



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

FEBRUARY 2014

Dear People of St. John,

A little devotional book caught my eye a few months ago. *Too Deep for Words* is a collection of daily devotions for Lent. All of the devotions are based on verses from Paul's letter to the Romans. The title comes from Romans 8:26 which says, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." The Season of Lent is just around the corner. Starting on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) we will share a simple meal between 5 and 6:30 p.m., and then worship at 6:30. The themes for our mid-week Lenten services will come from this little devotional booklet. We purchased 100 copies of *Too Deep for Words* so that you may purchase one if you wish. Cost is \$1.00. Please mark these Wednesday evenings on your calendar and plan to be here for food, fellowship and worship.

A couple of new ideas came out of our last Education Committee meeting. We haven't offered anything in the way of adult education since last year, but I've heard many requests for a class on what Lutherans believe. Schedules are tangled with work, school and family activities, so we decided to offer a discussion group on Lutheranism on Sunday mornings. Here's how it will work. Beginning on February 2 and continuing on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month we will enjoy 20-30 minutes of coffee and social time after worship, and then convene at the table on the west side of the fellowship hall. We'll be using a little book by Daniel Erlander called *Baptized We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life*. Cost of the book is \$5.00.

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, beginning on February 9th I will be offering a discussion group with young people in Grades 9-12 in the Youth Room following worship. We might talk about some of the Bible stories we didn't get a chance to cover in Confirmation, or we may talk about current issues that the young people find interesting. We'll have refreshments and maybe even some music. We will tailor this time according to the needs and wishes of the participants.

8th Graders will continue their Confirmation classes on the Old Testament on the Wednesdays at 6:30 during February and then take a break during Lent. **7th Graders** also continue their Confirmation classes on the Apostles' Creed and Holy Baptism on the Wednesdays during February at 7:30. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) **6th Graders** will have Confirmation classes from 7:30-8:20 on the Lord's Prayer. There will be 6 classes in all with the last class happening on April 9th.

New members will be received into the congregation on March 2nd. If you or anyone you know desires to become members of St. John, please let me know.

I am rather enjoying my commute from our Northfield home to the church and back. It gives me time to think -- to plan my day in the morning and to process the events of the day in the evening. It also gives me more time to pray, although I don't do it with my eyes closed!

In His Service,
Pastor Bob Kaul

February Worship Helpers

Readers

February 2 Maryann Kaul
 February 9 Carol Kiekow
 February 16 Will Kiekow
 February 23 Erin Krautkremer

Head Usher

Jeanne Anderson

Ushers / Greeters

February 2 Myron & Peggy Hentges
 Maryann Kaul
 Carol Kiekow
 February 9 Mike & Maridan Nesmoe
 John Krautkremer
 Margaret Lawson
 February 16 Steve & Tammie Pan
 Charles Richter
 Kelle Schleis
 February 23 David & Dorothy Scheffert
 Myrna Terwedo

Communion Assistants

February 9 Don Westerman
 Greg Westerman
 Cindy Westerhouse
 February 23 Gary & Jacque Hartwig
 Jessica Westerman

Acolyte

February 2 Emily Krautkremer
 Cassidy Gilbertson
 February 9 Abby Schleis
 February 16 Chase Derhaag
 Haley Dietz
 February 23 Cassidy Gilbertson

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!

Remember in your Prayers...

Jim Blum, Sheryl Kuelper (LaNette's daughter), Chad Solheid (Michelle Trcka's brother), Jim Hoefs, Opal Hartwig, Ethan Scheffert (Jeremy's son), Betty Braun, Blanche Sorenson, 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 Fliceck, Lester Moen, Sandy Hajney, Mayme Jindra, Nancy Vollmar, Patricia Morrill (Peggy Hentges' mother), Leona Winterfeldt and Todd Trcka.

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.



Sympathies



We extend our sympathy to the family of Rev. Terje Hausken who passed away Saturday, January 18. Pastor Hausken served our congregation in the mid 1990's.

Baptisms

Ayla Jayne Sirek was baptized Sunday, January 19. Ayla was born September 9, 2013 to Andrew and Amber Sirek. Her sponsors are Adam Sirek and Amy Skluzacek. God's blessings to Ayla and her family.

