



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

January 2020

Welcoming All – Welcoming the Scattered!

***My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill;
my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth,
with no one to search or seek for them.***

Ezekiel; 34:6

As Christians, we are called to welcome others in Christ's name. As we have been forgiven – as we have been welcomed into the family of God as His children, so we are called to welcome those who need to hear again this mercy and promise. This month as we look at how do we “Welcome All” here at St. John, our focus turns to welcoming those who have been scattered.

For those of you who have never been scattered from the flock (your church) or found yourself wandering in your faith, count yourself as a part of a select group, because there are a lot of things, relationships, and circumstances which make this a reality for many of your brothers and sisters in Christ. I personally experienced it as a young college student in Glendive, MT. I had not yet connected with a congregation from that area. I had just left a home congregation which up until that point, yes even throughout high school, had been a very important part of my faith life. It was my flock. I was the only one that I had known. And, finding a new flock on my own, didn't happen for about a year and a half. This is something that is very common for young adults as they go off to college or begin working in an area that is not home for them. The long and very incomplete list of reasons why Christians wander and are scattered is a great topic for congregational discussion, but here are just a few: Personal Illness, Illness of a Loved One, Separation, Divorce, Family Division, Dissension in Home or Church, Addiction, Life Events, and Personal Choice. But, we are also called to repentance when some of the reasons for the scattering has come by the doing of the Church or more specifically members of it. We hear through God's word spoken from Ezekiel and Jeremiah that our own neglect has been a reasoning for those who are scattered and those who are left wandering.

“You do not feed the sheep, you have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them (Ezekiel 34:3-4, also Jeremiah 23:15).

If welcoming the scattered for us means that we just keep the door open for them to find their way back into the fold, we may be waiting a long time or even in vain. Instead, God's word goes out to the scattered and the wandering. He has given His promise to gather once again those of His flock who are scattered. He promises to bring them home. He also invites us as those who are welcoming all to enter into the work that He promises (Ezekiel 34:11-16). In welcoming the scattered, **we** are sent out to keep, tend, feed, nourish, and heal those who are lost, scattered and wandering (John 21:15-17). We enter into this sending by visiting with those we have noticed are absent, hearing what their needs are, coming alongside them in the midst of their challenges, and bringing to them once again the promises that the gospel of Christ offers.

Peace of Christ,
Pr. Jason

Worship & Music Notes for January



Looking back on Christmas Eve, I want to thank the children who came to sing at the 3:00 p.m. service. I want to thank Rock'n the Church who came to sing "Hallelujah" at the 5:00 p.m. service. I want to thank the Voices of St. John and Bells of St. John for sharing their music at the 10:00 p.m. service. I want to thank Riley Skluzacek, Kay Busch and John Grimm for sharing their music with us on that special night. The music and message of Christmas was designed to bring us closer to Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child. I hope it touched you as much as it touched me.

Looking forward to the new year, may the new year bring you a bounty of blessings the whole year through. Let me know if there is a song (old or new) you'd like to hear again. Music is good for the soul. It can improve your mood, reduce stress and provide comfort. It is interesting how hearing a particular song can bring back a special memory. It is powerful in many other ways.

Rock'n the Church will resume rehearsals on Sunday, January 5th at 11:00 a.m. Bells of St. John will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Kathy Heyda

Music Director

December 2019 Council Minutes

President Carol called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. on Sunday, December 8, 2019.

Present: Carol Kiekow (2022), Steve Schroeder (2020), Dave Winge (2021), Liz Vlasak (2021), Kathy Peterson (2020), Wendy Vargo (2020), Liz Krocak (2022), Connie Cihak (2021), Mike Lundquist (2022) and Pastor Jason.

Renee Pribyl gave a report on income and expenses for the Women of the Church.

Pastor lead council in devotions.

Motion was made by Kathy, seconded by Dave to approve the Secretary's report from the November meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Liz K, seconded by Mike to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor gave his activity report for the month along with upcoming events.

Jo Ann Dawson will once again coordinate Salvation Bell Ringing.

A motion was made by Kathy to adopt the amended St. John Lutheran Church Youth Ministry Fundraising Policy on Dec. 8th. Seconded by Wendy. Motion carried.

