



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

MARCH 2014

Dear People of St. John,

Have you ever been in such distress that you didn't know how to pray or what to pray for? Apparently the Apostle Paul experienced such distress. Then he wrote in Romans 8:26 that in such times the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. *Too Deep for Words* is a collection of daily devotions for Lent. A copy of this little devotional booklet is available to you for \$1. They are available at our mid-week Lenten services beginning on March 5th. During the Lenten season 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. Please mark these Wednesday evenings on your calendar and plan to be here for food, fellowship and worship.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. In some communities and churches the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, or Carnival) has become a last fling before the solemn season of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival *Carnival*, which is Latin for *farewell to meat!*

Confirmation Update: **8th Graders** will have a break from their Confirmation classes on the Old Testament during the season of Lent and will resume classes on April 16th. **7th Graders** have completed their Confirmation classes on the Apostles' Creed and Holy Baptism. **6th Graders** have started their classes on the Lord's Prayer, meeting on Wednesday evenings following the mid-week Lenten services. Their 6-week course ends on April 16th. Two of our **9th Graders** will be confirmed during the 9 a.m. service on April 27th.

I don't know about you, but I'm ready for a festival called *farewell to winter!* It feels like this winter has been long and drawn out. Yet the calendar says we're getting what we should expect for this time of year. Garrison Keillor would probably suggest that shoveling snow and turning down the thermostat to save propane are the kind of things that Lutherans need to do to show that they are serious about repentance. All I know is that my fingers and toes are cold and they probably won't warm up until the 4th of July. But while I may whine about the weather, I still find plenty of beauty in God's good creation. Looking out the windows of my home office I see a panorama of fresh snow on the trees and the occasional red-tailed hawk sunning herself atop a big old ash tree. I continue to be so very grateful for my family, and for God's calling to be about ministry with all of you.

In His Service,
Pastor Bob Kaul

March Worship Helpers

Readers

March 2	Diane LaVine-Schultz
March 5	Maridan Nesmoie (Ash Wednesday)
March 9	Don Marcussen
March 16	Doreen Marcussen
March 23	Tammie Pan
March 30	Kathy Peterson

Head Usher

Paige Nordling

Ushers / Greeters

March 2	Berlyn & Garie Teig Doug & Karen Thompson
March 9	Rich & Liz Vlasak Kathy Westerman
March 16	Tim & Abby Bisek Don Marcussen Eric Schroeder
March 23	David & Rhonda Solberg Phillip Solberg Paul Vollmar
March 30	Marc & Kathy Peterson Cindy Westerhouse Kathy Westerman

Communion Assistants

March 9	John Helling Lori O'Keefe John Grimm
March 23	Lynden & Deb Jelinek Peggy Hentges

Acolyte

March 2	Emily Krautkremer Tyler Nesmoie
March 5	Allie Harder (Ash Wednesday) Joslyn Vargo
March 9	Cody Studnicka Tyler Nesmoie
March 16	Tyler Nesmoie Chase Derhaag
March 23	Abby Schleis
March 30	Cody Studnicka Tyler Nesmoie

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...

Charles Lande, Sheryl Kuelper (LaNette's daughter), Chad Solheid (Michelle Trcka's brother), Opal Hartwig, Ethan Scheffert (Jeremy's son), Betty Braun, Blanche Sorenson, Griffing Denzer, Scott Collier, Adelle Shultz (Carol Kiekow's aunt), John Teig (Berlyn's brother), Arlene Washa, Reuben Svoboda, Branden Flicek, 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.



Baptisms

Wyatt James Harms was baptized Sunday, February 16. Wyatt was born September 23, 2013 to Andrew and Skye Harms. His sponsors are Scott and Anna Harms. God's blessings to Wyatt and his family.

Thank you

Thank you to Cornerstone State Bank for donating a roaster over to the church from their Christmas Lighting winnings.

Thank you to everyone who came to the 2014 Mission Trip Pancake Breakfast, and a very special thank you to the Men of the Church for working the kitchen.

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 25th of March for the April newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - January

	January	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 11,893.30	\$ 11,893.30
Expenses	<u>\$ 16,657.75</u>	<u>\$ 16,657.75</u>
Cash Flow	\$ (4,764.45)	\$ (4,764.45)

Church Council Meeting

February 18, 6:30pm

Present: Paige Nordling (1/15), John Grimm (1/15), Jeanne Anderson (1/15), John Krautkremer (1/16), Maridan Nesmoe (1/16), John Helling (1/16), Dan Hardel (1/17), Kathy Peterson (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), and Pastor Robert Kaul

Absent:

Opened with **devotion** by Pastor Kaul

John Grimm moved, Kathy Peterson seconded to **approve the January 2014 meeting minutes and 2014 Annual Meeting minutes**. Motion carried.

