

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

JANUARY 2016

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

As we begin the new year I want to thank everyone at St. John for the absolutely great time my wife and I have had. When I decided to go into interim ministry, the Bishop recommended this congregation as a good place to break me in, and he was right. There's enough challenge here to hone the skills of any pastor, but enough love and support to make it a great experience. I'm not sure all my assignments will be that satisfying, so if I could retire right now, I could be sure to end on an up note. Only God knows what's in store for me.

And only God knows who is coming to St. John as your permanent pastor. After the transition determined what our congregational priorities were, the Call Committee worked very hard obtaining and interviewing four candidates. (They even did a fake interview with me to hone their skills!) The fourth person proved to be an inspirational fit for us, but unfortunately she pulled out at the last minute. That put us back to square one. I want to remind folks that, disappointing as that is, it is not uncommon. Other interims at our monthly meetings at the Synod office have told of the frustration of candidates changing directions, and frankly, if they don't feel called, you don't want them to come, both for the congregation's sake and theirs. The Synod has assured us that more candidates will be available, and I have every confidence that our Call Committee will see this through to the person God has prepared for us all along.

And, life goes on. I'm absolutely enjoying minding the store here and having the privilege of doing ministry in this community. As a matter of fact, just about everybody knows that we are trying to sell our house in Blue Earth so we can purchase one in Montgomery because we like the people here. Don't know if that will happen, but two rumors I can squelch: (1) Yes, Lynn IS up here all the time with me – she's not staying in Blue Earth, (2) No, I do not plan to move to Northfield – we like it here just fine.

St. John has an exciting year ahead. I trust that a permanent pastor will be called in the months ahead, there is explosive potential, and I see all sorts of ways the Lord is working in this place. You can be optimistic about this congregation, a place well worth hitching your spiritual wagon to. And may God bless your own individual walk with Him as you discover the amazing blessings of His grace.

January Worship Helpers

Readers

January 3 Gail Skluzacek
 January 10 Jesse Skluzacek
 January 17 Renee Sorenson
 January 24 Garie Teig
 January 31 Patty Tiede

Head Usher

Eric Schroeder

Ushers / Greeters

January 3 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Roman Jindra
 Carol Kiekow
 January 10 Steve & Tammie Pan
 John Krautkremer
 LaNette Kuelper
 January 17 David & Dorothy Scheffert
 Don Marcussen
 Dick Milinkovich
 January 24 Jesse & Gail Skluzacek
 Maridan Nesmoe
 Charles Richter
 January 31 Greg & Jessica Westerman
 Ted & Colleen Wondra

Communion Assistants

January 10 Carol Kiekow
 Erin Krautkremer
 Don Marcussen
 January 24 Tammie Pan
 Charles Richter
 Cheryl Schulte

Acolytes

January 3 Alexis Boyd
 Maggie Trnka
 January 10 Kayla Horejsi
 Alan Eotvos
 January 17 Anton Nelson
 Jackson Nesmoe
 January 24 Maddie Novotny
 Jorgia Pumper
 January 31 Miranda Crosby
 Gunner Domine

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!*

Financial Corner General Fund - November

	November	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 18,926.40	\$ 157,598.48
Expenses	\$ 15,801.46	\$ 157,126.56
Cash Flow	\$ 3,124.94	\$ (471.92)

Remember in your Prayers...



Gertie Peterson (Harry's mother), Nancy Creger, Arlene Washa, Edward Richardson (Paul Swidorski's brother-in-law), Harold Goerndt (Bev Horejsi's brother), Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejse father), Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), Bev Horejsi, and Tom Mariska.

Remember those serving our country...

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



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Lynden and Deb Jelinek and family upon the death of Deb's mother Shirley Lindseth.

We extend our sympathy to the family Rueben Svoboda who passed away Tuesday, January 5. Funeral will be held Saturday, January 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Gifts Received

Gift received in memory of Delmar Braun for Sunday School, Music Fund and Memorial Fund. Thank you.

Gifts received in memory of Faye Brown. Thank you.