Discussed a new Music Laptop for Kathy as hers crashed. Funding would come from the Music Fund due to budget restraints.

Next load of can from recycling will go to Feed My Sheep. Also plan to do a noisy offering on Dec. 15th to add funds to Feed My Sheep.

Steve Schroeder gave an update on the bell tower. Metcon will be coming after the 1st of the year to shore up structural integrity of bell tower. Estimated cost is approximately \$18,000.

Head Ushers for January: Jan. 5th – Connie, Jan. 12th - Carol, Jan. 19th - Dave, Jan. 26th – Mike.

The next "First Sunday Forum" will be held on Jan. 5th with the topic being "the budget and where we can make adjustments." Council had some suggestions like not having a Saturday night service when Pastor is on vacation, discontinuing Saturday night service all together, charging for Sunday School and confirmation. Congregation is asked to come up with ideas to help us meet the budget.

The annual meeting will be Sunday, January 26th following the morning worship service.

Next council meeting will be Sunday, January 19th, at 11:00. Motion was made by Wendy to adjourn at 1:23 pm and seconded by Dave. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Vargo

Important Dates

Weekly Bible Study

Come join us on Wednesday mornings for our **Daily Discipleship Bible Study 10 AM at St. John.**

One great thing about this Bible Study is that you can join in at any time, even if you happen to miss a week.

YEAR END REPORTS FROM ALL COMMITTEES WERE DUE DECEMBER 20TH. PLEASE EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE ASAP IF YOU HAVE ONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMITT.

St John is apart of Amazon Smile! Use this link to support St John when you shop at Amazon.com!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41->

ST. JOHN 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

We will be having our 2019 Annual meeting on January 26, 2019 immediately following the 9 AM Sunday Service. Confirmed Voting Members of St. John are invited to hear about our on-going ministry, approve the 2020 budget, and to be informed on our upcoming building needs.

We value your contribution to the ministry of our congregation and look forward to seeing you there!

January First Sunday Forum

Join us this Sunday, January 5th

Topic: "The Budget and where we can make adjustments."

Council had some suggestions like not having a Saturday night service when Pastor is on vacation, discontinuing Saturday night service all together, charging for Sunday School and confirmation. Congregation is asked to come up with ideas to help us meet the budget.

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Right after the 9 AM Service for about 15 minutes

The Church Council is looking for people to serve on the nominating committee as well as people to serve on the council starting in 2020. If you would like more information talk to a council member or Pastor Jason.

Use Shop with Scrip to raise funds for ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH! Script fundraiser proceeds can be designated into a family account, the bell tower fund or to the general fund. Go to shopwithscrip.com or myscripwallet.com on your phone. You can also place physical gift card orders with Missy! Orders are due on the first and third Monday of the month. Gift cards may be picked up at the Church Office. Our next physical gift card order will be on January 9th. Order your Christmas gift cards! Any questions please see or email Missy.

stjohnelca@frontier.com

St John Enrollment Code:D6729D7366L74

Lifetouch pictures have arrived and are in the church office.

Thank you to all who donated to our "Soldier Box" project this year. We packed 32 boxes which were mailed or delivered to those currently in the service, veterans at Traditions, the Harbor, shut-ins and/or elderly or ill.

I have already heard from a few who received their boxes and were so grateful that St John Church remembered them. Thank you to Thrivent for the gift card, the American Legion Post #79 and the VFW Post #5340 for their cash donations, Kathy Derhaag for the handmade Christmas cards, Madelyn Wehe and Rich Vargo for helping with mailing, Cindy Zahratka for all her assistance, and to those who donated items for the packages. A special thank you to Paul Vollmer for heading up this project. Thank you again, Wendy Vargo, Evangelism Committee Chair

Remember in your Prayers.. June Pfiefer, Phyllis Pelowski (Lynn Heintzig's mother), Ruth Kukacka, Ralph Hendrickson, Dallas Horejsi, Paul Swidorski, Lloyd Viskocil, Milo Kubinski, Gretchen Vlasak, Matthew Koschade, Lynda McIalwain (niece of Marilyn Richter), Gary Janssen, Elmer Kukacka, Shari Claire, Lloyd Svoboda, Adeline Tiede (niece of Billi Larson), Emil & Theresa Knish, Jean Hartman (Aunt of Bruce Smith), Ken Meyer, Katie Lockrem, Jean Waugh, Jessi, Dianne Schultz, Gerry Smith, Tom McClune, Rycky Kes, Tom Trenda, Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), and Nancy Creger.



