



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH** ELCA

**MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA**

***Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861***

**JANUARY 2014**

**Dear People of St. John,**

I trust that all of you were blessed once again by the timeless story of Christmas, and I wish you God's blessings for prosperity and good health in the New Year.

The Church Year calendar gets kind of interesting at this time of the year. Unlike the retail season, the Christmas season begins on December 25<sup>th</sup> and continues through 12 days ending on January 5<sup>th</sup>. This is followed on January 6<sup>th</sup> by the Day of Epiphany. The word means manifestation – how God reveals himself. The Day of Epiphany commemorates the visit of the wise men. The season of Epiphany is framed by remembering two important events in the life of Jesus. First is his Baptism in the Jordan River. At the other end of the season we remember his Transfiguration. The length of the season of Epiphany depends on the placement of Easter on the calendar because as Epiphany ends, Lent begins. It's helpful to understand the Church Year calendar because our appointed readings for worship are based on these themes.

This is a busy season in Christian education as well. Not only has Sunday School resumed, but Confirmation classes are back in session. 7<sup>th</sup> Graders will spend 7 weeks (beginning on January 15<sup>th</sup>) studying the Catechism units on the Apostles' Creed and Holy Baptism. 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will study the Old Testament for a semester beginning with orientation on January 8<sup>th</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup> Graders will be working with their mentors during this semester, having conversations about what faith has to do with our daily lives. Thank you to all of you who have agreed to be mentors.

Our congregation's annual meeting will happen on January 26<sup>th</sup> following the 9 a.m. worship service. If you are a voting member, please plan to be present for this meeting. The annual meeting should be like a family gathering around the dinner table talking about how things have been going, expressing our love for one another, reaffirming the purpose of our existence as a family and making plans for the future.

As we face another new year together we remember the promise of Christ in Revelation 21:5, "See, I am making all things new." Please join me in praying for our congregation, for God's blessings and guidance, and that we may all be faithful in following Jesus and bearing his redeeming word to all the world.

In His Service,

*Pastor Bob Kaul*

## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26 following the morning worship service.

If you are responsible for a **committee report**, please turn it into the church office by Friday, January 17.

If you would like to review the Annual Meeting booklet, a copy will be on our church website starting Thursday, January 23, or you may pick up a copy in the church office.

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child project by donating gift filled shoeboxes to needy children around the world. 127 shoeboxes (a new record and 39 more than last year) were collected and delivered to the processing center in Bloomington! St. John's also donated \$280.45 for shipping from the aluminum can collection money and the "noisy" offering on shoebox dedication Sunday. Thanks for your continued support of this project sponsored by the Board of Church in Society.

*Mary Brahs*



## Salvation Army Kettle Campaign

Thank you to all who rang the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. The campaign raised \$2,000 which will help those in Le Sueur County.



## Mitten Tree

Thank you to those who contributed to the Mitten Tree. We collected 62 gloves/mittens, 74 hats, 38 scarves, 10 headbands, and 56 hat/scarf combos. These items were distributed at the Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous.



## Soldier Packages

Many thanks to all who donated to the 2013 Soldiers' Packages. Your gifts of snacks, coffee, toiletries, reading material, clothing, and personal notes were divided into 9 boxes which averaged 7 lbs. each. Three packages went to Afghanistan, and the rest were shipped to servicemen in Florida, Missouri, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Alaska. Special thanks to the Montgomery American Legion for the generous \$300 donation! Thanks, too, to the 2nd graders in Mrs. Krautkremer's class and the St. John Sunday School kids for writing wonderful notes of encouragement to the soldiers.