Baptisms

Cora Louise Grimm was baptized Sunday, December 6. Cora was born September 30, 2015 to Mason and Maggie Grimm. Her sponsors are Marty and Sarah Krocak. God's blessings to Cora and her family.

Aeralyn Mae Rose was baptized Sunday, January 3. Aeralyn was born November 23, 2015 to Travis and Lucinda Rose. Aeralyn's sponsors are Dave and Christine Good, Alastair Tulloch and Roz Korbel. God's blessings to Aeralyn and her family.

The Mitten Tree



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the mitten tree. We collected 18 scarves, 43 hats, 40 mittens, 10 sets and 3 headbands which went to the Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous.

The Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 24 following the morning worship service.

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 January for the February newsletter.

Soldier Packages

Thank you to Cindy Zahratka, Amy Wehe, Joslyn Vargo, Pam Edel, Larry Edel, Paul Vollmer, Charles Richter, and Rich Vargo for raising money, shopping, packing, mailing and delivering the boxes for the soldiers. Also, thank you to all who donated items and money for the 19 boxes we packed. A special thank you to Missy Gregor and the Carolers for delivering the boxes to the Harbor.

Wendy Vargo



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. 142 shoeboxes (a new record for our church) were collected and delivered to the processing center in New Hope. St. John's also donated \$137.00 for shipping from the aluminum can collection money. A special thanks to the 10 individuals who volunteered their time at the processing center with me. Your continued support of this project, sponsored by the Board of Church in Society, is much appreciated!

Mary Brahs



Women of the Church Meeting

Meeting for the WOTC, on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the church's youth room. Items to be discussed are, the Ash Wednesday Soup fundraiser and the Pie/Ice Cream fundraiser during the Kolacky Day Car show. We need to decide if we want to pursue the Pie/Ice Cream fundraiser, the Kolacky Day committee will need to know soon.

Thank You

Thank you to Tim Bisek of Bisek Interiors for donating his services of cleaning the carpets in Fellowship Hall and downstairs hallways. Thank you to everyone who helped take down and set up the tables and chairs.

Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2016 offering envelopes at the top of the stairs by the Sunday School room. If you cannot find your envelopes, talk to Kay in the church office.

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

Faith and Life Bible Study for January

In January, our weekday Bible study for adults will return to its full schedule, with two options. At our Monday night gathering (6:30-8:00 PM), we are studying the book of Romans. Our Wednesday morning group (9:30-11:00 AM) continues with Christian history in Bible study form, moving to the coming of the first Christians to North American shores. Join us, and see how much fun and laid back it is!

Bible Talk Study Group



January Music Notes

January 24 Bells of St. John will ring "All Night, All Day"



Online Giving Option!!!

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.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org and click on donate button, then follow the 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.

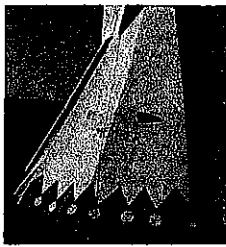
Groups & Organizations that meet at St. John!

*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.

Mission Trip 2016

Meeting will be held Sunday, January 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the church to talk about possible dates, prices and when deposits are due. This meeting will determine if we have enough interest to book this trip.



RE-MEMBER

Working with the Oglala Lakota Oyate, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, S.D.

Re-Member
P.O. Box 5054
Pine Ridge, SD
57770

(605) 867-2282
www.re-member.org
contact@re-member.org

Re-Member is About Relationships

We believe that in addition to assisting the Oyate (people) of Pine Ridge with material goods, the strongest way to promote positive change on the Pine Ridge Reservation is to build relationships. Through this relationship-building, our volunteers become advocates to stand in solidarity with the Oglala Lakota.

Re-Member exists to recall our country's treatment of Indian people, and to repair pieces of that broken relationship. Guided by the aspirations of the Oglala Lakota communities we work with, Re-Member seeks to improve the quality of life through interaction, shared resources, and volunteer services.

