

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

*Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861*

**JANUARY 2018**

**Stewardship: Ask – Thank – Tell!**

**...For God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.**

**As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."**

**He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.**

**Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2Corinthians 9:7-15)**

Whenever you've thought about stewardship, have you ever thought of thanksgiving that is out of control?

Most often, when we think of giving thanks to someone, it tends to be one directional - from the one who has received to the one who has given. We give thanks out of appreciation for the gift, we give appreciation for the time, and we give thanks for the talents/gifts that have been offered for the sake of ministry. There are times when this thanks is given immediately, sometimes with a little procrastination, and, far too often, there are those times when we have failed to do so all together.

For all of those missed times, our thanks goes out to you. For those times that we are a little slow, let us never think that it is impolite to give thanks. For those times that we have been on time, may we continue to be thankful that you are in ministry together with us – from the very young to those who may be just a little older. **THANK YOU!!!**

But now I want you to take a giant leap from this controlled and much deserved thanks to thanksgiving that is out of control. I am not talking about thanks that just bounces around like a tennis ball, but thanks that has a life of its own.

Luther wrote about our right relationship with God our Father in the explanation to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed. After naming all the ways that our Father pours out His provision upon us, Luther wrote about giving thanks, "All this He does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true!"

Thanksgiving that is out of control is not superficial, but it is relational.

In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul reveals this out of control thanks. This out of control thanks that Paul wrote about is infectious. Those who open to their eyes to the giving and ministry that is being done in God's name through Christ cannot – cannot – keep from passing on this thanksgiving to God. Great generosity is a thanksgiving producer. Great generosity is an overflowing fountain that cannot and should not be tapped off – to keep a little in reserve for a little later. We are called to give thanks today! Let us give thanks for the generosity poured out for our ongoing ministry together in Christ's name! Let us give thanks for the confession of the gospel of Christ shared! Let us give thanks for the grace of God that He has given you!

Thanks be to God for His incredible gift!

Peace of Christ,  
*Pr. Jason*

**Opportunities to Help:  
Altar Guild  
Communion Assistants (Confirmation-Adults)  
Providing a Meal for Wednesday Evening Confirmation (Approx. 20-22)  
Helping with a Confirmation Class (High School and Adults)**

**New!!! – Taking Faith Home – Check It Out & Take It Home!!!**

**Have you been looking for a way to help you connect your Saturday evening or Sunday morning to the rest of the week?**

Taking Faith Home is a different bulletin insert for each week during the church year. Yes, take it out of the bulletin. Take it home. It is yours. Put it on the refrigerator, Keep it on our dining room or coffee table, Keep it in your car, Set it on your nightstand, or wherever else you want.

It is based on the Revised Common Lectionary used by many congregations helping individuals and families by fostering caring conversations, providing daily devotions, suggesting service ideas, and linking faith rituals and traditions. It includes a weekly prayer, daily Bible readings, a mealtime prayer, and a blessing.

**Adults can use the daily Bible readings**

**Parents and grandparents use the weekly blessings and mealtime prayers with their children. Sometimes they even add the weekly prayer at bedtime.**

**Children like to use the conversations and devotions to hear and discuss how God's love is with them always.**

**People on the go grab a prayer, a Bible reading or something that connects them with God's living Word.**

**Couples, parents, and teen mentors are drawn to the Caring Conversations to bond relationships in faith.**

**Families and youth groups can develop Service ideas and Rituals and Traditions to share with others.**

**Inter-generationally, it is a great way for the young and old alike within our congregation to grow together and share the faith that we have received through Christ.**

**Everyone can take a glance and wonder how to use something from Devotions during the week.**

**Giving envelopes for 2018 are here!** Envelopes are labeled for each family and will be on a table in the hall between the sanctuary and the upstairs Sunday School room.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th following the 9 AM service.



## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

105 SPRUCE AVENUE • P.O. BOX 25  
MONTGOMERY, MN 56069-1068

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### *January Newsletter*

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#### **St. John Lutheran Church**

(507) 364-5002 or 364-8787

E-mail: [stjohnelca@frontier.com](mailto:stjohnelca@frontier.com)

Pastor Jason Pollington: [pastor@montgomerynelcalutherans.org](mailto:pastor@montgomerynelcalutherans.org)

Website: [www.montgomerynelcalutherans.org](http://www.montgomerynelcalutherans.org)

#### **St. John's Worship Schedule**

**5:00 p.m. Saturday Worship**

**9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship**

**10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. 10-May 6)**

Distribution of the Lord's Supper  
is celebrated at every weekend service.  
Fellowship/Coffee Hour follows Sunday's  
worship service.

#### **St. John's Staff**

Jason Pollington, Pastor (c) 406 665-5320 (h) 507 953-0079

Eric Schroeder, Congregation President

Kathy Heyda, Music Director/Organist

Melissa Gregor, Secretary & Youth Ministry Director

Roman Jindra, Custodian

Jessica Westerman, Sunday School Superintendent

#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

As children of God, we are a family  
living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
through worship, fellowship, and service.