*--St. John Evangelism Committee*



## January Worship Helpers

### Readers

January 5 Diane DeWitte  
 January 12 Kathy Derhaag  
 January 19 Lisa Hoefs  
 January 26 Deb Jelinek

### Head Usher

Diane DeWitte

### Ushers / Greeters

January 5 Lynden & Deb Jelinek  
 Kathy Derhaag  
 Jim Blum  
 January 12 Mark & Mary Brahs  
 Ralph Hendrickson  
 Jim Heyda  
 January 19 Todd & Kala David  
 Roman Jindra  
 Dallas Horejsi  
 January 26 John Helling  
 Lori O'Keefe  
 Irene Jindra  
 Kay Busch

### Communion Assistants

January 12 Cheryl Schulte  
 Rhonda Solberg  
 Garie Teig  
 January 26 Myrna Terwedo  
 Paul Vollmar  
 Jean Waugh

### Acolyte

January 12 Emily Krautkremer  
 Audrey Petersen  
 January 19 Abby Schleis  
 Grace Krautkremer  
 January 26 Cassidy Gilbertson  
 Audrey Petersen

### Altar Guild

Connie Cihak

*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...



Griffin Denzer, Tom McClune, Sharon Fish (Jacque Hartwig's mother), Adelle Shultz (Carol Kiekow's aunt), John Teig (Berlyn's brother), Scott Collier, Arlene Washa, Reuben Svoboda, Braden Flicek, Lester Moen, Sandy Hajney, Mayme Jindra, Nancy Vollmar, Patricia Morrill (Peggy Hentges' mother), Rose Perteet, Leona Winterfeldt and Todd Treka.

## Remember those serving our country...

Adam Minett, Kevin Baer, Jacqueline Sellner, Shane Morris, Damon Athey, Nathan Kubinski, Tyler Dudley, Matthew Astorino, Adam Vlasak, Matt Nelson and Andy Moen.



## Baptisms

*Kipton Michael Sery was baptized Sunday, December 29. Kipton was born August 11, 2012 to Ryan and Jessica Sery. His sponsors are Adam Sery and Ali Brown.*

*Benjamin Ray Bisek was baptized Sunday, January 5. Benjamin was born December 2, 2013 to Tim and Abby Bisek. His sponsors are Tanner Smith, Mike and Katie Looft and Megan Bisek.*

*God's blessings to Kipton, Benjamin and their families.*

## Large Print

Large print bulletins, inserts and hymnals are available in the back of the church. The head usher can assist you in getting these materials.

## 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 26 of January for the February newsletter.

## Financial Corner General Fund - November

	November	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 17,919.13	\$ 151,031.71
Expenses	\$ 13,426.27	\$ 156,009.28
Cash Flow	\$ 4,492.86	\$ (4,977.57)

## 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.*

## January Music Notes

January 12

Jessica Westerman will sing "Down to the River to Pray"

January 26

Bells of St. John will ring "Let All Things Now Living"



### Need an Idea for a Summer Vacation?

Doesn't West Virginia sound nice? You can combine a summer trip with a chance to put your Christian values to work, traveling far from home to serve others - which is really what Jesus did. He didn't go quite that far from home, but remember he had to walk, we'll fly!

Right now we have seven people confirmed, but there's room for more! We have some good fund raisers lined up that will help defray costs. If you'd like more information e-mail [kathywesterman@hotmail.com](mailto:kathywesterman@hotmail.com) or come to our meeting on January 12 at 10 a.m. at Church. Non - St. John members are welcome, too. Trip will be from July 12, 2014 to July 18 or 19 to McDowell County West Virginia, coordinated by Youth Works. Please consider joining our 2014 mission trip.

### Consider Simply Giving

St. John Lutheran Church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offering.

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much need donation **consistency** for our congregation. We anticipate that electronic giving will appeal to many church members-from longtime worshippers who will appreciate an alternative to frequent check writing to younger members and others who prefer to pay or donate by electronic means whenever possible.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. If you are already using direct debit to make mortgage and car payments or to pay utility bills, then you know how it works.

**Credit and Debit Card Giving** lets you make offerings automatically on a predetermined schedule using a credit or debit card. Today, many families use debit cards as a convenient alternative to checks or use credit cards in a responsible manner to manage a wide range of obligations.

