



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

FEBRUARY 2015

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

There's nothing like a new beginning. A baby is born, and it feels like you're living a new life. A new marriage, new career, even a new car – they bring freshness to our lives. Recently, I decided on a new beginning in my life, leaving regular ministry to become a full-time interim. It involved the expense and time of the training required, then striking out into the unknown to seek out my first interim call. St. John's experienced the retirement of a good pastor, also striking out into the unknown as you worked with the Synod to arrange for interim ministry. Now together, we will move through a process that will help you discern your direction for the future, and call a permanent pastor that will fit that vision.

In spite of all these unfamiliar paths we are on, the comforting thing is that the gospel has not changed. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Pastoral ministry has not changed, either. We interims are pastors first, program people second. I will be your pastor in every way during this in-between period: preaching, teaching, administering the sacraments, marrying, burying, visiting the sick and homebound, counseling. I am available in any way that I can be helpful as a pastor, so don't be shy about it.

My wife, Lynn, and I have a home in Blue Earth. I will be in Montgomery five days a week and in Blue Earth two (much of the time Lynn will accompany me to Montgomery). On a typical week, I will arrive in Montgomery Saturday at midday, and return to Blue Earth after Wednesday night church activities at St. John. That will change depending on circumstances.

Thank you for giving me the privilege to serve as your pastor during this important time for St. John. Everyone has been very welcoming. I want to especially thank Dan Hardel and the Council for giving me the nod, John Grimm for the wonderful log cabin accommodations, Kay Busch for being just the kind of office manager that any pastor would want, Roman Jindra for his kind help in getting me settled and even introducing me to ministry opportunities, and all the other people who have made my wife and me feel at home in Montgomery.

Pastor's Notes:

February Worship Helpers

Readers

February 1 Deb Jelinek
 February 8 Allie Hardel
 February 15 Lisa Hoefs
 February 18 Doris Hendrickson (Ash Wednesday)
 February 22 Deb Jelinek

Head Usher

February 1 John Krautkremer
 February 8 Maridan Nesmoie
 February 15 Open
 February 22 Kathy Peterson

Ushers / Greeters

February 1 Daryl & Cindy Curtis
 Kathy Westerman
 Jim Blum
 February 8 Tom & JoAnn Dawson
 Kathy Derhaag
 Ralph Hendrickson
 February 15 Todd & Kala David
 Deb & Lynden Jelinek
 February 18 Volunteers Needed (Ash Wednesday)
 February 22 John & Lori Helling
 Rick & Gwen Hanzlik

Communion Assistants

February 8 Allie Hardel
 John & Lori Helling
 February 22 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Dallas Horejsi

Altar Guild

LaNette Kuelper

*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.

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 February for the March newsletter.

Remember in your Prayers...



Braden Flicek, Delmer Braun, Tom Mariska,
 Blanche Sorensen, John Hiscox, Diane Notch,
 Betty Ann Heuer, Harold Walters (Betty
 Jindra and Virginia Horejsi's father), Gabrick
 Rose, Oswald Schultz (Brenda Peterson's
 father), Alexander Sticha, Patricia Morrill
 (Peggy Hentges' mother), Brenda Stenzel,
 Greg Vlasak, Terri Pekarna (Robert & Glenda
 Larsen's daughter), Jeff Klonne (Pat Boyle's
 brother), and Nancy DeCoux (Cathy Stasney's
 mother).

Remember those serving our country...

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

Our Sympathy

*We extend our sympathy to Jeremy and Ashley Scheffert
 and their family upon the death of their son Ethan on
 Monday, January 12.*

*We extend our sympathy to John Grimm upon the death of
 his father.*

*We extend our sympathy to Kyle and Kate Sommers upon
 the death of their infant daughter Addison. Addison was
 born and received in silence into God's loving hands on
 Monday morning, February 2.*

Lenten Worship Services

Weekly Lenten Worship Services begin Ash Wednesday,
 February 18 at 6:30 p.m. We will also have Lenten
 Suppers at 5:00 p.m. served by volunteers. If you are
 interested in preparing and serving a supper, please sign
 up on the calendar in Fellowship Hall. The first supper on
 Ash Wednesday will begin at 4:30 p.m. hosted by Women
 of the Church.

Newsletters!!