## January Worship Helpers

### Readers

January 7 Carol Kiekow  
January 14 Steve Pan  
January 21 Tammi Pan  
January 28 Eric Schroeder

### Head Usher

January Wendy Vargo

### Ushers / Greeters

January 7 Lynden & Deb Jelinek  
Mike & Maridan Nesmoe  
January 14 Roman Jindra  
Carol Kiekow  
John Krautkremer  
Candyce Kadrlík  
January 21 David & Dorothy Scheffert  
Jesse & Gail Skluzacek  
January 28 Marc & Kathy Peterson  
LaNette Kulper  
Don Marcussen

### Communion Assistants

January 7 Gary & Jacque Hartwig  
Youth Volunteer  
January 14 Lynn Heinzig  
Gwen Hanzlik  
Youth Volunteer  
January 21 Eric Schroeder  
Kathy Westerman  
January 28 Connie Cihak  
Kathy Derhaag

### Acolytes

January 7 Tayte Domine  
January 14 Gabrielle Davidson  
January 21 Tayte Domine  
January 28 Gabrielle Davidson

### Altar Guild

January Connie Cihak

*All lesson readings will be available to view and/or print on the church website under info center. If you are unable to access this and need a paper copy please contact the church office.*

*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...

Karen Vlasak, Peggy Svoboda, Nancy Vollmar, Gretchen Vlasak, Tom Trenda, Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (cousin of Renee Soreneson), Lisa (Bartyzal) Indhl, Greg Vlasak, Lois Schmidt (Megan Pratola's aunt), Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) Nancy Creger and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

## Remember those serving our country...

Matthew Astorino, Travis Ferguson, Colin Hulke, Shane Morris, Adam Vlasak and Sam Westerhouse.

## Sympathy

Our Sympathy to the family of Ardyce Boda, who died peacefully Friday, December 22nd, at Beehive Homes of Excelsior.

Our Sympathy to the family of Wayne Svoboda, who died Monday, December 25th, at Mayo Health Systems New Prague. Services will be held on Saturday, January 6th at 1 PM with visitation 2 hours before.

## Baptisms

Tristan Matthew Loftus received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Saturday, December 2nd. Tristan was born on March 27th, 2017 to Ashley (Krohn) & Matt Loftus.

Tristan's sponsors are Jerry & Megan Krenik, Cassie LeBrun & Andy Richter.

Coffee servers are needed for Sunday coffee hour! Please consider signing up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall.

## Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

Drop off or e-mail (stjohnelca@frontier.com) information to the church office by:

- ◆ Wednesday for the bulletin.
- ◆ The 24th of January for the February 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 Jason or Missy of your planned meeting dates.*

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

**TWO GREAT WAYS THRIVENT FINANCIAL  
CAN HELP IN OUR MINISTRY HERE AT ST. JOHN**

**Do you know how to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John Lutheran?**

Thrivent Choice Dollars are a benefit given to non-profit organizations based on qualifying products purchased by individuals which can then be directed by the individual to go to the non-profit of their choice. If the Thrivent Choice Dollars are left undesignated, then they go to wherever Thrivent designates them. They are distributed. So, members of St. John please designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars here to St. John Lutheran and put them to great use. **Thrivent Dollars need to be designated by March 31, 2018.**

The information for How to Designate Thrivent Choice Dollars can be found around St. John Lutheran Church or in the information section of our website as a pdf. document.

**Do you know how to create Thrivent Action Teams that can help by assisting with projects (\$250 per qualifying project) within the life of St. John Lutheran?**

**Put Thrivent Teams into action for Fundraisers, Service Events, or Educational Events. Benefit Members are eligible for TWO PROJECTS a year and Associate Members are eligible for ONE PROJECT a year. Members can create one action team for one event. Qualifying projects will receive a Seed Money Card in the amount of \$250 to use on the project. Just to name a few, Thrivent Action Teams Projects that we have put to use were for: The purchase of flamingos for the Youth Mission Trip fundraiser, the Youth Spaghetti Dinner, the Scholarship Pancake Dinner, the Confirmation Mentor Dinner, the Women of the Church Brunch, Items for the Veterans Packages, supplies for quilting, and costumes for the Sunday School Christmas Program. Just these eight Thrivent Actions Teams Events added \$2000 to our ministry and outreach here at St. John.**

So, how can we use these Thrivent Action Teams in the year ahead: **Supporting Adult Educational opportunities, books and supplies for our sponsored Greif Support Group, Youth Ministry opportunities, Vacation Bible School, Fellowship gathering opportunities, the purchase of music for Lenten Wednesday Night Services, food for various sponsored dinners, and so much more. Tell us your ideas. Just 10 Thrivent Action Teams would add \$2,500 in ministry support; and 20 Thrivent Action Teams would add \$5,000 in ministry support. We are asking you for a little help. Please contact the church office if you are eligible to put one of these Thrivent Action Teams to work. If you don't know if you qualify, how many qualify for, or how to get started, we will help you. Just email [stjohnelca@frontier.com](mailto:stjohnelca@frontier.com) or call 507-364-5002**