President's Report: Dan Hardel - No report

Vice President's Report: Kathy Peterson - No report

Secretary Report: Jeanne Anderson

Head Ushers

March: Paige Nordling including Ash Wednesday

April: Dan Hardel

Maundy Thursday: Diane DeWitte Good Friday: Kathy Peterson

Easter: 9:00: Dan Hardel, 10:30- John Krautkremer

May: John Grimm

Treasurer Report: John Krautkremer,

Jeanne Anderson moved, Paige Nordling seconded to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for January 2014. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- A. **Feed My Sheep:** \$757.26 in account. John Grimm moved, Kathy Peterson seconded to donate \$500.00 to family with a sick child.
- B. **Roof – Parsonage Garage:** Insurance extension granted until June 18 – this will be the last extension, work must be completed by June 18th to qualify for the insurance reimbursement.
- C. **Parsonage Rental:** G H Properties: Property Management Agreement has been reached. Rent will be \$1,250.00 for the parsonage. Details/pictures of the home are on line. Looking for renters!
- D. **Pump House:** tabled until an inspection can take place.

New Business:

- A. **Appoint Officers:** Candidates were nominated to serve as officers on the 2014 church council. President: Dan Hardel Vice President: Kathy Peterson Secretary: Jeanne Anderson Treasurer: John Krautkremer. John Grimm moved, Paige Nordling seconded to approve this slate of officers. Motion carried.
- B. **Can Recycling:** The March load is being designated for The Food Shelf.
- C. **Review Constitution/Bylaws:** The constitution and bylaws were discussed. There have been many changes over time to the existing constitution and bylaws. A committee will meet to update these documents and bring a final copy to a congregational vote. Committee members are: John Grimm, Dan Hardel, Kathy Peterson and Pastor Kaul.
- D. **Financial audit Committee:** We are seeking members to conduct a financial audit of our church financial records. If interested in serving on this committee, see a council member.
- E. **Nominating Committee:** We are seeking to establish a nominating committee, if interested see a council member.

Committee Reports:

- A. **Stewardship Committee:** John Grimm No report
- B. **Evangelism Committee:** Wendy Vargo
 - 1. New member Sunday, March 2nd. Wendy will work with Diane DeWitte on this event.
- C. **Education:** Pastor & Jeanne Anderson
 - 1. Sunday school had a "Fun Day" on February 9th, children made valentines for shut ins and decorated a cupcake treat. On March 9th we will have a "Heifer Project" program during Sunday school.
 - 2. Adult Education on Sundays following the service has begun, alternating Sundays with Youth Discussion Group meetings.

(Continues on back)

(Council Cont.)

3. Mission Trip fund raising is continuing.
4. Pastor is continuing work with Confirmation, 6th, 7th and 8th graders. He is working with 3 students independently to complete confirmation requirements.

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

1. Little League:
 - a. Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser was this past Sunday, February 16th. Served about 150. Final profit numbers are not in yet, but likely about \$1,000 including the Silent Auction profits.
2. Junior League:
 - a. Ski Trip with Senior League on January 19th. 20 people skied.
 - b. Trying to set up an event through the Food Shelf for the month of March – no date set yet
3. Senior League events that were scheduled:
 - a. Ski Trip
4. The second chance ski trip has been set for Sunday, March 9th. The cost will be \$9.50 for ski rental and \$9.50 for ski lift. Paige will coordinate the event, however, since it is not strictly a youth activity, kids are responsible for their own transportation. All are welcome. Details and sign up sheet are on the bulletin board.
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 was a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Mission Trip on Sunday, Feb 9th. Served less than 100. We made about \$500 in profit.
8. All Leagues are selling pastry puffins. Cost is \$12. Paige and Emily are serving a coffee hour following worship on February 23rd and serving freshly baked puffins. Sales end March 2nd.
9. 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!
10. The Advisory Board is looking into purchasing an iPad as a financial, document management, communication and picture taking resource. Looking at options and pricing.
11. Boundary Waters Trip – August 2nd - 8th
12. Liz Vlasak stepping down as treasurer. We are seeking another volunteer to manage the Quicken files and will likely do the financial updates in committee meetings as a group until we find someone.
13. The next planning meeting is on Sunday, April 6th, following worship.
14. Our next advisory meeting is set for March 13th at 10:00 a.m.