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 **25th** of January for the **February newsletter**.

Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of those who have recently passed away.

Ardys Peterson who passed away on Thursday, November 28th.

George Mellinger (uncle of Pastor Jason) who passed away on Friday, November 29th.

Newell "Red" Rauschke (Brother in law of Kathy Peterson, Brother of Ellen Flicek) who passed away on Wednesday, November 25th.

Milton Holetz who passed away on Monday, December 9th.

Jane Nash (mother of Leon Nash) who passed away on Wednesday, December 18th.

Glenn Kerkow who passed away on Wednesday, December 25th. Glenn's funeral will be held at St John on Saturday, January 4th. Visitation will be from 9:30-11 AM with the service following. A luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall after the service with interment at Spirit Hill Cemetery in Jordan later that day.

Remember those serving our country... Cassidy Gilbertson, Travis Ferguson, Shane Morris, Adam Vlasak and Sam Westerhouse.

Financial Corner

We give thanks to God and to each one of you for your faithfulness in giving. We praise God for continually providing all that we need. Let each of us prayerfully seek God's direction in our giving.

November Income	\$	14,796.15
November Expense	\$	(16,352.73)
	\$	(1,556.58)

Bell Tower Donations

Balance	\$	103,940.65
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See Missy about Electronic Giving! Bless you all in Stewardship of your financial resources.

Need to start or change your Simply Giving online donation? Here's the link!

<http://bit.ly/donateStJohn>

Do you receive mail? Would you receiving it via



Newsletters that are received by email get to you 2-3 days faster than in the mail. Help us go green and email stjohnelca@frontier.com to be put on the newsletter email list!

your newsletter in the be interested in email instead?

Worship Helpers

Ushers / Greeters

Jan 5 Berlyn & Garie Teig
Myrna Terwedo
Roman Jindra
Jan 12 Myron & Peggy Hentges
Kathy Derhaag
Irene Jindra
Jan 19 Deb & Lynden Jelinek
Richard Milinkovich
Paul Vollmar
Jan 26 Doug & Karen Thompson
John Krautkremer
Don Marcussen
Feb 2 David & Rhonda Solberg
Mike & Maridan Nesmoe
Feb 9 Ted & Colleen Wondra
Tammi & Steve Pan
Feb 16 Jesse & Gail Skluzacek
James Blum
Jim Heyda
Feb 23 Rich & Liz Vlasak
Ralph Hendrickson
Richard Hanzlik
Mar 1 Lynn Schuknecht
Jeanne Anderson
David & Dorothy Scheffert
Mar 8 Richard & Wendy Vargo
Kim Washa
Anne Schroeder
Mar 15 Daryl & Cindy Curtis
Cindy Westerhouse
Candyce Kadrlík
Mar 22 Myron & Peggy Hentges
Greg & Jessica Westerman
Mar 29 Paul & Kay Busch
Gerald & Dianna Smith

Acolytes

Jan 5 Morgan Gjerstad
Jan 12 Kalyn Krautkremer
Jan 19 Morgan Gjerstad
Jan 26 Kalyn Krautkremer
Feb 2 Max Krautkremer
Feb 9 Blake Kuball
Feb 16 Max Krautkremer
Feb 23 Blake Kuball
Mar 1 Paige Larson
Mar 8 Justin Napper
Mar 15 Paige Larson
Mar 22 Justin Napper
Mar 29 Olivia Sawatzky