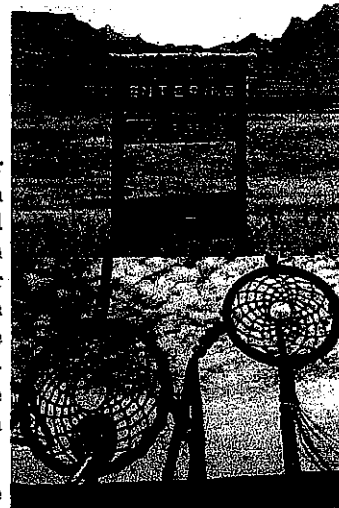
A non-profit, non-evangelical mission, we host in excess of 1,000 volunteers annually at our quarters on Pine Ridge Reservation, in rural southwestern South Dakota. One of the poorest areas of the United States, the region is also home to the historically significant Wounded Knee mass grave, with the Black Hills less than 90 minutes away.

Our six-day program combines home repair projects with community outreach, cultural presenters and lectures, along with visits to the Badlands, the Wounded Knee Massacre site, and pow-wows, as available.

We believe that cultural exchange between the

Lakota Oyate and our volunteers is crucial in educating, engaging and empowering those with whom we work. Over time, our Lakota neighbors have become aware that there are people who care about the injustices that face them on a daily basis.

We seek to heal the wounds of the past, to "Re-Member," by putting back together that which is broken, and build hope for the future.



Learn More

Inside:

From our Humble Beginnings...

Thoughts on a "non-evangelical" mission

Groups Helping People Stand

Why Pine Ridge

Statistics and Helpful Info

About Us: Our Program

- Re-Member offers a 6 day, 6 night immersion program from our permanent site on the Pine Ridge Reservation in south-western South Dakota. Our program commences on Saturday, and concludes on Friday.
- Trips fees are all inclusive, excluding transportation to-and-from Re-Member and incidental purchases during your stay (souvenirs, snacks, etc.)
- Our facility features a fully-equipped workshop, dorm-style accommodations, a lecture hall and a full-service kitchen and dining area. All meals during the program week are furnished, sometimes featuring traditional Lakota cuisine.
- As available, we schedule visits to the Wounded Knee mass grave site, Badlands National Park, powwows or other cultural activities throughout the week.
- Our community outreach and home repair worksites are spread across the reservation, each project is coordinated by a trained construction supervisor or Program Manager.



ST. JOHN YOUTH

Summer Mission Trip 2016

We will be having a meeting for those interested in attending a summer mission trip during the summer of 2016. We are hoping to secure a date in early June for the trip. We will meet Sunday, January 10th at 11am at the church to talk about possible dates, prices and when deposits are due. This trip is open to this years 7th-12th graders and adults. Please email or facebook message Missy before January 10th if you are interested in attending this trip and can not attend the meeting mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org. Please visit re-member.org for information about the mission trip site. This meeting will determine if we have enough interest to book this trip.



Junior and Senior League Annual Mount Kato Ski Trip

Sunday, January 17, meet at church at 1p.m. We will return at 7p.m.

Lift Ticket: \$21

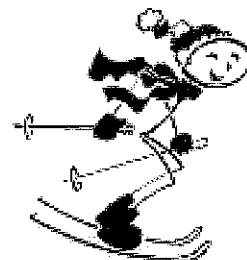
Ski/Snowboard Rental: \$19

Helmet: \$4

Meal deal: \$7.50 Includes hamburger or hotdog, pop, and French fries

St John Youth group members will have their lift ticket paid for Remaining cost of trip can be paid for out of youth account. Friends are welcome to attend trip but will have to pay for lift ticket. Please RSVP to Missy on facebook event page, on the youth bulletin board or by email at mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org by January 15th so we can arrange transportation.

We need 15 people to attend this trip.



Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie! We have Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, Eggnog Crème, Buttered Rum, Chocolate Almond Junkie, Cookies & Cream, English Toffee, and Jazzy Chestnut. \$9 for a 12 ounce bag. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week. We take special orders if we don't have the flavor you want, whole bean also available by special order. All proceeds go to the youth league.

Pop Tab Collection

We are collecting pop tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House charities. Containers are available to deposit your pop tabs in the Youth Room, Sunday School office, and church office.