E. Facility Management – John Krautkremer

1. John Grimm moved, John Helling seconded to have the facilities committee look into leasing a riding lawn mower for the church. Motion carried.
2. We have ordered a replacement window for the front arched window. Cost \$1200.00 Insurance \$1000.00.
3. Ruhlands will put in a bid for lighting this spring.
4. Our Insurance Company had only one concern in a check up of the church, furnace doors need self-closers.
5. Insurance valuation- Replacement cost: Parsonage and Garage, \$266,128.00 Church: \$2,328,000.00

F. Church In Society: Kathy Peterson

1. March is Food Share month

G. Communications: Dan Hardel - No report

H. Fellowship: John Helling

1. 13 out of the 22 paid members attended a production of "Fiddler on the Roof." Chanhassen has credited the others accounts and they may use this credit another time. This situation was due to a snow storm.
2. A Cantata will be performed at St. John Church on Palm Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and at Holy Redeemer Church on Good Friday. We will have a light lunch and fellowship time following the performance for the performers and those attending the program.

I. Worship & Music Committee: Maridan Nesmoe

1. New Member: Jean Waugh
2. March 5th – Ash Wednesday
3. Lenten Services: Theme: Too Deep for Words, books available for purchase.
4. Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.
5. Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. – Watch the Lamb
6. Easter Services are at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

(Church Council continues)

(Council cont.)

Pastors Report:

March 6th Pastor to a Synod for training.

March 18th MN River Pastor's Conference held at St. John.

May 2 and 3rd – Synod Assembly

May 12-19th – Pastor on vacation – attending grandson's graduation

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Jeanne Anderson, Church Council Secretary



March is Minnesota Food Share month.

In 2013 the Montgomery Food Pantry served 1979 households. That meant 2819 children under 18, 3705 adults, and 194 people over 65. That was a total of 6718 people and 128,022 pounds of food was distributed. THAT WAS JUST HERE IN MONGOMERY!

Jesus fed 5000 with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes. Can you contribute the cost of 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread to the Food Bank? Because of their buying power, they will make your cash gift equal 20 fish and 50 loaves of bread!

March will see lots of activities and information about hunger at St John, locally and state-wide. Please open your hearts the on-going needs of the poor and hungry and contribute any way you can. The Montgomery Food Pantry always needs basic food items to help our neighbors. Remember that they cannot use any out-of-date items. There is always a need for fresh fruit and vegetables (what about growing a few extra rows of vegetables this summer for the Food Pantry?), eggs and dairy products, baby supplies (diapers especially size 5 and larger, baby food and formula), personal care items, and household supplies (paper towels, toilet paper, laundry soap and cleaning supplies). The Food Pantry has shelf space to give away your old paperback books, puzzles, and games too.

Volunteers: A critically important need is willing and compassionate people to volunteer; there is work to be done during food distribution as well as other times during the week. The clients of the Food Pantry are so grateful for the help they receive, and are so delighted to see the smiles and welcoming assistance of the volunteers. If you can volunteer, phone Renee at the Salvation Army.

Mission Trip Note

1 Timothy 2:1 "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them."

Hi! It's Haley Dietz again! First, I want to THANK the men of the church for making the breakfast for our Mission Trip Pancake Breakfast held on Feb. 9th- it was delicious! In addition, THANK YOU to those who attended the breakfast. We appreciate and are thankful for everyone's help and support.

We continue to plan for our Mission Trip and fundraising is a part of that. We have a few more fundraising events coming up. Airplane donation envelopes that you will find in the Fellowship Hall; April 13th is the Lions Breakfast held at Holy Redeemer School lunch room; May 2nd-3rd will be the flowering plant sale; and if you would like to donate your time we will be working the concession stand for the Center Stage Dance dress rehearsal and recital May 6-11. (watch for details). Lastly, you can pray for us as we continue to plan for our trip, our travel to and from, our experience in West Virginia, the people who will touch our lives and those who we will touch, our adult leaders, us kids, and for the safety of all.

Again, THANK YOU to everyone who helps us in whatever way you can. God Bless!!

Mission Trip 2014

As we prepare for our mission trip we like to think we are representing St. John Church in the field. And we ask for your prayers as well as your financial support. In April we will have envelopes around the Fellowship Hall for cash donations to help with the cost. AND, May 6-11, we will be working at the Dance Recital Rehearsal/Performance Concession Stand (many thanks to Rhonda Solberg) and, we really need your help with shifts! We'll be posting a list of shifts at church in April - consider helping as another way to support the trip!