Would you like to receive your newsletter via e-mail.
 You can receive your newsletter in an easy to open PDF
 format. E-mailing saves money for the church by
 reducing the amount of paper we use, reduces the wear
 and tear on the copy machine and reduces the cost of
 postage. If interested, just notify the church office at
stjohnelca@frontier.com.

Financial Corner General Fund - December

	December	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 24,974.36	\$175,511.84
Expenses	\$ 15,499.11	\$182,598.18
Cash Flow	\$ 9,475.25	\$ (7,086.34)

Church Council Meeting

January 20, 2015 - 6:30pm

Present: John Grimm (1/15), Jeanne Anderson (1/15), Maridan Nesmoie (1/16), John Krautkremer (1/16), John Helling (1/16), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Kathy Peterson (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17)

Absent: Paige Nordling (1/15)

Kathy Peterson moved, John Krautkremer seconded a motion to **approve the November 2014 council meeting minutes and the December 7, 2014 Special meeting minutes.** Motion carried.

President's Report: None

Vice President's Report: None

Secretary Report: None

Treasurer Report: Jeanne Anderson moved, John Helling seconded a motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for November 2014. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A. Head Ushers:

February:	1 st - John Krautkremer	8 th – Maridan Nesmoie
	15 th - ?? _____	22 nd - Kathy Peterson
March:	John Helling	

B. Feed My Sheep: John Grimm moved, John Helling seconded a motion to send donations to 3 families in need. Motion carried.

C. Audit Committee: in process

D. ELCA Campaign: John Grimm has agreed to chair this at this time

• ELCA Campaign Coordinator / Committee: to manage our Church's 5 year Campaign

- 2014 Malaria
- 2015 Congregational
- 2016 Hunger & Poverty
- 2017 Global Church
- 2018 Leadership

E. Nomination committee: A committee of Paige Nordling, Steve Pan and Wendy Vargo are serving on the nomination committee. Nominations will be made at the annual meeting on January 25.

F. 2015 Budget: Jeanne Anderson moved, Dan Hardel seconded a motion to accept and present to the congregation, for approval, the proposed 2015 budget. Motion carried

G. Altar Step Railings: John Grimm moved, Maridan Nesmoie seconded a motion to keep altar step railings in place to address safety concerns. Motion carried.

New Business:

A. Personnel Policy:

1. Council Members are looking over the proposed documents and will discuss further at the February council meeting. Cindy Westerhouse will be invited to the meeting to update the council on these documents.

B. Interim Pastor Update:

1. John Grimm moved and Dan Hardel seconded a motion to offer Reverend Dr. Mark Wilms the petition of Interim Pastor. Motion carried.

C. Youth League:

1. Dan Hardel moved, John Grimm seconded a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Amber Athey, youth director. Motion carried.
2. A discussion took place concerning the future of the Youth Program and the hiring of a new director. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

D. Call Process:

1. An exit interview took place with a Synod representative, Church Council members and Pastor Kaul on December 16th.
2. We are in the initial stages of forming the call committee.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

E. Annual Meeting: January 25, 2014

1. Constitution and Bylaws: The first vote needed to approve the amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws were approved on Dec 7th at a special meeting of the congregation. A second vote to ratify will take place at the January 25th Annual Congregational meeting. The second vote will need a 2/3 majority to pass.
2. Nomination/Voting Congregational Council Members: Nominations will be accepted and a vote taken to replace the three outgoing council members, Paige Nordling, John Grimm and Jeanne Anderson.

Committee Reports:

A. Stewardship Committee: John Grimm - No report

B. Evangelism Committee: Wendy Vargo

1. We received thank you notes from some of the soldiers who received the gift boxes we sent out at Christmas time. At this time we know that out of the 12 boxes we sent out, 6 of them were received and very much appreciated. The soldiers shared the items with others in their units.

C. Education: Pastor & Jeanne Anderson

1. The committee met on Dec. 7, 2014. Pastor developed and shared a document outlining the confirmation process grades 3-10. The Education Committee will share this with the interim pastor for his use in planning and teaching confirmation.
2. The Christmas Program was held on Dec 14th and was very successful!
3. The confirmation mentor/mentee meeting was held on Dec. 17, 2014. Assignments were given to the 9th graders at this meeting.
4. A Fun Day was held on Dec. 21st and the Sunday school teachers were able to enjoy coffee hour while the Education Committee provided activities for the children.
5. The next committee meeting is being planned for February, with the interim Pastor attending!