We presently have 14 families who give to St. John through Simply Giving. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, contact Kay Busch in the church office.

# Special Church Council Meeting

December 11, 2013 6:30pm

**Present:** Dan Hardel (1/14), Paige Nordling (1/15), John Grimm (1/15), Maridan Nesmoe (1/16), John Helling (1/16), John Krautkremer (1/16) and Pastor Robert Kaul

**Absent:** Diane DeWitte (1/14), Kathy Peterson (1/14), Jeanne Anderson (1/15)

A special meeting of the Church Council was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, to discuss the parsonage. The moving process was completed on Monday and the parsonage is empty. There is a family that lost their home to fire recently and they are in need. A motion was made by John Grimm, to offer the family the parsonage at no charge for the first 30 days. After 30 days, if the family still needs a place to stay, we will negotiate a formal rental agreement that works within their budget on a month to month basis. They would need to cover the utility costs and there would be no pets allowed. This motion was seconded by Paige and the motion carried.

A second subject that was discussed was having the light bulbs in the sanctuary replaced. John Krautkremer is working on getting bids for this.

A motion was made by Dan to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Maridan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paige Nordling



## Church Council Meeting

December 17, 2013 6:30pm

**Present:** Dan Hardel (1/14), Diane DeWitte (1/14), Kathy Peterson (1/14), Paige Nordling (1/15), John Grimm (1/15), Maridan Nesmoe (1/16), John Helling (1/16), John Krautkremer (1/16), Pastor Robert Kaul

**Absent:** Jeanne Anderson (1/15),

The meeting was opened by President Dan Hardel.

The main focus of the meeting was to address and create the annual budget for 2014.

### **Agenda Items:**

**Lighting in Sanctuary:** John K. met with Dale Ruhland this past week to discuss sanctuary lights. The previous bid we had obtained turned out to include the wrong light bulbs. Dale made some recommendations for recessed LED lighting that can be cut in from the attic and in the balcony. He also recommended putting low-wattage LEDs in the existing fixtures. He will put together a bid and get back to us.

**Parsonage Rental:** The local family in need of housing has not responded to our offer, so we assume that they have found something else. Dan will contact the management company to get the ball rolling on turning the parsonage into a rental property.

**Pump House:** Dan and John G. checked out the pump house earlier today. It was decided that it is too much of a liability to rent to anyone for storage space. It is most likely not worth the money it would take to fix it either. We will explore what it would take to fix it and also look into what it would take to tear it down.

Our next meeting will be an additional budget meeting to be held following worship services on January 5th.

Dan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maridan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

### **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 YOUTH

## **Mission Trip**

We continue to seek youth or adults who are interested in the July 2014 Mission Trip. If you are interested, the next meeting will be Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School classroom.

## **Little League Tubing**

Attention Little League (grades 3-5)!! Ready for some winter fun? Join us at Camp Omega for some tubing on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the church by 9:15 a.m. We should return to church by about 1:30 p.m. Cost for the tubing and lunch is \$12 per person.



## **Mount Kato Event**

Junior League and Senior League Downhill Skiing Event at Mount Kato – Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at church at 1:00 p.m. and caravan to Mankato. The slopes close at 9:00 p.m., so we will return home no later than 10:00 p.m. As in past years, the Youth Board will cover the cost of church members lift tickets (the cost is \$19 for a lift ticket for non-members). Each skier/snowboarder will be responsible for their own equipment rental costs (\$19 per person). Please sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board by no later than Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **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.

## **Youth Volunteers Needed**

We are seeking youth in grades 7-12 to assist with worship service throughout the school year. Youth can read the lessons for the day, contribute special music, share a children's sermon, or greet and usher. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Emily Hoefs.

## **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 Emily Hoefs during coffee hour. Our current flavors on hand include Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, and Church Basement Ladies.

## **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.