Thrivent donations to date are \$1,356 which will be divided among the participants. We also will have the Mission Fund Interest money (\$600-800) to take with us and use when we are there to help a local cause. Many thanks!

Kathy Westerman

March Music Notes

March 9 Nursery/Pre-K/Kindergaden will sing "He's Got the Whole World"

Grades 1 - 4 will sing "The First Commandment"

March 16 Rock'n the Church choir will sing "Zacchaeus"

March 30 Bells of St. John will ring "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"



Watch the Lamb 2014

During the Good Friday service on April 18, 2014, there will be a presentation of the song "Watch the Lamb". This song tells the story of a father and his two sons who go to Jerusalem to offer a lamb in sacrifice to God. The two sons were to watch the lamb so it wouldn't run away. As a passerby in the city, the father was pressed into service to help carry Jesus' cross before his crucifixion. Jesus was prophetically spoken of as a sheep brought to the slaughtering and as a ewe that remains mute before her shearers. Because of his sacrificial role, Jesus is described as "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world". Seven members of our congregation will be involved in the presentation. We invite you to watch and listen to the message of this song on Good Friday, April 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

BASKETS *of* PROMISE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** appeal. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble _____ LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

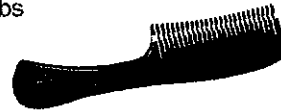
MARCH 9

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



MARCH 30

Combs



MARCH 16

Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



APRIL 6

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



MARCH 23

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



APRIL 13 (PALM SUNDAY)

Bars of Soap



Welcome New Members!

Sunday, March 2 we welcomed new members: Larry and Pam Edel, Andrew and Skye Harms and children Kyra and Wyatt, Lynn Heinzig, Kristi Houn and children Lauren, Addison, Jillian and Carolyn, Josie Krugerud and daughter Audrey, Ruth Nimerfroh, Dean and Kathy Stasney and children Anastasia, Jaden and Tad.

Church Council

The church council is establishing a committee to conduct a financial audit of our church. There is clear direction from the Synod on how this can be accomplished. We do need members from the congregation to serve on this committee. If you could help, please see a council member.

The church council is seeking to establish a nominating committee which would work during 2014. If you wish to join this committee, see a council member!

Weekly Lenten Services

Lenten Services began on Ash Wednesday, March 5 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.

You Are Invited to Attend



Retirement & Estate Strategies Workshop

Join special guest speaker Andrew Gray, CLU, ChFC, CCPS • Financial Consultant for Thrivent Financial • 13 Years Industry Experience

Andrew will share strategies on:

- How to accumulate and distribute money for retirement.
- How to pass money onto heirs or charities in a tax wise manner.
- Increasing the probability of investment success.
- Multi-generation IRA planning ... and more!

These workshops are hosted by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and representative Brent Koehler.

Event Details:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1300 Main St E., New Prague, MN 56071

Tuesday, March 18th - 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 20th - 2:00 p.m.

St John Lutheran Church

105 Spruce Ave NW, Montgomery, MN 56069

Tuesday, March 18th - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 20th - 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

Please call Andrew at 507-645-2427 or email andrew.gray@thrivent.com to reserve a place for yourself and a guest.

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ST. JOHN 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.

Second Chance Ski Trip

Second Chance Ski Trip to Mount Kato – Sunday, March 9th. 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. This trip is half price... \$9.50 for equipment rental, \$9.50 for lift ticket. You must find your own ride there and back. Please sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board to see if we have enough for the group rate by Friday, March 7th.



Pastry Puffin Fundraiser

Youth can pick up their orders on Wednesday, March 12th between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone who participated in the fundraiser and ordered Pastry Puffins.

Mission Trip 2014

We continue to seek youth or adults who are interested in the July 2014 Mission Trip. If you are interested, the next meeting is Sunday, March 23rd at 11:00 a.m. in the 7th and 8th grade Sunday School classroom.

Easter Lily Sales

Easter Lily Sales will begin in mid-March and continue until Sunday, April 6th. Orders can be placed directly with a youth in grades 3-12, or in the church office.



Senior High Discussion Group

Pastor will continue to meet with the Senior High youth for devotionals on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. For the month of March on the 9th and the 23rd. We will meet in the Youth Room.

All Leagues Easter Event

All Leagues Easter Event will be on Sunday, April 13th at 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Room.



Ideas for Events

If you have great ideas for youth events, please notify one our league leaders prior to our April 6th Events Planning Meeting.

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.



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.

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.