D. Youth: Paige Nordling - Luther League Committee- Last planning meeting was Dec 10th, 2014
Last Advisory meeting was January 12th, 2015.

1. Little League (3rd – 5th grades): Christina Dietz and Jessie Filter are the advisors.
 - a. Snow Tubing event set for Saturday, January 25th at Camp Omega.
 - b. Valentine's Spaghetti Supper set for Sunday, February 15th. Details on bulletin board.
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 Feb or March.
 - b. A movie night at Dawn Anderson's is also in the works.
3. Senior League (9th – 12th grades): Missy Gregor and Jill Vargo are advisors for Sr. League.
 - a. Pizza & Fellowship night at Pizzeria 201 is set for Wednesday, January 14th. There were 8 kids and 3 adults that attended.
 - b. Mt. Kato Ski Trip is set for Sunday, January 18th with the Junior League. There were enough people to fill the group requirement of 15 and it sounds like everyone had a great time. They will try to set a 2nd chance trip in March to take advantage of the half-price trip.
4. All Leagues:
 - a. The Christmas Caroling event which was set for Sunday, December 21st was cancelled due to influenza season and the lack of people signed up.
5. ELCA Youth Gathering 2015 – Detroit, MI – July 15th-19th 2015. We only have one boy going. He will register with the Le Center group.
6. BWCA trip which was set for August 2-8, 2015 has been cancelled due to lack on interest.
7. Poinsettias were delivered on Friday, December 12th. We sold 79 plants this year with a profit of just over \$4.50 per plant.
8. Amber Athey will be stepping down as Youth Coordinator. Council wants to re-evaluate what we want this position to entail before moving forward with hiring someone new.
9. We are always looking for more youth involvement in the church services one Sunday a month.
10. Next planning meeting has not been set.
11. Next Advisory Meeting has yet to be set.

E. Facility Management – John Krautkremer

1. Upstairs bathrooms are being completed. The next project will be the downstairs bathrooms.
2. Gary Ruhland is looking at replacing the service panels.
3. Mark Richter reported a leak in the Bell tower. It is being looked into.
4. Snow removal- The city will plow the parking lot this year, but next year we will be on our own.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

F. Church and Society: Kathy Peterson

1. The committee met and discussed the Salvation Army Kettle campaign, Operation Christmas Child, Malaria Campaign, Habitat for Humanity and Food Shelf donations.

G. Communications: Dan Hardel - No report

H. Fellowship: John Helling

1. The Farewell Party for Pastor and Maryann Kaul was a huge success! 140 people were served dinner.

I. Worship & Music Committee: Maridan Nesmoie - No report

Next meeting: February 17, 2015, 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Jeanne Anderson, Church Council Secretary

Annual Meeting of St. John Lutheran Church Sunday, January 25, 2015 – Church Sanctuary

The meeting was called to order by President, Dan Hardel at 10:00 am.

2014 annual reports were handed out to all 61 members present.

Carol Kiekow made a motion to approve the Secretary's report from the Jan 26, 2014 Annual Meeting and the Special Meeting Dec. 7, 2014. Jim Heyda seconded that motion. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and a motion was made by Carol Kiekow to approve this report. Gary Hartwig seconded that motion. Motion carried.

Charles Richter moved, Carol Kiekow seconded the motion to adopt the amended constitution and bylaws as presented. A show of hands vote took place. Results were: 58 in favor, 0 against. Motion carried.

The 2015 budget was reviewed. President Dan Hardel explained the rationale used in preparing the proposed budget. Dave Scheffert moved, Berlyn Tieg seconded a motion to approve the 2015 budget. Motion carried.

President Dan Hardel reported that the Council members terms of Paige Nordling, John Grimm and Jeanne Anderson are expiring and are open. A nominating committee was established in November to seek nominees. The committee consisted of: Wendy Vargo, Steve Pan and Paige Nordling. Wendy Vargo announced the two candidates names that were put into nomination and other names were sought from the floor. Carol Kiekow moved, Larry Edel seconded a motion to elect Liz Vlasak and Eric Schroeder to the church council filling open positions. Motion carried. Dan Hardel explained that the Church council consists of **UP to nine members**, so at this time it will operate with eight members. Another member may be appointed as the year progresses.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 by a motion from Charles Richter and seconded by Carol Kiekow which passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Anderson, Council Secretary