Mikayla Marie Segna was baptized Saturday, January 25. Mikayla was born December 13, 2013 to Robert and Ashley Segna. Her sponsore are Joy Vosejпка and Nathan Bruch. God's blessings to Mikayla and her family.

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 24th 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 Bob or Kay of your planned meeting dates.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Financial Corner General Fund - December

	December	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 25,659.37	\$ 176,691.08
Expenses	\$ 18,403.83	\$ 174,413.11
Cash Flow	\$ 7,255.54	\$ 2,277.97

Church Council Meeting

January 21, 2014 - 6:30pm

Present: John Grimm (1/15), Jeanne Anderson (1/15), John Krautkremer (1/16), John Helling (1/16), Dan Hardel (1/13), Diane DeWitte (1/13), Kathy Peterson (1/13), and Pastor Robert Kaul

Absent: Maridan Nesmoie (1/16), Paige Nordling (1/15)

Opened with **devotion** by Pastor Kaul

Kathy Peterson moved, John Helling seconded to **approve the Nov 19th, Dec 11th and Dec 17th, 2013 meeting minutes.** Motion carried.

Dan Hardel moved, Diane DeWitte seconded to adopt proposed budget 2014. The budget will be on the Church website and members will be emailed regarding this. Motion carried as an e-vote on January 4, 2014.

President's Report: Dan Hardel - No report

Vice President's Report: Diane DeWitte - No report

Secretary Report: Jeanne Anderson

Head Ushers

January: Diane DeWitte
February: Jeanne Anderson
March: Paige Nordling

Treasurer Report: John Krautkremer

Jeanne Anderson moved, John Krautkremer seconded to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for 2013. Motion carried. The possibility of a church financial audit was discussed. If members would be interested in serving on this committee, see Dan Hardel.

Old Business:

A. Feed My Sheep:

John Grimm moved, Diane DeWitte seconded to donate \$500.00 to a family in need. Motion carried.

B. Parsonage Rental:

John Krautkremer moved, Dan Hardel seconded to move ahead with G & H Rental Management Company to handle the rental of the parsonage. Motion carried.

C. Pump House:

Nick Filipek will help with a building inspection of the pump house.

D. Can Recycling:

None at this time

New Business:

A. Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting will be held on January 26th following the church service.

B. Thrivent Choice Dollars:

Dan Hardel moved, Jeanne Anderson seconded a motion to retroactively re-direct donated funds from the Youth General Fund to the Youth Mission Fund, to be used to offset expenses related to the mission trip to West Virginia in July 2014. This motion will be for the period of December 1st, 2013 through June 30th 2014 at which point donations will revert back to the Youth General Fund. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

A. Stewardship Committee: John Grimm

1. In an effort to make wise management of resources John is looking into the possibility of recording Pastor's sermons to share with those not able to make it to church. A variety of styles were discussed.

B. Evangelism Committee: Diane DeWitte

1. Dianne DeWitte is checking on our Guest Book records. She is planning to make cards to put into pews which can be used by visitors.

2. A new member Sunday will be held on March 2nd. Currently there are about 20 persons wanting to join the congregation.

C. Education: Pastor & Jeanne Anderson

1. The Education Committee met on January 12th. We reviewed our Goals, discussed Confirmation, Sunday School, Adult Education, VBS, and the Mission Trip. All is going well. We made plans for a Sunday School Fun Day on February 9th.

2. Next Meeting: April 13th

(Continues on back)

(Council Cont.)

D. Youth: Paige Nordling - Luther League Committee- Last planning meeting was December 1st

1. Little League:

- a. Caroling with all leagues on December 22nd. About a dozen kids went with. Tyler Nesmoie had his guitar with and played!
- b. On January 11th, a group went tubing at Camp Omega.
- c. Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser is set for, Sunday, February 16th.

2. Junior League:

- a. The ski trip was this past Sunday, Jan 19th with the Senior League. 21 people skied.

3. Senior League events that were scheduled:

- a. There was a pizza and planning event at Pizzeria 201 on Wednesday, January 15th, about 10 kids attended and they have some good ideas.

4. All leagues sold poinsettias at Christmas time. About 125 plants were purchased.

5. On Palm Sunday, April 13th, all leagues will be putting together the baskets for our shut-in's. There will be an Easter Egg hunt for the younger kids as well.

