trip fundraiser, the Youth Spaghetti Dinner, the Scholarship Pancake Dinner, the Confirmation Mentor Dinner, the Women of the Church Brunch, Items for the Veterans Packages, supplies for quilting, and costumes for the Sunday School Christmas Program.** Just these eight Thrivent Actions Teams Events added \$2000 to our ministry and outreach here at St. John.

So, how can we use these Thrivent Action Teams in the year ahead: **Supporting Adult Educational opportunities, books and supplies for our sponsored Grief Support Group, Youth Ministry opportunities, Vacation Bible School, Fellowship gathering opportunities, the purchase of music for Lenten Wednesday Night Services, food for various sponsored dinners, and so much more.** Tell us your ideas. **Just 10 Thrivent Action Teams would add \$2,500 in ministry support; and 20 Thrivent Action Teams would add \$5,000 in ministry support.** We are asking you for a little help. Please contact the church office if you are eligible to put one of these Thrivent Action Teams to work. If you don't know if you qualify, how many you qualify for, or how to get started, we will help you. **Just email stjohnelca@frontier.com or call 507-364-5002**

Do you receive your newsletter in the mail? Would you be interested in receiving it via email instead? Help us go green and email stjohnelca@frontier.com to be put on the newsletter email list!



Pastor Jason's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Friday,
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-5:00
p.m.

Missy's February Office Hours

Tuesday-9:00 AM -5:00 PM
Thursday- 9:30 AM-2:30 PM
Friday- 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

February Music Notes

2018 Lenten Worship

For five weeks starting February 21, we will be using "The Holden Evening Prayer" written by Marty Haugen for our Wednesday Lenten evening services. Marty Haugen is a Twin Cities Lutheran composer and liturgist who has written widely for ELCA and Catholic publishers and has several hymns in WOV. He wrote the Holden liturgy during the winter of 1985 and 1986 at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. "The Holden Evening Prayer" is quiet and meditative, with an emphasis on lighting candles and seeking light in the darkness. It is commonly used in Lenten evening services using contemporary and inclusive language. The music is simple and repetitive, and the melodies are catchy. Contents include "Service of Light," Evening Hymn-"Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory," "Evening Thanksgiving," "Psalmody, Readings and Canticles", "The Annunciation," "The Magnificat," "Litany and Prayers," and "Final Blessing". Wednesday Lenten services begin at 6:30 p.m.

February 4

Rock'n the Church will sing "Jacob and Sons" and "Joseph's Coat"

February 11

P/K will sing "I've Got Peace Like a River"

Grades 1-4 will sing "Let Your Light Shine"

February 14 (Ash Wednesday)

Bells of St. John will ring "He Leadeth Me" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

February 25

Bells of St. John will ring "Joy and Delight"



2018 Lenten Dinners and Services

Ash Wednesday February 14th

Dinners 11AM-1PM & 4:30PM-6:15PM

Soup, Breadsticks, Salad, Desserts, and Beverages

Service 6:30 PM

Wednesday February 21st

Dinner 4:30PM-6:15PM

Service 6:30PM

Wednesday February 28th

Dinner 4:30PM-6:15PM

Service 6:30PM

Wednesday March 7th

Dinner 4:30PM-6:15PM

Service 6:30PM

Wednesday March 14th

Dinner 4:30PM-6:15PM

Service 6:30PM

Wednesday March 21st

Dinner 4:30PM-6:15PM

Service 6:30PM

Maundy Thursday Service March 29th

Service 7PM

Good Friday Service March 30th

Service 7PM

2018 St John Church Annual Meeting

Church Council Chair Eric Schroeder called the 2018 Annual Meeting to order. Pastor Jason led us in prayer. Eric stated that 2017 was a year of change. Following our first full scale audit following synod guidelines, we began the process of implementing best practices; collecting and depositing monies, job descriptions, developing (and following) a budget, new financial software for churches to name a few.

Pastor Jason gave his report, Learning together, Connecting together and Giving together. He also reviewed the uses of Thrivent dollars and the programs that can fund.

Eric called for nominations from the floor for additional council members; hearing none. Ballots were handed out. Eric Schroeder, Liz Vlasak and Connie Cihak were elected to a 3 year term (2021), Carol and Erin Krautkremer were elected to a 2 year term. (2019) Motion by Kathy Peterson to accept the election results, second from Richard Vlasak motion carried.

Liz Vlasak gave the Treasurer's report, reviewing the old system and the new system going forth, explanations on several aspects of how expenses continue all year long, even when attendance and giving decreases; encouraged the congregation to consider Simply Giving. Questions from the congregation were answered. A correction regarding line item 506 to read 9080.00. Motion by Liz Krocak to accept the Treasurers report with the correction, second by Jessica Westerman motion carried.

Pastor reminded the congregation that we need 2 people to attend the Synod Conference. Motion by Kevin Krohn to adjourn motion carried.

During Lent the WOTC would appreciate donations for the personal care kits. Boxes will be in the Fellowship Hall starting on Ash Wednesday.

Items needed: Full sized bar soap
Bath towels (used ok as long as they are in good condition)
Wash clothes
Toothbrushes
Combs

Thank you for your help with this.

WOTC will have an Organizational Meeting immediately after Church on February 21st in the Youth Room (Officers will be elected).

The Montgomery food shelf is in need of volunteers! Tuesday's & Thursday's 9-11AM, Tuesdays 4-6PM and Saturdays 9AM- 12PM. Once a week, once a month or one day as you have availability. Help is greatly appreciated! Contact Renee at the food shelf for more information or to schedule a volunteer time. 507-364-7321

ST. JOHN YOUTH

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.



Sweetheart Spaghetti Supper

Saturday, February 10th

Hilltop Hall



First Dinner seating 4:45 PM

Second Dinner seating 6:15 PM

We need card tables for this event. Please sign up on youth bulletin board if you can bring in yours

3rd—6th graders and Parents

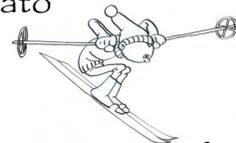
Please sign up to help at the Spaghetti Supper. Sign up sheet is on the youth bulletin board or message Missy on Facebook or email.
mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Warm up with a cup!
\$9 for a 12 ounce bag. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office. Breakfast Brew, Smore's, Toasted Marshmallow, Pumpkin Spice, Eggnog Crème & Jazzy Chesnutt!
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.



Junior & Senior League Ski Trip to Mount Kato

Sunday, February 25th



Cost is \$20, you can use your youth group funds. Friends welcome, their cost is \$40 for skiing, \$7.50 for meal deal

Parent chaperones needed. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board by Sunday February 18th. We must have 15 skier/snowboarders for this event.