February Music Notes

February 8

N/P/K will sing "Peace Like a River"

Grades 1 – 4 will sing "He Is the King of Kings"

February 15

Rock'n the Church choir will sing "Jonah"

February 18 (Ash Wednesday)

Bells of St. John will ring "Via Dolorosa"

February 22

Bells of St. John will ring "The Londonderry Air (O Christ the Same)" with Kevin Krohn on saxophone



Interim Pastor

Reverend Dr. Mark F. Wilms (*goes by Pastor Mark*) joined us on Monday, January 26. He has most recently been serving as Pastor to Trinity Church in Blue Earth, and has been there since 2007. He has 25 years experience as an ELCA/ALC minister, this is his first call as an interim pastor after having completed the interim ministry certification in 2014. Mark earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion/Religious Studies from the University of Northern Iowa in 1974, and his Master of Divinity Degree from Luther Seminary in 1986. He earned is Doctorate Degree in Philosophy at Marquette University in 1986 and has been employed as an ordained minister since that time, having served in Toledo, Ohio; Greendale, Wisconsin; Wakefield, Nebraska; Chicago, Illinois; St. Charles, Minnesota and most recently Blue Earth, Minnesota. He is married to his wife Lynn, and we understand that she enjoys and loves music. He will maintain his permanent residence in Blue Earth during his term as Interim Minister, but during the week the Church has arranged for him to stay at one of the Log Cabins located at John Grimm's property on the North Side of Montgomery. We are confident that Mark will lead us well until which time our call process is completed.

Church Council

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of South Central Minnesota is a non-profit, Christian housing ministry dedicated to building simple, decent housing with and for families in need are accepting applications for the Montgomery build. You may qualify if you currently have low to medium income, are paying too much rent or live in inadequate/substandard housing, are unable to obtain a conventional home loan, have a reliable source of income to make monthly mortgage payments, have a credit history free of collection accounts and liens, are willing to partner with Habitat. If you think you qualify, call Habitat for Hannity office at 507 388-2081 to ask questions or to request a copy of the application be sent to you.

Online Giving Option!!!

We are excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up one time giving or automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Just visit our website at www.montgomerynelcalutherans.org and click on donate button, then follow onscreen instructions.



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.

St. John Lutheran Church
Luther League Fundraiser

Sweetheart Spaghetti
Dinner

Sunday, February 15th
4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

We will be serving... Spaghetti, Garlic Bread,
Salad Bar, Dessert, and Beverages

**Tickets can be purchased at the
door.**

Also featuring a Valentine Silent Auction

This dinner is a great way to support the youth of St. Johns in grades
3-5. Funds raised will be used for summer Bible camp and church
outings throughout the year.

\$8.00 Adults and Youth ages 10 and up

\$4.00 Youth Ages 5-9

Ages 4 and under – **FREE**



St. John Lutheran Church of Montgomery

Ash Wednesday

Soup and Sandwich Supper

February 18, 2015

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Serving: Soup, Sandwich,
Dessert and Beverage**

**Community Event, All Welcome
Freewill Offering**

Hosted by St. John Women of the Church



ST. JOHN YOUTH

Spaghetti Supper

The Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner will be held Sunday, February 15, 4:00-6:30 p.m. Little Leaguers and parents, please check out the sign up sheet which has been placed at the bottom of the stairway.



Ski Trip to Mount Kato

Mount Kato Family and Friends Group Ski Event will be held Sunday, March 1. \$10 lift tickets, \$10 ski or snowboard rental. Meet at church at 12:45 p.m. for a head count. We need at least 15 people in our group for this rate. Please arrange for your own transportation. We will start skiing at 2:00 p.m. and can stay as late as 9:00 p.m. Please sign up on youth bulletin board. Questions, please contact Missy Gregor at 612 756-2566, facebook, or e-mail missygregor@gmail.com



Food Shelf Event

Junior and Senior League Community Service Food Shelf event will be held Saturday, March 28. Meet at the church at 11:45 a.m. to gather food collected by congregation and Sunday school. We will bring it to the food shelf and help them stock and organize shelves. Sign up on Youth Bulletin Board.

Coffee Sales

We will continue to sell ground and whole bean coffee from the European Roasterie. They are available at \$9 per bag. 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.



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.

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.