Communion Assistants

Youth Volunteer needed each week

Jan 5 John Grimm
Maridan Nesmoe
Jan 12 Carol Kiekow
Tammie Pan
Jan 19 Marc & Kathy Peterson
Jan 26 Peggy Hentges
Erin Krautkremer
Feb 2 Steve & Anne Schroeder
Feb 9 Carol Kiekow
Hilary Birdsell
Feb 16 Missy & Stella Gregor
Amelia & Rudi Gregor
Feb 23 Gary & Jacquelyn Hartwig
Mar 1 Carol Kiekow
Mar 8 Peggy Hentges
Myrna Terwedo
Mar 15 Cindy Westerhouse
Garie Teig
Mar 22 Karen Vlasak
Kathy Derhaag
Mar 29 Brenda Peterson
Ruth Kukacka

Readers

All lesson readings will be available to view and/or print on the church website under info center. Enlarged paper copies are available in the file folder outside the church office door.

Jan 5 Doris Hendrickson
Jan 12 Carol Kiekow
Jan 19 Dave Winge
Jan 26 Renee Sorenson
Feb 2 Cindy Westerhouse
Feb 9 Carol Kiekow
Feb 16 Lisa Hoefs
Feb 23 Deb Jelinek
Mar 1 Doreen Marcussen
Mar 8 Erin Krautkremer
Mar 15 Carol Kiekow
Mar 22 Hilary Birdsell
Mar 29 Anne Schroeder

Thank you for your help!

*If you are unable to help on the day you are listed please call or email the church office ASAP
507-364-5002 or
stjohnelca@frontier.com.*

Thank you

Thank you to the Montgomery Apple Orchard for donating the apples for our Christmas bags given out to the youth after the Sunday School Christmas program.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the mitten tree. We collected 35 hats, 73 mittens/gloves and 10 scarves.

Thank you for the donations to the Bell tower in memory of Herman and Bertha August, Arthur and Susan August and Betty Braun.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered this year ringing the bell for the 2019 Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. Your participation was greatly appreciated. JoAnn Dawson

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Poinsettia for the Youth Group Fundraiser. Special thanks to those whose Poinsettias remained at Church for our Christmas Eve services.

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child project by donating gift filled shoe boxes to children living in poverty around the world. 101 shoe boxes were delivered to a collection center and from there transported to Chicago for processing. St. John also donated \$182.25 for shipping from the aluminum can collection money. Our church has participated in this project for 20 years! Your continued support is much appreciated!

Thank you to all members of the Angel Band for providing music for the service on Sunday, December 29th.



St. John Lutheran Church Elca

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January Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church

(507) 364-5002

E-mail: stjohnelca@frontier.com

Pastor Jason Pollington: prjasonpollington@gmail.com

Website: www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

St. John's Worship Schedule

5:00 PM Saturday Worship

9:00 AM Sunday Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School (Sept.– May)

Pastor Jason's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-12:00 PM
& 1:00-5:00 PM

Office/ Youth Director Hours

Tuesday 8:15 AM–2:45 PM
Wednesday 8:15 AM– 2:45 PM
Thursday 8:15 AM-2:45 PM

St. John's Staff

Jason Pollington, Pastor (c) 507-667-9000

Carol Kiekow, Congregation President

Kathy Heyda, Music Director & Organist

Diane DeWitte, Organist

Melissa Gregor, Secretary & Youth Ministry Director

Sara Kuchinka, Sunday School Superintendent

Roman Jindra, Custodian

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,
To make music in the heart.
(from Facebook, author unknown)



Youth Group

After school youth group for grades 3-6 will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, from 3:05-4:05 PM, October through May! *Next meeting is Wednesday, February 5th!*

Thank you to the Montgomery Apple Orchard for donating the apples for our Christmas bags given out to the youth after the Sunday School Christmas program.

Second Sunday Youth Event is on Sunday, January 12th. We will be snowshoeing at Nye Nature Center if the trails are in good condition. If not we will be doing vision boards at church! We will start with lunch at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the youth board or on Facebook by Thursday, January 9th.

CONFIRMATION NEWS AND EVENTS

9th Grade – Will Meet on January 5th:

First Sunday Forum and Meet with Pastor Following in the Youth Room

7th & 8th Grade – Will Meet on January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Meal @ 6PM & Class 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

We will not meet on January 1st

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.