6. Mission trip set for July 12 – 19th – looking for more youth to attend.

7. There is a pancake breakfast fundraiser set for the Mission Trip on Sunday, Feb 9th

8. We are looking for more youth involvement in the church services one Sunday a month. They can read, usher and do the Children's Minute. Emily would work with anyone interested in doing special music as well. Looking for volunteers!

9. Next meeting scheduled for January 24th (Advisory Board Only). The next planning meeting is on Sunday, April 6th, following worship.

E. Facility Management – John Krautkremer

1. Lights: Ruhlands will be giving us a bid for new lights. They need to get into the roof/attic access to do this.

2. Roof Parsonage Garage: This is on hold until Spring.

3. Bell Tower: Interior repair under the bell tower is pending.

F. Church and Society: Kathy Peterson - Meeting Jan. 11, 2014

Present: Maryann Kaul, Mary Brahs, Wendy Vargo, Cindy Westerhouse, Cindy Zahratka, Kathy Peterson

Absent: Deb Jelinek, Kathy Westerman

1. Operation Christmas Child: Mary Brahs- Chair

We have been part of this program for 15/16 years. This year we had a new record of 127 shoeboxes. We also had \$280.45 raised for shipping (\$166.80 from cans and \$113.65 noisy offering). Were not able to volunteer with youth due to weather.

2. Salvation Army Kettle: Deb Jelinek- Chair, Wendy Vargo- Co-chair

Raised \$2000- this year, the second highest since 1999. All money raised stays in the county. Had some trouble getting enough volunteers. Need to remember to get out to groups earlier, in October, so they can have the best choices. We may change the dates it is done for the best results.

3. Habitat For Humanity: Cindy Westerhouse-Chair

The land in Le Center is firmed up and they are taking applications for families. They need to find more outreach methods.

4. World Mission Relief

We are requesting that the Westerman Trust money for World Missions go to our congregations' mission trip. Money is part of trusts, not the general fund so unsure of amount at this time.

5. Food Shelf- MaryAnn Kaul-Chair, Cindy W- volunteer

Coburns- donated 30,649 in 2013 to the Peace Center and the Montgomery Food Shelf

The Salvation Army in Montgomery serviced 1979 households

Children 2,819

Adults 18-64 3,705

Adults 65+ 194

Total people 6,718

Total Households 1,979

of pounds distributed 128,022- up 23,887 from 2012

Donations from our church specifically are: \$2,242.38 plus 402 lbs of food.

The ecumenical service brought in additional 309 lbs of food.

Cindy W. picks up food from shelf the end of the month. She will follow up on how often cash gets delivered that is donated at church so it is done in a timely fashion.

(Church Council continues)

(Council cont.)

6. ELCA Malaria Campaign

Mary Ann has several activities planned to raise awareness and money . This will run the end of January and part of February.

7. Serving Kitchens- Kathy P will look into the Faribault Episcopal church that serves meals. Youth will be involved.

8. Next meeting -April 26, LaNette's - 10 am
August 23, Cindy Westerhouse's house, to be finalized

G. Communications: Dan Hardel - No report

H. Fellowship: John Helling

22 people will be attending "Fiddler on the Roof" on January 26th as a group.

I. Worship & Music Committee: Maridan Nesmoe

1. Lent begins on March 5th with Ash Wednesday. Pastor will be using themes from a devotional "Too Deep for Words" which will be available for purchase (\$1.00).

Pastors Report:

Pastor reported that Terje Hauskin has passed away.

It was discussed that there are many shut ins who could use communion and visits. See Pastor if you are able to help with this.

Next meeting: February 18, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Jeanne Anderson

Annual Meeting of St. John Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 26, 2014

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

2013 annual reports were hand out to all 65 members present.

The meeting was opened by a prayer by Pastor Kaul.

Dave Scheffect made a motion to approve the Secretary's report from the last Annual Meeting. Doug Gjerstad seconded that motion. Motion carried.

The Treasurers report was reviewed and a motion was made by Carol Kiekow to approved this report. Gary Hartwig seconded that motion. Motion carried.