**UP-COMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS**

**4th Graders will be reading the Gospel of Mark. During the months of January and February, the pastor will make home visits with each 4th Grader and at least one of their parents/guardians. The conversation focuses on how to use their Bibles and doing personal and family devotions. They will read the Gospel of Mark in short sections over 31 days during the month of March, and they will be recognized during a Sunday service in the month of April. In order to help me coordinate times to meet with you, would you please email me with the days of the week and times that work best for a visit - [prjasonpollington@gmail.com](mailto:prjasonpollington@gmail.com). I will touch base with each of you personally.**

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Resumes on January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6PM Dinner 6:30-7:30 Class**

**9<sup>th</sup> Graders will meet at 10AM following the 9AM Service on January 28<sup>th</sup>**

## *Thank You*

I would like to give a "big thanks" to all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to ring the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. It was a huge success this year, bringing in a total of \$1,784.78. I would also like to thank Mackenthun's Fine Foods for letting us set up in front of their store. Thanks again everyone, until next year, JoAnn Dawson.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped to make the Soldier Box campaign very successful again this year. People serving in the military and those who have served over their lifetime are so thankful to know the people of St. John Church are thinking and praying for them. I would especially like to thank Paul and Nancy Vollmer, Thrivent, the American Legion Post 79, Cindy Zahratka, Madelyn and Amy Wehe, and Kathy Derhaag for their help. We packed 21 boxes this year which were either sent overseas, to bases in the US, to the Harbor outside Montgomery, Traditions of Montgomery and Mala Strana in New Prague. Thank you again for supporting this project. -Wendy Vargo

Thank you for the many donations in memory of Ardyce Boda to our Feed My Sheep program.

Thank you for the donations from the Collier family.

Thank you to Alice Schroeder, Neysa Anderson & Chloe Grunow for providing childcare for our Adult Education Classes.

The mitten tree items have been collected! We had 13 hats, 30 mittens, 27 scarfs, 2 headbands, 8 hat/mitten sets and 1 stuffed toy. Thank you to everyone who donated items! They will be distributed to people in need in Le Sueur County.

### **Pastor Jason's Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &  
Friday,  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-5:00  
p.m.

### **Missy's January Office Hours**

Tuesday-9:00 AM -5:00 PM  
Thursday- 9:30 AM-2:30 PM  
Friday- 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

**We are looking** for anyone interested in running for church council and helping shape the future of St. John. Please consider giving of your talents. Please contact Kathy Peterson, Pastor or Wendy Vargo if interested or if you have any questions.

## St John Church Council December Meeting

Eric Schroeder called the meeting to order at 6:43PM. Present: Eric Schroeder (2018), Liz Vlasak (2018), Connie Cihak (2018), Carol Kiekow (2018), Kathy Peterson (2020), Steve Schroeder (2020), Renee Sorenson (2019), Steve Schroeder (2020), Wendy Vargo (2020).

Liz Vlasak gave an update on current banking issues. Carol Kiekow made a motion for a second signature on checks/drafts in the amount of \$500.00 or more; Kathy seconded, motion carried.

Carol made a motion to allow Pastor Jason Pollington, Kathy Peterson and/or Liz Vlasak authorization as signors on all church accounts; Wendy seconded, motion carried.

Motion made by Carol, seconded by Steve giving Liz Vlasak authority to remove inactive, pasts members of Church Council as signors on all bank accounts. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Carol, seconded by Renee, motion carried at 7:11 PM.

Next meeting January 7, 2018 at 11 AM

Submitted respectfully, Connie Cihak Secretary

### January Music Notes

#### January 28

Bells of St. John ring

#### January Rehearsal Calendar

January 7	11:00 a.m. Rock'n the Church
January 10	7:00 p.m. Bells of St. John
January 14	11:00 a.m. Rock'n the Church
January 17	7:00 p.m. Bells of St. John
January 21	11:00 a.m. Rock'n the Church
January 24	7:00 p.m. Bells of St. John
January 28	11:00 a.m. Rock'n the Church
January 31	7:00 p.m. Bells of St. John



# ST. JOHN YOUTH



## 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.



Save the Date:



Sweetheart Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, February 11th

Ski Trip to Mount Kato

Sunday, February 25th



## Warm up with a cup!

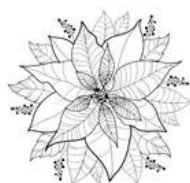
\$9 for a 12 ounce bag. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office. Breakfast Brew, Smore's, Toasted Marshmallow, Autumn Delight, Swirls of Autumn, Apple Cinnamon Strudel & Pumpkin Spice, Egnog Crème & Jazzy Chesnutt!

We take orders!

See Missy or check out the European Roasterie website for a list of flavors. All flavors can be ordered in ground or whole bean. All proceeds go to the youth league.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT OF THE POINSETTIA  
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