The 2014 budget was reviewed. President Dan Hardel addressed the proposed budget. It was pointed out that the forecast is positive for this budget with our goal to eventually build fund reserves. Carol Kiekow moved, Charles Richter seconded to approve the 2014 budget. Motion carried.

Pastor Kaul addressed the congregation with thanks for the church staff, council members and entire congregation.

A discussion of appointment of Council Members took place.

President Dan Hardel reported that three Council members terms are expiring, and those members have agreed to serve a second term. Those members are: Dan Hardel, Kathy Peterson and Diane DeWitte.

Wendy Vargo pointed out that a nominating committee was not established to seek additional nominations.

It was moved by Diane LaVine Schultz to establish a nominating committee in November 2014 for this purpose, Charles Richter seconded and the motion failed on a show of hands vote.

Doris Hendrickson moved, Charles Richter seconded to nominate and approve Dan Hardel, Diane DeWitte and Kathy Peterson for a second term on the Church Council, bypassing the constitutional nomination process for the purpose of this particular vote. The motion carried.

After much discussion, Diane DeWitte tendered her resignation from the council and moved that she be replaced on the council by Wendy Vargo. Carol Kiekow seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 by a motion from Charles Richter and seconded by Carol Kiekow which passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Anderson, Council Secretary

Mission Trip Note

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all the believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Hi, I am Haley Dietz a freshman at New Prague High School and one of four youth going on the West Virginia Mission Trip this summer. I believe a great way for all sorts of people to come together and achieve their Christian duty is a mission trip. A few of the many reasons why I am going are; to give back, meet new people, spread the word of God and become closer with the youth and adults in our church who are also going. This will be a great experience for me and everyone going!! I can't wait to help out and have fun!

Mission Trip 2014

We can always use more people on the Mission Trip. We're going to McDowell County, West VA, from July 12 to the 18th. "McDowell County is a remote patch of mountains dotted by coal mines and forests logged for timber. Life expectancy here for men is just 64 years - the lowest in the country and even lower than in Pakistan" (from a NY Times article about lack of health insurance). Our prayer is that we can bring hope to a few and let them know they are not forgotten. We'd love to have you come, too! For more information talk to Kathy Westerman or Maridan Nesmoe.

Second Chance Ski Trip to Mount Kato

Chance to ski on Sunday, March 9th. Great deal, just \$9.50 for the lift ticket and \$9.50 for ski rental. This event is open to everyone, not just the youth. The Luther League Committee does NOT cover any costs on this trip. You must sign up on the Youth Board by Friday, March 7th. More details are posted on Youth Bulletin Board or for more information, contact Paige Nordling.

St. John Lutheran Church

Men of the Church

West Virginia

Mission Trip 2014

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 9th

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

St. John Lutheran Church
Montgomery, MN

Meal includes: pancakes, sausage, fruit, and beverage



Adults - \$8.00
Youth (ages 6-12) - \$4.00
Ages 5 and under - FREE

Proceeds to benefit those attending the July 2014 Mission Trip to McDowell County, West Virginia

St. John Lutheran Church
Luther League Fundraiser

Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, February 16th

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



February Music Notes

February 2

Jessica Westerman and Amber Athey will sing "Whispering Hope"

February 9

N/P/K will sing "Down in My Heart"

Grades 1 – 4 will sing "I Am A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N"

February 16

Rock'n the Church choir will sing "Do Unto Others"

February 23

Bells of St. John will ring "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"



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.

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 2014

We continue to seek youth or adults who are interested in the July 2014 Mission Trip. If you are interested contact Kathy Westerman or Maridan Nesmoie. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Annual Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner

The Annual Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 16 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door at a cost of \$8.00 for ages 10 and up, \$4.00 for youth ages 5-9, children 4 and under eat free. We will be serving spaghetti, garlic bread, salad bar, dessert and beverage. All profits will be distributed to the youth in grades 3-6 to be used towards summer camp or other church opportunities.



Pastry Puffin Fundraiser

We will be doing a Pastry Puffin Fundraiser for all of the Luther League (grades 3-12). Youth will be raising funds for Bible camp, Boundary Waters Trip, or the West Virginia Mission Trip. Sales will run Sunday, February 16th - Sunday, March 2nd.

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.

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.